

LORAIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



2004 ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR MISSION

*To Implement The Lorain County Solid Waste Management Plan
By Educating And Encouraging Recycling Efforts,
Waste Reduction & Litter Prevention In Lorain County.
Reduce · Reuse · Recycle!*



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

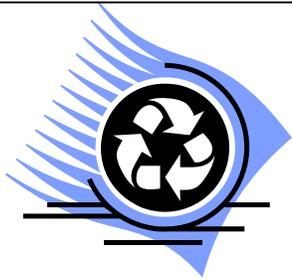
In 2004 we held many events and programs that helped us to move toward our goal to reduce, re-use and recycle as much solid waste material as possible. For 2004, residential/commercial recycling increased by over 8,000 tons (16,000,000 lbs). The receipt of additional recycling reports from the commercial sector improved our knowledge of that area and we greatly appreciate the assistance of both the commercial and industrial sectors in helping the District meet its recycling goals.

2004 Highlights

- ◆ Landfill Capacity – The Lorain County Landfill, which is owned by Browning Ferris Industries (BFI), continues to have enough capacity to manage all of the county's waste for more than ten years. This is the legal requirement for obtaining a Plan approval. As of January 1, 2004, over 20 years of landfill capacity remains at the Lorain County Landfill. This landfill provides a local option for solid waste disposal which many solid waste districts cannot offer. The landfill also provides a direct economic benefit to Lorain County residents by charging out-of-district residents a fee which supports the operations of the solid waste district. In 2004, residents and businesses outside Lorain County provided over 2.6 million dollars of the District's funding.
- ◆ Grant Funding – The District's program to assist communities with the implementation of their recycling programs continued this year. In 2004, the District provided \$1.45 million in grants to local governments, to help with their recycling programs.
- ◆ Local Programming - The District continues to implement the comprehensive programs developed to service Lorain County resident's needs. The annual Household Hazardous Waste, Scrap Tire, Phone Book, and Electronics Collection Events, Fluorescent Bulb and Ballast Recycling, Household Batteries in the Elyria City School District all took place again in 2004. Take a look at our website www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste or the dates and times of upcoming events.
- ◆ Recycled House - The District financed and provided guidance for a house made with recycled construction and building materials. The house was completed and placed on the market in 2004 and the District recovered all of its investment when it was sold to its first private owner.
- ◆ Revolving Loan Program - The District created the Revolving Loan Program for businesses and organizations that utilize post consumer recyclable materials either in their building materials or their manufacturing process. The objectives of this program are to promote recycling business opportunities; to provide additional markets for recycled materials; to retain or create recycling related jobs; and to increase manufacturing capacity for recyclable materials in Lorain County by working with existing businesses and attracting new businesses to the region.

This Annual Report contains information about many of our other programs and services, and it includes facts and figures about solid waste management in Lorain County. If you have questions or comments about any of this information we want to hear from you. Please call us at 1-800-449-5463.

Dan Billman
District Director



RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

The most common form of recycling in Lorain County today actively involves private citizens. Residents voluntarily separate five different types of recyclable items each week and place them in blue tinted or clear plastic bags. The recyclable material is then put on the curb for collection.

In six of the County's townships, the local government operates a "drop-off" center. Residents bring their recyclable items to that central point.

The recycling report card on the next page shows the type of programs and materials collected for each community in 2004. How does your community compare?

A few of the items collected at the township drop-off sites are baled there and sold directly to a recycler. For the most part, though, blue bag recyclables end up at the Material Reuse Facility operated by Browning Ferris Industries (BFI), Inc. just outside of Oberlin. They are sorted by both hand and machine. The recyclables are then consolidated, baled or boxed and sold to either a recycling broker, processor or manufacturer.

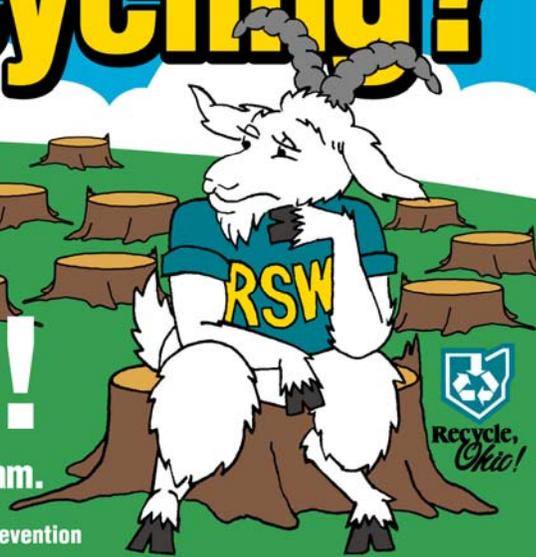
The District provides significant financial support for community recycling programs through an annual grant program. Each year more than half the District's total gross income is distributed in grants to 30 local governments. These funds are used to help provide recycling to residents in all Lorain County communities.

Still Not Recycling?

We're Stumped!

Do your part... Participate in your local Recycling Program.

Funded by The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention



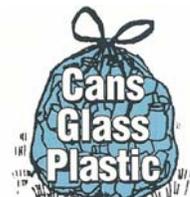
LORAIN COUNTY REPORT CARD

Lorain County Community	Type of Recycling Program	Materials Accepted										2001 Tons	2002 Tons	2003 Tons	2004 Tons
		AL	ST	GL	PL	ONP	OCC	T	W	OM	OTH				
City of Amherst	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x					x	386	432	427	503
Amherst Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						222	300	288	231
City of Avon	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						497	497	489	633
City of Avon Lake	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						1,284	1,371	1,446	1,294
Brighton Township	Drop-off	x	x	x	x	x					x	20	15	17	9
Brownhelm Township	Drop-off	x	x	x	x	x		x				29	29	28	18
Camden Township	No Program											56	0	0	0
Carlisle Township	Drop-off	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	195	289	199	265
Columbia Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						305	370	263	264
Eaton Township	Drop-off	x				x		x			x	107	189	222	157
City of Elyria	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			2,342	1,741	2,687	2,832
Elyria Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						126	109	96	171
Village of Grafton	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						158	144	158	111
Grafton Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						76	137	64	111
Henrietta Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x				x		47	28	35	74
Huntington Township	Drop-off	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	50	19	22	23
Village of Kipton	No Program											0	0	15	0
Village of LaGrange	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x	x					72	71	70	73
LaGrange Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x	x					118	125	193	176
City of Lorain	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						1,264	1,244	1,133	1,303
New Russia Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						59	73	50	103
City of North Ridgeville	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						1,197	1,312	1,274	1,314
City of Oberlin	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x	x					448	488	497	507
Penfield Township	Drop-off	x	x	x	x	x					x	74	123	77	60
Pittsfield Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	57	41	49	73
Village of Rochester	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						30	35	18	53
City of Sheffield Lake	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	645	435	424	379
Village of Sheffield	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						82	72	78	147
Sheffield Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						135	102	109	48
Village of S. Amherst	No Program											0	0	0	0
City of Vermilion	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						427	408	422	510
Village of Wellington	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						373	121	136	169
Wellington Township	Weekly Curbside	x	x	x	x	x						40	45	34	39
Total Tons											10,921	10,365	11,020	11,650	

AL=Aluminum Containers; ST=Steel Containers; GL=Glass; PL=Plastic; ONP=Newspaper; OCC=Cardboard; T=Tires; W=Wood; OM=Other Metals; Oth=Other Materials



This Recycling Report Card shows the type of programs and materials collected for each community in 2004. It also presents total tons of materials collected in the last three years. Has your community increased recycling?





SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Our annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection is our longest running and most popular event. It is held every year in the spring to try and overlap with spring cleaning activities of local households. The District employs a contractor capable of packaging and shipping every possible dry, wet, or gaseous product that cannot be legally deposited at the landfill, and/or is not allowed in the waste water treatment system.

Two of Lorain County's educational institutions—the Lorain County Community College and the Lorain County Joint Vocational School—once again generously donated the use of their parking lots and driveways for this event. As a result, we were able to recover 116 tons (232,666 pounds) of harmful chemicals and other substances, all of which could cause serious environmental damage if not properly recycled or disposed of.

If you missed the annual event, there are other options for proper disposal, use or reuse of these HHW materials. Please call our [Information Line at 1-800-449-5463](tel:1-800-449-5463).





FLUORESCENT BULB AND BALLAST RECYCLING PROGRAM

The District continues to collect and recycle fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) light bulbs and their ballasts. The key to the program is a new piece of equipment that crushes the fluorescent tubes into a sealed 55-gallon drum while filtering the air to avoid any mercury contamination. This dramatically reduces the cost of shipping the used bulbs to a recycler, and makes it economically feasible to collect more light bulbs.

The recycling event is held at the Lorain County Warehouse located at 25 East Avenue in Elyria on the second Tuesday of every month from 10am-2pm. The opportunity to recycle is available to businesses, individuals and government agencies at no charge. In 2004, Lorain County recycled/reused 31.93 tons (63,865 lbs) of fluorescent bulbs, ballasts and HID bulbs.

SCRAP TIRES

Scrap tires improperly stored or disposed can be a fire hazard and a breeding ground for mosquitoes. With West Nile Virus (transmitted to humans by mosquitoes) as a serious concern, it is important to manage scrap tires properly. The District provides residents with several options for managing scrap tires to reduce their potential impact on our environment.

Any Lorain County resident can participate in the District's annual Scrap Tire Collection Day, held in May, in conjunction with County Pride Day. Up to 18 sites all around the county are set up to accept scrap tires on that one day. Residents may also drop off scrap tires throughout the year at any one of the five permanent sites maintained by the District on property donated by the respective local governments. These sites are listed below.

In 2004, 483 tons (966,000 pounds—almost one million!) of scrap tires were collected and recycled at the one day collection and at the permanent drop-off sites.



SCRAP TIRE PERMANENT SITES:

- Elyria City Service Garage** (851 Garden St.)
 - Grafton Township Hall** (17109 Avon-Belden Rd.)
 - Lorain City Service Garage** (114 East 35th St.)
 - North Ridgeville City Garage** (35010 Bainbridge Rd.)
 - New Russia Township Hall** (46268 Butternut Ridge Rd)
- Please call 1-800-449-5463 for dates and times**

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY COLLECTION

2004 was the second year of a household battery collection program, operating in partnership with the Elyria City Schools. This program originated with an idea promoted by two elementary students, and has been very successful. In just over three weeks, 2,500 students took part in the program and collected over 4,660 pounds of household batteries. The winning school received a \$500 prize.



ELECTRONICS COLLECTION PROGRAM

A relatively new waste issue is how to manage obsolete electronic equipment (computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, copiers, fax machines). Some electronic equipment can be updated and reused by schools or non-profit organizations. If electronic equipment cannot be updated, then the metals and other components of electronic equipment should be recycled.

The District started an electronics collection program in 2002. Alltel, Inc. donated the use of their maintenance yard, the Grafton Correctional Institution provided community service inmates to unload the vehicles, and members of a local Boy Scout troop directed traffic and collected information. Items collected included personal computers and all peripheral devices, plus software, diskettes, CDs and other accessory items.

The annual collection event took place in July and recycled over 123 tons (246,000 lbs.) of electronics equipment.

Watch for announcements about the 2005 event.



PHONE BOOK RECYCLING PROGRAM

In partnership with CenturyTel and Burger King, the District continued to sponsor a program that rewarded residents with a food coupon in return for dropping off their used phone books. In 2004, 9.67 tons of phone books were recycled, an improvement from 8.8 tons in 2003.



WEBSITE & NEWSLETTER

The District maintains several pages of information within its general website for the Lorain County government. The address is www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste. The web pages are in an early state of development, but updated information and new features are being added regularly.

In 2004, the District re-introduced its quarterly newsletter, containing information about all its events and programs, and news of recycling and litter prevention in general. The newsletter is available free of charge, by postal mail, to any Lorain County resident. Anyone interested in a subscription should call Dan Paluch on the District Information Line ([1-800-449-5463](tel:1-800-449-5463)), or contact him by email at dpaluch@lorcnty.com.

OTHER COLLECTION PROGRAMS

Many of the communities in Lorain County sponsor special collection events and programs for their residents, at various times of the year. In addition, each local government has different rules concerning curbside pickup of large items, such as appliances, furniture, large tree limbs, etc. The best source of information about solid waste management at this level is the local service department, or township clerk. Residents who are unsure of who to contact in their community are encouraged to call the District's Information Line at [1-800-449-5463](tel:1-800-449-5463) where you will be provided with the appropriate phone numbers and addresses.

INFORMATION LINE & REFERENCE SERVICE

The District maintains a toll-free phone line ([1-800-449-5463](tel:1-800-449-5463)) to answer any questions regarding solid waste management, both general and specific. During normal business hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday), the staff answers the line directly, or responds to messages as soon as possible. Messages may also be left any time during the evening or weekend hours, and they will be responded to on the next business day.

Any resident with a question about how to dispose of or recycle any type of solid waste, and especially hazardous materials, is encouraged to call. We can also provide information about District events and programs, put you in touch with your local government, or refer you to businesses and services, if necessary, to solve your solid waste problem. The district also maintains information about materials and products that are made with recycled content.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL RECYCLING



COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

Commercial recycling encompasses the activities of retail establishments, business offices, and non-profit organizations. Like the industrial sector, financial incentives have already taken many of the larger organizations in Lorain County into recycling programs on their own. The two materials recycled most by commercial facilities are cardboard shipping materials (pictured above) and wooden pallets. Interest is steadily growing in the handling of other specific items, notably computer printer ink jet cartridges.

To further stimulate recycling activity in this sector, the District opened its two newest programs, electronic recycling and fluorescent bulb and ballast recycling, to all organizations and businesses.

The BFI Lorain County Resource Recovery Complex is always accepting recyclables from business and industry.

INDUSTRIAL RECYCLING

Industrial recycling refers primarily to the capture and recycling of scrap material such as metals and plastics, resulting from a manufacturing process. It also covers the reuse of materials incidental to the process, everything from lubricating fluids and chemicals to shipping pallets and packaging materials. The economic advantages of this type of recycling is evident to those who operate manufacturing firms, and the District's annual surveys consistently document a recycling rate better than the 60% state industrial recycling goal.

The District provides industries assistance in performing waste assessments and waste audits. A waste assessment is a formal review of manufacturing operations designed to spotlight opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling. The District performed four Solid Waste Assessments in 2004. Recommendations from one waste assessment assisted a company in reducing waste by 30%. If you would like a free waste assessment call the District at [1-800-449-5463](tel:1-800-449-5463).



EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



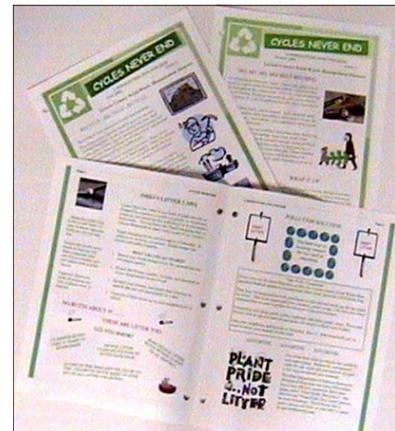
CALENDAR CONTEST



The District held a calendar contest for Lorain County students grades K-12 with funds provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Recycle, Ohio! 2004 grant. 2,747 students participated in the contest by drawing pictures of recycling or litter prevention. The 12 winners each received a \$50.00 savings bond and 10 calendars for their family and friends. The drawings were put into a 2005 calendar that was given to the winners, schools and given out at local events.

“TRASH TALK”

The District prepared a quarterly publication for students in grades 4-6 with funds provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Recycle, Ohio! 2004 grant. “Trash Talk” featured articles about recycling, waste reduction, material reuse and litter prevention. 12,000 copies of the newsletter were mailed.



PERFORMANCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Using funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recycle, Ohio! 2004 grant, the District set up 30 assemblies for local schools. The Kaleidoscope Kids performed 15 assemblies for 6,750 Lorain County students on the themes of recycling and litter prevention. The Illusion Makers performed 14 assemblies to 6,300 Lorain County students. This performance is an environmental magic and illusion show teaching the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). Dr. T. did 13 assemblies for 4,550 students about trashology and recycling.

In addition, the District completed presentations to 41 elementary schools, 4 secondary schools, 7 scout groups, 5 4-H groups and 11 adult organizations. Each presentation was specific for the audience age group and taught about recycling and litter prevention.

LITTER PROGRAM

In 2004 the District worked with the Engineers Office and ODOT to establish the Adopt a Highway Program. Forty-two groups signed on to the Adopt a Highway project. These groups collected 1,243 bags of litter in 2004. The District also worked with the Boy Scout Council who collected 400 bags of litter. In addition to the Adopt a Highway program, the District commenced an Adopt a Park program. Six-hundred bags of trash and litter were collected with this program in 2004.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VIDEO

The District worked with the County Commissioners to produce three video commercials to educate Lorain County residents on litter prevention and recycling. The videos were broadcast on local cable channels. Commissioners each appeared in their own video.



David McGuire, Solid Waste Specialist, at the 2003 Senior Fair at Midway Mall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The District participated in the Apple Festival, Government Day and the Lorain County Fair by setting up an educational display booth. The District provided Lorain County residents informational brochures and answered questions.

“THE DREAM” RECYCLED HOUSE

The Grand Opening of the recycled house occurred in 2004. In 2003, the district funded the building of a house made with recycled and reused construction and building materials. The district spent \$100,000 on materials and it made the money back with the sale of the home. A few of the home's features are a geothermal heating and cooling system, using the temperature of the earth to heat and cool the house and 100% recycled content drywall. It has bamboo flooring which has an extremely fast regeneration time compared to wood or other man-made material, and cork flooring which was harvested without killing the tree. A rainwater collection system was installed so the homeowner can use the water for outdoor purposes. The house meets ENERGY STAR criteria and has a 5-star rating.

EARTH DAY

Lorain County celebrates Earth Day with the Mother Earth Sing Celebration. This annual event was held May 1, 2004 from 10:00-2:00 at Cascade Park in Elyria. The District provided recycling information to the 400 adults and children that attended. Curby the Recycling Robot was on hand to remind everyone about the importance of recycling and litter control. The US EPA and the City of Elyria's Recycling Departments participated with informational booths. Participants were able to plant flowers in take home pots and Home Depot helped kids assemble birdhouses. Other activities included wagon rides, hiking and tree planting.



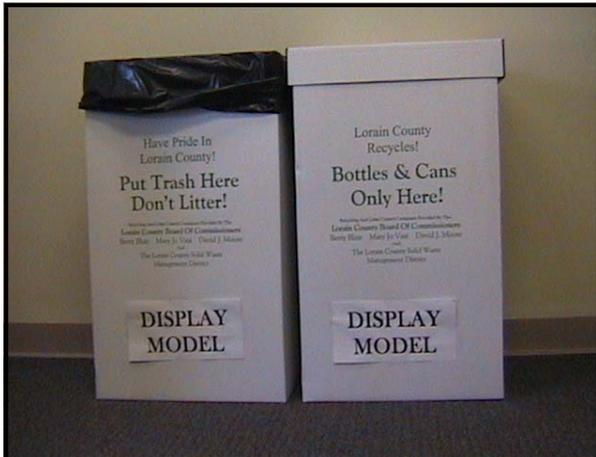
The recycled house under construction.

PUBLIC EVENTS

PRIDE DAY

The Lorain County Pride Day is an annual litter collection and beautification event. In 2004, seventeen communities and 1,973 volunteers participated. Approximately 239,000 pounds of litter and debris were collected. This covered 99 miles of roadways, 3 miles of bicycle pathways, 42 parks, 22 playgrounds, and 8 miles of rivers and Lake Erie shoreline. Volunteers also planted 126 trees and 299 flats of flowers.

Pride Day helps the District accomplish its mission to educate and encourage recycling, waste reduction, and litter prevention in Lorain County.



CLOSE THE GAP

The District provided recycling containers to community groups and organizations for various public events. Several hundred "event boxes" were provided for outdoor gatherings as well as dozens of plastic barrels and other containers for areas around vending machines and concession stands. The District plans to increase and improve this program in the future.



YARD WASTE

Approximately 10 percent of the residential waste in Lorain County is yard waste. Leaves, grass clippings and brush are materials that do not belong in our landfills. Most of our communities have leaf and grass clipping collection programs. In Lorain County, we have 11 compost facilities registered with the Ohio EPA. Almost 25,000 tons of yard waste was managed at these facilities in 2004.

When yard waste is collected it is then managed in piles called windrows. The piles are turned in regular intervals and within several weeks to a couple of months the yard waste we put out for collection becomes a useful soil amendment for landscapers and homeowners.

REDUCING YARD WASTE GENERATION

There are several easy ways to help keep yard waste out of the landfill.

- ◆ Mulch your grass clippings as you mow. Leaving the clippings on the lawn provides a great source of nutrients for a healthy lawn.
- ◆ Consider a backyard compost kit. A Composting Specialist in the Lorain County Office of the OSU Agricultural Extension Service is also employed part-time by the District, to promote better methods of managing organic materials. He can give you technical assistance in preparing backyard compost. Call Jim Skeeles at [326-5856](tel:326-5856) for more details.
- ◆ Participate in the yard waste collection program offered by your community.

Don't Bag It!



LEARN MORE ABOUT COMPOSTING

COMPOSTING PROGRAMS

Jim Skeeles, from the Lorain County Office of the OSU Extension Service, continued giving composting consultations to numerous Lorain County schools that set up compost and vermi-composting programs in 2003. He also worked with teachers on composting projects throughout the year

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

The District worked with the Ohio State University Agricultural Agent to provide education on composting activities for students. In 2004 the Agricultural Agent conducted 9 different classes. This consisted of composting activity learning modules for 500 students. Thirty-four Lorain County fifth graders learned about food composting by collecting food waste from the cafeteria and putting it into compost bottles. The students were able to observe the composting taking place for the remainder of the school year.

PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

To assist with the recycling of Lorain County pesticide containers, drop off sites were set up at Town and Country Cooperative in Lagrange and OSU Extension, Lorain County. Without proper treatment the pesticide containers are hazardous waste. Two hundred and fifty pounds of pesticide containers were recycled.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

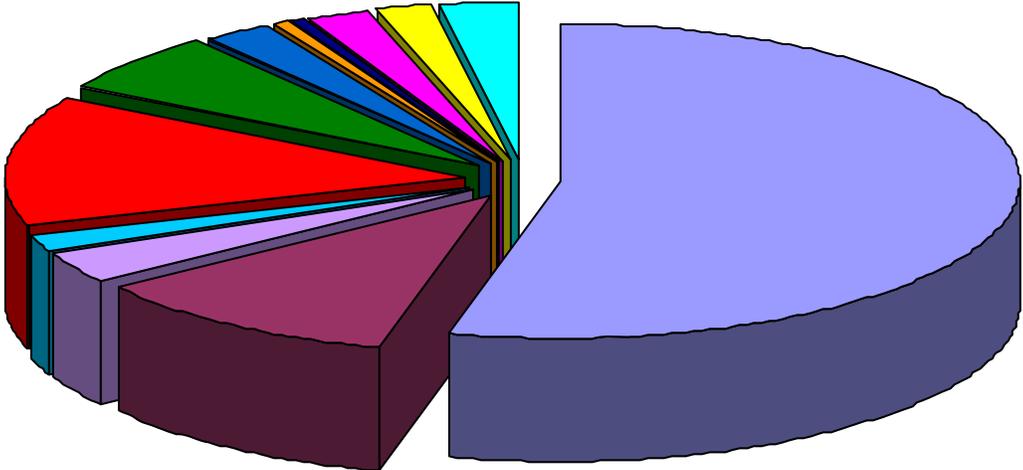
Public displays and brochures were presented at Avon Heritage Family Science Night and at the Mother Earth Sings event in Elyria. The displays and brochures taught people how to compost and the importance of composting.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



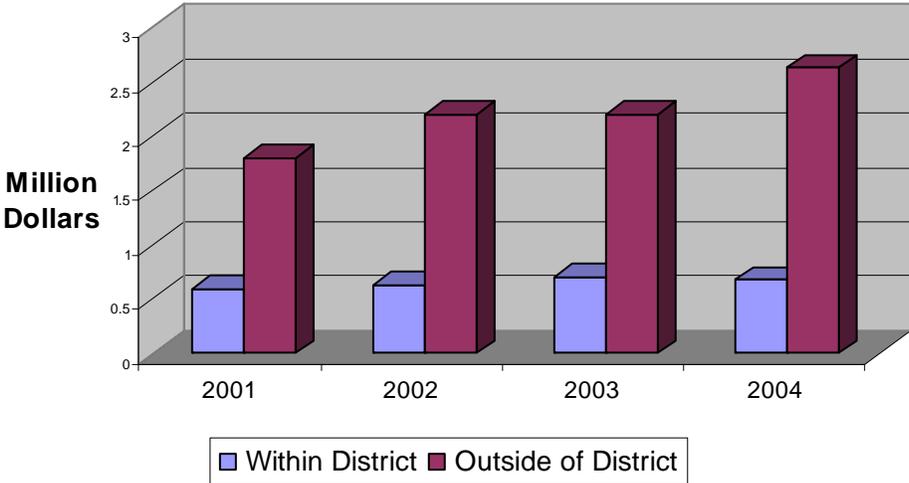
DISTRICT EXPENSES



Community Grants (\$1,450,000)	District Administration (\$303,000)
HHW Collection (\$83,000)	County Road Repairs (\$50,000)
Education Programs (\$355,000)	Health Departments (\$170,000)
Scrap Tire Collection (\$65,000)	Electronics Collection (\$15,000)
Fluorescent Bulbs and Ballast Collection (\$17,000)	"Close the Loop" Grant (\$60,000)
Revolving Loan Fund (\$50,000)	Other (\$74,000)

REVENUES

DISTRICT REVENUES



The District receives its funding from a \$2.00 per ton tipping fee for Lorain County Solid Waste and a \$4.00 per ton tipping fee for waste coming in from outside the County. In 2004, the District received \$678,000 from Lorain County and over \$2.6 million from outside the District.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

It has been over a decade since the formation of the Solid Waste Management District, and recycling in Lorain County has become a multifaceted activity. It is carried out now by governments at all levels, by private businesses and non-profit organizations. It accounts for the employment of hundreds of workers, and is also supported by many active volunteers and private citizens. The District extends its gratitude to all those in Lorain County who comprehend, and act upon the inherent logic of "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle"

The District continues to research and develop new programs and enhance current activities for Lorain County. A few items that may appear in the near future are:

- ◆ A complete revision of the District's Appliance Collection Program;
- ◆ A new Household Battery Recycling Program;
- ◆ A consolidated and more comprehensive recycling of printer cartridges; and
- ◆ An expanded effort to collect mercury bearing devices.
- ◆ Revisions and enhancement to office paper recycling in county offices and businesses.

For More Information Contact:

Lorain County Solid Waste Management District
226 Middle Avenue
Elyria, Ohio 44035-5510
1-800-449-5463 phone
(440) 329-5777-fax
www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste



PACK YOUR BAGS

Let's Recycle

Lorain County

Funded by The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention

Recycle, Ohio!

The graphic features a cartoon goat mascot wearing a blue shirt with 'RSW' on it, standing next to a red recycling bin. The bin contains bags of 'Cans', 'Glass', 'Plastic', and 'News-papers'. A yellow banner with a red border contains the text 'Let's Recycle'. The Lorain County logo, a blue shield with a white recycling symbol, is in the bottom right corner. Below the logo is the slogan 'Recycle, Ohio!'.



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