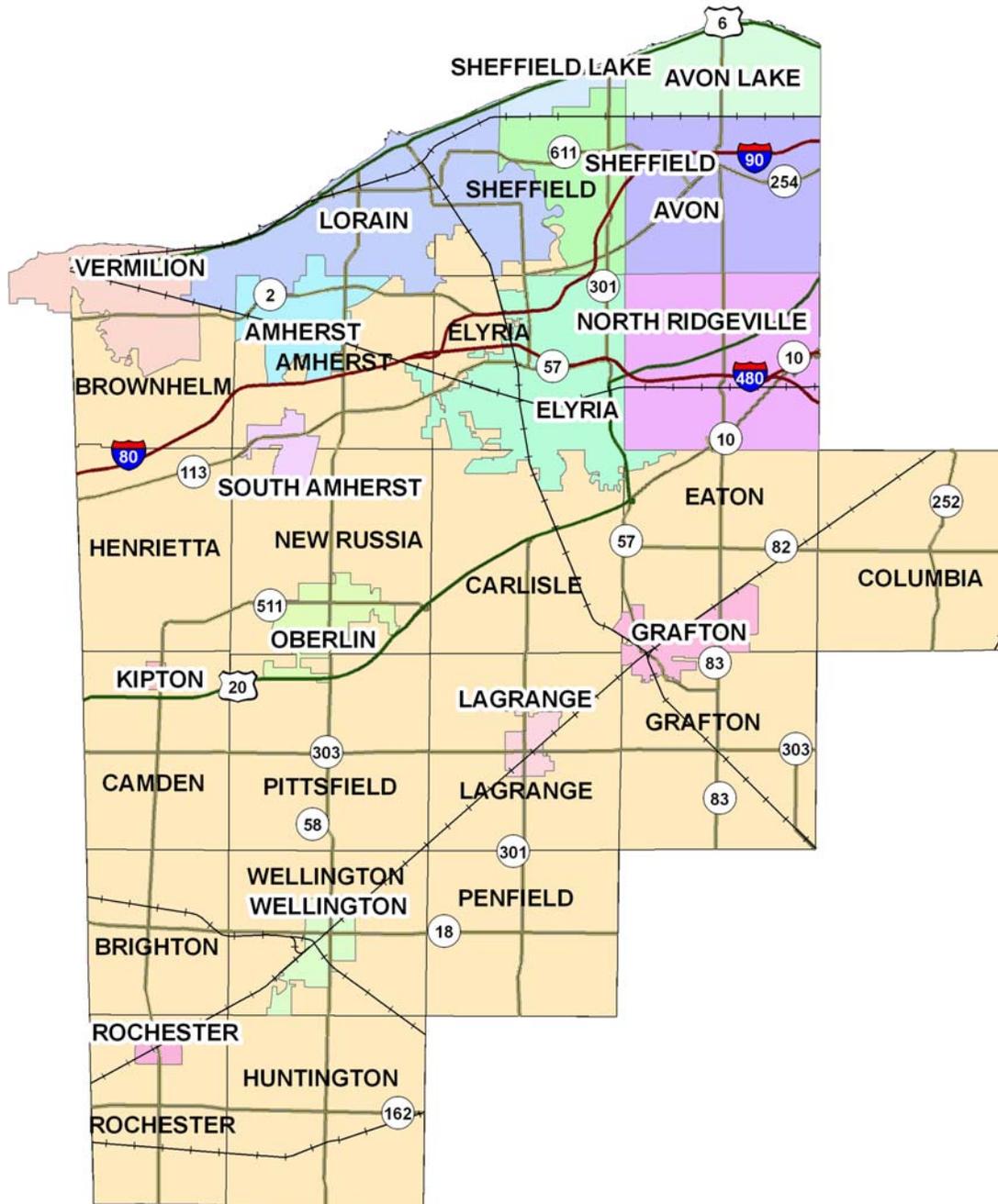


# Lorain County Solid Waste Management District



**2009**  
**Annual Report**

# Board of Commissioners



**Commissioner Lori Kokoski**



**Commissioner Ted Kalo**



**Commissioner Betty Blair**

## 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!*



***A proud member of the Lorain County  
Growth Partnership***

## Policy Committee

Beth Barber, Chair  
Betty Blair, Commissioner  
Charles Wirth, Vice Chair  
Howard Akin  
James Boddy  
Brian Parsons  
Don Romancak

## District Staff

Dan Billman, Director  
Marilyn Pileski, Administrative Assistant  
Sally Pecora, Project Manager  
Dave McGuire, Solid Waste Specialist  
Brandi Schnell, Solid Waste Specialist  
Tiffany Barker, Solid Waste Specialist

# Message from the Director

Dear Lorain County Resident:

The District continued to encourage political subdivisions to adopt the new volume based system grant criteria and requirements. During 2009, several additional political subdivisions began the conversion to the volume based system program. Residents in those communities received trash carts and recycling carts. Preliminary recycling data from communities that have switched to the new volume based system indicate much higher recycling volumes. Part of this increase is due to the additional materials that can be recycled curbside including magazines, cardboard, junk mail and paperboard (cereal boxes).

In 2009, our services and programs included the following:

HHW collection	Phone book program	School Education Programs
Household battery collection	Fluorescent bulb and ballast	Revolving Loan Program
Electronics collections	Commercial paper recycling	Disaster Management Plan
Printer cartridge recycling	Specialized bottle/can collection	Commissioner's Litter Strike Force
Scrap tire collection	Mercury program	Adopt-A-Spot Litter/Beautification
		Adopt-A-Highway Litter program

During 2009, Lorain County continued to see a reduction in the tonnages disposed at the landfill. This reduction was due to several reasons including:

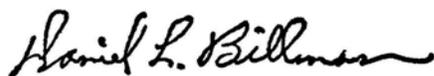
- Slow down in manufacturing,
- Reduced consumption by our residents and businesses, and
- Successful diversion through new volume based recycling systems.

This reduction in disposal is not unique to Lorain County or Ohio. A reduction in residential disposal due to our recycling programs is a positive sign and indicates that the programs initiated in our Plan are working. The District obtains funding for programming from the disposal of waste at the landfill. In particular, the District receives a majority of its funding from the waste that it receives from outside Lorain County. In 2009, revenues dropped by approximately \$400,000 from 2008.

At the end of 2009, the District began work on developing a permanent collection center for Household Hazardous Waste, fluorescent bulbs, and electronics. The facility will open the summer of 2010.

This Annual Report will be my last as I am retiring in July 2010. I have enjoyed my time directing activities at the solid waste district. We have made great progress in Lorain County and continue to be a leader in the state with our conversion to volume based programs to the development of the permanent collection center. I appreciate all the support from my staff and the Commissioners during the years of my service to Lorain County.

If you have questions or comments about any of the information in this Annual Report we want to hear from you. Please call us at 1-800-449-5463.

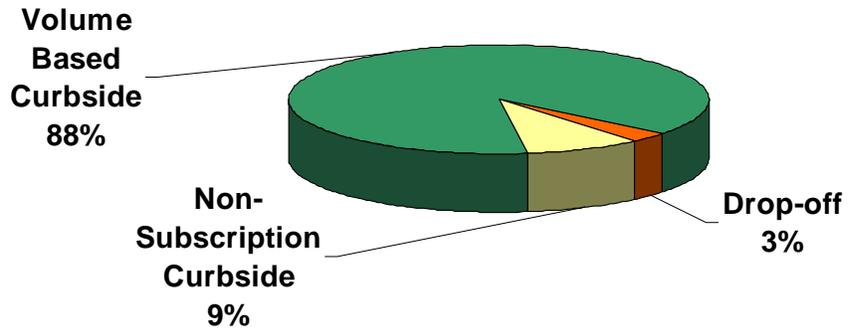


Dan Billman, District Director

# Residential Recycling

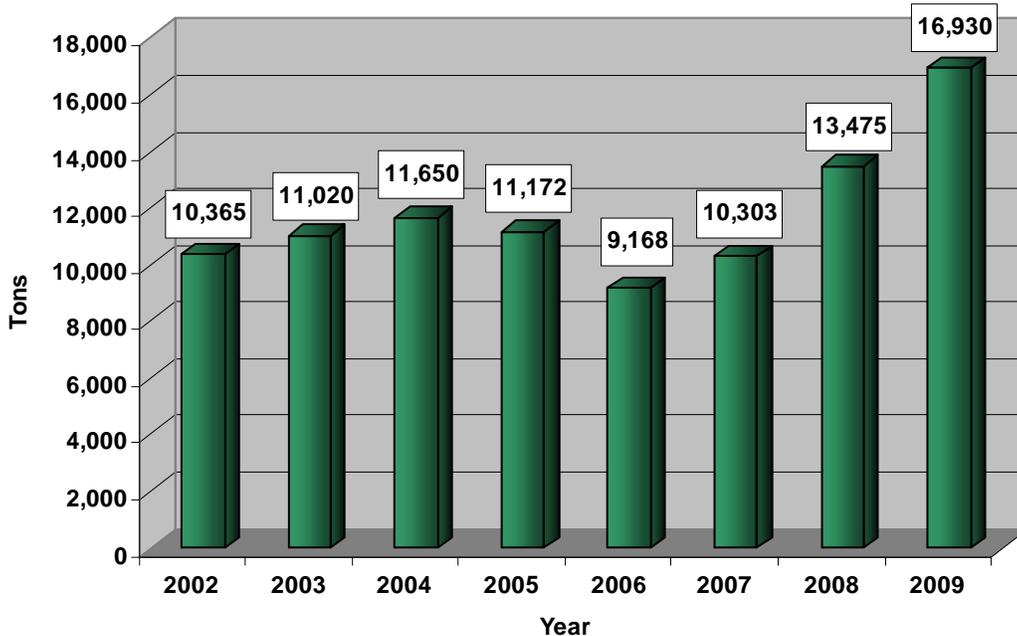
Lorain County residential recycling is conducted through curbside and drop-off programs. By the end of 2009, the District had thirty-three curbside recycling programs and one drop-off recycling program. Thirty of the thirty-three curbside programs were all or partly volume based systems. The following pie chart depicts the distribution of recycling programs available to Lorain County residents:

## Lorain County Residential Recycling Programs 2009



The District provides significant financial support for community recycling programs through an annual grant program. Each year nearly half the District's total gross income is distributed in grants to 34 local governments. These funds are used to help provide recycling to residents in Lorain County communities. The following graph depicts the level of residential recycling that Lorain County has been able to achieve as a direct result of the District's investment in local recycling programs.

Residential Recycling in Lorain County



The recycling report card on the next page shows the type of programs and materials collected for each community in 2009. How does your community compare?

# Lorain County Recycling Report Card

Lorain County Community	Type of Recycling Program	Materials Accepted										2005 Tons	2006 Tons	2007 Tons	2008 Tons	2009 Tons
		AL	ST	GL	PL	ONP	OCC	T	W	OM	OTH					
City of Amherst	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	120	190	375	795	819
Amherst Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	340	277	192	330	512
City of Avon	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	795	151	885	908	3,290
City of Avon Lake	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1,999	1,672	1,369	1,582	1,565
Brighton Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	32	23	24	56	52
Brownhelm Township	Drop-off	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	14	9	9	24	23
Camden Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	93	28	83	63	73
Carlisle Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	529	280	301	366	782
Columbia Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	273	454	449	323	483
Eaton Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	154	316	283	231	234
City of Elyria	Weekly Curbside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	1,514	1,176	857	2,275	2,174
Elyria Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	132	219	146	137	183
Village of Grafton	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	0	34	116	319	289
Grafton Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	169	134	100	181	261
Henrietta Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	77	68	190	136	95
Huntington Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	31	60	187	83	84
Village of Kipton	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Included in Camden Twp. totals				12
Village of LaGrange	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	68	61	107	77	108
LaGrange Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	52	81	43	146	152
City of Lorain	Weekly Curbside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1,178	976	1,224	1,549	1,371
New Russia Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	67	51	77	39	12
City of North Ridgeville	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	1,360	1,223	1,562	1,515	1,122
City of Oberlin	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	426	263	609	824	698
Penfield Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	152	125	106	149	164
Pittsfield Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	94	62	62	57	55
Village of Rochester	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	57	74	86	62	4
Rochester Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Included in Rochester Village totals				29
City of Sheffield Lake	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	684	543	202	309	345
Village of Sheffield	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	156	127	128	148	432
Sheffield Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	41	40	0	67	82
Village of S. Amherst	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	0	0	96	74	70
City of Vermilion	Weekly Curbside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	416	305	273	422	284
Village of Wellington	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	126	115	124	188	1,008
Wellington Township	Volume Based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	23	31	37	41	63
<b>Total Tons</b>											<b>11,172</b>	<b>9,168</b>	<b>10,303</b>	<b>13,475</b>	<b>16,930</b>	

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



(Many communities have specialized collection events or programs in addition to their primary curbside or drop-off program listed above). This Recycling Report Card shows the type of programs and materials collected in each community from 2009. It also shows the total materials collected in the previous four years.



**Has your community increased its recycling totals this year?**

# Information and Reference Services

## District Phone Line

The District maintains a toll-free phone line (**1-800-449-5463**) to answer any questions regarding solid waste management. 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 be left twenty-four hours a day, and they will be responded to on the next business day. During 2009, the District received over 1,350 calls on this phone line.

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. The District staff members who respond to inquiries on the line can also provide information about events and programs, put you in touch with your local government, or refer you to businesses and services to solve your solid waste problem. The District also maintains information about materials and products that are made with recycled content.

## “Trash Talk”

The District prepared a quarterly publication for students in grades 4-6. “Trash Talk” featured articles about recycling, waste reduction, material reuse and litter prevention. In 2009, 14,000 copies of the newsletter were distributed to 4th, 5th and 6th graders.

## Website

The District maintains several pages of information within the general website for the Lorain County government. The address is [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste).

The screenshot shows the website for the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. The header features the Lorain County logo with the tagline "LIGHTING THE WAY" and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with tabs for Residents, Visitors, Government, Business, and Employees. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column, titled "Navigate", contains a list of links: Home, Information Center, Interactive Map, Staff Directories, Elected Officials, Departments, County Calendar, Online Services, Helpful Links, News Room, Downloads, and FAQs. The middle column, titled "Solid Waste Management District", provides contact information (226 Middle Avenue, Fifth Floor, Elyria, Ohio 44035, Toll Free: 1 (800) 449-5463, Fax: (440) 329-5777) and a paragraph explaining the district's establishment in 1989. It also lists two main responsibilities: preparing and maintaining a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, and promoting recycling, reuse, and reduction of solid waste through educational and informational programs. The right column contains two promotional boxes: "Litter Strike Team Assistance Request Form for Local Government" and "TIPS FOR GOING GREEN Reduce your carbon footprint". Below these is a "More District" section with links to FAQs, Supervision, Staff Listing, Pride Day, KIDS Corner, Management Plan, Collection Center, and Grant Programs.

# Community Financial Support

## Commissioner Grants

The District Market Development Grant Program was developed to provide funding to special projects initiated by the Lorain County Commissioners. The Lorain County Commissioners awarded \$44,589 to two entities in the County in 2009. This funding was provided to purchase and install stadium bleachers made from recycled aluminum.

## Community Grants

In 2009, the Community Grant program continued to provide assistance to communities making the change to the Volume Based System of recycling. By the end of 2009/early 2010 there were only three Lorain County communities without either a VBS pilot study or a community-wide VBS in place. Each year, the District distributes almost half of its annual gross income to the communities for use in their recycling programs. In 2009, the Commissioners awarded a total of \$1,568,670 to 34 Lorain County political subdivisions to assist with implementing curbside and drop-off recycling programs. This was 44% of the District's total expenditures in 2009.

The tables to the right summarize the grants by community, entity or institution.



Commissioner Grant Recipient	Grant Amount
Columbia Local Schools	\$ 21,050
Oberlin School District	\$ 23,539
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,589</b>

Community Grant Recipient	Grant Amount
Amherst	\$ 70,000
Amherst Township	\$ 60,000
Avon	\$ 75,000
Avon Lake	\$ 86,412
Brighton Township	\$ 10,679
Brownhelm Township	\$ 10,191
Camden Township	\$ 11,014
Carlisle Township	\$ 60,000
Columbia Township	\$ 54,718
Eaton Township	\$ 34,701
Elyria	\$ 197,064
Elyria Township	\$ 35,000
Grafton Township	\$ 35,000
Grafton Village	\$ 40,000
Henrietta Township	\$ 14,158
Huntington Township	\$ 11,016
Kipton Village	\$ 5,455
LaGrange Township	\$ 35,000
LaGrange Village	\$ 15,000
Lorain	\$ 226,690
New Russia Township	\$ 14,804
North Ridgeville	\$ 107,378
Oberlin	\$ 60,000
Penfield Township	\$ 11,315
Pittsfield Township	\$ 13,547
Rochester Township	\$ 10,469
Rochester Village	\$ 5,282
Sheffield Lake	\$ 62,500
Sheffield Township	\$ 31,900
Sheffield Village	\$ 31,426
South Amherst Village	\$ 15,000
Vermillion	\$ 67,950
Wellington Village	\$ 15,000
Wellington Township	\$ 35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,568,670</b>

# Household Hazardous Waste & Collection Center

## Household Hazardous Waste

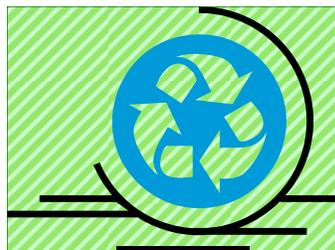
The District held one Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection in 2009. The HHW event is the District's longest running and most popular collection event. This event was held at the Lorain Community College and the Lorain County Joint Vocational School.

During this HHW collection event, materials were collected from 2,385 vehicles. The District collected 154 tons (307,366 pounds) of harmful chemicals and other substances. Materials collected included: paint, chemicals, oil, batteries, fluorescent lamps and other hazardous items, all of which could cause serious environmental damage if not properly recycled or disposed.



## Permanent Collection Center

In 2009 the District was working on establishing a permanent Household Hazardous Waste collection center. The use of the center will be free to Lorain County residents and they will be able to drop off HHW, e-scrap, fluorescent lamps & ballasts, and scrap tires. Businesses with facilities in Lorain County are restricted to using the e-scrap and fluorescent lamp & ballast programs only (hazardous materials are NOT accepted from businesses).



The District website will contain information regarding the types of materials collected at the new Collection Center. Please call our Information Line at **1-800-449-5463** or visit the District website: [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste) for more information.

# Special Collection Events and Programs

## Scrap Tires

All Lorain County residents were able to participate in the District's annual Scrap Tire Collection Day or drop off scrap tires throughout the year at one of the District's permanent sites. The annual event was held in the spring in conjunction with Pride Day. The permanent sites were donated by local governments and paid for with District funds.



In 2009, the one-day event collected 74 tons (148,000 pounds) and the permanent drop-off sites collected 176.81 tons (353,620 pounds) of scrap tires.

## Program Changes

### Phone Book Recycling Program

In July of 2009, the Paper Retriever Program, operated by Abitibi Bowater Ltd., began accepting phone books in their recycling containers. There were over 200 bins located throughout the District and it was determined that a separate collection was unnecessary.

### Household Battery Collection

Despite the establishment of a successful battery collection program that has continued for six years in the Elyria City School District, the program ended in 2009. Early in 2009 the District received notice that Department of Transportation regulations regarding packaging and transportation of household batteries were revised. This revision was in response to several serious fires aboard trucks carrying shipments of batteries collected for recycling. The District reviewed the revisions and determined that the collection program was unable to continue.

## **“E-SCRAP” Electronics Collection Program**

Two collection events were held in 2009. These two events collected a total of 336,603 pounds (168 tons). This is a decrease of 39 tons from the previous year. The decrease is a result of the cancellation of the second two collection events to focus on the development of the new Collection Center.

The electronic equipment collected by the District is processed by a contractor that refurbishes some of the equipment so it can be reused by schools or non-profit organizations. If it cannot be updated, then the metals and other components of electronic equipment will be recycled.

Some of the acceptable e-scrap items include: computers, monitors, printers, televisions, cell phones, (including batteries, chargers and cables), copiers, fax machines, home stereos and selected other home electronics. The list of items collected has grown steadily each year. For a complete list of materials accepted, please call our Information Line at **1-800-449-5463** or visit the District website: [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste) for more information.



## **Lorain County Furniture Bank**



The Lorain County Furniture Bank is a recycling program for household goods and furniture that is operated through a partnership of local charitable organizations. All of their clients are referred by recognized social service agencies. Single items and large quantities of furniture are accepted. The District fully supports and encourages the efforts of LCFB as a primary means of recycling household goods by reusing them. To donate or volunteer call: 440-240-0089.

## **Fluorescent Lamp and Ballast Recycling Program**

The District continued to collect and recycle fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps and their ballasts as well as compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's), which have become increasingly popular. In 2009, Lorain County recycled 53,588 lbs. of lamps and 7,374 lbs. of ballasts.



The fluorescent lamp recycling collection program was 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 was available to businesses, individuals and government agencies at no charge. This collection program will also continue at the Collection Center and will be available to both Lorain County residents and businesses.

## Printer Cartridge Recycling

The District partnered with the Lorain County Office On Aging (LCOOA) on this project. Their substantial pool of volunteer talent provided the labor force to collect, sort, and ship the cartridges. The payments received from the recycling vendor were used by LCOOA to help support their many efforts to aid senior citizens in Lorain County. The program was available to any business or organization that wanted to participate. To be included, call the LCOOA at 440-326-4819.



## Appliance Recycling

Used or discarded appliances, including washers and dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners, can be very difficult to dispose of properly and in most cases are not accepted at normal curbside disposal services.



## 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.

The District also provides information about collection events on the District website:

[www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)



**Recycling Turns  
Trash Into Treasures**

**Lorain County  
Solid Waste  
Management District**

# Industrial/Commercial Recycling

## Office Paper Recycling

Businesses and organizations had two options to recycle office paper and other items in Lorain County during 2009. Abitibi Consolidated's Paper Retriever Program promoted recycling through the placement of green and yellow bins (at no cost) adjacent to schools, churches and other non-profit organizations. Small businesses had the opportunity to drop-off their office paper at these locations and the organization was paid for the recyclable paper collected in the bin. During 2009, the Abitibi drop-offs collected 3,915 tons of paper that was recycled. Businesses that produced larger volumes of office paper that wished to recycle were encouraged to participate in Republic's Workplace Recycling Program.



In addition to promoting these two programs, the District continued to implement its plan to provide containers to businesses and organizations that are willing to recycle their office paper. Containers for recycling bottles and cans were also issued to those with the ability and the willingness to use them.

## Commercial & Industrial Recycling

In 2009, the District formed a Business Round Table and conducted its first meeting in October. Meeting and discussion topics varied throughout the year and speakers covered recycling strategies and waste reduction activities related to business. There were bi-monthly meetings and each meeting lasted one hour. Meetings were held at the County Administration Building in downtown Elyria. If you would like to get involved, contact the District: 1-800-449-5463

The District developed an application form and criteria for a business recycling and waste reduction recognition program in 2009. The first annual awards will take place in 2010.

Commercial recycling encompasses the activities of retail establishments, business offices, and non-profit organizations. The two materials recycled most by commercial facilities are cardboard and wood pallets. There is also increasing demand for opportunities to recycle electronics and fluorescent bulbs and ballasts. These two types of materials will be accepted at the new Collection Center from businesses.

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, including cardboard, pallets, and packaging materials. In 2009, the industrial sector recycled 125,878 tons (251,756,000 pounds).

The District continued to provide assistance to businesses by performing waste assessments. A waste assessment is a formal review of manufacturing operations designed to spotlight opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling. If you would like a free waste assessment, call the District at 1-800-449-5463.

# Public Events

## Community Events

Throughout the year the District provides awareness and educational activities and makes presentations at local events and festivals. The District participated in the Elyria Apple Festival, Lorain Port Fest, Vermilion River Watershed Festival, North Ridgeville Corn Festival, Labor Festival, Lorain County Senior Fest, and the Lorain County Fair by setting up an educational display booth. The District provided Lorain County residents informational brochures and answered questions. The District has 19 different brochures that cover topics ranging from collection events to recycling and source reduction.



## Lorain County Pride Day

Lorain County Pride Day is an annual county-wide litter collection and beautification event. Although the event is promoted and sponsored by the District, each community is involved in the recruitment and scheduling of volunteers for the day's activities. In 2009, there were 3,387 of volunteers! The volunteers picked up 264,060 pounds (132 tons) of solid waste. Volunteers cleaned 73 miles of roadway (four more miles than the previous year), 251 acres of parkland (eighty more acres than in 2008), and 22 playgrounds

The volunteers also collected 1,694 pounds of clothing and other materials for reuse. And volunteers planted 13 trees and 24,000 flowers.

If you would like to participate in future pride day events, contact the District: **1-800-449-5463** to be put in touch with your community Pride Day representative.



# Education and Awareness

## Performances and Presentations

In 2009, various groups continued to perform assemblies for Lorain County students. The Illusion Maker performed his environmental magic and illusion show teaching the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) at 32 assemblies for 14,400 students. This is three times the number of students reached in the previous year. Timothy Wenk performed 12 "The Magic of Recycling" assemblies for 5,400 students. In addition, the District staff made 64 elementary school presentations reaching 2,388 students. The District staff also made three adult presentations for a total of 68 participants.

## Special Events

The District bused 300 students to Republic/Allied Lorain County Landfill for educational tours. The District also bused 180 third and fourth graders from the City of Oberlin to the Jones Farm to learn about food composting and other solid waste topics. Once again the District participated in the environmental science fair that included 350 Lorain County students from the talented and gifted program.



## Contests



The District held a Poem contest for all students in grades 5-6. A total of 167 students participated. There were winners for first, second, and third place, chosen in each grade level (6 winners in all). 1st place winners received a \$50 gift certificate, 2nd place winners received a \$40 gift certificate and 3rd place winners received a \$30 gift certificate to the local mall.

Once again in 2009, the District held the popular barrel painting contest in conjunction with 4-H clubs during the Lorain County Fair. There were 23 barrels painted and decorated for the contest. There were three age groups with three winners each. The winners received \$75, \$50 and \$25 gifts for the first, second and third place winners.



# Yard Waste Program

## Composting Programs

Yard Waste recycling comprised nearly eleven percent (11%) of total waste recycled and approximately thirty-seven percent (37%) of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2009.

Leaves, grass clippings and brush are materials that do not belong in our landfills. Some Lorain County communities have leaf and grass clipping collection programs. In Lorain County, we have 12 compost facilities registered with the Ohio EPA. Approximately 18,577 tons of yard waste was managed at these facilities in 2009.

## Reducing Yard Waste Generation

The District's compost education program continued in 2009. An agricultural agent is partially funded by the District to conduct organics education for children and adults. In 2009, the District also conducted three presentations for 116 students on composting. A primary program focus in 2009 was on composting in rural areas.

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 employed part-time by the District, to promote better methods of managing organic materials. They can give you technical assistance in preparing backyard compost. Call the OSU Agricultural Extension Office at 440-326-5856 for more details.
- ◆ Participate in the yard waste collection program offered by your community.

## Home Composting

Residents of Lorain County are encouraged by the District to create their own compost bin or pile. Compost makes soil loose and dark, helps retain water, fertilizes, and makes plants grow better. Yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps may be placed in compost.



For questions and assistance please contact the District: **1-800-449-5463**

# Litter Prevention/Clean-Up

## Commissioners Litter Strike Team Litter Program

The “Litter Strike Team” was created to respond to problem areas throughout the county in a timely manner to stop the spread and accumulation of litter. It’s a proven fact that litter attracts litter. Neat and clean neighborhoods are less likely to become littered as opposed to neighborhoods in disarray. The “Strike Teams” also address litter magnets such as fence lines and railroad crossings. The removal of weeds in these areas traps and holds wind blown litter.



**Litter** is misplaced solid waste such as bottles, packaging, cans, paper, cigarette butts or anything else that is thrown, dropped or discarded inappropriately.

It is our responsibility to discard our solid waste in an appropriate manner.  
If we don't, solid waste becomes litter.

## Adopt-A-Roadway and Adopt-A-Spot Programs

The District has many partners when it comes to litter control in Lorain County. In 2009, the District gave a grant to the Lorain County Engineer's Office to clean roads throughout the county.

Lorain County helps communities by providing bags, gloves, vests, and signage for participants in the District's Adopt-A-Spot program. Parks, trails, beaches and even neighborhood ditches can be Adopt-A-Spot locations.

**A site that is litter free is less likely to be littered.**

# Litter Control

## Environmental Crimes Unit

Open dumps and waste tire dumps are not only eyesores, but pose serious risks to human and environmental health. Toxic or hazardous materials can seep into rivers, streams, and groundwater and contaminate the water, making it unsafe to drink or unable to support aquatic life. Abandoned materials also pose a hazard if they were to catch on fire or are illegally burned and become a source of air pollution. Trash piles can also be breeding grounds for rats, mice and other rodents, as well as ticks, flies and mosquitoes that transmit diseases.

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District and the Lorain County Sheriff's Office implemented the Environmental Crimes Unit in the spring of 2009. The District contracts with the County Sheriff's Department to enforce litter and open dumping laws. The goal of the Environmental Crimes Unit is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Lorain County through education and enforcement. Littering and illegal dumping of garbage and tires poses environmental and public health concerns and has been a growing problem.



In 2009, the County Sheriff's Department completed an extensive list of enforcement of activities during the year and this program is expected to continue in 2010.

Open dumps may be found along secondary roads, utility rights-of-way, along waterways, on abandoned lots, near construction sites and along railroad tracks. Often, the property owner is not even aware that there is illegal dumping occurring. However, the property owner is responsible for the proper disposal and cost of disposal for any items deposited on his/her property.

If you would like to report littering, dumping or other environmental crimes you may contact the Environmental Crimes Unit directly by visiting [www.loraincountysheriff.com](http://www.loraincountysheriff.com) and under "Divisions" select the "Environmental Crimes Unit" or call the Lorain County Sheriff's Department at: **1-440-329-3710**

For more information call the District's Information Line at **1-800-449-5463** or visit the District's website: [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)

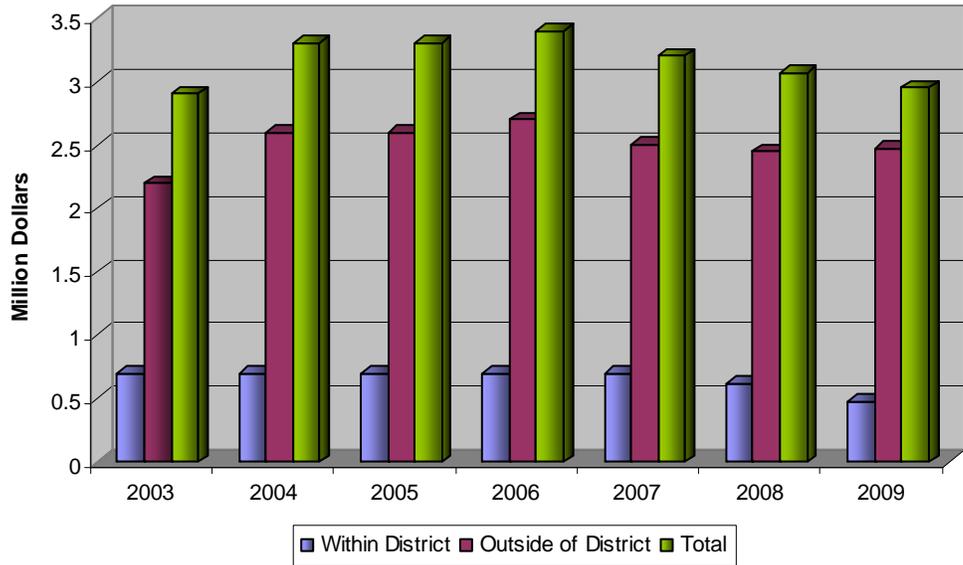
# Financial Information

## 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.

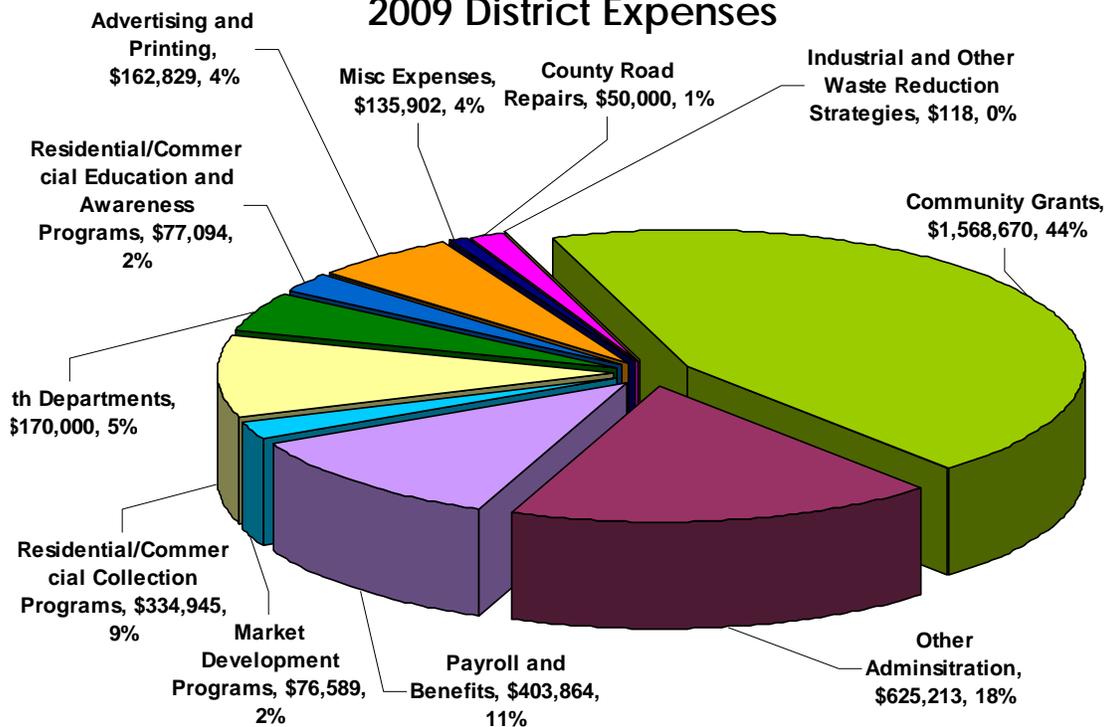
In 2009, the District received \$481,816 from Lorain County and approximately \$2.5 million from outside the District.

## 2009 District Revenues



Total District expenses were \$3.5 million in 2009. The chart below displays a break-down of the District's programs and amount allocated to each program.

## 2009 District Expenses

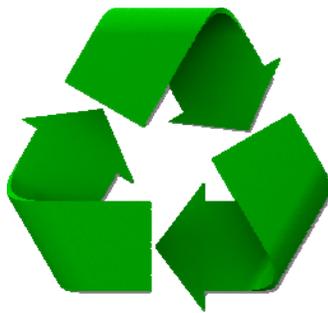


# Future Activities

2009 turned out to be a busy year for the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. Implementation of the new volume based system (VBS) recycling programs throughout the District has carried over into 2010. Implementation of the VBS recycling program has contributed to a continued increase in recycling in Lorain County. Programs like these are what make the District an innovator in regard to solid waste management in the State of Ohio. Recycling in Lorain County has become a multifaceted activity carried out by governments at all levels, by private businesses and non-profit organizations. It accounts for the employment of hundreds of workers within Lorain County, and is also supported by many active volunteers and private citizens. The District extends its gratitude to all those who understand and act upon the inherent logic of "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle."

2010 will bring a change in District staff. Mr. Billman will retire in mid 2009 after 11 years of service. Throughout 2010, the District will continue to research and develop new programs and enhance current activities for Lorain County. New programs initiated in 2009 that may be available in your community soon include:

- ◆ Volume based curbside trash and recycling programs and pilot programs;
- ◆ Open dump enforcement by the Environmental Crimes Unit;
- ◆ A community recognition program is under development for top recycling communities;
- ◆ An expanded web presence for solid waste management;
- ◆ Continued use of a program called Re-TRAC to collect waste and recycling data from communities;
- ◆ A commercial and industrial recognition program is under development to reward top business recyclers; and
- ◆ Continuation of the business round table to increase cooperative recycling efforts in the business community.



For More Information Contact:

**Lorain County Solid Waste Management District**  
**226 Middle Avenue**  
**Elyria, Ohio 44035-5510**

**Information Line: 1-800-449-5463**  
**[www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)**

# Lorain County Commissioners

**Commissioner Lori Kokoski**  
**Commissioner Ted Kalo**  
**Commissioner Betty Blair**



**Lorain County Solid Waste Management District**  
**A Department of**  
**The Lorain County Commissioners**  
**226 Middle Avenue**  
**Elyria, Ohio 44035-5510**

**1-800-449-5463 - phone**  
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