Dear Lorain County Resident:

Each year at the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District, our goal is to improve upon our existing programs, recycle more, waste less, and continue providing services and educational resources for our residents and businesses. As I look at the year in review, many of the goals we achieved were through the support and participation from our political subdivisions and residents, for which we are genuinely grateful.

The 12 months since our last annual report have been eventful for the District; our Solid Waste Management Plan was ratified, disposal fees were updated, and we achieved the highest residential diversion rate in the District’s history.

The Plan Update was approved by political subdivisions representing 88% of the District’s population; it was ratified in March of 2012. The Plan focuses on the District’s programs, strategies, and performance. One of the most significant changes in the new Plan was the replacement of one-day collection events for special materials like household hazardous waste and electronics, with a year-round collection center. The Lorain County Collection Center is a continued success and has collected 25% more tons of materials from residents than the previous year.

The District updated its fees in 2011. The new fee structure is a flat $2.00 per ton disposal fee at the landfill gate. The updated fees are now commensurate with surrounding districts, making our local landfill a more marketable resource that generates revenue for programs and services. The District will also receive from the landfill operator $0.60 per ton for all waste that comes from outside the District under a Host Community Agreement.

In 2011, we had three more communities switch to a volume-based system (VBS) for curbside recycling collection. Communities are encouraged to switch to VBS because they have shown the highest recycling rates. In 2011, Lorain County residents recycled 20,672 tons, a 7% increase since 2010, and a 59% increase since 2008.

If you have questions, please call us at 1-800-449-5463.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Bailey
District Director
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 2011, the District received over 3,200 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, may direct you to your local government, or refer you to businesses and services to solve your solid waste issue. The District also maintains information about materials and products that are made with recycled content.

Community Information

Many Lorain County communities 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. Your local community service department or township clerk is your best source for community-specific information.

Website

You can visit the District’s website: www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste. To serve you better, the website offers easy access to information related to solid waste management and recycling. Our website includes:

- Local solid waste news and events
- Reports and publications, including an online version of our new Solid Waste Management Plan
- Hours and materials accepted at the Lorain County Collection Center
- Educational services and materials
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Recycling tips for your home and office
- And much more!

Facebook

Lorain County is on Facebook! Our page is regularly updated with upcoming county and Solid Waste District events, photos, videos, links, articles, and tips. “Like” us on Facebook to stay connected and get important and up-to-date information about local solid waste and county issues!
Lorain County’s residential recycling is conducted through curbside and drop-off programs. By the end of 2011, the District had thirty-four curbside recycling programs (three more than last year!) and four drop-off recycling programs. The pie chart to the left depicts the types of recycling programs available to Lorain County residents.

The Recycling Report Card on the next page shows the type of programs and materials collected for each community in 2011. How does your community compare?
### Community Recycling Report Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lorain County Community</th>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>2007 Tons</th>
<th>2008 Tons</th>
<th>2009 Tons</th>
<th>2010 Tons</th>
<th>2011 Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amherst Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownhelm Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlisle Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Amherst</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>1,163</td>
<td>1,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Avon</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>3,290</td>
<td>3,001</td>
<td>2,481</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Avon Lake</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>1,369</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>1,565</td>
<td>1,159</td>
<td>1,020</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Elyria</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>2,275</td>
<td>2,174</td>
<td>1,083</td>
<td>2,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Lorain</td>
<td>Weekly Curbside</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>1,371</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>879</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of North Ridgeville</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>1,562</td>
<td>1,515</td>
<td>1,122</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>2,433</td>
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<td>City of Oberlin</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>775</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Sheffield Lake</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>345</td>
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<td>913</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Vermilion</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>745</td>
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<td>Columbia Township</td>
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<td>449</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eaton Township</td>
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<td>231</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>379</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elyria Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grafton Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
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<td>181</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>228</td>
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<td>95</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntington Township</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>LaGrange Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
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<td>146</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>385</td>
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<td>New Russia Township</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penfield Township</td>
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<td>149</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsfield Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>148</td>
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<td>Rochester Township</td>
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<td>319</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>271</td>
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<td>Sheffield Township</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of Grafton</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>233</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of Kipton</td>
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<td>62</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of LaGrange</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of Rochester</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Sheffield</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Wellington</td>
<td>Volume Based</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Tons              | 10,303       | 13,475    | 16,930    | 16,624    | 20,673    |

Has your community increased its recycling totals this year?
Just 4 days before the Collection Center’s 1st anniversary, we reached a major milestone! On June 15, 2011, the Collection Center hit its 10,000th user mark! Ron and Gail Schenk of Avon drove the 10,000th residential vehicle through the Collection Center, winning the recycled plastic lumber rocking chair below!

The District’s permanent Collection Center is located in Elyria, Ohio. Use of the center is **free** to Lorain County residents. Residents can drop-off household hazardous waste (HHW), electronic waste, fluorescent lamps & ballasts, scrap tires, and end-of-life books. Businesses with facilities in Lorain County may use the e-scrap and fluorescent lamp & ballast and used book programs only (hazardous materials and tires are NOT accepted from businesses). The Collection Center is open 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Over 150 tons of harmful chemicals and other substances were collected in 2011. Materials collected included: paint, chemicals, oil, mercury-containing items, and other hazardous items, all of which could cause serious environmental damage if not properly recycled or disposed.

The District website contains a list of the types of materials collected at the Collection Center. For more information, please call our toll-free information line at 1-800-449-5463 or visit the District website: www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste

2011 Collection Center Stats
HHW………………………..…..150 tons
E-Waste………………………..298 tons
Bulbs and Ballasts…………..….58 tons
Printer Cartridges……………397 units
Cell Phones……………………..781 units
The Collection Center has allowed us to host many special collection programs under one roof, making them more convenient & accessible to residents!

Prior to the summer of 2010, the District held separate collection events for hazardous and hard-to-recycle materials. These were one-day-only events, lasting six hours or less. The opening of the Collection Center allowed the District to consolidate many of these programs under one roof. The Collection Center is open three days a week all year long. In addition to household hazardous waste collection, the following programs are also operated at the Collection Center:

**Electronics Recycling Program**

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 electrical components will be recycled.

Electronic equipment accepted at the Collection Center includes: computers, monitors, printers, televisions, cell phones, (including batteries, chargers and cables), copiers, fax machines, home stereos and selected other home electronics. In 2011, nearly 300 tons of E-waste was recycled at the Collection Center.

**Fluorescent Bulb and Ballast Program**

Fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps and their ballasts, as well as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are accepted. Local residents and businesses recycled over 50 tons of bulbs and 8 tons of ballasts in 2011.

**Printer Cartridge and Cell Phone Recycling Program**

The District continued to partner with the Lorain County Office On Aging (LCOOA) for this project. The District collected 397 printer cartridges and 781 cell phones that were eligible for recycling. Senior volunteers sorted, packed, and shipped the materials, earning more than $1,500 to support their programs. Any business or organization can help collect materials for this program. To be included, call the LCOOA at 440-326-4819.

**Other Programs at the Collection Center**

**Book Recycling**

In April 2011, the District started collecting “end of life” books, which are books that either contain outdated information or are in poor condition. Softbound and hardbound books, reference manuals, and phonebooks are accepted. Phonebooks are also accepted at more than 100 Abitibi Paper Retriever recycling locations in Lorain County. To find one near you, visit: www.paperretriever.com

Once you’re there, click “Find a Recycling Bin!”
Scrap Tires

Approximately 300 million scrap tires are generated in the U.S. each year. The physical structure of a tire retains water and heat, making improperly disposed scrap tires not only an eyesore, but a breeding ground for disease-spreading mosquitoes and rodents. According to the EPA, scrap tires’ ability to retain heat also makes them susceptible to igniting into fires that are difficult to extinguish and can burn for months. Burning tires can release toxins into the environment.

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District provides scrap tire management options to residents in an effort to keep beautiful Lorain County a safe and healthy place to live. In 2011, the District provided three locations for residents to recycle scrap tires. Tires were accepted year-round at the Lorain County Collection Center and at two permanent scrap tire collection sites located at Lorain City Garage and Grafton Township Hall. The District managed 30 trailers containing more than 310 tons of scrap tires in 2011!

Did you know...?

Proper tire maintenance can extend the life of your tires! To reduce the overall number of tires you will purchase and dispose of, follow these tips:

• Use correct tire inflation pressure
  Check once a month and before long trips
• Inspect tires regularly for signs of uneven wear patterns
  This can be a sign of misalignment or improper balance!
• Never exceed your vehicle’s load limits
  You can find this information and any special instructions on your tire placard and in owner’s manual.
• Be a smart driver
  Obeying speed limits, avoiding fast stops, starts, and turns, and avoiding potholes will prolong the life of your tires.

Farm Tire Collection

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District received a generous grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in 2011 that will allow the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District to expand its existing tire collection program in 2012 to include agricultural tires. Lorain County residents who own or operate agricultural equipment can recycle scrap farm tires for free during the Farm Tire Collection event.
Community Incentive Grant Program

The Community Incentive Grant Program was created to help communities improve curbside recycling by switching to a volume-based system (VBS). Volume-based systems are the most effective recycling programs, achieving the highest percentage of diverted materials. In 2011, thirty-three of thirty-four Lorain County communities had implemented VBS. The original goal of the grant program was successfully accomplished.

The new focus of the Community Incentive Grant Program will be assisting communities to strive for and exceed the 25% recycling goal. Communities will be encouraged to use incentive grant funds to increase participation rates through education and awareness programs, social marketing campaigns, and improved opportunities for multi-family residential buildings and other appropriate targeted activities or equipment purchases.

The amount of each Community Incentive Grant will be based on the amount of revenues received by the District and the amount of curbside recycling collected by each community. In 2012, the District will distribute $370,000 in grants to communities.

The Revolving Loan Program

The Revolving Loan Program continues to provide financial assistance to Lorain County businesses and organizations (including non-profits) that utilize recycled materials either in their building materials or in their manufacturing process. The program promotes low interest loan opportunities for businesses that provide additional markets for recycled materials, retains and creates recycling-related jobs, and increases the manufacturing capacity for recyclable materials in Lorain County.
Community Events

Throughout the year the District provides awareness and educational activities and makes presentations at local events and festivals. Some events that the District participated in during 2011 include the Elyria Apple Festival, the Senior Fest, and the Lorain County Fair. The District hosted educational booths and provided Lorain County residents with informational brochures and answered questions. The District offers an assortment of brochures to residents that cover topics ranging from recycling and source reduction to composting. Next time you see our booth at a community event, we encourage you to come visit us!
Each year, Lorain County residents have the opportunity to take part in Pride Day, a county-wide litter collection and beautification event promoted and sponsored by the District. The District celebrates Pride Day as part of Keep America Beautiful’s Great American Clean Up, the nation’s largest annual community improvement program.

We would like to thank the 1,222 volunteers representing 19 District communities who worked together to make Lorain County a beautiful and safe place we are proud to call “home!”

2011 Lorain County Pride Day Statistics

- 71 miles of roadway cleaned
- 151 acres of parks cleaned
- 180 tons of litter removed
- 11 playgrounds painted and refurbished
- 501 trees planted
- 383 flats of flowers planted
- 11 graffiti sites abated
- 46 bags of aluminum cans recycled
- 10 bags of newspapers recycled
- 4,000 pounds of clothing collected to be donated

Get Involved!

No special skills are required to participate in Pride Day except a desire to improve your community!

If you would like to become a part of our Pride Day activities, contact the District at 1-800-449-5463 to be put in touch with your community Pride Day representative.
The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District and the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office established the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) in 2009 to protect Lorain County residents and the environment. The ECU responds to complaints about litter, open dumping, and other environmental crimes from the general public, local businesses, city, township, and county governments, as well as other law enforcement agencies. The ECU also provides the public with information and resources on how to properly dispose of different types of waste.

The ECU aims to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Lorain County through education and enforcement.

In 2011, the ECU investigated:

- 53 Violations involving the registration of scrap tire transporters and producers
- 42 Abandon vehicles cases
- 24 Open dumping cases
- 14 Littering cases
- 1 Operation of C&D landfill without license
- 3 Dumpster littering cases
- 3 Cases of littering from a motor vehicle
- 1 Violations of polluting state lands or waters
- 86 Other Ohio Revised Code violations

227 Potential Criminal Charges

To report littering, dumping or other environmental crimes contact the Environmental Crimes Unit by visiting www.loraincountysheriff.com and under “Divisions” select the “Environmental Crimes Unit” or call the Environmental Crimes Unit directly:

Deputy William Curtis, 440-329-3743
Deputy J.M. Jackson, 440-329-3759
Commercial & Industrial Recycling

**Business Round Table**

The Business Round Table is a program that brings people together in engaging, educational discussions about innovative recycling processes and applications for the business community, as well as other solid waste topics. Topics at the 4 Business Round Table Meetings featured guest speakers who covered recycling strategies and waste reduction activities related to the workplace. Participation from all types of businesses and industries at the Business Roundtable discussions is encouraged. Businesses are also welcome to share recycling success stories and discuss their recycling efforts with the group. If you would like to get involved, contact the District at 1-800-449-5463.

**Free Waste Assessments**

The District continues to provide free waste assessments to local businesses. A waste assessment is a formal review of manufacturing operations designed to spotlight opportunities for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling. In 2011, the District completed a comprehensive waste assessment for the Lorain Correctional Institution and identified ways LCI could save $22-26,000 annually. Increasing cardboard recycling alone could save an additional $6-9,000! If your business would like a free waste assessment, call the District at 1-800-449-5463.

**Recycling at Work**

Businesses and organizations with an interest in recycling their office paper can use Abitibi’s Paper Retriever Program, which promotes recycling through the placement of green and yellow bins (at no cost) adjacent to schools, churches and other non-profit organizations. Organizations hosting a Paper Retriever drop-off location are paid for the material collected in their bin.

During 2011, 3,000 tons of paper were recycled in more than 100 Paper Retriever boxes throughout Lorain County!

Businesses that produce larger volumes of office paper can participate in Republic’s Workplace Recycling Program.

The District helped businesses and organizations ramp up recycling efforts by providing recycling containers for office paper, bottles, and cans. The District provided 85 recycling containers to schools, businesses, and organizations in 2011.
The District provided transportation for 600 students to tour the Republic Lorain County Landfill and Material Recovery Facility. Students witnessed the processes involved with managing recyclables and solid waste. Tours aim to engage students and raise awareness about environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation.

In 2011, the District bussed more than 300 students to George Jones Farm in Oberlin to learn more about agriculture and the environment.

The annual Environmental Learning Fair provides gifted students from Lorain County with an opportunity to experience learning about vermi-composting, water quality testing, and various environmental topics in a “classroom without walls” - the great outdoors! Students also learned to make paper using recycled fibers. In 2011, the District provided transportation to the event for 350 talented and gifted students.

More than 4,700 students and nearly 100 adults participated in the District’s 191 presentations given during 2011. Presentations focused on the three R’s (reduce, reuse, and recycle!), litter prevention, and District programs.

There are several different presentations for teachers to choose from. All of these programs are listed on the District’s website www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste under the Educational Services page. To schedule a presentation please contact Brandi Schnell at: bschnell@loraincounty.us.

The District continued to build its online lending library, adding new books and movies in 2011 to help educators teach students about reducing, reusing, and recycling. In 2011, the District added the books Michael Recycle and Michael Recycle Meets Litter Bug Doug! Additional tools for educators are available online. For more information, or to borrow a book or movie from the lending library, contact Brandi Schnell, Solid Waste Specialist at: (440) 328-2249.

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Visit our website at: www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste and check out our Kid’s Corner Page which has puzzles, crafts & coloring sheets with a recycling or environmental message!
Composting

Organics Education Programs

The District continued the compost education program. Adults and school-age children had the opportunity to participate in organics education provided by the agricultural agent. In 2011, the agricultural agent conducted presentations for students and adults. The focus of the education has been composting — particularly in rural areas. Topics included “The Grass is Always Greener When You Grass Recycle,” “Benefits of Healthy Soil,” and “Composting with Worms.” Other activities included developing a composting website and giving presentations at the County Fair, Garden Clubs, and Libraries.

Here are some easy tips 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 440-326-5851 for more details.

♦ Participate in the yard waste collection program offered by your community.

Home Composting

We encourage you, as residents of Lorain County, to learn the benefits of composting first hand by creating your own compost bin or pile. Compost makes soil loose and dark, helps retain water, fertilizes, and makes plants and gardens grow better. Yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps may be placed in compost.

For questions, please contact the District:

1-800-449-5463

Composting Facilities

Yard Waste recycling comprised over 30% of the residential/commercial waste recycled in Lorain County in 2011. 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 16 compost facilities registered with the Ohio EPA. Nearly 30,000 tons of yard waste was managed at these facilities in 2011.
In 2011, the District revised its fee structure by lowering the tipping fee for solid waste generated outside the District from $4.00 to $2.00. The fee revision makes the Lorain County Landfill a more valuable resource by giving it a competitive edge.

The District now receives its funding from a $2.00 per ton tipping fee for solid waste generated both inside and outside of our county and a $0.60 out-of-county contract fee.

Total revenue in 2011 was approximately $3.1 million.

In 2011, the District’s expenses totaled approximately $2.6 million. The graph below shows a detailed breakdown of how the funds were managed.
We had an exciting and enriching year in 2011! Our new Solid Waste Plan was approved, and with renewed enthusiasm, we are looking forward to meeting challenges and seizing opportunities related to increasing waste reduction and recycling in Lorain County.

As always, we will continue our dedication to operating effective and efficient programs for the residents, businesses, and industries in our county. Along with improving our existing programs, we’re also thrilled to be working on some new initiatives in 2012.

One of our new projects will be working with manufacturers to match them with other area industries based on the waste materials they produce. We will be working to identify manufacturers that are producing waste materials that another manufacturer can use as a raw material. This project will reduce industrial sector solid waste, as well as provide economic benefits for the participating industries.

Another special project that we are excited about is the opportunity to collaborate with local institutions to assist with the development of strategic materials management plans. In 2012, we’ll be developing these strategic plans for the Lorain County Community College and Mercy Hospital. The plans will focus on waste reduction and recycling, as well as other sustainability related issues, such as energy consumption.

We hope that our programs and services have inspired you or helped you to waste less, recycle more, and be a good steward of the environment.

Together, we can make 2012 Lorain County Solid Waste Management District’s most successful year!
Around The County...
In 2011, there were over 1,200 students who participated in the District’s calendar contest. The participants designed drawings with either a Recycling or Litter Prevention theme. The winners had their artwork featured in the District’s 2012 calendar.