



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Municipal Services and Environmental Sustainability Committee

June 11, 2025

10:00 AM

City Hall – Executive Conference Room

Forestry; Refuse, Recycling & Leaf Collection/Disposal; Streets; Sewers; Lighting;
Environmental Sustainability & Regeneration and Climate Action

Council members

Chair: Gail Larson | Vice Chair: Jim Posch | Member: Davida Russell

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Agenda

- 1) **Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2) **Legislation Referred to Committee**
 - a. **RESOLUTION NO. 106-2025(MSES): First Reading.** A Resolution to adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Cuyahoga County Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District.
- 3) **Update on City's Composting Pilot Project**
- 4) **Other**
- 5) **Adjourn**



Date: May 21, 2025

To: Addie Balester, Clerk of Council
Chris Heltzel, Assistant Law Director

Cc: Kahlil Seren, Mayor
William Hanna, Director of Law

From: Collette Clinkscale, Director of Public Works

Subject: Legislation to Adopt the 2026-2040 Solid Waste Management Plan for Cuyahoga County

Purpose Statement: To adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District for the period 2026-2040.

Is this legislation recurring: Yes: _____ No: X

Is emergency language necessary: Yes: X No: _____

If yes, why? This plan must be ratified by August 10, 2025 to meet the County's deadline.

Is passage on first reading necessary: Yes: _____ No: X

If yes, why?

If funding is required, is it already budgeted for? Yes: X No: _____

The City currently participates in this program and it is in the current budget. There is not an increase projected for next year.

Resolution No. 106-2025

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights is located within the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District (District); and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee prepared and adopted a final draft of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update in accordance with *Ohio Revised Code Sections 3734.53 3734.54 and 3734.55*; and

WHEREAS, the District provided a copy of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2026-2040) for ratification to each of the legislative authorities of the District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights must decide whether it approves of said Solid Waste Management Plan Update no later than August 10, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights that:

1. The City of Cleveland Heights approves the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

The Clerk is hereby directed to send the District a copy of this resolution/ordinance to the attention of Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District, 4750 East 131 Street, Garfield Heights, OH 44105.

2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including *Sections 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code*.

Approved/Disapproved: _____

Signature of Appropriate Officer: _____

Date: _____



RATIFICATION OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (2026 – 2040)
A Fact Sheet for Community Officials – DEADLINE TO RATIFY IS August 10, 2025

The development of the solid waste plan is a requirement of Ohio law. Every solid waste management district in Ohio must periodically update their solid waste management plan and submit it to each political subdivision to be ratified. Ratification occurs when city/village councils and township trustees representing 60% of a district’s population, including its largest city and the legislative authority of the county, vote to approve the plan. If a district’s plan is not ratified, the Ohio EPA will prepare the plan and order it to be implemented. **This fact sheet provides general information about Cuyahoga County’s solid waste plan which is now out for ratification.**

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan was first ratified by communities in 1994 and four times since. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District (the District) and its Solid Waste Policy Committee are now seeking local approval for the fifth Plan Update. **The ratification process takes place from May 10, 2025 through August 10, 2025.** This Plan Update complies with an Ohio EPA format and contains 6 chapters and 23 appendices. It describes the waste management methods to be used in the upcoming planning period and details how the ten waste reduction and recycling goals established in the State Solid Waste Management Plan will be achieved. It also describes how the Plan will be implemented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

What’s the best way to review the Plan Update?

The plan chapters provide an executive summary of the plan. The District recommends reading the chapters for an overview of the plan and if additional information is desired, referring to the appendices for more detail. **See your council clerk for a Plan Update Summary booklet.** The complete Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (2026 – 2040) is also available on the District’s website – CuyahogaRecycles.org and at the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District’s office.

Who prepared the Plan Update?

The Plan Update was prepared by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Policy Committee. Various stakeholders were also consulted through the 18-month process. **The Policy Committee consists of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission members and two public members.**

Who implements the Plan Update and how is it funded?

The District is responsible for implementing the Plan Update which contains programs and services that support waste reduction and recycling. The District employs seven staff and is funded by a “generation fee”. This fee of \$2.00 is levied on each ton of waste produced in Cuyahoga County and landfilled in Ohio. Cuyahoga County’s current \$2.00 per ton fee was increased by \$0.50 per ton in 2023, only the second increase since 1994, and remains one of the lowest in Ohio. **Under this Plan Update, the generation fee remains at the current level through 2040. For comparison, the average fee statewide is \$4.74 per ton.**

Programs and services offered through the Plan

All the existing programs and services offered by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will continue with the ratification of this Plan Update while some new programs will be initiated. See program summary list below.


Education Services	Community Services & Programs	Expanded or New Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CuyahogaRecycles.org • Speakers / presenters • Residential recycling outreach • Children’s education • Business recycling assistance • Recycling program assistance • Compost seminars • Compost bin sales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Hazardous Waste Program • Scrap Tire Round-Up • Litter Collection Program • Special Waste Collections • Program analysis and contracting services • Environmental Crimes Task Force • Health Department Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants for communities • Promote food waste, fiber, glass, yard waste drop-off super sites • Waste Reduction Grant for schools and universities • Volume-based fee support • Scrap tire education and enforcement • Expanded litter collection program



Cuyahoga County

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT




Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

2026-2040
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Revised Draft Plan for Ratification
May 2025



Today's Presentation

- 1. About the District**
- 2. What's the Plan?**
- 3. Key Elements and Analysis**
- 4. Plan Funding**
- 5. Programs and Services**
- 6. Plan Ratification**
- 7. Questions**

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District

We are the public agency helping the people of Cuyahoga County to reduce, reuse and recycle at home, at work and in our communities.

We serve the 59 communities within Cuyahoga County.

Learn more at
[CuyahogaRecycles.org](https://www.CuyahogaRecycles.org)





Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

**2026-2040
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Revised Draft Plan for Ratification
May 2025

What's the Plan?



PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- **Required by Ohio Law - Ohio EPA Format**
- **Demonstrate compliance with State of Ohio recycling goals**
- **Identify programs to manage special wastes**
- **Identify programs to meet education/outreach requirements**
- **Assure availability of landfill capacity**
- **Identify funding mechanism and resources to implement the Plan**



STATE SOLID WASTE PLAN GOALS

- Goal 1. Ensure adequate infrastructure to give residents and businesses opportunities to recycle.**
- Goal 2. Recycle 25 percent of residential/commercial sector waste.**
- Goal 3. Provide a web site; a comprehensive resource guide; an inventory of available materials management infrastructure; and speakers.**
- Goal 4. Provide education, outreach, marketing and technical assistance regarding reduction, recycling, composting, reuse, and other alternative waste management methods to identified target audiences using best practices.**
- Goal 5. Provide strategies to assist the industrial sector to reduce, reuse, recycle, or compost the materials they generate.**
- Goal 6. Provide strategies to manage special wastes scrap tires, yard waste, lead-acid batteries, HHW and electronics.**
- Goal 7. Identify how to incorporate economic incentives into source reduction and recycling programs.**
- Goal 8. Evaluate the impact of recycling programs on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**
- Goal 9. Encourage development of recycling markets and the use of recycled-content products.**
- Goal 10. Report annually to Ohio EPA regarding plan implementation of the plan.**



HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED?

Data Analysis

Strategic
Planning

Conclusions

Stakeholder
Engagement

Actions &
Priorities

Financial
Forecasting

- ✓ **CCSWD**
- ✓ **Consultants: Chagrin Valley Engineering and RRS**
- ✓ **Solid Waste Policy Committee**
- ✓ **Input from Stakeholders**
 - **Elected officials**
 - **Service directors**
 - **Educators**
 - **Private sector materials management professionals**



SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE

Member Name	Representing
<i>Cuyahoga County</i>	
Yvonne Conwell, Cuyahoga County Council District 7	County Representative
Nicole Daily Jones, Mayor, City of North Olmsted	West Shore Region Representative
Michael Dever, Director, Cuyahoga County Public Works	County Representative
David Weiss, Mayor, City of Shaker Heights	Heights Region Representative
Marie Gallo, Mayor, City of Parma Heights	South Central Region Representative
Tim Weber, MetroHealth	Private Sector Representative
Edward Orcutt, Mayor, City of Brook Park	Southwest Region Representative
Mayor Bibb - Joyce Pan Huang, Director, Cleveland City Planning Commission	Cleveland Region Representative
Matthew Burke, Mayor, City of Garfield Heights	Chagrin / Southeast Region Representative
Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Council District 11	County Representative
Gregory Kurtz, Mayor, City of Independence	Cuyahoga Region Representative
Georgine Welo, Mayor, City of South Euclid	Hillcrest Region Representative
Michelle Wilhelm	Citizen Representative

As of May 2025



PLAN UPDATE SCHEDULE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Planning Start Date	May 23, 2023
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy Committee Resolution for Draft Plan Submittal	August 8, 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Draft Plan Submittal	August 23, 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ohio EPA 45-Day Comment Period	October 7, 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revise Plan Based on Non-Binding Comments	October - December 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Comment Period	February 13, 2025 - March 14, 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing	March 18, 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revise Plan Based on Public Comments	March 19, 2025 - April 9, 2025
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy Committee Adopts Draft Plan	April 10, 2025
	Ratification Period - 90 Days	May 10, 2025 - August 10, 2025
	Policy Committee Certifies Ratification	October 9, 2025
	Ratified Plan Submittal to Ohio EPA	November 25, 2025
	Final Ohio EPA Review - 90 Days	February 23, 2026
	Plan Approval and Implementtion	February 23, 2026



WHATS NEW/DIFFERENT WITH THIS PLAN?

THIS PLAN

- **MAINTAINS** all existing education, outreach and collection programs
- **ENHANCES** some existing programs
 - ✓ Grants
 - ✓ Litter Collection
 - ✓ Environmental Crimes Task Force
 - ✓ Education / Outreach
- **POTENTIAL NEW INITIATIVES**
 - ✓ Programs for hard-to-manage/recycle materials
 - ✓ Textile recycling analysis
 - ✓ Yard waste and food waste composting consortiums and infrastructure development
- **FEES**
 - ✓ NO fee increase



Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

**2026-2040
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

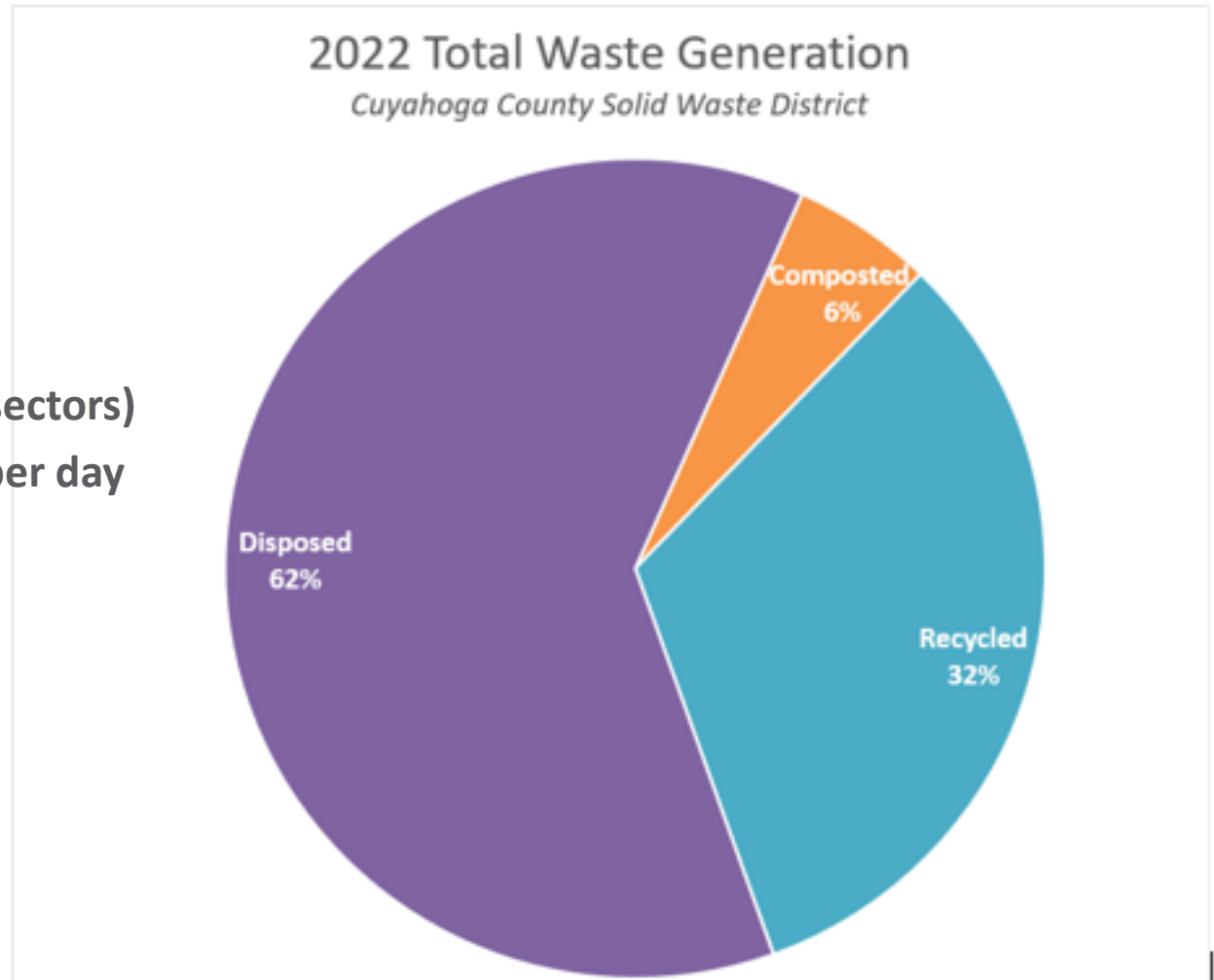
Revised Draft Plan for Ratification
May 2025

Key Elements and Findings

Key Elements and Findings

WASTE GENERATION

- 2,467,527 tons/year (all sectors)
- 6.94 pounds per person per day



Key Elements and Findings

Facility Name	Location		Waste Accepted from SWMD (tons)	Percent of all SWMD Waste Disposed	Remaining Capacity (years)
	County	State			
In-District					
None				0%	
Out-of-District					
American Landfill, Inc.	Stark	Ohio	55,279	17%	92
Athens-Hocking Landfill	Athens	Ohio	17	0%	47
Carbon Limestone Landfill LLC	Mahoning	Ohio	362	0%	37
County Environmental of Wyandot	Wyandot	Ohio	11	0%	170
Countywide RDF - Republic Services	Stark	Ohio	9,242	3%	82
Crawford County Landfill	Crawford	Ohio	6	0%	21
Erie County Sanitary Landfill	Erie	Ohio	2	0%	19
Evergreen Recycling & Disposal	Wood	Ohio	3	0%	37
Geneva Landfill	Ashtabula	Ohio	1,062	0%	74
Kimble Sanitary Landfill	Tuscarawas	Ohio	27,474	8%	18
Lake County Solid Waste Facility	Lake	Ohio	5,746	2%	26
Lorain County II Landfill LLC	Lorain	Ohio	203,889	61%	17
Mahoning Landfill Inc	Mahoning	Ohio	7	0%	65
Port Clinton Landfill Inc	Ottawa	Ohio	73	0%	93
Rumpke of Northern Ohio Inc Noble Road Landfill	Richland	Ohio	29,319	9%	14
Suburban Landfill Inc	Perry	Ohio	3	0%	140
Wood County Landfill	Wood	Ohio	8	0%	2
Out-of-State					
Advanced Disposal Services Blue Ridge Landfill Inc		Kentucky	79	0%	22
Total			332,580	100%	976

WASTE DISPOSAL & TRANSFER

- Waste not recycled or composted is disposed in MSW landfills
- 1.5 million tons disposed annually
- Waste is sent to 18 landfills outside Cuyahoga County
- Transfer stations are used to ship waste longer distances - 17 transfer stations total, 9 in Cuyahoga County
- ✓ Remaining landfill capacity projected at 54 years

Key Elements and Findings

2022 Single Stream Curbside Processors

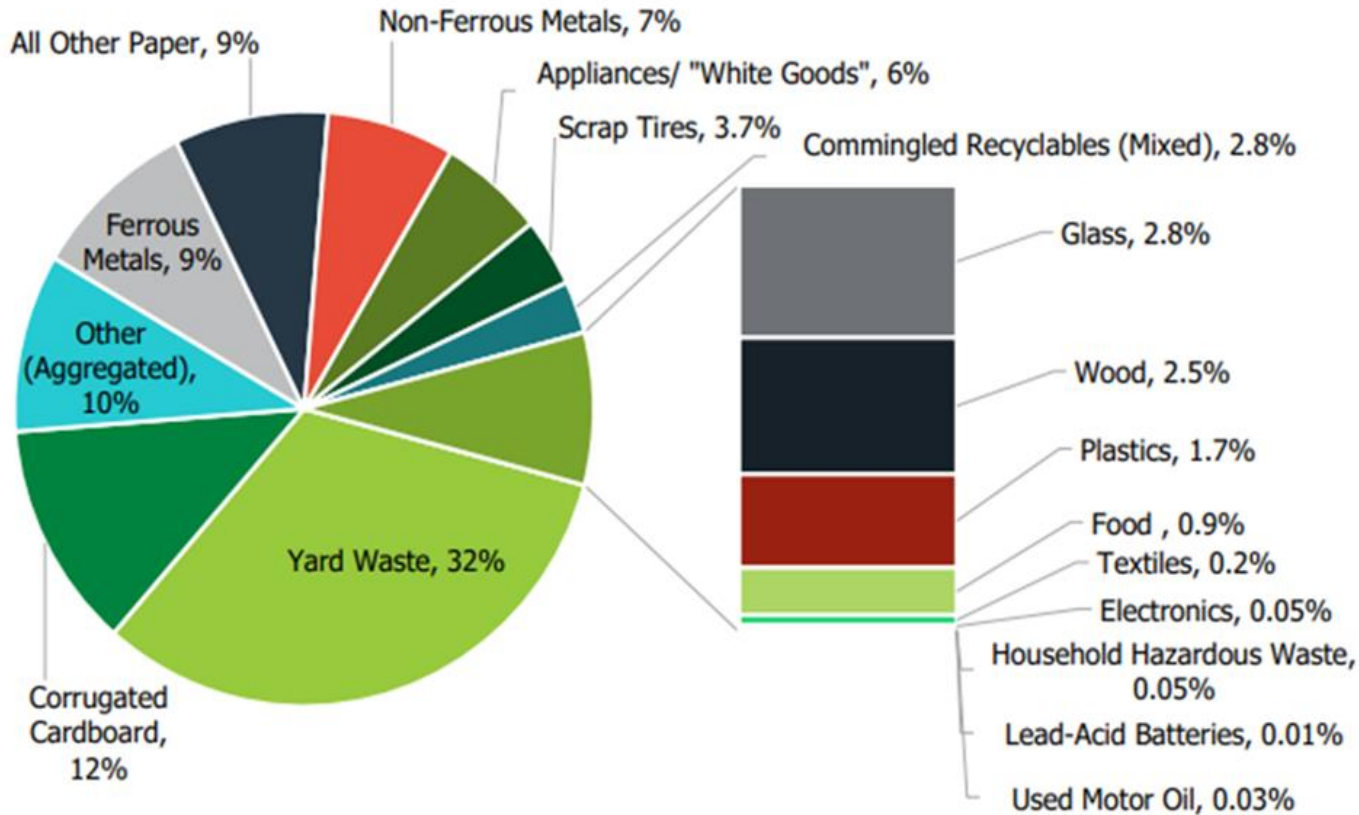


RECYCLING

- 38% of waste recycled and composted
- 59 recyclers process 316,731 tons
- 4 MRFS process curbside recyclables
- 56 municipal curbside recycling programs and 22 municipal drop-off sites
- ✓ Plan documents a recycling rate of 24.42% (res/com) and 62.73% (industrial)

Key Elements and Findings

2022 Residential/Commercial Materials Recycled/Composted



COMPOSTING

- 6% of all organic waste composted
- 32% res/comm materials
- 23 registered composting facilities
- 56 cities have yard waste recycling
- Less expensive than landfill



RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING ANALYSIS

Support existing curbside/drop-off programs and consortiums

Public/private partnerships to establish “super drop-off centers”

Work with communities to decrease Contamination in recycling

Work with communities and private sector to develop organics composting infrastructure and programming.



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY RECYCLING ANALYSIS

Continue existing technical assistance and educational programs

Seek business to become Business Recycling Champions (waste audits, diversion program development, and data tracking)

Work to expand fiber and glass infrastructure and collection

Target small to medium sized businesses without EHS or plan manager





SPECIAL WASTE ANALYSIS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- evaluate small business drop-off
- expand the type of materials collected

SCRAP TIRES

- resident education
- scrap tire dumping enforcement by ECTF

ORGANICS

- yard waste consortium
- municipal composting cooperative
- food rescue and food waste composting

LITTER

- facilitate targeted clean-ups



ECONOMIC INCENTIVE ANALYSIS

Adjust Existing Grant Programs

- Increase the type of grant programs offered
- Expand the allowable uses under each grant program
- Increase the dollars awarded

PAYT support



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ANALYSIS

- **Web site**
- **E-newsletters**
- **Resource guides**
- **Speakers / presenters**
- **Residential recycling outreach**
- **Children's education program**
- **Business and industry outreach**
- **Municipal outreach**
- **Media relations**
- **Tour Your MRF**





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Funding the Plan



TYPES OF FUNDING MECHANISMS

- ORC 3734.573
- Tiered disposal fees (for districts that have landfills)
- **Generation fees (for districts without landfills)**



CUYAHOGA COUNTY'S FUNDING METHOD

Cuyahoga County's Generation Fee

- 1994 – 2006 = \$1.00 per ton
- 2007 – 2022 = \$1.50 per ton
- 2023 – Present = \$2.00 per ton



COMPARING FEES WITH OTHER DISTRICTS

Statewide Average	\$4.75 / ton
Cuyahoga County	\$2.00 / ton

Geauga/Trumbull.....	\$5.50
Summit County.....	\$5.00
Portage County.....	\$9.60
Franklin County.....	\$5.00
Montgomery County.....	\$3.00



FUNDING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- **Generation Fee remains at \$2.00 per ton through planning period (2040)**
- **District revenue through Generations Fees and other minor income is projected to average \$2.6 million / year**
- **Costs to implement the plan is projected to average \$2.7 million / year**
- **District's fund balance will be drawn down by ~\$100,000 / year**
- **District's fund balance will be \$3 million at end of planning period in 2040**



Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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Programs and Services

Recycling Outreach and Education

CuyahogaRecycles.org

County-wide recycling education and outreach

Children's Education Program

Teacher and community resources

Speakers



Business Recycling Assistance Program

Composting seminars and bin sales



Community Services

Grant Programs (revamp existing + 1 new grant)

Contracting Services and consortiums

Waste collection and recycling program analysis

Seminars for residents

Disposal of HHW

Scrap Tire Round Up

Litter Collection Program

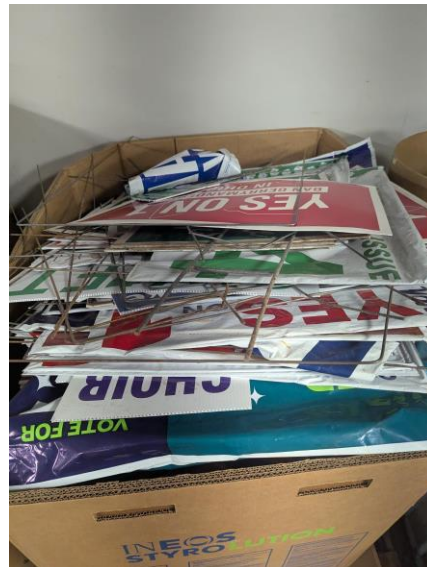
Special Waste Convenience Center



Special Waste Convenience Center

Resident Drop Off

- Cell phones
- CD/DVD cases
- VHS and cassette tapes and cases
- Mixed paper /cardboard
- PakTech rings, and small electronics
- Small appliances
- Holiday lights
- Election signs
- Electronics

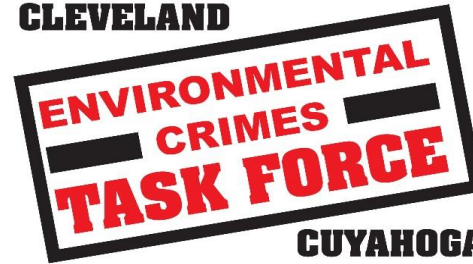


Other Services

Environmental Crimes Task Force

Solid waste code enforcement

CLEVELAND



**CUYAHOGA
COUNTY**





Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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Plan Ratification



CuyahogaRecycles.org



PLAN RATIFICATION

- Ratification period May 10, 2025 - August 10, 2025
- Each city/village council and township trustees must vote
- CCSWD Board must approve
- County Council must approve
- Communities representing 60% of Cuyahoga County must approve including the largest city (Cleveland)
- **If communities fail to ratify, the Ohio EPA will write the plan and order it to be implemented.**



Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
CuyahogaRecycles.org

Questions / Discussion

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is the leading resource in Cuyahoga County for information, expertise and programs that support sustainable materials management and reduce the environmental impact of waste.

PHONE

216.443.3714

ADDRESS

4750 East 131 Street
Garfield Heights, OH 44105