

GEAUGA-TRUMBULL SWMD

Public Notice

Public Comment Period for Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District (District) is establishing a 30-day written comment period from February 3rd, 2025, until March 5th, 2025, on the draft Solid Waste Management Plan Update (Plan Update) (Ohio Revised Code Section 3734.54). The District has prepared the draft Plan Update as required by Section 3734.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. The draft Plan Update includes a budget and fees to finance the Plan, a solid waste facility inventory, projections and strategies, facilities and programs to be used, an analysis of the progress made toward achieving state solid waste reduction goals, and District rules.

This 2026 Plan Update is an update to the previously approved solid waste plan. The 2026 Plan Update includes a demonstration of access to landfill capacity and determines whether there are more than fifteen years of landfill capacity available to the District. Based on the landfills used to manage waste generated in the District during the 2022 reference year for the planning period, landfills had an average life expectancy of 43 years.

The District does not have a landfill within its boundaries. However, two transfer stations are within its boundaries and were used in 2022, both in Trumbull County. The District has contractual agreements to designate specific facilities to receive Geauga-Trumbull's waste. The District is reliant on transfer stations in and around its two counties to transfer waste to landfills for final disposal. Due to the economics of waste hauling, the closest facilities are where a majority of Geauga-Trumbull County's waste ends up. These are Carbon Limestone Landfill in Mahoning County and Ohio Valley Waste's Transfer Station in Trumbull County.

The draft Plan update includes District rules contained in Appendix Q. The District currently has 12 rules and is not proposing any new rules in this plan update.

The draft Plan Update complies with State Plan Goal #2: A 25% diversion of all residential/commercial waste generated. The District expects to continue to reach this goal throughout the planning period.

The District currently funds plan programs and current operations through a designation fee of \$5.50. As part of the designation contracts, solid waste facilities accepting District waste remit a \$5.50 per ton contract fee to the District. To support new programming and the rising costs of existing programs, the Policy Committee is planning to increase the contract fee by \$2.00 per ton in 2027. The District has maintained a constant designation fee since 2007. The contract fee is collected at the first point of disposal by the designated facilities, including landfills, transfer stations, incinerators, and material recovery facilities, and remitted back to the District. Importantly, this fee increase is NOT a tax levied on residents of the District.

The District will accept written comments as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 3734.55 on the draft Plan Update from February 3rd, 2025, until March 5th, 2025. Written comments should be sent to Jennifer Jones, Director Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, 5138 Enterprise Dr., Warren, OH 44481 or via email to jenn@startrecycling.com

The District will hold a public hearing to obtain oral comments regarding the draft Plan Update on Wednesday, March 12th at 3pm at the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District offices at the address listed above.

The draft Plan Update is available for review on the District's website at: <https://startrecycling.com/>

Please contact the District at (330) 675-7967 with any questions about the Plan Update.



SOLID WASTE PLAN SUMMARY

JANUARY 2025

PLANNING PERIOD

2026-2040



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026 UPDATE

Geauga-Trumbull is a dual County Solid Waste Management District (District) governed by the Geauga and Trumbull County Board of County Commissioners. The Solid Waste Policy Committee oversees the Solid Waste Plan Development and the subsequent review and approval process with Ohio EPA. The Board of County Commissioners, and by delegation the District staff, are responsible for the plan's implementation. The District is required by Ohio state law to develop a solid waste management plan demonstrating access to at least 10 years of landfill capacity to manage all District solid wastes that will be disposed. The solid waste management plan must also show how the District will meet the waste reduction and recycling goals established in Ohio's state solid waste management plan and present a budget for implementing the plan.

The District's integrated solid waste management system relies heavily on neighboring districts for landfill and recycling processing infrastructure. The District operates in an open market system, which means customers have a choice of any waste hauler because the system is open to competition. Nine political jurisdictions procure non-subscription curbside recycling services. Each community can choose which hauler to contract with and this service is extended automatically to residents without any need to individually subscribe. The remaining political jurisdictions operate with individual contracts or private subscriptions, a system where residents contract directly with the hauler of their choice.

Sufficient landfill capacity is available to the District at landfills within a reasonable distance. The primary landfill used, Carbon Limestone, can continue operating at its current level for 37 years.

RE-CO'S Big 5

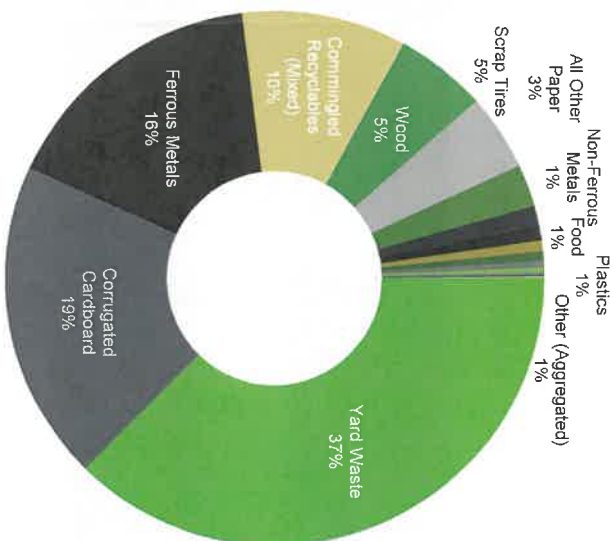
- 1. Bottles**
- 2. Cans**
- 3. Jugs**
- 4. Jars**
- 5. Cardboard/Paper**



90%
of population with
access to recycle



25%
Residential/Commercial
Diversion Rate



Residential/Commercial Diverted
Materials

~ 88,000

Tons Residential/Commercial
Waste Diverted

- 9 non-subscription curbside recycling programs
- Subscription service available throughout the District
- 43 drop-off locations → **2,719 tons recycled**
- HHW Collection → **77 tons recycled**
- Appliance Collection → **53 tons recycled**
- Scrap Tire Recycling → **4,040 tons recycled**
- Electronics Recycling → **151 tons recycled**
- Battery Collection → **3 tons recycled**
- Yard Waste Management → **32,922 tons recycled**



Scrap Tire Grants

Each year, the District budgets funding to provide communities with the opportunity to receive financial support for solid waste related projects. Grants are dependent on available funding. All communities are eligible to apply for funding. The grants offered by the District include Scrap Tire Grants, Drop-off Improvement Grants (DIG), and Go-Green Grants. These grants are designed to provide financial support to communities to help keep the streets, waterways, forests, etc., clear of any hard-to-recycle materials such as tires, electronics, general litter, and more. Other uses include improving infrastructure or surveillance at drop-off recycling locations to prevent illegal dumping and littering. As of 2024, over 60% of drop-off locations are equipped with security cameras. These have already helped reduce illegal dumping and associated service costs.

\$103,000 Awarded

- 53 Communities served
- 400 tons of tires collected



Go Green Grants

- Electronics Collection
- Recycled Material Tables/Benches
- Waste Management Infrastructure

\$77,000 Awarded



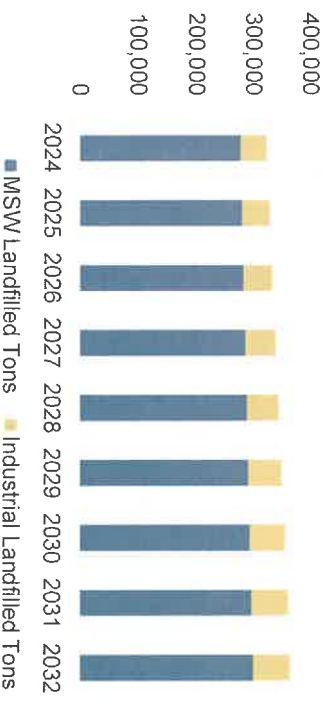
Drop-off Improvement Grants (DIGs)

- Security Cameras
- Concrete Pads & Fencing
- Drainage Systems
- Lighting & Signage

\$177,000 Awarded



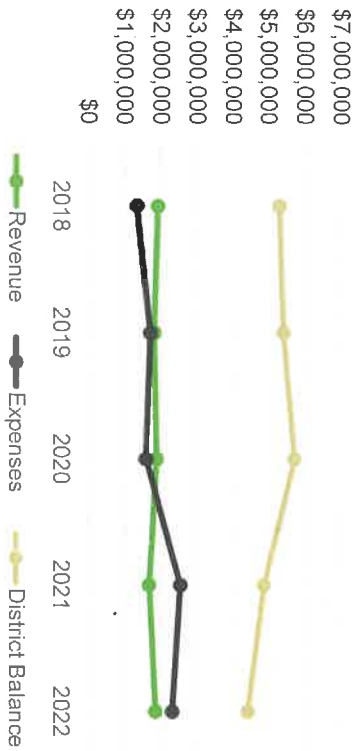
MSW Waste Landfilled



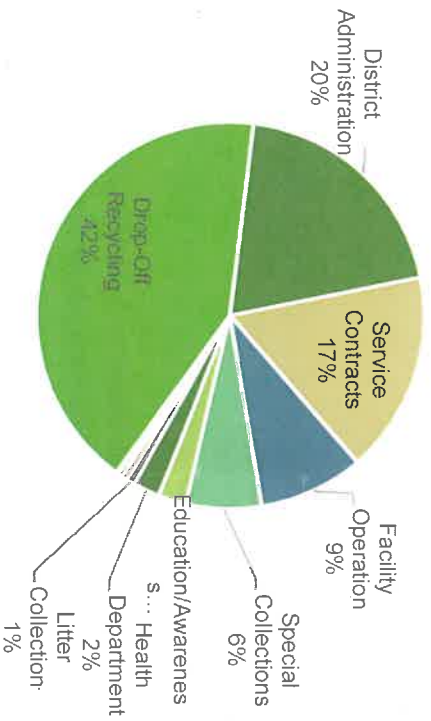
Only a handful of Solid Waste Management Districts across the state of Ohio have access to a facility specifically used to collect and properly dispose of and/or recycle hard-to-manage materials. The District is proud to support one collection center in each county. The Geauga Collection Center (pictured) opened in June of 2022 and has been extremely well received by residents. Both facilities are open year-round and are equipped as drive-through facilities where staff will unload materials from residents' cars. Residential and commercial sectors generate the majority of waste, accounting for 86% of landfilled waste. The District relies primarily on Republic's Carbon Limestone Landfill located in Mahoning County. In total, the District landfilled approximately 316,000 tons of waste in 2022.

Financials

Operating Balance



Expenses 2022



Nearly 90% of the District's revenue is received from its contract fees at designated facilities. Designation contracts with landfills and transfer stations remit a \$5.50 per ton contract fee to the District when waste from the District is received. On average about \$1.9 million is received annually. Due to rising service costs and inflation, revenues are not projected to sustain expenses in the long term. The District's annual operating expenses are around \$2.2 million. The largest non-administrative cost is the support of the drop-off recycling containers throughout the two counties as well as the operation of the two Collection Centers.

To support new programming and the rising costs of existing programs, the District is proposing to increase the contract fee by \$2.00 per ton in 2027. Importantly, this is **NOT** a fee paid directly by households, instead, the contract fee is collected at the first point of disposal by the designated facilities, including landfills, transfer stations, incinerators, and material recovery facilities, and remitted back to the District. Based on the District's estimations, the average household could see an additional cost of **\$0.40 per month**. The District is committed to keeping costs low for its residents. The proposed fee increase will be the first increase since 2007.



Priority Programming and Focuses

The District's priorities in this plan remain similar to years past. Namely, providing adequate services for residents who wish to recycle. Priority programs include curbside recycling, drop-off recycling, education & awareness, and operating both collection facilities. New focus areas stemming from analyses and conclusions in the plan center around data collection and growing relationships with commercial businesses. The flow of waste and recycling is pivotal for the District to understand gaps in the current system. The District plans to make concerted efforts during this plan to improve data collection and tracking from haulers, municipalities, and district-operated programs.

A growing demand identified is food waste diversion from landfills. Food waste comprises up to 30% of waste sent to landfills across the nation. During this plan, the District's outreach priority is geared towards education & awareness of food diversion, as well as exploring methods the District can further support food waste diversion.

Next Steps:

Geauga-Trumbull's Solid Waste Plan Update is now open for public comment. The District will accept written comments on the draft Plan Update from February 3, 2025 through March 5, 2025. Written comments should be sent to:

Jennifer Jones, Director
Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District
5138 Enterprise Dr.
Warren, OH 44481

or via email to jenn@startrecycling.com.

The District will hold a public hearing for oral comments regarding the draft Plan Update on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 3pm at the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District offices at the address listed above.

Each political jurisdiction (city, township, village) in the District will be asked to approve the solid waste plan. The process requires each community to:



- Review the Plan draft.
- Act on the plan during its window of approval (May 1st, 2025 – July 3rd, 2025)
- Submit a copy of their resolution or legislation to the District.

Failure to act on the Plan is considered a negative vote by the Ohio EPA.

A complete copy of the Plan Update may be viewed at <https://startrecycling.com/>