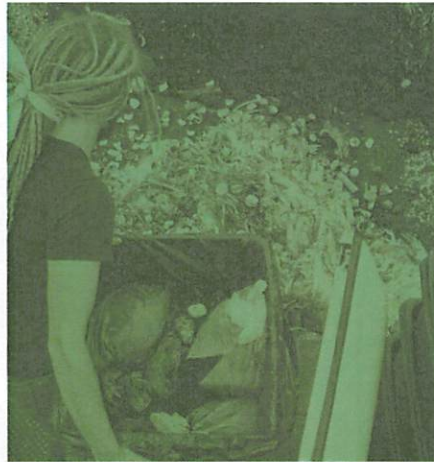
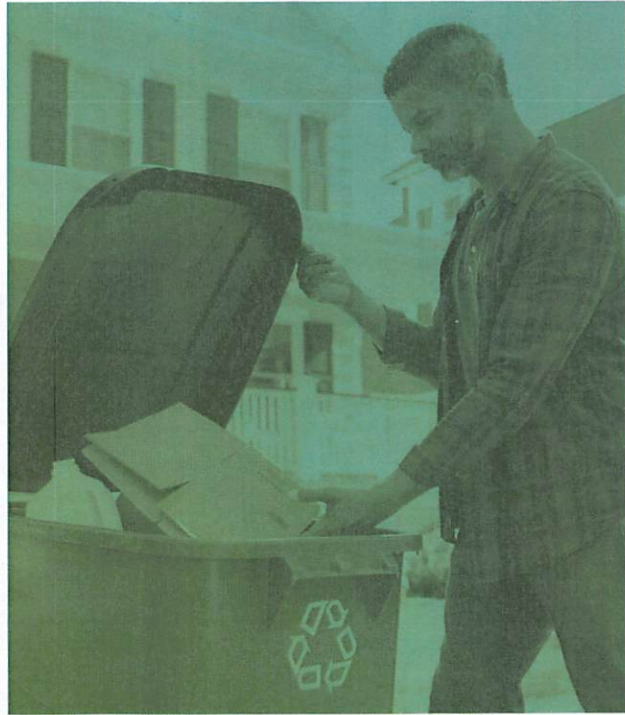


ATTACHMENT A

HAMILTON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

PLAN UPDATE



HAMILTON COUNTY
R3SOURCE
REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

1 Introduction

A. Solid Waste Planning in Ohio

In 1988, Ohio faced a combination of solid waste management problems, including rapidly declining disposal capacity at existing landfills, increasing quantities of waste generated and disposed, environmental problems at many existing solid waste disposal facilities, and increasing quantities of waste imported into Ohio from other states. These issues, combined with Ohio's outdated and incomplete solid waste regulations, caused Ohio's General Assembly to pass House Bill (H.B.) 592, which dramatically revised Ohio's outdated solid waste regulatory program and established a comprehensive solid waste planning process.

There are three overriding purposes of this planning process: to reduce the amount of waste Ohioans generate and dispose; to ensure that Ohio has adequate, protective capacity at landfills to dispose of its waste; and to reduce Ohio's reliance on landfills.

B. Requirements of County and Joint Solid Waste Management Districts

1. Structure

As a result of H.B. 592, each of Ohio's 88 counties must be a member of a solid waste management district (SWMD). A SWMD is formed by county commissioners. A board of county commissioners has the option of forming a single county SWMD or joining with board(s) of county commissioners from one or more other counties to form a multi-county SWMD. Ohio currently has 52 SWMDs. Of these, 37 are single-county SWMDs and 15 are multi-county SWMDs.¹

A SWMD is governed by two bodies. The first is the Board of Directors which consists of the county commissioners from all counties in the SWMD. The second is a Policy Committee. The Policy Committee is responsible for developing a solid waste management plan for the SWMD. The Board of Directors is responsible for implementing the Policy Committee's solid waste management plan.²

2. Solid Waste Management Plan

In its solid waste management plan, the Policy Committee must, among other things, demonstrate that the SWMD will have access to at least 10 years of landfill capacity to manage all the SWMD's solid wastes that will be disposed. The solid waste management plan must also show how the SWMD will meet the waste reduction and recycling goals established in Ohio's state solid waste management plan and present a budget for implementing the solid waste management plan.

Solid waste management plans must contain the information and data prescribed in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3734.53 and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-27-90. Ohio EPA prescribes the format and way that information is presented.

¹ Counties have the option of forming either a SWMD or a regional solid waste management authority (Authority). The majority of planning districts in Ohio are SWMDs, and Ohio EPA generally uses "solid waste management district", or "SWMD", to refer to both SWMDs and Authorities.

² In the case of an Authority, it is a Board of Trustees that prepares, adopts, and submits the solid waste management plan. Whereas a SWMD has two governing bodies, a Policy Committee and Board of Directors, an Authority has one governing body of trustees. The Board of Trustees performs all of the duties of a SWMD Board of Directors and Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee begins by preparing a draft of the solid waste management plan. After completing the draft version, the Policy Committee submits the draft to Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA reviews the draft and provides the Policy Committee with comments. After revising the draft to address Ohio EPA's comments, the Policy Committee makes the solid waste management plan available to the public for comment, holds a public hearing, and revises the plan as necessary to address the public's comments.

Next, the Policy Committee ratifies the solid waste management plan. Ratification is the process that the Policy Committee must follow to provide the SWMD's communities the opportunity to approve or reject the draft plan. Once the plan is ratified, the Policy Committee submits the ratified plan to Ohio EPA for review and approval or disapproval. From start to finish, preparing a solid waste management plan can take up to 33 months.

The Policy Committee is required to submit periodic updates to its solid waste management plan to Ohio EPA. How often the Policy Committee must update its plan depends upon the number of years in the planning period. For an approved plan that covers a planning period of 10 and 14 years, the Policy Committee must submit a revised plan to Ohio EPA within three years of the date the plan was approved. For an approved plan that covers a planning period of 15 or more years, the Policy Committee must submit a revised plan to Ohio EPA within five years of the date the plan was approved.

C. District Overview

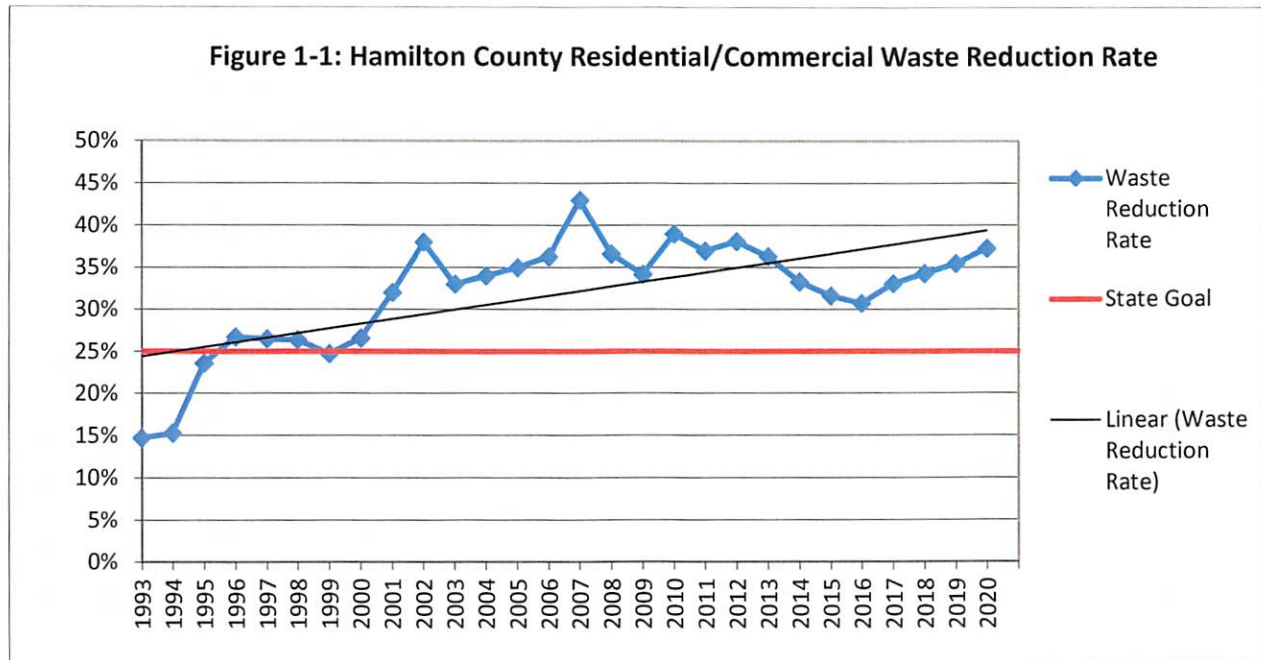
Hamilton County R3Source (formerly Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District and legally Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District) is a single-county SWMD whose first plan was approved by Ohio EPA in July 1993. Since that time, R3Source has remained true to its core philosophies of:

- Enacting programs that meet state mandates and needs of stakeholders.
- Relying on the private sector to provide collection, disposal, and processing.
- Filling in gaps if the private sector is not providing services.
- Passing resources through to local governments to encourage flexibility in developing waste reduction and recycling programs.

In 2020, Hamilton County's overall waste reduction rate was 55.78%. The residential/commercial sector rate was 37.25% percent, and the industrial rate was 83.32% percent. The residential/commercial rate is well above the mandated goal (see Figure 1-1). Ohio no longer has a state-mandated goal for industrial waste reduction.

R3Source's success can be attributed to three factors:

- **Partnerships:** R3Source works closely with communities, schools, businesses, and the private sector waste industry to develop the most appropriate waste reduction programs.
- **Creativity:** R3Source continues to create award-winning programs and outreach to maintain and increase recycling efforts.
- **Continuous Improvement:** R3Source does not simply accept the fact that the state-mandated goals are achieved. Continual examination of programs is part of the culture.



Reference Year

The reference year for the solid waste management plan is 2020. R3Source initiated data collection for recycling, composting, and source reduction in 2021.

Planning Period

The planning period for this solid waste management plan is 2024 – 2038.

D. Waste Reduction and Recycling Goals

As explained earlier, a SWMD must achieve goals established in the state solid waste management plan. The current state solid waste management plan is the *2020 State Solid Waste Management Plan (2020 State Plan)* that established ten goals as follows:

1. The SWMD shall ensure that there is adequate infrastructure to give residents and commercial businesses opportunities to recycle solid waste; and/or
2. The SWMD shall reduce and recycle at least 25 percent of the solid waste generated by the residential/commercial sector.
3. The SWMD shall provide the following required programs: a web site; a comprehensive resource guide; an inventory of available infrastructure; and a speaker or presenter.
4. The SWMD shall 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.
5. The SWMD shall incorporate a strategic initiative for the industrial sector into its solid waste management plan.
6. The SWMD shall provide strategies for managing scrap tires, yard waste, lead-acid batteries, household hazardous waste, and obsolete/end-of-life electronic devices.

7. The SWMD shall explore how to incorporate economic incentives into source reduction and recycling programs.
8. The SWMD will use U.S. EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WARM) (or an equivalent model) to evaluate the impact of recycling programs on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
9. The SWMD has the option of providing programs to develop markets for recyclable materials and the use of recycled-content materials (optional).
10. The SWMD shall report annually to Ohio EPA regarding implementation of the SWMD's solid waste management plan.

All nine SWMD goals in this state plan are crucial to furthering solid waste reduction and recycling in Ohio. However, by virtue of the challenges posed by Goals 1 and 2, SWMDs typically must devote more resources to achieving those two goals than to the remaining goals. Thus, Goals 1 and 2 are the primary goals of the state plan.

A SWMD is not required to demonstrate that it will achieve both goals. Instead, SWMDs have the option to choose either Goal 1 or Goal 2 for their solid waste management plans. This affords SWMDs two methods of demonstrating compliance with the state's solid waste reduction and recycling goals. Many of the programs and services that a SWMD uses to achieve Goal 1 help the SWMD make progress toward achieving Goal 2 and vice versa. For this solid waste management plan, R3Source will achieve Goal 2: reduce and recycle at least 25 percent of the solid waste generated by the residential/commercial sector.

Chapter 5 and Appendix I provide descriptions of the programs R3Source will use to continue exceeding Goal 2.

E. Aspirational Diversion Goal

Although not required by the 2020 State Plan, Hamilton County R3Source established its own aspirational diversion rate goals to increase landfill diversion throughout the planning period. This will continue to challenge Hamilton County to be a leader in waste reduction in Ohio. Increasing food rescue to feed hungry people, reducing unnecessary waste costs for businesses and residents, and recovering resources that become new products fueling our regional economy act as pivotal motivators for the work of Hamilton County R3Source.

As shown in Table 1-1, R3Source will strive to support Hamilton County communities and residents to achieve a 27% diversion rate for the residential sector, encompassing a 54% increase in tonnage or over 31,000 tons annually. The commercial sector represents a larger portion of the waste stream and more potential for diversion. R3Source will strive to support Hamilton County's commercial sector to achieve a 50% diversion rate by 2038. This represents a 15% increase in tonnage or over 74,000 tons annually.

Table 1-1. 2038 Aspirational Diversion Rate		
	2020 Diversion Rate	Aspirational Diversion Rate
Residential	18%	27%
Commercial	43%	50%