



HAMILTON COUNTY
R3SOURCE
REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

SOLID WASTE PLAN UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

2024-2038

The full Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2024-2038 draft can be found at HamiltonCountyR3Source.org under "About Us".

Introduction

Hamilton County R3Source is currently updating its 15-year Solid Waste Plan, as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. A solid waste plan is a guidance document that a local solid waste district uses to implement programs and initiatives to continually improve recycling and waste reduction within its jurisdiction and reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.

Hamilton County R3Source used a data-driven process to develop landfill-diversion strategies and increase diversion over the planning period. Hamilton County R3Source chose this approach to progress achievable and realistic goals through implementable strategies.

2038 DIVERSION GOALS BY SECTOR		
Sector	2020 Diversion %	Aspirational 2038 Diversion %
Residential	18%	27%
Commercial	43%	50%

Strategies

for Reducing Wasted Food

At the start of the Plan Update process, an analysis of all R3Source programs was compared to the waste characterization study of the Hamilton County landfill to identify material-specific waste reduction strategies. The material with the greatest diversion potential was food.

FOOD WASTE DIVERSION GOAL & RECOVERED QUANTITIES		
Sector	Landfill Diversion Goal	Annual Tonnage Recovered
Food Waste	50%	27%



**Consumer
Education**



**Strengthen
Food Rescue**



**Compost
Anything Remaining**

Consumer Education

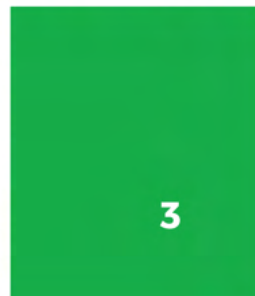
- Continue the “Wasted Food Stops with Us” campaign and participation in national efforts with the NRDC Food Matters Cohort, EPA, and ReFed

Strengthen Food Rescue

- Support Food Rescue infrastructure with grants, technical support, and collaborative working groups
- Partner with Health Departments to promote safe donation from restaurants, caterers, and cafeterias
- Partner with local food recovery partners to address barriers to increasing food donations from retailers

Compost Anything Remaining

- Facilitate a Public/Private/Partnership (PPP) to bring centralized food scrap composting to the region
- Provide technical assistance and grants to large food waste generators to divert clean organic waste streams toward anaerobic digestion or composting
- Provide training and technical assistance to increase the number of small-scale community composting sites





Additional Action Items

In addition to material-specific strategies, the Plan Update includes the following action items to decrease dependency on landfills, reduce illegal waste management, and foster diversion, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in Hamilton County R3Source programs.

01

**Business
Assistance**

02

**Environmental
Enforcement**

03

Grants

04

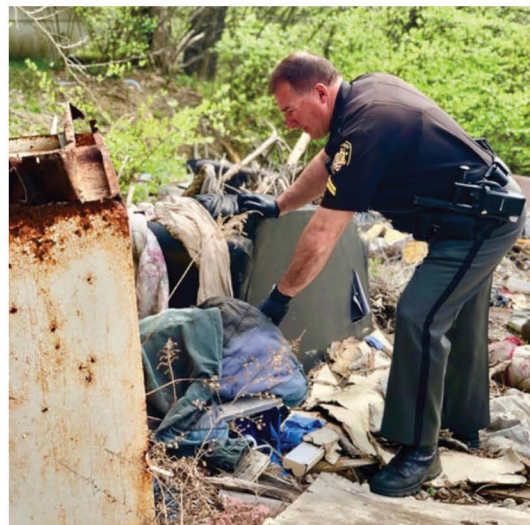
DEI

01 Business Assistance

- Increase the business assistance budget from \$145K to \$220K
 - Conduct targeted outreach to provide custom technical assistance and resources to large commercial waste generators
 - Provide technical assistance and supplies to Hamilton County businesses to cost-effectively recycle cardboard
 - Evaluate the feasibility of awarding a Franchise Agreement for recycling services for businesses
 - Work with local governments to update zoning language to include space for recycling at multi-family properties
-

02 Environmental Enforcement

- Continue to fund a full-time sheriff deputy to investigate illegal dumping
- Work with townships to mandate trash collection
- Collaborate with Keep Ohio Beautiful to provide illegal dumping training for communities, health departments, and police departments
- Continue to provide \$295,000 to Hamilton County Public Health and \$72,000 to Cincinnati Health Department to regulate solid waste facilities



03 GRANTS

- Maintain Residential Recycling Initiative (RRI) funding for communities at \$800,000, if revenue is \$100,000 over projections then funding is increased to \$900,000
- Allow communities to receive funds for commercial tonnage through the RRI and establish a minimum threshold of funding of \$5,000 per community
- Fund innovative waste reduction, reuse, food rescue, composting, and recycling programs

04 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

- Hamilton County is the first county in the state of Ohio to incorporate a DEI analysis into their solid waste plan
- Reviewed current and future programming to identify areas of improvement
- Incorporated full text of report into the Solid Waste Plan Update and adopted five central DEI goals

1

Ensure that R3Source delivers accessible, inclusive, and equitable services and programs.

2

Invest in community partnerships that inform decision-making and foster full and equitable civic participation.

3

Engage with residents and communities in inclusive and culturally responsive ways to move the R3Source's DEI work forward.

4

Use data and research as a tool for decision-making and policy and program development.

5

Evaluate and report on DEI efforts to ensure accountability and transparency.