

Athens-Hocking Solid Waste Management Plan 2025-2040

What is the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District?

The District was created by a state law requiring each county or group of counties to develop a plan for the proper disposal of solid waste and requires access to recycling for 90% of the Public.

Why do we need a Plan?

The State Plan in 2024 now requires the District to develop a plan to do the following:

- Meet reduction and recycling goals of at least 25%
- Conduct Education & Outreach
- Develop programs for tires, Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics, etc.
- Develop Economic Incentives
- Market Development
- Reporting

How will this be funded?

The District is proposing to keep the garbage (\$3.00/ Ton) and landfill rates (\$1/\$2/\$1/ Ton) the same and collect a \$24 parcel fee per year on your tax bills.

When will the fees begin?

If the Parcel Fee is approved by the Athens & Hocking County Commissioners by August 1, 2024, the expanded program will begin on January 1, 2025 and will be on your 2025 tax bill. Ohio's Improved Parcel Definition states the fee shall be made only against lots or parcels that are improved, or in the process of being improved, with at least one permanent, portable, or temporary building.

Who is in charge of the District?

The District is governed by the board of six (6) County Commissioners from Athens and Hocking Counties. A 15 member Policy Committee develops, monitors and recommends to the District plans to meet the state requirements.

When is the Plan Due?

The Solid Waste Management Plan is due in February 2025. Plans need to be updated every five (5) years.

What is in the Draft Plan?

The Draft Plan includes plans for:

- Purchase the AHRC's Recycling Center
- Run the Sutton Road Recycling Center for hard to recycle materials drop-off
- Hold Recycling Day events four (4) times a year
- Develop a Household Chemical Collection program or Event annually
- Battery Recycling at local libraries & events
- Conduct Education & Outreach Programs
- Community Grants for recycling & Clean up Days
- Grants for the Health Department & Sheriff's Office to curb illegal dumping and clean ups

Proposed Parcel Fee

- An improved parcel is defined as having one or more permanent, portable, or temporary building on it.
- An improved parcel can have as many units or buildings on it for the \$24/ year fee
- The \$24 fee per parcel per year was recommended by the Policy Committee as a way to preserve the Recycling Center for the future of recycling in the district, not have to raise hauling and landfill fees on everyone, but to be more equitable to all who live in the district.
- If established the Fee will be certified to the County Auditor, who shall place them on the real property against the parcel.
- Proposed rate/charge will supplement the existing funding from haulers and landfills which make up only \$430,000/year. The proposed Parcel Fee will generate about \$799,144 per year less delinquent taxes.
- The \$24/year parcel fee is cost-saving in the long run because it's stable and won't lead to haulers raising customers' fees and pricing out small haulers. This equitable and wise investment in our facilities equates to local economic and workforce development and protects our communities' health that depends on access to AHSWD's essential programs.

Why the Parcel Fee was recommended?

- The Solid Waste District has spent all of the savings from selling the recycling center to AHRC, so now we want to get funds to buy it back and have it always so we can handle our own recycling and not depend on the lowest bidder to keep costs low.
- The Solid Waste needs a sustainable funding source to maintain programming and to expand to handle hard to recycle materials.
- We can only raise tiered and generation fees so much and we have to have a balanced budget.
- The County Commissioners are not willing to spend funds to support recycling, needs to find it own funding.
- The Parcel Fee is fair and equitable and doesn't let for-profit businesses decide how much to charge you.
- Raising Generation and Tiered Fees will create a burden for large waste generators (colleges, schools, businesses, cities and small waste haulers) and they will just pass along the fees to you.

FAQs

How quickly can you start? The Athens and Hocking County Commissioners both have to vote yes on the parcel fee. Once they have voted, the The Solid Waste District will purchase the Recycling Center with a 10 year bond; we will notify the County Auditor's and they will certified it as an fee for Improved Parcels in their counties. It will be on your 2025 Tax Bill.

I already have curbside recycling, why do I have to pay the Parcel Fee?

Thank you for recycling! Your recycling has to go someplace and it will go to the Recycling Center we will own with the parcel fee. The SORT COG will sort it and then send it off for recycling, but if that center is gone, it will be collected and transported to the lowest bid sorting facility and then recycled.

You will also be able to recycle your hard to recycle materials, household chemicals and participate in all of our events. Lastly, our public health and law enforcement will be supported to keep illegal dumping at bay.

How Can I Help?

If you support the Parcel Fee, let your county Commissioners and local public officials know, because they all will be voting on it come the fall in the Management Plan. Inform others about recycling and how they can get involved and jump on the recyclingtrail.com to do your part to reuse, repair and recycle.

I don't recycle, why do I need to pay a parcel fee?

Many of us do not use EMS, Schools or the local cemetery, but we pay for those services. Recycling is mandated by Ohio law and we have to pay for it some how. You do have an opportunity to recycle free at the Drop-off sites, tire collections, household hazardous waste and enjoy a clean District.