
State Solid Waste Management Plan

Applicable Law and Regulations

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3734.50

What is the solid waste management plan?

The main purpose of the state plan is to reduce Ohio's reliance on using solid waste landfill facilities to manage solid waste. To do this, the state plan establishes the waste reduction and recycling goals for both the State and Ohio's 52 solid waste management districts (SWMDs).

The Ohio Revised Code defines eight requirements for the state plan:

- reduce Ohio's reliance on landfills to manage the State's solid wastes
- establish objectives for solid waste reduction, recycling, reuse, and minimization and a schedule for implementing those objectives
- establish restrictions on disposing of solid wastes when there are alternative waste management methods available
- examine alternative methods for disposing of fly ash and bottom ash resulting from burning mixed municipal solid wastes
- establish a statewide strategy for managing scrap tires
- establish a strategy to promote markets for products containing recycled materials
- establish a program for the proper separation and disposal of hazardous waste generated by households
- establish revised general criteria for locating solid waste facilities

These requirements are all necessary to ensure that solid waste is managed properly. However, the primary purpose of the solid waste planning program is to divert waste from landfills through reduction and recycling.

Who prepares the plan?

Ohio EPA prepares the state plan with advice from the Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC). MMAC is an advisory body of 13 members who represent various parties that are involved in or have an interest in solid waste management. Thus, MMAC provides Ohio EPA with well-balanced input for developing the state plan.

Who decides when the state plan is complete?

Once Ohio EPA and MMAC complete a draft version of the state plan, Ohio EPA must hold public hearings around Ohio. During these hearings, interested parties can provide oral testimony regarding the draft and submit written comments to Ohio EPA. Following completion of the hearings, Ohio EPA reviews all comments received and revises the draft state plan as appropriate.

Next, MMAC votes on whether to approve or reject the draft document. Once MMAC approves the state plan, then the director of Ohio EPA adopts the state plan. After the director adopts the state plan, it replaces the previous version as the effective state plan.

House Bill 592 (HB 592), signed into law on June 24, 1988, dramatically revised Ohio's outdated solid waste regulatory program. The law also established a solid waste management planning program to be implemented at both the state and local government levels. The bill emphasized the need to reduce Ohio's reliance on landfills for the disposal of waste by increasing solid waste reuse, recycling, and minimization efforts. This guidance is one in a series explaining the provisions of HB 592 that make up Ohio's solid waste management planning program.

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Who implements the state plan?

Ohio's SWMDs and Ohio EPA have primary responsibility for implementing the state plan. Ohio's SWMDs devote significant resources to achieving the goals of the state plan. Implementing the state plan requires collaboration with many other parties, including other state agencies, such as ODNR, local governments, the waste industry, elected officials, non-profit organizations, business owners, educators, and residents.

How often is the state plan updated?

There is not an established schedule for updating the state plan. However, Ohio EPA, working with MMAC, must review the progress Ohio has made toward achieving the goals of the state plan every three years. If the findings from the review indicate that conditions warrant a new state plan, then Ohio EPA and MMAC prepare, approve, and adopt a revised version.

For More Information

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