



Local Solid Waste Management Plans

Applicable Law and Regulations

- Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3734.53 (contents of a solid waste management plan (plan))
- Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3745-27-90 (standards for solid waste management districts (SWMDs))
- ORC Sections 3734.54 through 3734.56 (plan preparation, review and approval).

What is a local solid waste management plan?

Each SWMD and regional solid waste management authority (authority) in Ohio is required to prepare, receive approval of and implement a local solid waste management plan (plan). A plan is a formal document that serves two main functions:

- it provides for the safe management of the solid waste generated within the SWMD or authority for a minimum of 10 years; and
- it demonstrates how the SWMD or authority will achieve the goals established in the state solid waste management plan (state plan).

The policy committee of a SWMD is responsible for preparing and obtaining approval of a local solid waste management plan (plan). The board of county commissioners or board of directors of a SWMD is responsible for implementing the approved plan. For an Authority, the board of trustees is responsible for preparing and implementing the solid waste management plan.

[For simplicity, the rest of this document uses SWMD for both a SWMD and an authority and policy committee for a policy committee and a board of trustees. Board is used to refer to a board of county commissioners, a board of directors and a board of trustees.]

Plans are prepared in accordance with a format prescribed by Ohio EPA (the Solid Waste Management District Plan Format). This format contains the instructions for preparing a plan.

Contents of a Solid Waste Management Plan

As prescribed in law, a plan must include:

- an inventory of solid waste management facilities used by the SWMD in the reference year;
- estimates of waste generated, disposed and reduced/recycled by the SWMD in the reference year;
- an inventory of existing reduction and recycling programs;
- projections of waste to be generated, disposed and reduced/recycled for each year in the planning period;
- an account of how the SWMD's waste will be managed throughout the planning period;
- a demonstration of access to adequate disposal capacity;
- strategies to meet the goals of the state plan;
- strategies to reduce the amount of waste generated at the source;
- strategies to manage restricted and difficult to manage wastes, such as yard waste, lead-acid batteries, scrap tires and household hazardous waste;
- a schedule to implement the plan; and,
- a budget that demonstrates the SWMD will have adequate finances to fund planned programs.

Some of the key requirements of a plan are described on the next page.

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.

Title

Reference Year

The policy committee first establishes a reference year. The policy committee then collects solid waste generation, disposal, and recycling data for that year. This data serves as baseline data and is collected from reports submitted to Ohio EPA by facility owners and surveys conducted by the policy committee. The policy committee also describes and analyzes all programs that the SWMD offered in the reference year.

Planning Period

The policy committee establishes a planning period which must cover a minimum of 10 years. The policy committee uses the baseline data to make projections for solid waste generation, reduction, and disposal for all years in the selected planning period.

Strategies to Meet the Goals of the State Plan

Each SWMD must provide programs to meet the goals of the state plan. These strategies and a schedule for implementing them must be described in detail in the plan. The policy committee has flexibility to determine what programs are appropriate for their residents and businesses. However, the policy committee must demonstrate, in its plan, how those strategies meet the goals of the current state plan.

Access to Adequate Disposal Capacity

The plan is required to demonstrate that there will be enough capacity at nearby landfills for the waste the SWMD will dispose of over the entire planning period. If the policy committee determines that there will not be enough disposal capacity, then the plan must describe steps the SWMD will take to make needed capacity available.

Budget

The plan must demonstrate how the SWMD will fund all programs that the SWMD will implement during the planning period. This demonstration must show that the SWMD will have adequate income to balance its budget for the entire planning period.

If the SWMD will need more revenue during the planning period, then the plan must identify how the SWMD will obtain that revenue. If the SWMD will use solid waste disposal or generation fees for revenue, then the policy committee can ratify those fees either with or separate from the plan.

Rules

The plan must contain a statement as to whether the policy committee authorizes the board to or precludes the board from adopting rules.

Designation

The plan must contain a statement as to whether the policy committee authorizes the board to or precludes the board from designating facilities (i.e. establishing flow control).

For More Information

Ohio EPA
Division of Materials and Waste Management
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049
(614) 644-2621 (phone)
(877) 372-2621 (toll free)
(614) 728-5315 (fax)

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/materials-and-waste-management>

For more information about the planning process and solid waste management in your area, contact your local SWMD. To identify the SWMD you live in, use the [Map of Ohio's Solid Waste Management Districts](#) that is available on the [Solid Waste Management Planning page](#) on DMWM's website.