

**HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

**1:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**1. Introduction/Opening Comments**

**2. Clerk's Report**

- a. Approval of Minutes – January 19 – Attachment A

**3. General Public Comment (3 minutes)**

**4. Revenue Updates/Analysis – Attachment B**

**5. Policy Items**

- a. Meeting Time Adjustment
- b. R3Source Infrastructure Grant Applications – Attachment C
- c. Industry Representative

**6. Informational Items**

- a. Solid Waste Rules Update
- b. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update – Attachment D
  - Timeline
  - Business Analysis
  - Stakeholder Input
  - Data Analysis
- c. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Update – Attachment E
- d. Environmental Enforcement Program – Attachment F

**7. Policy Committee Members' Comments**

**8. Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be **Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.**

**9. Adjournment (Target Time - 3:00 p.m.)**

**HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 11, 2022  
**TO:** Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy Committee Members  
**FROM:** Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager

**1. Introduction/Opening Comments**

**NOTICE:** This memo is for the meeting to be held Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in person and available to the public virtually using Zoom.

*Policy Committee information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) is available on R3Source's website at [www.hcdoes.org/357/Policy-Committee](http://www.hcdoes.org/357/Policy-Committee).*

**2. Clerk's Report**

**A. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting are included as Attachment A.

**3. General Public Comment** – 3 Minutes

**4. Revenue Updates/Analysis**

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with the prior year, as included as Attachment B.

**5. Policy Items for Discussion**

**A. Meeting Time Adjustment**

Trustee Wahlert has requested to move the Policy Committee meeting time to start at 3:00 pm to accommodate his teaching schedule.

**B. R3Source Infrastructure Grant Applications**

Attachment C summarizes the three Infrastructure grants received.

**Staff recommendation:** Staff recommends a motion approving all three applications.

**C. Industry Representative**

Tony DiPuccio's term will end after the May 18, 2022 meeting. The Policy Committee needs to appoint two members to an interview committee to make a recommendation for the new Waste Generator Representative.

**6. Informational Items**

**A. Solid Waste Rules Update**

**B. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update**

Attachment D provides a draft of the Business Analysis, Education and Outreach Analysis, and Diversion Analysis. Staff and solid waste consultants will give short presentations on the following topics.

- Plan Update Timeline (Michelle Balz)
- Business Analysis (Karen Luken)
- Stakeholder Input (Karen Luken)
- Data Collection Analysis (Julie Pahutski)

The solid waste consultant hired to help with the Solid Waste Plan Update, Karen Luken with Economic Environmental Solutions International, will provide an overview of findings so far regarding the Business Analysis, Waste Composition Analysis, Special Program Analysis, and Data Collection Analysis. Ms. Luken will also give an overview of stakeholder input sessions collected to date and planned for the future.

**C. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Update**

Attachment E includes an overview of the Waste Reduction Innovation Grant proposal we received since the last update.

**D. Environmental Enforcement Program**

Attachment F shows activity of the deputy through February 28, 2022.

**7. Policy Committee Members' Comments**

**8. Upcoming R3Source Meetings**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.**. This meeting is currently scheduled be held in person at 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219, first floor.

**9. Adjournment (Target Time: 3:00 p.m.)**

# **Attachment A**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
In person & Zoom**

**DATE:** January 19, 2022

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Hamilton County Environmental Services  
250 William Howard Taft Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

**PRESENT:** **Policy Committee Members**

Pierce Bruner, Student Representative  
Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative, Chair  
Denise Driehaus, County Commissioner, Chair  
Bob Gedert, Public Member, Vice-Chair  
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member  
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Representative

**Staff**

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager  
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist  
Mary Copenbaker, Business Outreach Coordinator  
Elise Erhart, Outreach Specialist  
Brad Johnson, Director  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager  
Mike Kramer, Assistant Director  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

**Others in Attendance**

Lisa Anderson, Hamilton County Budget Office  
Nee Fong Chin, Prosecutor's Office  
Sally Dannemiller  
Craig Davidson, Hamilton County Public Health  
Carrie Davis, Child Advocacy for Jobs & Equity  
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Katie Evans, Best Way Disposal  
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke  
Kurt Grossman  
Matt Hittle, Ohio EPA  
Debbie Kastens  
Marie Kocoshis  
Tim Mara, Oxbow  
Gina Marsh, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Driehaus  
Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
Sandy Stehlin  
Kathy Trent, Waste Management  
Matt Tietsort  
Lisa Wynn  
Molly Yeager, Rumpke  
Ellissa

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513-245-7901

**ABSENT:**        **Policy Committee Members**  
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative  
Matt Wahlert, Township Representative

**1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING COMMENTS**

Ms. Driehaus called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

Ms. Driehaus stated for the Committee members that were on the Subcommittee to vote on the November 10 and December 2, 2021 Rules Subcommittee minutes and entertained a motion to approve these minutes. Mr. Gedert moved; Mr. DiPuccio seconded and the minutes were approved.

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the November 17 and December 6, 2021 Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Kesterman moved; Ms. Hurley seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Tim Mara:**

Mr. Mara stated that first, he wanted to let you know that he appreciated the prompt response he has been getting from Susan Schumacher and Michelle Balz to his questions. They have been quick to supply related documents.

Mr. Mara stated that with regard to Item 5A on your agenda, the next steps in administering solid waste rules, he wanted to point out to you that Rumpke has three pending permit applications – the renewal of the Title V air permit, the application to increase the AMDWR, and the new access road and related work.

Mr. Mara stated that although Rumpke's application to increase the AMDWR is dated December 6, 2021, by letter dated December 17, OEPA informed Rumpke that its application was deficient in several respects. Rumpke submitted supplemental information purporting to address those deficiencies on December 21. Therefore, December 21 should be regarded as the date of a complete submission by Rumpke, which date is after the County Commissioners' adoption of rules on December 16. For that reason, the AMDWR application should be regarded as one which falls under the county's rules and Rumpke should be notified to submit its application to the county for hearing and possible approval or rejection by the county.

Mr. Mara stated that similarly, Rumpke's application dated December 16 for a new access road and related facilities is dated December 16, and so Rumpke should also be notified to submit that application to the county for hearing and possible approval or rejection by the county.

Mr. Mara stated that he also wanted to briefly address Item 6B on your agenda. He understands that your consultant, Karen Luken, will be making a presentation and giving an overview on the stakeholder input sessions which he understands includes solid waste service providers, businesses, and local governments. Mr. Mara stated that he is disappointed to find that there are no stakeholder sessions for environmental groups and other non-profit service organizations nor for citizens in general. He believes that input should occur concurrently with other sessions and furthermore, general citizen input should not be relegated to merely responding to a draft plan update just before adoption.

**Kurt Grossman:**

Mr. Grossman stated that there were some errors about him in the November 17 minutes that he put in the chat that need to be corrected.

Mr. Grossman stated that he is concerned with this Committee continuing to use the County Prosecutor's as its legal counsel since the County Prosecutor recently took a position contrary to this Committee. Mr. Grossman stated he would like to suggest that Mr. Albin Bauer who served the Subcommittee be expanded in his duties to be counsel to this Policy Committee as he thinks it would avoid some conflicts of interest.

Mr. Grossman stated that also in dealing with conflicts of interest, the new Township Representative, he understands, has received funding from Rumpke but also is representing a township that has a settlement agreement with Rumpke that puts him in a position where he cannot protest certain actions that this Policy Committee has to consider. Mr. Grossmann stated that he would like to suggest that legal counsel has to check on whether there is a conflict-of-interest situation there in his serving in both capacities.

Mr. Grossman stated that when the new rules were established, he understands that they did not get formally published in the Enquirer or other media they should be published in. Mr. Grossman stated that he did not know if Ohio law requires that but as a safety measure you would want to do that. As a lawyer admitted in this State, he thinks he is bound to say that.

Mr. Grossman stated that that was the sum of his comments today and thanked the Committee.

**Sandra Stehlin:**

Sandra Stehlin introduced herself as a Lawrenceburg Road resident. Ms. Stehlin stated that she lived directly down the hill and downwind from the proposed Bond Road Rumpke Dump addition. She is representing her neighbors on Lawrenceburg Road and today also the "Dump Fighters" group.

Ms. Stehlin stated that for decades, we have been told that solar and alternative energies are not enough to power the country. Last year, solar, wind and geothermal accounted for 20% of the country's residential electricity needs...globally, it was 30%, according to the EIA, the Government Energy Information administration. Cities, counties, corporations, and countries have finally come to their senses when it comes to the changes that need to be made for the NEAR future.

Ms. Stehlin stated that for decades, Hamilton County has been led by the nose by Rumpke, who has convinced everyone that their methods are the only way to dispose of solid waste. Their profits and not the health of residents have been their driving force. Rumpke has played fast and loose with Environmental Laws and EPA variants and exemptions. The rules that were passed in 2021 by the Hamilton County Commissioners are a good start to reining in a company that seems to have no desire to change their ways. Our group, which is the core of the former "Stop the Stink", "Ditch the Dump" and "Stop the Bond Road Expansion" groups will be at every monthly meeting and fighting hard at every turn to make sure that one way or another, the new rules will be followed and there will not be any new landfills in Hamilton county. Let the surrounding states and counties deal with their own solid waste.

**Marie Kocoshis:**

Ms. Kocoshis stated that she wanted to reiterate what Mr. Mara said about public participation. Ms. Kocoshis stated that she represented the League of Women's Voters and she thinks they would be happy to participate in the stakeholder group about the Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan.

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### Carrie Davis:

Ms. Davis thanked Commissioner Driehaus for all her work on the rules and leading this County into an entirely new direction that is going to have so many improvements here and outside our jurisdiction.

Ms. Davis stated she came into the meeting late and didn't get to benefit from hearing everybody else's comments. Ms. Davis stated that she sent Committee members a copy of her public comments because she doesn't believe the public is being afforded anywhere near adequate time to comment, participate, or contribute to the direction the Committee and County is going in. Ms. Davis stated that we need a better way.

Ms. Davis stated that the most concerning line in the agenda was how are we going to include the landfill operators which she supports completely; they have to be involved. She is very concerned about how the Committee will involve the non-profits from the environmental area and the individuals in the community and non-profits representing the community needs.

Ms. Driehaus stated that the Committee was having a very hard time hearing Ms. Davis due to her cutting in and out. Ms. Driehaus stated that she did receive and was sure the rest of the Committee received her comments via email and she is assuming they are similar to what she was saying now but unfortunately, we can't hear her. Ms. Driehaus apologized and stated that she hoped it wasn't on our end.

Ms. Driehaus thanked Ms. Davis for her participation.

Ms. Driehaus asked if written comments are available to please email to the Clerk.

#### 4. **R3SOURCE REVENUE UPDATED/ANALYSIS from 2020**

Ms. Balz stated that in comparing 2021 to 2020 all but December is included. Revenue is holding steady from 2020. There is a slight increase of about five percent in which most of that is out-of-district waste.

Mr. Gedert stated that 57 percent of waste is out-of-district and out-of-state and 43 percent is in-district and there is a lot of reliance on revenue on those waste streams. There seems to be an out of balance reliance on out-of-district waste streams. Mr. Gedert stated that as we look at and revise the Plan, this is something to look at.

#### 5. **POLICY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

##### a. **Solid Waste Policy Committee**

Ms. Driehaus stated that she and Mr. DiPuccio wanted to talk about the role of the Policy Committee and the role that we are going to play moving forward related to the rules that were passed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that this was something he identified prior to the rules development. His observation was, and this is not the first time this has occurred, but the Policy Committee seems to have drifted away from our primary goal and obligation which is to set policy. We have crept steadily into more and more into the detailed management of the Solid Waste District and that is why we have a staff and have access to the Hamilton County Health Department as well.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he wanted the Committee to give this some consideration. This occurred back in 2007 -2008 where the Committee found themselves in a similar position. Mr. DiPuccio stated that he thought there was some kind of strategy meeting with an outside facilitator to really think this through as to what the Committee's responsibility and focus is. We have a very capable staff both with the health



department and the District and he thinks the Committee ought to let them do their job and not dive down into these details.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that this was his overall thoughts. As an example, with the rules, he thinks that at one point the Subcommittee should have stopped if the determination was made that we need rules, we should have given Ms. Balz and the Hamilton County Health Department direction to develop those rules because they are our staff and that is what they are supposed to do versus the Subcommittee going through line by line.

Mr. DiPuccio stated on another side of that, we have done some of that with, for example, the grant program. The Policy Committee doesn't approve every grant that comes through; we have turned that over to the staff; they have the guidelines; they know how to do it and they provide that information back to us and an informational item.

Ms. Driehaus stated that she thinks these two things fold together because now there are rules that have been established and we need to have a construct around those rules through the Solid Waste District. When we are talking about the role of the Policy Committee and staff, both solid waste, Public Health, and the Prosecutor's Office, how do we make sure we have something that is responsive to what the rules dictate we do when an application is asked for and how do we respond to that?

Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Balz to help the Committee better understand her thinking related to that and the overall structure of the Policy Committee and how we operate currently.

Ms. Balz stated that in Ohio Revised Code, the main focus of the Policy Committee is the writing of the Solid Waste Plan which really does govern programs, etc. What staff is doing right now in developing the Plan is really important. Ms. Balz asked the Committee to read and give feedback on all of the analyses she is emailing the Committee.

Ms. Balz stated that as far as the rules are concerned, we have been looking into putting out a request for information on consultants that would be able to help review that because we do not have the ability in-house to do that.

Ms. Balz stated that she appreciated that Mr. Grossman mentioned the publishing of the rules and that is something we are looking into and it is not as cut and dry as one would think. The Cincinnati Enquirer gave us a quote of over \$7,000 so we are looking into alternatives to get the rules published soon. Ms. Balz stated that staff is looking into how we would take the next step for when a proposal comes in.

Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Balz in her analysis is she was looking at other solid waste districts and asked what that analysis entailed. Ms. Balz stated that she reached out to her counterparts at other solid waste districts to see if anyone had a request for proposals or how this process worked. She also reached out to Hamilton County Engineers because they frequently do similar engineering work although not solid waste related but did give us some guidance on the process for hiring engineering type firms which is a little different from just a regular consultant.

Ms. Balz stated that first we could put out a request for qualifications and Hamilton County Engineers could send a template of what they use so we can plug in what we would need for a firm that would be reviewing solid waste plans.

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Ms. Driehaus stated that there was a question on the table about whether or not some of the activity has kicked the rules in, rather, the changes from OEPA and we are probably going to need a legal opinion as to whether or not, this is the case in the midst of trying to figure out how we are going to respond to that if it is already happening, what does that look like and if it is yet to happen, what does that look like.

Ms. Driehaus stated that she would entertain comments from the Committee relating to these items.

Mr. Gedert stated that relating to the general comments about the role of the Policy Committee, Ohio Revised Code defines the role of the Policy Committee and it offers broad advise; a broader point of setting policy and governance of the district. But is also specifically states that the Policy Committee does develop rules for the district.

Mr. Gedert stated that this was looked up when we were discussing this with the EPA during our Subcommittee research. The Policy Committee does not manage the staff of the district but there is that broader role of the Policy Committee to provide policy and governance.

Mr. Gedert stated that he believes that the Committee should not be micromanaging the staff. Being involved in the setting of the rules is most definitely part of the role of the Committee. Then the Committee sets the process in place for the management of the rules and that is what this discussion is about, how do those rules become implemented.

Mr. Gedert stated that he believes that there are needs for further rules on composting and anerobic digesters which was mentioned in a prior meeting. He believes down the road, there is needs for further rules for the district and he does not think we should drop that. Mr. Gedert stated that he thinks that is the role of the Policy Committee; to listen to the public and to see what the needs are for the district and set more rules for the district.

Ms. Hurley asked that given the points that Mr. Mara raised about permits that are pending, she knows it has been very quick that the rules have been in place and asked if we know who is going to notify Rumpke about how these rules apply to their permitting process now and what they need to do about it.

Mr. Kesterman stated that this is a legal question that the solid waste district needs to answer; are the rules applicable and this is something the attorney needs to determine.

Mr. Kesterman stated that Ms. Hurley mentioned "Rumpke" but there are dozens of operators in Hamilton County that are impacted by these rules. We probably need to ask the bigger question of has the dozens of operators including Rumpke been notified of the rules.

Ms. Hurley stated that given that, jumping ahead a little, if that were done, then who would notify Rumpke that they need to do these things. Notifying them of the rules would be enough to let them know they need to complete the additional kind of paperwork.

Mr. Kesterman stated, only his opinion and sensitive to both Mr. Gedert and Mr. DiPuccio's comments, he thinks the solid waste manager probably knows that this is a weird period because of the transition into rules. Mr. Kesterman stated that he thinks we, as a Committee could recommend that Ms. Balz seek legal opinion on those and then moving forward, if all the operators are notified, the District, in theory will be notified.

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Mr. Kesterman stated that at least for the one change at Rumpke, his team shared an email with Ms. Balz making them aware that his office was purvey to that permit application and to that deficiency notification but he plans to continue, and he thinks it appropriate for Public Health to continue to make sure the solid waste district, in lieu of the new rules, is aware.

Ms. Hurley thanked Mr. Kesterman for the clarification.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that we don't presently have an administrative structure set up to take care of this so we are starting from ground zero and that is what we are doing; outside assistance which is the first step but there is a whole internal process: notifications, etc. and it is going to take a while to formulate an administrative procedure/process and he would leave this up to the solid waste district to put this together.

Ms. Driehaus asked in order to get a legal opinion related to the permits that are currently moving through the process, do we formally need to have a motion or is this something Ms. Balz asks of the Prosecutor's office after she is given direction to that or do we need a formal motion.

Mr. Gedert stated that he yields to the needs of Ms. Balz as she needs the legal advice. Ms. Balz stated that she can request a legal opinion without a motion. Ms. Driehaus stated that a legal opinion related to whether or not the rules apply to pending applications.

Ms. Driehaus stated that another issue that was raised was if there was any kind of conflict of interest related to the Committee's newest member, Colerain Township Trustee Wahlert. Ms. Driehaus stated that she did not know if Mr. Wahlert would be the appropriate person to ask and stated that she is uncomfortable with the Committee doing it rather than him doing it.

Mr. Kesterman stated that as Health Commissioner, his position, not him personally, has asked on behalf of a Board member so it might be appropriate for the solid waste district manager to ask and she can consult with the Prosecutor.

Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Balz if she could take care of this.

Ms. Driehaus stated that we have a much broader question about how we are going to set up relative to the rules and Ms. Balz is working on this.

Ms. Driehaus stated the next meeting is in March and asked Ms. Balz and asked if she could have something for the Committee. Ms. Balz stated yes.

Mr. Kesterman asked Ms. Balz if staff needed any budget revisions to help provide updates for some of this? Ms. Balz stated we probably will but won't know what those revisions will be until we receive those proposals.

Mr. Gedert stated that this is an excellent question because when the Policy Committee increases the workload, like the rules that were adopted, a budget amendment is a natural question.

Mr. DiPuccio asked Ms. Balz if the budget was able to be amended without Policy Committee approval. Ms. Balz stated yes.

Ms. Driehaus asked if there was a degree to which it can be increased. Ms. Balz stated that if we dramatically change the programs we set up in the Plan, then we may have to do something with the Plan but we are living up to our obligations of the programs that are in the Plan so this does not change that.

Ms. Driehaus stated that notification needs to be provided to the public in the form of publishing the rules, which was raised in the public comments, but also notification to the operators that it might impact and asked Ms. Balz to make sure the operators are aware. Ms. Balz stated yes and thinks it would be appropriate to send a letter. Ms. Balz stated she would like to work with Hamilton County Public Health to get a good list.

Ms. Driehaus asked Mr. DiPuccio if he was suggesting that the Committee does a different kind of meeting or a deeper dive into the work of the Committee. She heard him say that this is something that had been done in the past and did not know if he was suggesting that the Committee take this up or if this was just a passing observation.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that this is just an option at this point. He hasn't had a chance to go back and look at the information if he still had it as far as how it was structured, what the goals were, the process, etc. He would like to see if he could find the information.

Ms. Hurley stated that when Mr. DiPuccio was discussing his vision of the Committee, the example he mentioned was the rule making and asked if there were other examples recently. Mr. DiPuccio stated that not recently, but the grant program. Some grants would be \$500 and we need to give staff the discretion.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that there is going to be gray areas. He thinks the solid waste district has an overall approach that has been laid out for example, plan revisions. But anything that involves major changes in direction in terms of how we are going to do things and does not have specific examples but could find some on previous agendas.

Mr. Gedert suggested that if any member of the Committee observes a direction towards micromanagement, then we raise the issue at that moment for discussion.

Ms. Driehaus stated that we have a lot of work that will be taking place between now and the March meeting and asked Mr. DiPuccio to give this further thought and maybe come up with a recommendation for the group.

**b. Waste Industry Representative**

Ms. Driehaus stated that as we all know, Mr. Riddle resigned and wanted to take a moment to thank him for his service to the Committee. But because of that, we don't have a formal way for the major operator in the county to present to the group related to the activity at the Colerain site and the Bond Road site.

Ms. Driehaus stated that she was talking to Ms. Balz about this and what it might look like. Ms. Driehaus asked the Committee for feedback on how we might want to or not formalize some kind of presentation from Rumpke moving forward.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he would give some background about how the waste industry representative came to be. It was never intended to be Rumpke as a representative and was not the basis for doing it. It was as an ex-officio member to have a representative from the waste industry who provides a lot of services throughout the county.

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Mr. DiPuccio stated that originally, the first representative was someone from Waste Management then, the waste industry companies that operated within the District would provide nominations to us and then the waste industry would probably rotate representatives in and out. It was Waste Management for a couple of years then Rumpke.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he thinks there is a missed perception that this was specifically set up for Rumpke and it was not. We may have had difficulty finding a waste industry representative who would want to serve in that role. One approach to that may be that if you are going to send out notifications on the rules to the companies that operate within the County and decide you want to continue to have an ex-officio member, you may ask them if they could provide input on it.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that you could go with a trade association that has a local Ohio chapter anyway and they would have local members of that which is National Waste and Recycling Association and stated that he could get the information for Ms. Balz.

Mr. Kesterman stated that he would recommend another legal opinion on whether we are allowed to have an ex-officio member. Mr. Kesterman stated that this may have been part of Mr. Riddle's decision to step away.

Mr. Gedert stated that a larger question is what is the purpose of an ex-officio on the Committee? Can it be done and is it legal and the second would be the larger purpose. He sees the larger purpose of being additional input and if the additional input is from the waste industry side of the perspective that we may not hold, then that may justify an additional perspective of an environmentalist position as an ex-officio as well to add perspective as well.

Mr. Gedert stated that he sees Mr. Mara's perspective from his comments. Not for balance, that is not the point but if the purpose of adding the waste industries ex-officio position is to add industry perspective, that might be also the purpose for adding an environmentalist to the Committee in an ex-officio position.

Mr. Gedert stated that first he thinks we ask the question of is it legal to add an ex-officio member. He assumes an ex-officio position is a non-voting member of the Committee and thinks research needs to be done there.

Mr. Kesterman stated that he has been attending these meetings fairly consistently for ten years although only held the role on the Committee the last two. Mr. Riddle's position as an ex-officio member was used mostly by the Committee as someone to ask revenue questions to.

Mr. Kesterman stated this would help the District look into the future for the number one operator. Not only the number one operator, but the number one funder of the District. Any grant programs or any future plans this Committee was making really hinged upon what the operator was anticipating and this was Mr. Riddle.

Mr. Gedert suggested to see what other solid waste districts are doing in that perspective. Do they have ex-officio inputs processes? Ms. Driehaus stated if they do not, how do they get the information they need from the Industry? She thinks that industry perspective is very helpful and we are trying to figure out a way to bring that information and perspective into the work of this Committee.

Ms. Driehaus stated it looks like we need a legal opinion on the nature of an ex-officio member to this Committee to see if that is legal and pursue it from there who we would like to have serve in that role. If we find that it is not legal, then is there another way to gain that perspective.

Mr. Gedert stated that our goal is waste reduction and recycling so maybe add that thought of a recycling industry representative of an ex-officio member. Someone we can tap into the world of recycling.

Mr. Bruner asked what the difference was between an ex-officio member and someone like a contact that you could consistently go to for information. Mr. Driehaus stated that the ex-officio member sits on the Committee as a non-voting member and has a place on the Committee and a regular avenue for input.

Ms. Driehaus stated as opposed to having them come and do a presentation periodically or provide public comments.

Ms. Driehaus stated that Mr. Hittle may have information to add to the ex-officio discussion. Mr. Hittle stated that he did not know of other solid waste districts across the state that had ex-officio members. Mr. Hittle stated that either the Public member or the Citizen member cannot have any affiliation with the waste industry and the other one does not have that distinction.

## **6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **a. 2020 Hamilton County Diversion Rate**

Ms. Balz stated that the 2020 Diversion Rate is fifty-five-point seven eight percent which is fantastic. This number means that we are diverting over fifty-five percent of the waste generated in the county whether that be recycling or composting.

Ms. Balz stated of the four largest counties in Ohio, Hamilton County has the highest rate. The other counties are Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Montgomery.

Ms. Balz stated that there was a slight decrease from the fifty-six percent of 2019 and most of that was the exempt waste and industrial diversion. We saw an increase in the tons collected through residential/commercial recycling which is fantastic.

Ms. Driehaus asked if trends were available. Ms. Balz stated yes and she would email to the committee.

Ms. Balz stated that although this number is great, we could be diverting forty-five percent more.

Ms. Hurley stated that the diversion rate was a couple of percentage points lower than last year and when she was reporting on the specifics, they were all better and asked this to be explained. Ms. Balz stated that part of it was the industrial numbers came in a little lower. These numbers are based on purely voluntary surveys that staff collects and can vary year to year as to who replies and what numbers are received. Ms. Balz stated that she believes the diversion is much higher but it is difficult to measure.

Ms. Hurley asked relating to the composting, where are these coming from because many of the grants that have been given are for community composting and asked if we had any sense of how that is impacting the diversion rate.

Ms. Balz stated that the District can claim tonnage from small scale community composting but are not allowed to claim backyard composting by residents and any efforts in that get captured by the reduction of the landfill numbers.

A brief discussion ensued regarding revenue, tonnage, and tipping fees.

**b. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update**

Ms. Driehaus stated that Ms. Balz will comment on this but knew that Karen Luken was ill and was unable to attend. Ms. Driehaus stated that Ms. Luken would come to our next meeting.

Ms. Balz stated that she will present the Economic Incentive Analysis which she shared a few weeks ago. We will then talk about our stakeholder sessions as well to address some of the public input we'll have.

Ms. Balz explained that Ohio EPA has a list of analysis districts must complete. The Economic Incentive Analysis is one of them and they are mainly looking at what programs we offer to incentivize waste diversion.

Ms. Balz stated that grants will be covered by another analyses and we will focus on the Residential Recycling Incentive Program, but there is also a part that asks about Pay As You Throw programs.

Ms. Balz stated that even though she is talking about the Economic Incentive Analysis today, the Committee is welcome to send her comments over the next few months. The primary audience for this analysis is Ohio EPA and will be included in the Plan but we do not anticipate most members of the public reading every single analysis. There will be chapters that summarize a lot of this.

Ms. Balz went through her presentation and at the end asked the Committee the following questions:

- Do you think R3Source should add a minimum threshold amount for communities participating the RRI program?
- Should R3Source continue spending almost half of its budget on residential programs?
- Would establishing regional meetings help foster collaboration among communities?
- Should District staff do more to promote volume-based waste programs?

Mr. Gedert stated that he liked the minimum threshold idea and thinks that the current spending pattern is not moving the needle and thinks a change in pattern would help. He thinks changing the pattern of expenditure every two or three years might help there.

Mr. Gedert reiterated the question of should R3Source continue spending almost half of its budget on residential programs? He proposed changing the revenue package a little and exploring the second-tier revenue idea and the new revenues spent on the commercial/industrial sector and keep this budget for the residential.

Mr. Gedert stated that if a new revenue stream could be brought in, put it all in the commercial/industrial and create a similar incentive program for the commercial/industrial stream.

Mr. Gedert stated that he liked establishing the regional meetings and expanding the collaboration to all the stakeholders which takes a lot of labor and this is staff's choice but thinks taking in stakeholder input from the community representatives as well as the community is always helpful.

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Mr. Gedert stated that regarding volume-based programs, he has been very involved in his career on volume-based programs throughout many states and it is a hard conversion but no community he has worked with has regretted the conversion.

Mr. Gedert stated that U.S. EPA is planning a grants program in the next year using infrastructure dollars and he will let the Committee know when those dollars are released. He thinks using grant dollars to promote volume-based waste programs would help but there are also consultants available.

Ms. Hurley stated that within the last few meetings, it was mentioned that the county would provide a model contract for waste disposal and factored into this would be curbside recycling as a package deal. Ms. Hurley stated that she did not know what kind of financial incentives would have to be a part of that but it seems like that would be money really well spent and if you are trying to increase the diversion rate, if you could get more communities to buy into curbside recycling that was not subscription, thinks this could be a real game changer.

Ms. Hurley asked Ms. Balz if there was any sort of research available for doing this sort of thing. Ms. Balz stated that staff helps communities going out to bid with their requests for proposals and help them integrate recycling in that. This has been done in Sharonville, Silverton, and Lincoln Heights.

Ms. Balz stated that staff has plenty of information available to assist communities with this and gave examples.

Ms. Hurley stated that part of her idea is that this would be mandatory. Mr. Gedert stated that this would be set in a county-wide policy which we do not have. Ms. Hurley questioned if the Commissioners would be open to this.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that the RRI program was originally seed money and not intended to be thirty-years of operation money. Also, the 48 communities wanted to run their own programs and did not want the county telling them what to do with their trash and recycling which is why there are not mandatory programs.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that it is an immense amount of money and our return is not all that great. Mr. DiPuccio asked why the commercial and industrial sector seem to be doing so much better? Mr. DiPuccio stated that it is driven by economics and expanded on his statement.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that maybe it is time for us to say, what do we really want to do with the RRI Program. We can talk about making these changes which are going to have some positive impacts but are we fighting an uphill battle that is not going to change. He thinks making mandatory waste/recycling collection is going to be a very hard sell to communities. To approve the Plan that says we are going to require you to do this.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that the broader view back is that we are getting our revenue from dollars that are from a fee from the landfill that come from the commercial, residential, and industrial users of those landfills. The District is taking the dollars, reshuffling, and sending it back out which is a concept that maybe needs to be rethought.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that we have seen it work on the commercial and industrial side but on the residential side it is not due to not having that same economic incentive or otherwise, we would have very robust curbside recycling programs in all communities and thinks this is a bigger question that we need to ask ourselves.



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Mr. Bruner stated that going back to encouraging communities to increase their diversion rate so they earn more funds and asked if any thought has been giving to changing the dollars per ton to provided more financial support to those communities lower on the scale while encouraging those higher to still keep doing what they are doing.

Ms. Balz stated that the values can be changed but right now, it increases four dollars for every tier. Mr. DiPuccio stated that this would work for some communities and some it would not work for and discussed the reasons.

Mr. Gedert spoke of “trash theft” in his township which is neighbors not subscribing for trash services then sneaking their trash in with their neighbors. Mr. Gedert stated he spoke to the Public Works Director about it who was aware. Mr. Gedert mentioned to him if he would be in favor of some type of mandatory ordinance from the county and he said absolutely yes but also mentioned that it would not come from the Trustees as they would not be in favor; it would have to come from higher up.

Mr. Gedert stated that trash theft is happening all around the township and universal recycling is not happening because they are so worried about the trash collection. Mr. Gedert stated that he believed this was happening in other parts of the county and thinks we need some sort of universal program across the county and spoke of enforcement.

Ms. Driehaus asked if there was an analysis of all county jurisdictions for which ones had requirements related to this and which have trash and recycling. Ms. Balz stated yes and that this information is included in the Residential Infrastructure Analysis . Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Balz to send it to her.

Ms. Driehaus stated that when looking at the questions, she is looking at where we will get the biggest bang for the buck. She understands the idea of minimum thresholds but if there is a community that is small and they are given a good chunk of money, the bang for the buck probably is not as great as putting that money somewhere else where the population is higher.

Ms. Driehaus stated that this is why we need to be strategic about some of the investments that are being made if we are serious about diverting trash from the landfill.

Ms. Driehaus stated regarding Mr. Gedert’s idea, she would have to see an analysis to think through if the county would play any part in any of this.

Mr. Kesterman asked if, we as a Policy Committee, are trying to get to zero waste, from staff’s perspective, asked where is the biggest bang for our buck? Ms. Balz stated that the commercial sector and investing more time promoting, offering them resources, and trying to get cardboard and other high value materials out of the waste stream.

Mr. Kesterman stated that there were good benefits coming from the residential program and asked if there was a bottom dollar that could provide some benefit and maybe buy less park benches? Ms. Balz stated that we would have to work out that number and has not looked at what would happen if the RRI decreases. In the stakeholder meetings, we have talked the communities and asked them what would happen if the RRI went away but this has only been qualitative and have not run the numbers.

Mr. Kesterman stated that his personal recommendation would be reduce the RRI somewhat to a level that you thought they would continue doing what they’re doing and invest and try and reduce commercial waste in the county.

Mr. DiPuccio stated he liked Mr. Kesterman's comment and the money communities spend on specific uses that do not yield results. Recycled content benches are great but it is probably something they would have bought anyway and it does nothing to improve the rate of recycling.

Mr. Gedert stated that he liked Mr. Kesterman's comment but an unintended consequence is the City of Cincinnati. They have an archaic funding situation where they pay for trash and recycling collection out of property tax and they do not have a decent funding situation. If you take away funding from the county, you decrease funding for their curbside recycling. There is not an alternative pathway to recover that funding elsewhere in their city budget.

Mr. Gedert stated that their recycling budget competes with putting police officers on the street and that is a losing formula. Mr. DiPuccio asked if they just received an infusion of one million dollars a year, from what he heard, that is generated by the commercial franchise fees. Mr. Gedert stated he was unfamiliar with that but knows that are not funding new trucks on the road because of their lack of funds.

Ms. Balz showed and discussed the timeline for the Plan Update. A brief question and answer session ensued.

**c. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Update**

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment D was an overview of the one application received since the last meeting which was not funded and discussed the reasons why.

**d. 2022 Draft Workplan**

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment E was a draft 2022 Workplan. Staff is still waiting on some of the 2021 benchmark numbers.

Ms. Balz briefly discussed a few programs in the workplan.

**e. Environmental Enforcement Program**

Ms. Balz stated that this is similar to what the Committee has seen in the past but this has all of 2021 complaints received.

Ms. Driehaus asked Mr. Peak if he had anything to add to the report. Mr. Peak briefly discussed the program over the past few years and stated that he has been assisting Public Health.

**7. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Hurley stated that she recalls at previous meetings that the carry-over would be discussed and asked if this could be a future agenda item. Ms. Balz stated that this will be part of the financial analysis.

Mr. Gedert asked if our carbon footprint of methane from our landfills could be discussed. SWACO has a carbon emissions management plan, as a solid waste district and thought this might be something for us to consider as a Policy Committee because of climate change and the climate impacts of methane. Mr. Gedert stated he thought it might be worth our discussion as we are doing a Plan Update.

Ms. Balz stated that methane will be talked about in March.

**8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments at this time.

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**9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

**10. ADJOURNMENT (Target Time – 2:00 p.m.)**

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hurley moved; Mr. Gedert seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

# **Attachment B**

### 2022 Tipping Fee Receipts

<b>*Rumpke '22</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Feb					0.00	\$0.00			
Mar					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Apr					0.00	\$0.00			
May					0.00	\$0.00			
Jun					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Jul					0.00	\$0.00			
Aug					0.00	\$0.00			
Sep					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Oct					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>*Bond Road Landfill</b>									
<b>Rumpke '22</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	75,516.50	90,940.91	9,616.28		176,073.69	\$267,014.60			
Feb					0.00	\$0.00			
Mar					0.00	\$0.00		176,073.69	\$267,014.60
Apr					0.00	\$0.00			
May					0.00	\$0.00			
Jun					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Jul					0.00	\$0.00			
Aug					0.00	\$0.00			
Sep					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Oct					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,516.50</b>	<b>90,940.91</b>	<b>9,616.28</b>		<b>176,073.69</b>	<b>\$267,014.60</b>		<b>176,073.69</b>	<b>\$267,014.60</b>
<b>Grand Ttl</b>	<b>75,516.50</b>	<b>90,940.91</b>	<b>9,616.28</b>		<b>176,073.69</b>	<b>\$267,014.60</b>		<b>176,073.69</b>	<b>\$267,014.60</b>
<b>% of Total</b>									
<i>tonnage</i>	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Tier 3</i>						
	42.89%	51.65%	5.46%						
<i>dollars</i>	28.28%	68.12%	3.60%						

### 2021 Tipping Fee Receipts

<b>*Rumpke '21</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Feb					0.00	\$0.00			
Mar					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Apr					0.00	\$0.00			
May					0.00	\$0.00			
Jun					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Jul					0.00	\$0.00			
Aug					0.00	\$0.00			
Sep					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Oct					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>*Bond Road Landfill</b>									
<b>Rumpke '21</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	74,490.31	86,428.03	7,800.43		168,718.77	\$255,146.80			
Feb					0.00	\$0.00			
Mar					0.00	\$0.00		168,718.77	\$255,146.80
Apr					0.00	\$0.00			
May					0.00	\$0.00			
Jun					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Jul					0.00	\$0.00			
Aug					0.00	\$0.00			
Sep					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Oct					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,490.31</b>	<b>86,428.03</b>	<b>7,800.43</b>		<b>168,718.77</b>	<b>\$255,146.80</b>		<b>168,718.77</b>	<b>\$255,146.80</b>
<b>Grand Ttl</b>	<b>74,490.31</b>	<b>86,428.03</b>	<b>7,800.43</b>		<b>168,718.77</b>	<b>\$255,146.80</b>		<b>168,718.77</b>	<b>\$255,146.80</b>
<b>% of Total</b>									
	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Tier 3</i>						
<i>tonnage</i>	44.15%	51.23%	4.62%						
<i>dollars</i>	29.20%	67.75%	3.06%						

### 2021 Tipping Fee Receipts

<b>*Rumpke '21</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Feb	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Mar	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Apr	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
May	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Jun	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Jul	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Aug	0.15	0.00	0.00		0.15	\$0.15			
Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.15	\$0.15
Oct	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Nov	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Dec	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.15</b>		<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.15</b>
<b>*Bond Road Landfill</b>									
<b>Rumpke '21</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	74,490.31	86,428.03	7,800.43		168,718.77	\$255,146.80			
Feb	68,291.28	75,685.93	7,434.45		151,411.66	\$227,097.59			
Mar	90,175.42	105,941.59	9,611.73		205,728.74	\$311,670.33		525,859.17	\$793,914.72
Apr	88,042.34	106,485.42	8,755.30		203,283.06	\$309,768.48			
May	86,457.08	103,994.57	9,158.14		199,609.79	\$303,604.36			
Jun	88,079.79	110,611.01	9,493.67		208,184.47	\$318,795.48		611,077.32	\$932,168.32
Jul	87,939.97	107,508.35	9,257.17		204,705.49	\$312,213.84			
Aug	85,890.97	103,265.18	8,749.76		197,905.91	\$301,171.09			
Sep	83,392.78	106,164.49	9,264.25		198,821.52	\$304,986.01		601,432.92	\$918,370.94
Oct	80,010.24	100,759.28	8,914.05		189,683.57	\$290,442.85			
Nov	86,270.07	100,301.66	8,931.12		195,502.85	\$295,804.51			
Dec	81,945.87	106,036.84	9,281.05		197,263.76	\$303,300.60		582,450.18	\$889,547.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,986.12</b>	<b>1,213,182.35</b>	<b>106,651.12</b>		<b>2,320,819.59</b>	<b>\$3,534,001.94</b>		<b>2,320,819.59</b>	<b>\$3,534,001.94</b>
<b>Grand Ttl</b>	<b>1,000,986.27</b>	<b>1,213,182.35</b>	<b>106,651.12</b>		<b>2,320,819.74</b>	<b>\$3,534,002.09</b>		<b>2,320,819.74</b>	<b>\$3,534,002.09</b>
<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Tier 3</i>						
<i>tonnage</i>	43.13%	52.27%	4.60%						
<i>dollars</i>	28.32%	68.66%	3.02%						

### 2020 Tipping Fee Receipts

<b>*Rumpke '20</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Feb	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Mar	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Apr	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
May	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Jun	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
Jul	0.17	0.00	0.00		0.17	\$0.17			
Aug	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.17	\$0.17
Oct	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Nov	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Dec	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.17</b>		<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.17</b>
<b>*Bond Road Landfill</b>									
<b>Rumpke '20</b>	In District	Out of District	Out of State		Total Tonnage	Total Dollars		Quarterly Tons	Quarterly \$\$
Jan	87,851.10	90,251.32	8,973.46		187,075.88	\$277,327.20			
Feb	76,947.31	82,751.19	7,512.10		167,210.60	\$249,961.79			
Mar	94,652.04	99,171.96	9,192.50		203,016.50	\$302,188.46		557,302.98	\$829,477.45
Apr	80,931.81	90,901.91	10,557.81		182,391.53	\$273,293.44			
May	80,394.84	92,559.07	9,203.12		182,157.03	\$274,716.10			
Jun	86,344.46	97,777.86	9,198.75		193,321.07	\$291,098.93		557,869.63	\$839,108.47
Jul	84,487.02	99,476.46	9,532.46		193,495.94	\$292,972.40			
Aug	80,847.44	99,829.31	9,048.22		189,724.97	\$289,554.28			
Sep	83,188.15	93,183.13	9,747.58		186,118.86	\$279,301.99		569,339.77	\$861,828.67
Oct	80,725.33	94,690.84	9,219.57		184,635.74	\$279,326.58			
Nov	82,058.94	87,598.90	8,634.96		178,292.80	\$265,891.70			
Dec	79,685.79	97,803.96	8,797.03		186,286.78	\$284,090.74		549,215.32	\$829,309.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>998,114.23</b>	<b>1,125,995.91</b>	<b>109,617.56</b>		<b>2,233,727.70</b>	<b>\$3,359,723.61</b>		<b>2,233,727.70</b>	<b>\$3,359,723.61</b>
<b>Grand Ttl</b>	<b>998,114.40</b>	<b>1,125,995.91</b>	<b>109,617.56</b>		<b>2,233,727.87</b>	<b>\$3,359,723.78</b>		<b>2,233,727.87</b>	<b>\$3,359,723.78</b>
<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Tier 3</i>						
<i>tonnage</i>	44.68%	50.41%	4.91%						
<i>dollars</i>	29.71%	67.03%	3.26%						



# **Attachment C**

## Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District 2022 R3Source Infrastructure Grant Selection Summary

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### Background

As approved by the Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy Committee on September 15, 2021, the 2022 R3Source Infrastructure Grant is designed to assist communities, schools, non-profits and for-profit organizations with waste reduction and recycling programs that significantly reduce waste in Hamilton County, Ohio. The grant program is designed for larger projects than R3Source's Waste Reduction Innovation Grant by allowing up to \$30,000 grant funding per project.

### Criteria for Funding

The Grant Review Committee, made up of Department of Environmental Services' staff, evaluated each grant proposal based on the following criteria:

- Focus on waste reduction, reuse, food rescue, and/or recycling.
- Cost-effectively diverts a significant amount of waste and/or reaches a significant number of people
- Shows plans for sustainable funding in the future
- Demonstrates ability to complete project objectives
- Complete and easy to understand
- Includes detailed information on all budget items and all budget items are essential to the project.
- If organization received funds in the past, grant administration was positive

### Selection of Funding

A Grant Review Committee recommends funding the following.

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**Applicant:** Colerain Township  
**Grant Amount:** \$18,911.00  
**Match Funds Promised:** \$7,133.46  
**Estimated Waste Diverted:** 10 Tons/Year  
**Estimated People Reached:** 400 Households  
**Project Summary:** Colerain Township is requesting funds to pay for two years of compost hauling service, and in home food scrap collection buckets for a public compost drop-off site. Matching funds will be used for site preparation, signage, and advertising. Starting in year three, Colerain Township will add the compost hauling fees into the permanent appropriations of the Public Services Department based on use established in the initial years of collection.

**Applicant:** Junk King  
**Grant Amount:** \$24,768.43  
**Match Funds Promised:** \$8,256.14  
**Estimated Waste Diverted:** 100 Tons/Year  
**Estimated People Reached:** 1,000/Year  
**Project Summary:** Junk King is requesting grant funds to purchase a forklift, bailer, electrical upgrades for the bailer, and costs to certify employees on using the new equipment to expand their cardboard and plastic recycling capabilities. Matching funds will pay for a portion of the grant funded items as well as baler wire and stretch film wrap.

**Applicant:** Queen City Commons, LLC  
**Grant Amount:** \$30,000.00  
**Match Funds Promised:** \$47,245.96  
**Estimated Waste Diverted:** 369.67 Tons over Two Years  
**Estimated People Reached:** 400 Households; 56 Organizations over Two Years  
**Project Summary:** Queen City Commons is requesting funds to purchase an 8-yard satellite dump system and pickup truck to collect more food scraps safely and efficiently for composting. The new equipment can also be used to haul and dump, finished compost for customers. Matching funds will be used towards the remainder of the cost for the pickup truck, and equipment to clean compost collection containers at collection locations.

# **Attachment D**

## BUSINESS SECTOR ANALYSIS

### DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

R3Source has combined commercial, institutional, and industrial establishments into “businesses” for this plan update. Hamilton County has a broad mix of businesses located throughout the county. The U.S Census Bureau reports that 20,916 employer establishments are in the county as of 2020. The business sector within the county consists of the following (non-exhaustive list): commercial businesses, schools and universities, office buildings, stadiums, event venues (stadiums/concert halls/theaters), hospitals, multi-family communities, and non-profit organizations. The county also has manufacturing establishments representing each standard industrial classification (SIC) code. Currently, manufacturing accounts for 12.7% of employment in the region by industry sector.

The largest employers in the county by workforce size are shown below.

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Employees</b>
The Kroger Company	20,000+
University of Cincinnati	15,000+
Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center	12,000+
The Procter & Gamble Company	12,000+
Tri Health, Inc.	10,000+
UC Health	8,000+
GE Transportation	7,500+
St. Elizabeth Healthcare	7,000+
Fifth Third Bank	7,000+

Of the largest employers in the county, only the University of Cincinnati’s waste stream fluctuates due to seasonal conditions. Other large businesses in the county that experience seasonal variations in waste generation quantities include:

- Schools
- Parks
- Sports Stadiums

Table 2 presents the employment percentage by industry.

<b>Industry Name</b>	<b>Percent Annual Employment in Industry</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2019</b>
Health Care and Social Assistance	17.3%	17.6%
Manufacturing	10.3%	9.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8.3%	8.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	7.0%	7.7%
Retail Trade	9.0%	7.6%
Educational Services	7.1%	7.1%

Industry Name	Percent Annual Employment in Industry	
	2010	2019
Finance and Insurance	5.2%	6.4%
Administrative and Support Services	5.7%	5.7%
Wholesale Trade	5.6%	5.2%
Management of Companies and Trade	6.8%	5.1%
Construction	3.8%	4.6%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	3.3%	3.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	1.8%	3.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1.8%	2.3%
Public Administration	2.5%	2.2%
Information	2.1%	2.1%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	1.3%	1.6%
Utilities	0.7%	0.6%

As Table 2 shows, the top five industries account for over 50% of employment in the county. Table 1 also indicates that employment in retail and management of companies decreased by around 1% since 2010, while employment in finance/insurance and transportation/warehousing increased by 1%.

## Geographic

Businesses exist in every jurisdiction in the county, with some areas having a concentrated population. Downtown Cincinnati has a dense commercial business district and the largest special event venues. Many hospitals are in the uptown area near the University of Cincinnati. Blue Ash, Forest Park, Norwood, Sharonville, and Colerain Township are suburbs with numerous office and industrial parks. Each of the 48 jurisdictions has at least one public school and a variety of parochial, private, and charter schools.

Industrial businesses are spread around the county but are concentrated in the I-75 corridor from Evendale to the Ohio River. Some of the largest manufacturing operations are situated in the suburbs of Blue Ash, Reading, Sharonville, and Norwood and along the riverfront in the southwest portion of the county. But facilities can be found in most jurisdictions within the county.

Table 3 shows the ten political subdivisions with the largest number of business establishments.

Political Subdivision	Number of Business Establishments
City of Cincinnati	11,415
City of Blue Ash	1,961
City of Sharonville	1,244
Colerain Township	1,100
City of Springdale	883
City of Norwood	845
Green Township	~800
City of Forest Park	599

<b>Political Subdivision</b>	<b>Number of Business Establishments</b>
Harrison Township	502
Loveland	441

Source: Hamilton County Development Corporation

## Landfill Diversion and Infrastructure Functionality

Ohio EPA requires landfills and material recovery facilities (MRFs) to report waste and recyclables by residential/commercial and industrial generators. R3Source also asks business and local recyclers to respond to a survey voluntarily. Because of the data received through the residential recycling incentive (RRI) grant, R3Source can extract residential disposal and recycling quantities from residential/commercial to derive commercial disposal and recycling. For industrial recycling, R3Source used survey data.

During the reference year, commercial businesses disposed of 581,526 tons and recycled/composted 390,111 tons for a landfill diversion rate of 40%. Manufacturing industries disposed 206,277 tons and recycled/composted 863,078 tons for a landfill diversion rate of 81%. In total, businesses disposed 787,803 tons and recycled/composted 1,253,186 tons for an aggregate landfill diversion rate of 61%.

During the reference year, 474,341 tons of flue gas desulfurization waste (FGD) were recycled into a gypsum board. This tonnage accounts for approximately 38% of recycled/composted business waste. Flue gas desulfurization is the process used to remove sulfur dioxide from the power plant’s stack emissions, and Ohio EPA regulates FGD as solid waste.

Commercial and industrial businesses often recover different types of materials. Recycling programs at commercial establishments typically target traditional recyclables (cardboard, mixed paper, plastic bottles, glass bottles/jars, steel, and aluminum cans). These materials are generally collected by private haulers and transported to local MRFs to be processed into saleable commodities. The industrial sector is more likely to be serviced through direct contracts for specific materials when substantial quantities and types are generated (e.g., metals, wood, cardboard, paper, e-waste, and other by-products).

Major employers in Hamilton County address sustainability issues, including recycling and waste diversion. Table 4 presents the top four employers in Hamilton County and their recycling efforts.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Waste Diversion Efforts</b>
Kroger Company	18,000	Kroger initiated a nationwide program in August 2020, enabling its customers to recycle flexible packaging of more than 300 products. Kroger also has a Zero Waste/Zero Hunger campaign to help create a more efficient and equitable food and charitable food system. Kroger also plans to achieve Zero Food waste in all stores throughout the country by 2025.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Waste Diversion Efforts</b>
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital	16,000+	Supplies recycling bins throughout the entire facility and advocates a paperless charting system.
TriHealth, Inc.	12,000+	TriHealth minimizes waste generation through source reduction, reuse, and recycling initiatives.
University of Cincinnati	10,000+	The University of Cincinnati maintains a comprehensive recycling program across campus, including recycling stations, special event recycling, move-in/out programs, and composting.

As part of the planning process, R3Source surveyed businesses in the county. R3Source electronically sent the survey to over 30 chambers of commerce and business associations that distributed the survey to their members. Approximately **????** businesses responded to the survey, representing **all** county employment industries. One of the survey questions asked whether they recycle, and another was to rank barriers to recycling or increase what they recycle. Figures 1 and 2 show the results of those survey questions.

Figure 1.

*I will cross analyze the data once the survey is complete*

Private sector haulers collect most business recyclables. In Hamilton County, waste haulers include Rumpke, Republic, Waste Management, Bavarian, and Best Way. However, not all private haulers offer recycling services, and some only collect certain recyclables or only offer recycling services to large accounts.

In addition, the private companies, several municipalities provide businesses with recycling opportunities:

- The City of Cincinnati allows some small commercial operations to take advantage of its every-other-week curbside recycling service.
- Cheviot collects trash from their business, but not recyclables. Cheviot does permit businesses to use recycling drop-off sites.
- St. Bernard hauls recyclables from businesses upon request.
- The Village of Indian Hill collects trash and recyclables from schools within the community.

## **EXISTING R3SOURCE PROGRAMS**

R3Source currently offers several business-focused programs to encourage more waste reduction.

- **“Let’s Stop Waste”**- helps schools, businesses, bars, restaurants, and multi-family establishments decrease reliance on landfills. R3Source’s support includes technical assistance, waste characterization studies, recycling audits, educational seminars, and physical infrastructure (ex. providing recycling bins and signage). R3Source emphasizes waste management best practices and does not charge businesses for this support and materials.
- **Waste Audits** – R3Source offers waste characterizations for organizations seeking to better understand their waste makeup. This data can inform new reduction opportunities and identify any issues regarding recycling contamination.
- **P2 Internship Program** - The Southwest Ohio Pollution Prevention (P2) Internship Program is a 12-week internship program occurring from late May to early August that pairs college students with companies seeking new and innovative approaches to pollution prevention and conservation. Hamilton County R3Source, the Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District, the Montgomery County Solid Waste District, and the Ohio EPA sponsor this program.
- **Let’s Stop Waste at Schools** - To help schools start or improve a waste reduction and recycling program, R3Source meets with principals, teachers, students, facility managers, custodians, and PTAs to help design an effective waste reduction and recycling program for each school. R3Source further helps schools develop a composting program that transforms fruit and vegetable scraps from school lunches and other organic materials like leaves and plant clippings into nutrient-rich compost. School resources provided by R3Source includes:
  - Educator resources on the R3Source website for pre-K thru 12th grade
  - Field trips to the landfill, recycling center, or other locations
  - School assemblies
  - Technical assistance in setting up recycling (on-site consulting)
  - Indoor collection containers (various sizes depending on the location and material to be collected)
  - Signage to help students and teachers know what and where to recycle
  - Food share table guidance
- **Promotion of the 513Green Workplace Certification** – R3Source recognizes and promotes businesses in Hamilton County that voluntarily operate environmentally through sustainable actions.
- **Professional Enrichment Seminars** for local organizations to inform participants on wasted food, backyard composting, proper recycling procedures, sustainable management of resources, and R3Source waste reduction and recycling programs.
- **Grants to Schools, Communities, Non-Profit Organizations, and Businesses** that help fund innovative waste reduction, reuse, food rescue, composting, and recycling programs that significantly reduce waste in the county. R3Source offers the Waste Reduction Innovation Grant for projects under \$10,000. R3Source also offers the Greater Cincinnati Smart Kitchen Initiative, a grant program that provides assistance and funding to reduce pre-consumer food waste



and/or donate prepared foods. R3Source also promotes and sponsors grant opportunities through Ohio EPA on its website.

- **Promotion of the Ohio Materials Marketplace** – R3Source promotes the Ohio Materials Marketplace. This on-line platform allows companies and organizations to connect and find both reuse and recycling solutions for waste and by-product materials.
- **Multi-family Assistance** - R3Source provides technical assistance to property managers of apartments, condominiums, retirement communities, and other multi-family dwellings to reduce waste and start a recycling program. R3Source posts waste reduction tips on its website, and the website also includes a map that identifies multi-family properties with a recycling program. R3Source also distributes in-unit recycling collection containers and educational materials to residents who request them and are willing to sign a recycling pledge.

Before the start of the global pandemic in late March 2020, R3Source had significantly ramped up the number of businesses to which they provided technical assistance, as shown in Table 4.

Year	Number of Properties Receiving Technical Assistance				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>2017</b>	15	10	14	14	53
<b>2018</b>	32	21	67	36	156
<b>2019</b>	69	22	47	30	168
<b>2020</b>	52	7	12	28	99

## GAP ANALYSIS AND SOLUTIONS

R3Source evaluated its existing business programs. This analysis aims to determine if R3Source requires additional programs, policies, or resources to address business sector reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting needs.

### Businesses

#### 1. Target Outreach/Technical Support

With almost 21,000 business establishments in Hamilton County, R3Source will increase outreach/technical support efficiency and effectiveness by targeting support by types of establishments. For example, there are 57 breweries in the county. Suppose the county conducts a waste audit at one brewery. In that case, the next step could be to have a workshop for all breweries where R3Source presents the audit data and strategies for increasing landfill diversion in breweries. R3Source could broaden this approach to include all food manufacturers and hospitality for an entire year, making direct, technical support competitive. R3Source would also create and host a network within the food industry where sustainability directors could connect, share information, and support each other.

The C40 Cities uses this model. The C40 Cities is a global network of mayors taking urgent action to confront the climate crisis, and their one solid waste director supports over 90 cities on six continents. Due to this ratio of cities to staff and travel logistics, the C40 Cities is selective about who receives direct, technical assistance and that this support yields measurable results. For a city to receive this assistance, they must apply indicating the guidance they need and who will “champion” the implementation of recommendations. Cities that don’t receive direct technical assistance can participate in subject-based networks and attend conferences/workshops. Cities that receive direct technical assistance are encouraged to participate in networks, conferences, and workshops.

## **2. Follow Up with Businesses that Receive Technical Assistance**

Before the global pandemic in 2020, R3Source provided waste reduction technical assistance services to over 100 businesses, schools, and multi-family establishments per year. This statistic demonstrates local businesses’ interest in waste reduction and recycling practices. While R3Source documents information about each of the establishments that receive technical assistance, it could further document the level of service (number and size of collection containers and collection frequency) before technical assistance and then monitor the collection service for up to five years after R3Source provides technical assistance. This will document waste reduction and increased recycling and help R3Source better understand the more significant changes. This reporting would be limited to businesses that receive on-site technical assistance, such as waste audits. Businesses would agree to provide this information before receiving on-site technical assistance. R3Source would develop an on-line platform for businesses to provide this information.

The City of Redmond, WA established its “Refresh Your Recycling Program” to expand business recycling activity. Like R3Source, the City of Redmond offers technical assistance to encourage the implementation and improvement of business recycling programs. The City of Redmond documented over 200 businesses that received technical assistance resulting in additional recycling of over 3,000 cubic yards.

## **3. Purchase Paid Advertising or Sponsorships to Promote Let’s Stop Waste**

Because there are only several print news publications and news-oriented radio stations in Hamilton County, it is difficult to promote programs through free mechanisms such as press releases and public service announcements. Therefore, R3Source may want to purchase paid advertising or sponsorships to make businesses aware of Let’s Stop Waste and annual award recipients. If R3Source purchases advertising, newspapers may run stories on specific businesses that participated in Let’s Stop Waste and radio stations may invite R3source to speak on their shows.

## **4. Evaluate the Feasibility of Awarding a Franchise Agreement for Recycling Services for Commercial Customers**

To provide businesses with the opportunity to recycle at their establishment, R3Source could evaluate the feasibility of awarding a franchise agreement to a private company to offer this service. The franchisee would establish individual contracts with each business and billing customers. The franchise agreement would be the legal instrument to allow one company to provide recycling services for all county businesses.

R3Source's current technical assistance to businesses for improved recycling and decreased contamination may increase service providers' interest in bidding on collection services and potentially lower costs. In addition, R3Source may help interested companies determine the number of trash and recycling containers they will require if they implement a recycling program. The franchise would likely create an economy of scale that would allow the franchisee to offer recycling collection services for lower costs than the current open market collection.

## 5. Track Commercial Waste Quantities Separately

In Ohio, solid waste recycling facilities and landfills submit data to Ohio EPA, and their reports combine residential and commercial waste quantities. While R3Source does track residential waste by political subdivisions, there may be value in quantifying commercial waste by the business category (i.e., hospitals, hotels, grocery stores) to assess the efficacy of outreach and technical assistance and opportunities to increase landfill diversion from other programs.

R3Source conducts voluntary surveys of commercial recyclers to determine the tons recycled by businesses. In addition, R3Source uses data collected by Ohio EPA from various other sources such as "big box stores" and other recycling processors from around the state. There are a few ways to estimate the quantities of waste by sector:

- **Request Information from In-County Facilities** – Many landfills and recycling facilities across the U.S. track residential and commercial waste separately, sometimes from local or state requirements but sometimes for their own purposes. R3Source could ask Rumpke and other facilities to supply information specific to the quantities of waste received at their facilities by business type. If they don't already have this information, perhaps they would be interested in helping R3Source and taking steps to provide it.
- **Periodic Field Studies** – R3Source could work with Rumpke on periodic studies that record the weight of incoming waste by sector. R3Source can apply the proportion of residential and commercial waste quantities in these studies to the combined residential/commercial amounts that Ohio EPA reports.

Tracking commercial waste quantities separately from residential waste will allow R3Source to assess program effectiveness better and identify areas where more tailored assistance is needed.

## 6. Coordinate Requirements for Recycling in Zoning Ordinances

Throughout the United States, some local governments have zoning/code requirements that buildings be designed with adequate space for recycling containers. R3Source could work with its local jurisdictions to provide universal guidance on space requirements to accommodate recycling at commercial facilities. StopWaste of Alameda County, CA has published guidelines to help designers of commercial and mixed-use buildings plan for recycling collection when designing new buildings or planning major renovations.

Some jurisdictions require new construction and renovation projects to have the same amount of space dedicated to recycling as to garbage. Examples of such jurisdictions include Boulder, CO; Broomfield, CO; Charlotte, NC; and Vermont.

**7. Facilitate Cooperative Recycling Programs**

R3Source currently helps businesses of any size by providing technical assistance (contract with a private hauler for collection, selection of containers, signage, decals, and training) to those organizations that request it. However, larger businesses usually have resources and benefit from economies of scale in their recycling programs.

R3Source could further assist clusters of small businesses that do not recycle by helping them establish a cooperative recycling program. A cooperative recycling program involves a single contract for recycling collection services with a private hauler shared amongst multiple adjacent businesses. Because multiple companies share the cost for one service provider, each pays only a portion of the collection contract, thus making it more affordable. A cooperative recycling program also saves the space required for collection containers since multiple businesses can share a single recycling collection container.

Upon recognizing that small businesses find the financial aspect of recycling a burden, Montgomery County, MD began facilitating cooperative recycling programs in 2012. The cooperative recycling programs were especially beneficial in urban settings where space for recycling was also an issue. Initially, the county utilized a contractor to develop a recycling program for a group of adjacent small businesses based on the types and quantities generated.

**8. Create Program to Educate Property Managers**

R3Source could create a guidance document that outlines best practices for business recycling, including tips for contracting collection services from a private hauler, indoor collection containers and location preferences, signs/decals, and methods for educating employees about the program. The guidance document could also be available on R3Source’s website for reference.

R3Source could conduct an annual workshop for business owners/representatives and property managers to share best practices and recycling successes. This information keeps the property-owner community connected to the recycling program without being burdensome. It also provides an opportunity to hear of specific issues and target workable solutions. R3Source could work with the private haulers to identify the property managers and individuals responsible for solid waste decisions.

Multi-family Properties

**9. Target Communities with Low Recycling Rates but High Number of Multi-family Dwellings**

R3Source tracks waste diversion rates for each of the county’s political subdivisions. R3Source could target communities with a high proportion of multi-family dwellings but low waste diversion rates. Table 5 shows the communities with a high percentage of multi-family and a waste diversion rate of less than 15%. It should be noted that most communities do not include recycling tonnage in their residential recycling numbers. Thus, the technical assistance to these communities would also include helping them develop a system to obtain this information.

<b>Table 6: Communities with High Multi-Family and Low Diversion</b>			
<b>Community</b>	<b>Number of Multi-Family Units</b>	<b>Percent of Households</b>	<b>Residential Waste Diversion Rate*</b>

City of Sharonville	1,547	27.5%	14.2%
City of Forest Park	1,757	25.4%	13.9%
City of Mount Healthy	1,173	32.3%	10.7%
Village of Lockland	383	23.5%	6.8%
City of Reading	1,213	25.2%	4.6%

*\*Waste Diversion Rate does not currently include any existing multi-family data.*

Attachment A presents waste diversion rates for each political subdivision, along with the number of multi-family dwellings.

### 10. Distribute In-Unit Collection Containers

Because residents of multi-family properties often need to take their recyclables to communal collection containers, providing an in-unit collection container that facilitates transfer can help residents recycle. The in-unit container should be small but with sufficient capacity to hold several bottles/cans and some cardboard. Also, a handle can help the resident easily carry the container directly to the communal collection container.

R3Source currently provides in-unit recycling containers to residents that request one and requires the tenant to sign a recycling pledge. R3Source should consider distributing in-unit recycling containers to all dwelling units of properties that subscribe to recycling. The broad distribution of in-unit recycling containers helps create excitement for recycling and incentivizes residents to recycle when they see their neighbors recycling.

### 11. Provide Outreach Materials in a Variety of Languages

Multi-family properties have a high transition of residents moving in and out each year. Additionally, a small but notable proportion of the county is comprised of residents for whom English is not their primary language. Overall, 2% of the population in the county speaks Spanish, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. However, specific communities have much higher percentages. Table 7 identifies the communities with the highest percent of Spanish-speaking residents and shows the percent of multi-family households. R3Source could target these communities with bilingual materials.

Community	Percent Spanish-Speaking	Percent Multi-Family
Forest Park	5.6%	24.4%
Columbia Township	5.1%	16.9%
Lockland	4.8%	23.5%
Springdale	4.8%	26.9%
Reading	3.4%	25.2%

### 12. Franchise or Contract for Collection Services at Multi-Family Properties

Private haulers collect most multi-family waste generated in the county and commingle it with commercial waste. Also, it is up to the property manager to subscribe to recycling collection services for which they may not be adequately informed. The City of Cincinnati requires private waste haulers to pay a franchise fee, which the City uses to provide support and equipment for recycling at multi-family properties. R3Source could work with its local jurisdictions to coordinate collection

services at multi-family properties, including recycling and organics collection services. By working with local jurisdictions to separately collect multi-family waste, R3Source could provide universal collection methods throughout the county, including recycling.

For many years, the City of Charlotte has provided garbage, recycling, and bulky waste collection services to multi-family properties (apartments, condominiums, and townhomes) through a contract with a private hauler. The most recent contract was awarded to Waste Pro of North Carolina in 2018 due to their routing plan, resulting in fewer pieces of equipment on the road, negatively impacting the environment. Additionally, Waste Pro is using compressed natural gas and “clean diesel” vehicles exclusively<sup>1</sup>.

<b>Table 8: Summary of Potential R3Source Actions to Address Identified Gaps</b>				
		<b>Program Improvement Suggestions</b>	<b>Gap Addressed</b>	<b>R3Source Program</b>
<b>Businesses</b>	1	Leverage results of direct technical assistance	R3Source has limited personnel and resources to make an impact on 19,000 businesses	Target businesses by SIC code or geographic clusters
	2	Follow-up with businesses that receive direct technical assistance	Long-term impact of LSW is difficult to measure	Create an on-line platform for businesses to provide waste information
	3	Increase awareness of LSW benefits	Growing LSW requires broader awareness	Purchase advertising and sponsorships
	4	Evaluate the feasibility of awarding a Franchise Agreement for recycling services for commercial customers	Smaller businesses pay more for recycling services	Research the legal authority to award franchise agreements and if other Ohio solid waste districts have done this.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wastedive.com/news/waste-pro-gearing-up-for-new-17m-contract-in-charlotte-north-carolina/525146/>

**Table 8: Summary of Potential R3Source Actions to Address Identified Gaps**

		<b>Program Improvement Suggestions</b>	<b>Gap Addressed</b>	<b>R3Source Program</b>
	5	Track commercial waste quantities separately	Obtain data on the recycling and solid waste activities by individual business types (i.e., hospitals, hotels, grocery stores) currently, only have business data on a community level	R3Source could obtain this data through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request information from in-county facilities</li> <li>• Conduct periodic field studies</li> </ul>
	6	Coordinate requirements for recycling in zoning ordinances	Some businesses do not have enough space for outdoor recycling containers	Work with local jurisdictions to provide universal guidance on space requirements to accommodate recycling at businesses
Businesses	7	Facilitate cooperative recycling programs	Small businesses do not have the same resources and do not benefit from economies of scale in their recycling programs	Assist clusters of small businesses that do not recycle by helping them establish a cooperative recycling program
	8	Create programs to educate property managers	Property managers often consider recycling an unnecessary, extra responsibility	Create a guidance document that outlines best practices for business recycling and conduct an annual workshop
Multi-family	9	Target communities with low recycling rates but a high number of multi-family dwellings	Improve overall recycling rates and increase multi-family recycling	Target communities where greater than 20% of residents live in multi-family and diversion rates less than 15%

<b>Table 8: Summary of Potential R3Source Actions to Address Identified Gaps</b>				
		<b>Program Improvement Suggestions</b>	<b>Gap Addressed</b>	<b>R3Source Program</b>
	10	Distribute in-unit collection containers	Residents of multi-family properties often need to take their recyclables to communal collection containers	Distribute in-unit recycling containers to all dwelling units of properties that subscribe to recycling
	11	Provide outreach materials in a variety of languages	A small but notable proportion of the county is comprised of residents for whom English is not their primary language.	Target communities where many individuals live in multi-family establishments and do not have English as a primary language
	12	Franchise or contract for recycling collection services at multi-family properties	Property managers must subscribe to recycling collection services for which they may not be adequately informed.	Work with local jurisdictions to coordinate collection services at multi-family properties, including recycling and organics collection services

### Questions for Policy Committee

- Which of the 12 ideas proposed should R3Source focus staff time considering/implementing?
- Should R3Source consider investing in an online platform for businesses?
- Should R3Source explore the franchise agreement idea?
- Historically, large property owners have not been responsive to communication requests from R3Source. What role could the County play in engaging large property owners?

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Attachment A. Waste Diversion Rates and Multi-Family Dwellings by Hamilton County Subdivision

Hamilton County Subdivision	Waste Diversion Rate*	Multi-Family Dwellings	
		Number of Multi-Family Dwellings	Percent of Housing Units
Amberley Village	59.9%	0	0.0%
Anderson Township	16.0%	1,607	9.4%
Arlington Heights Village	5.1%	47	11.4%
Blue Ash City	31.8%	1,055	20.0%
Cheviot City	1.6%	632	15.3%
Cincinnati City	20.0%	57,588	35.6%
Colerain Township	12.0%	3,412	13.9%
Columbia Township	18.3%	355	16.9%
Crosby Township	6.7%	40	3.4%
Deer Park City	11.8%	242	8.9%
Delhi Township	6.4%	1,260	11.1%
Elmwood Place Village		200	18.2%
Evendale Village	22.4%	0	0.0%
Fairfax Village	18.4%	27	3.5%
Forest Park City	13.9%	1,757	24.4%
Glendale Village	29.6%	23	2.2%
Golf Manor Village	9.0%	99	5.7%
Green Township	10.0%	3,784	15.4%
Greenhills Village	24.0%	113	7.0%
Harrison Township	17.4%	1,067	16.2%
Lincoln Heights Village	4.9%	219	13.5%
Lockland Village	6.8%	383	23.5%
Loveland City	21.0%	1,050	25.9%
Madeira City	29.7%	30	0.9%
Mariemont Village	55.8%	262	16.0%
Miami Township	11.4%	377	5.8%
Montgomery City	36.5%	391	9.4%
Mount Healthy City	10.7%	1,173	32.3%
Newtown Village	15.5%	204	17.4%
North College Hill City	8.4%	722	16.9%

Norwood City	11.8%	1,621	16.8%
Reading City	4.6%	1,213	25.2%
St. Bernard Village	15.7%	332	15.0%
Sharonville City	14.2%	1,547	27.5%
Silverton Village	24.4%	536	20.9%
Springdale City	23.2%	1,282	26.9%
Springfield Township	15.0%	967	6.3%
Sycamore Township	21.0%	1,313	15.3%
Symmes Township	15.7%	1,075	18.0%
Terrace Park Village	49.6%	0	0.0%
The Village of Indian Hill	34.5%	0	0.0%
Whitewater Township	1.1%	538	22.3%
Woodlawn Village	31.9%	777	44.3%
Wyoming City	45.2%	78	2.5%

\*Diversion rate does not include multi-family data.

DRAFT

# Education and Outreach Analysis

Purpose

DRAFT

This section evaluates the effectiveness of R3Source’s existing education, outreach, and technical assistance efforts while addressing the five target audiences outlined by Ohio EPA. This section also identifies a strategy for incorporating best practices into reduction, recycling, composting, and reuse education programs.

### Target Audiences

R3Source has programs that address the targeted audiences. Table 1 summarizes how these programs relate to the five target audiences of residents, schools, industries, commercial businesses, and communities/elected officials. R3Source sets annual goals for reaching each of these target audiences and evaluates programs on a quarterly basis.

Two of the unique or special interest groups that R3Source would like to focus on and work more closely with are universities and hospitals. R3Source has already worked with these two groups through the Let’s Stop Waste and Pollution Prevention programs however, R3Source could partner with these institutions for events, workshops, and other collaborative educational programs.

The next section chooses outreach programs to evaluate in more detail: residential recycling campaigns and school field trips.

**Table 1: R3Source Outreach Programs by Audience**

Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling Hotline</li> <li>• Advertising Campaigns</li> <li>• Target Communities</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Container Loan Program</li> <li>• Special Events</li> <li>• Let’s Stop Waste at Multi-Families</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Newsletter</li> <li>• Website</li> </ul>
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling Hotline</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Newsletter</li> <li>• Classroom Programs and Assemblies</li> <li>• Field Trips</li> <li>• Let’s Stop Waste at Schools</li> <li>• Container Loan Program</li> <li>• Waste Audits</li> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>
Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling Hotline</li> <li>• LinkedIn</li> <li>• Let’s Stop Waste Technical Assistance</li> <li>• Pollution Prevention Internship</li> <li>• Waste Audits</li> <li>• Newsletter</li> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>
Commercial Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling Hotline</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Let’s Stop Waste Technical Assistance</li> <li>• Employee Enrichment Seminars</li> <li>• Pollution Prevention Internship</li> <li>• 513Green Certification</li> <li>• Waste Audits</li> <li>• Container Loan Program</li> <li>• Newsletter</li> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>
Communities/ Elected Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling Hotline</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Community Toolkit</li> <li>• Let’s Stop Waste Technical Assistance</li> <li>• Target Community Outreach</li> <li>• Newsletter</li> <li>• Container Loan Program</li> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>

## Existing Program for Residents: Residential Recycling Campaign

### Overview and Employing Social Marketing Principles

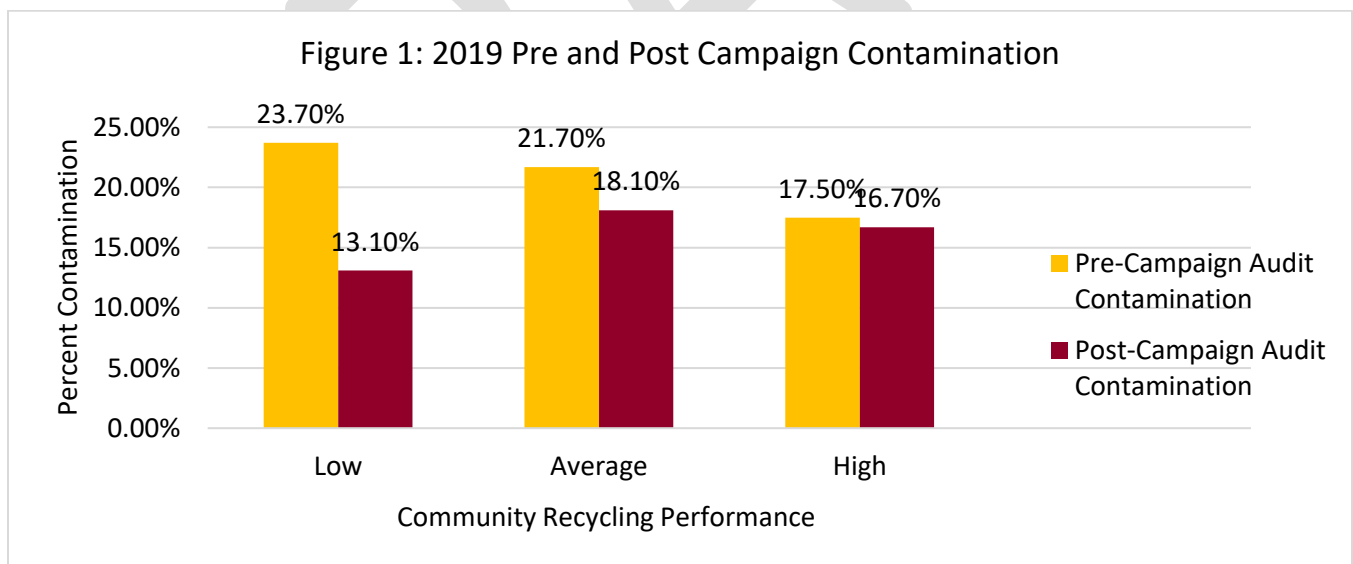
Most years, R3Source conducts a county-wide marketing campaign to promote residential recycling. The campaign often involves paid advertising, public relations, social media, and outreach to communities. In 2020, R3Source spent \$43,400 on a cardboard recycling campaign in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year. The target audience of the campaign was residents who were receiving more boxes than ever delivered but who were not taking the time to break them down before recycling.

The 2020 campaign was limited due to the COVID pandemic so this analysis will look at two campaigns R3Source conducted in 2019; both focused on reducing contamination. One campaign was deployed county-wide and centered on “Recycling Coach” videos demonstrating that plastic bags and clamshell containers are not recyclable. The second campaign was targeted to approximately 27,000 households in the City of Cincinnati. Funded by Ohio EPA through the Recycling Partnership, the Cincinnati-specific campaign featured cart inspection, tagging, and follow-up messaging to the resident.

### County-Wide Recycling Coach Campaign

The County-wide Recycling Coach campaign reached 65,396 households in 19 communities with a direct mail piece. All the targeted households had access to automatic curbside recycling with carts. The campaign included production of two primary videos, digital advertising, a direct mail piece that included a recycling magnet, and local television spots. In addition, R3Source contracted with a consultant to conduct before and after recycling audits to measure the effectiveness. Contamination decreased from 21% before the campaign to 16% after the campaign (a 24% decrease).

R3Source grouped the participating communities into three categories based on their diversion rate: low, average, and high. Figure 1 compares the before and after diversion rates for the three community categories.



Interestingly, communities with the highest level of contamination to start were most receptive to the campaign and in the post-audits had the lowest contamination rate. Communities with higher diversion rates saw the smallest change between the pre and post audits.

Table 2 gives an overview of the cost per element of the county-wide campaign. R3Source spent \$2.10 per household on the campaign including the audit and \$1.60 per household without the audit cost included.

R3Source gathered and analyzed media clips, social media posts, website traffic, and hotline calls to measure the success of the campaign. During the campaign period (11/3/14 to 12/14/14) R3Source received:

- 1,916 unique page views for R3Source homepage
- 156 unique views for the campaign page (versus 98 in the previous period)
- 69 sessions referred from the WLWT component
- 13 new followers on Facebook and 1,360 engagements
- 48 new Twitter followers and a total reach of 7,451 people
- 538 calls to the recycling hotline
- No increase in recycling tonnage attributable to the campaign

<b>Medium</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Digital Advertising	\$50,000
Video Production	\$17,200
Direct Mail	\$27,303
Broadcast TV	\$10,000
Audit Cost	\$33,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$137,503</b>

### **Cincinnati Cart-Tagging Campaign**

The targeted campaign in Cincinnati funded through a partnership of Ohio EPA and the Recycling Partnership reached 27,628 households within Cincinnati. The campaign involved hiring auditors who would check the recycling carts for all participating households five times. The first time an auditor found contamination in a cart was a warning- the material was still collected but an “oops” tag was left behind letting the residents know the mistake. Should the same address include contamination again, the material was left behind with a similar tag letting them know the material was not recyclable.

<b>Medium</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Mailers and Social Media	\$27,140
Tagging Labor	\$19,179
Rubicon App and Auditor Phones	\$5,195
Miscellaneous	\$204
Audit Cost (estimated)	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$61,718</b>

The Cincinnati campaign included two direct mail pieces and utilized the Recycling Coach videos created for the county-wide campaign. Contamination decreased from 28% at the start of the campaign to 19% at the end of the campaign- a 32% decrease. Table 3 gives an overview of the costs associated with the campaign.

	<b>County-wide</b>	<b>Cincinnati</b>
Number of Households	65,396	27,628
Cost Per Household	\$2.10	\$2.23
Decrease in Contamination	24%	32%

The Cincinnati campaign was largely grant-funded and some of the cost, such as the cost of the audit was covered by Rumpke. However, the cost per household for this campaign was \$2.23 with the audit and \$1.87 without the audit. Table 4 compares the two campaigns side-by side.

Table 5. Strengths and Weaknesses of Residential Recycling Outreach Campaigns	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases recycling awareness.</li> <li>• Residents and communities provide positive feedback.</li> <li>• No cost to communities.</li> <li>• Comprehensive multi-media approach.</li> <li>• Partnership with communities to leverage campaign.</li> <li>• Campaign is based on research and background information.</li> <li>• Encourages residents to recycle more when away from home.</li> <li>• Durable magnet has led to a number of residents contacting R3Source for recycling and disposal information years later.</li> <li>• Consistent recycling message throughout the county.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to claim overall Hamilton County increase in recycling or decrease in contamination as a result of campaign.</li> <li>• Inconsistent, not offered every year.</li> <li>• Cannot send something to every resident- too costly.</li> <li>• The direct mail is wasteful if not used and/or recycled.</li> <li>• Printed pieces can be dated if acceptable recyclables list expands in future.</li> <li>• Only target 1-4 family buildings, not large multi-family properties.</li> <li>• Current funding levels are not suitable for a countywide campaign.</li> </ul>

## Recycling Campaign Gap Analysis and Solutions

- 1. Integrate more market research and community involvement.** Measuring the impact of a campaign can be difficult when tonnage numbers lag far behind the campaign, are not specific to the area or audience targeted, or do not accurately measure the focus of the campaign. R3Source also wishes to involve residents and community leaders from the target audience during campaign development to create more impactful campaigns.

  - Conduct market research before and after campaigns tailored to the campaign goals.
  - Reach out to communities and residents for input on campaign materials and message.
- 2. Cooperate with other organizations and communities with similar campaigns.** The City of Cincinnati, Rumpke Recycling, and other communities and counties surrounding Hamilton County regularly put out campaigns encouraging more recycling or reduced contamination.

  - Partner with organizations to pool resources and increase impact of campaigns.
- 3. Increase in person outreach to local communities and potential champions.** Local community leaders often do not completely understand what you can and cannot recycle. Communities can also leverage campaign assets to further promote and reach their residents.

  - Offer presentations at local community council and trustee meetings prior to a campaign.
  - Revive the Master Recycler course to empower local advocates.

## Existing Programs for Students: Field Trips

### Overview

R3Source covers the cost of transportation and any related program costs for students to go on solid waste related field trips. Participating schools must currently recycle and be a member of the Let’s Stop Waste in Schools program to qualify for R3Source’s field trips.

Field trips reach the audiences of students, teachers, and chaperones. Educating students encourages children to form habits early and to bring that behavior home. Educating the educators and chaperones ensures they have updated information and are able to reinforce what the children learn about reducing waste.

The field trips offered are specific to certain grade levels. Each field trip centers on at least one waste reduction topic. Field trip descriptions can be found on our [website](#).

In the *Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2018-2032*, R3Source states that we will continue helping schools set up recycling programs and providing field trips.

### Tracking Results

Table 6 shows that R3Source has provided a consistent number of field trips over the last five years with a slight dip in 2018. All field trips were cancelled after March of 2020 due to COVID-19.

As part of the R3Source field trip reimbursement program, students are required to submit reflections after the field trips. These reflections can take the form of posters, writing, videos, or other mediums. The teachers get to choose what type of reflection to assign the students so that it is tailored for the needs of each class.

Year	Field Trips	People Reached
2016	42	2,421
2017	37	2,519
2018	31	1,704
2019	36	2,220
2020	4	123

### Field Trip Offerings

R3Source offers seven field trip options to schools targeting different age ranges.

#### Compost Kids

- Location: Civic Garden Center
- Grades: K-6
- Theme: Nature cycles through the seasons in many ways, and composting recycles nutrients back into the soil ecosystem.
- Students participate in hands-on activities outdoors to learn about the critters in gardens and the roles they play in the ecosystem.

#### America Recycles Day

- Location: Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
- Grades: 3-5
- Theme: Waste reduction and recycling have a positive impact on people, animals, and habitats around the world.
- One-day event
- Students participate in activity stations related to waste reduction around the Zoo



### Don't Trash It

- Location: Rumpke Landfill
- Grades: 1-12
- Theme: When items are thrown in the trash bin, they do not just go “away” but are taken to the landfill.
- Students ride a bus through the Rumpke landfill and learn how it works.

### Where Does All the Garbage Go?

- Location: Rumpke Landfill and Burnet Woods
- Grades: 1-6
- Theme: Garbage must go somewhere after it is thrown in the trash bin, and it has an impact on the planet.
- Students take a nature hike to observe natural cycles and play various games to learn about recycling and composting. Then they ride a bus through the Rumpke landfill and learn how it works.

### Trash Talk

- Location: Rumpke Landfill and Rumpke Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Grades: 9-12
- Theme: Garbage and recyclables must go somewhere after we put them into their respective bins, and this requires an intricate system to operate.
- Students take a bus tour of the landfill, and then they tour the MRF to see how recyclable items are sorted.

### Farms and Food Waste

- Location: Gorman Heritage Farm
- Grades: 3-8
- Theme: Food is a valuable resource that takes time and energy to produce, so steps must be taken to reduce food waste to help the planet.
- Students learn why and how to reduce food waste through hands-on activities at various stations around the farm.

### La Soupe Pilot

- Location: La Soupe
- Grades: 10-12
- Theme: Food waste in the US is a major problem that can be prevented by shopping responsibly, understanding food, and learning how to creatively use what is available to cook meals.
- Students will tour the La Soupe facility, learn about food waste in the US, prepare rescued food for donation to those in need, and create a meal with ingredients in the pantry.

### **Marketing Field Trips**

R3Source markets field trips through the following avenues:

- Newsletter
- R3Source website
- Facebook

- Partnering organizations
- During one-on-one meetings with administrators and teachers.

These efforts have generated plenty of interested schools that align with the R3Source budget for the program.

**Measuring Effectiveness and Cost**

To measure the effectiveness of the field trips, R3Source requires teachers to submit student reflections shortly after the completion of the trip. This ensures students synthesize information learned. Many of the same teachers return year after year with their next class of students.

In 2020, R3Source spent \$1,914.94 on student registrations and bus transportation for field trips. To provide a normal year for comparison, in 2019 R3Source spent \$10,206.08 on student registrations and bus transportation for field trips.

<b>Table 7. Strengths and Weaknesses of Field Trips</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All grades of students have access to field trips.</li> <li>• Provides experiential learning, which is an important component of acquiring knowledge.</li> <li>• Students get opportunities to see first-hand how compost is made, how landfills work, or how recyclables are processed.</li> <li>• Student reflections are a valuable processing tool when learning new information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School must complete forms and prove payment to bus company before reimbursement (cumbersome).</li> <li>• Field trip opportunities are limited by partner availability.</li> <li>• We do not have demographic data.</li> <li>• Schools must recycle and register with the LSW Program to qualify for a field trip .</li> </ul>

**Field Trip Gap Analysis and Solutions**

1. **Improve geographic availability of field trips.** Currently most field trip opportunities focus in the south-central area of Hamilton County. Offering field trip opportunities in more regions of Hamilton County will increase accessibility for rural and suburban schools.
  - Identify possible field trip partners in the south-western and south-eastern areas of Hamilton County.
  - Identify opportunities for customized local field trips near schools.
  
2. **Target underserved schools and improve accessibility.** A key learning from the DEI consultant was to collect and evaluate demographic information of program participants. This may be difficult for specific program participants since they are children, but R3Source may be able to extrapolate based on participating school demographic data. Once demographic data is collected and evaluated,

R3Source staff can identify schools and demographic groups currently underserved with the field trip program.

- Collect demographic data for all field trip participants.
- Reach out to schools with underserved populations.
- Consider and implement ways to improve accessibility such as sign language, sensory experiences, Spanish translation, and wheelchair accessibility.

**3. Create new field trips focusing on new topics.** Field trips focused on reducing wasted food, food rescue, and reuse would align with other efforts R3Source is undertaking.

- Look for partners who could offer field trips focused on reducing wasted food and/or reuse.

## Conclusions

Hamilton County R3Source has programs covering the five main audience categories: residents, schools, industries, commercial businesses, and communities. After looking more deeply into the residential recycling campaigns, R3Source could integrate more involvement of both community officials and the target audience in the development of the campaign and in helping promote the message. Many other organizations promote similar messages and R3Source can reach out to these organizations to coordinate campaigns and pool and share resources for more impact.

R3Source’s field trip program is well-used but R3Source could make the program more accessible by increasing the geographic availability of field trips, collecting demographic data, and reaching out to underserved schools. Additionally, R3Source can continue to develop new field trip offerings based on broader waste reduction topics such as food rescue, food waste reduction, and reuse.

Table 8: Summary of Potential Actions to Address Identified Gaps				
		Infrastructure Improvement Suggestions	Gap Addressed	R3Source Program
Residential Recycling Campaign	1	Integrate market research and community involvement	Campaign may not directly focus on reasons target audience do not recycle. Measurement of impact difficult.	Conduct market research.
				Reach out to communities and residents for input on campaign.
	2	Cooperate with other organizations	Other organizations also conduct campaigns around residential recycling.	Offer partnerships with other organizations to increase impact.
	3	Increase in-person outreach	Local community leaders often don’t know what you can recycle, and residents currently do not have a direct way to get involved in outreach.	Offer presentations at community meetings.
				Revive the Master Recycler training.

Field Trips	1	Improve geographic availability of field trips	Field trip offerings focus in the south-central area of Hamilton County.	Identify new partners in other areas of the county.
				Consider custom local field trip options.
	2	Improve accessibility	R3Source does not have demographic data for schools and wants to ensure field trips are accessible to all students.	Collect demographic data.
				Reach out to schools with underserved populations.
				Consider and implement other accessibility improvements.
	3	Create new field trips on new topics	R3Source offers few field trips on reducing wasted food, food rescue, or reuse.	Consider new partners for field trips on new topics.

### Questions for Policy Committee

- Should R3Source devote more of the residential outreach budget to market research and pre-development of a campaign?
- Should R3Source revive the Master Recycler class to develop community advocates for recycling?
- Should R3Source focus campaign topics on other areas such as reuse or waste reduction some years instead of residential recycling?
- Should R3Source allow schools that do not recycle to attend certain field trips (like LaSoupe, Compost Kids, Gorman Farm)
- Should R3Source provide up-front funding for transportation to alleviate cumbersome reimbursement requirements and financial burden on schools.

## Diversion Analysis

### Purpose

Evaluate the quantities of waste reduced/recycled from 2016-2020 to ensure compliance with the state-mandated waste reduction goals.

### Overview

Ohio solid waste management districts are required to meet one of the two following recycling goals:

1. Ensure there is adequate infrastructure to provide residents and commercial businesses opportunities to recycle solid waste.
2. Reduce and recycle at least 25 percent of waste generated by the residential/commercial sector.

Since its inception, R3Source has opted to achieve Goal 2. To demonstrate compliance with this goal, R3Source surveys recycling facilities and receives some recycling data from Ohio EPA for retail chains, tire recyclers, and composting facilities. Responses to this survey are used to determine R3Source's residential/commercial waste reduction rate. For the industrial waste reduction rate, R3Source conducts a survey for all manufacturing facilities. Because surveying is extremely time consuming, R3Source conducts this every 3 to 4 years. Because the recycling survey is voluntary, R3Source's waste reduction rate is directly related to the number of useable surveys received.

### Waste Reduction Rate

In 2020, the Plan Update reference year, R3Source documented a 55.78% overall waste reduction rate and a 37.25% residential/commercial rate exceeding the 25% residential/commercial waste reduction goal. Figure 1 shows Hamilton County's overall diversion rate (both residential/commercial and industrial numbers) for a five-year period.

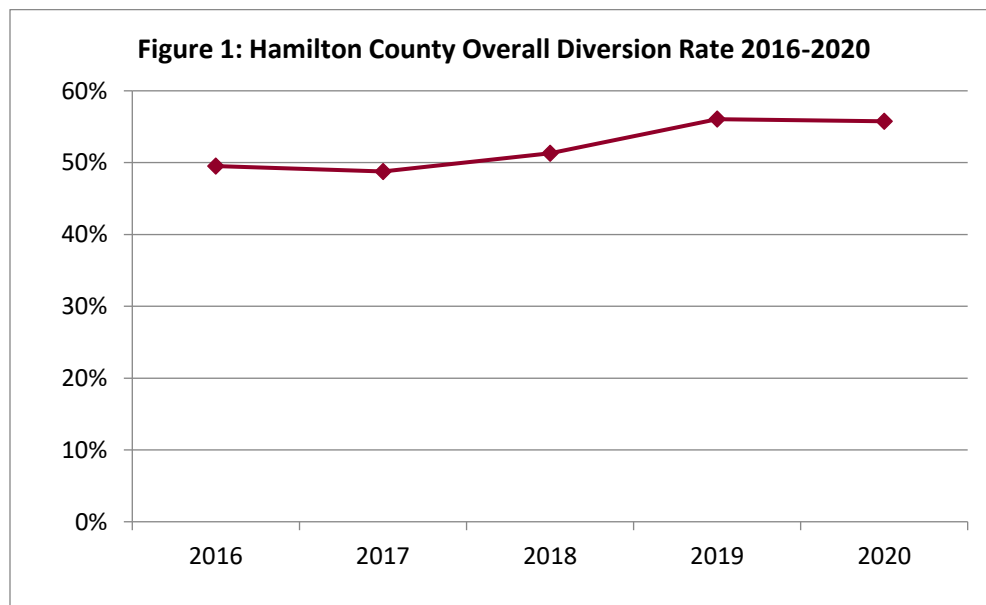
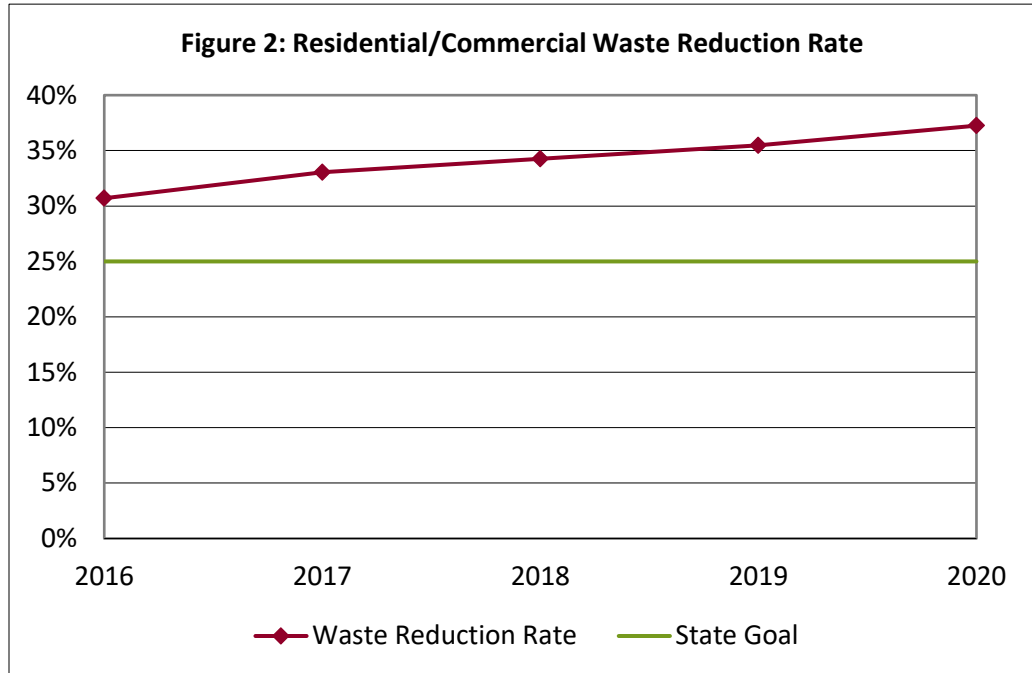


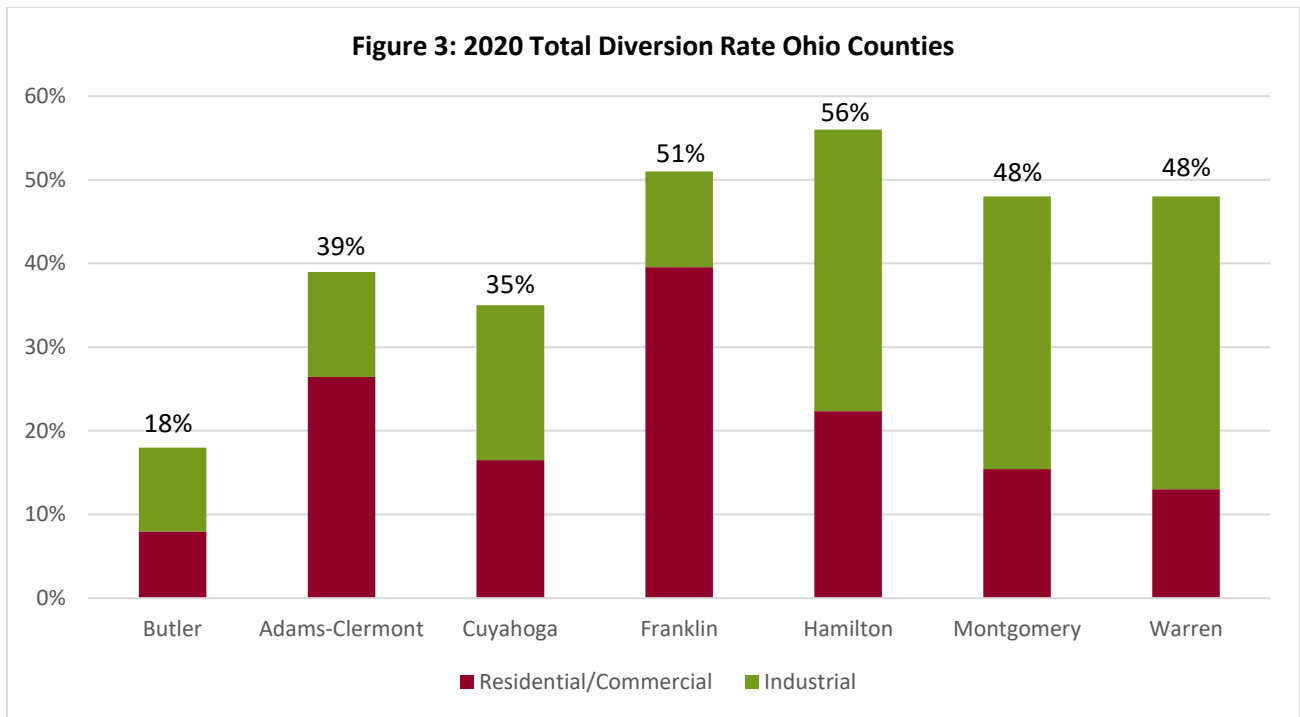
Figure 2 shows R3Source's waste reduction rates since 2016. In 2016, R3Source's



residential/commercial waste reduction rate dipped to a low of 32 percent and then increased back up to the current rate of 37 percent.

The dip in the residential/commercial waste reduction rate can be attributed to a lower response rate to R3Source's survey. In particular, several metal recyclers did not respond to surveys during those years. Other contributing factors could include lightweighting of materials, such as plastics packaging replacing heavier, more easily recyclable paper and glass packaging.

R3Source's waste diversion rate is higher than the state-wide rate of 40%. Figure 3 compares R3Source's rate to surrounding and similar-sized districts. The blue or lower bars in Figure 3 represent the amount of the total diversion contributed by the residential/commercial sector and the red or top bars represent the amount of the diversion contributed by the industrial sector.



### Residential/Commercial Recycling Tonnages

In 2020, 544,456 tons of material was recycled and composted from the residential/commercial sector. Table 1 lists the amount of material this sector diverted from landfills over the past five years. The increase over the period is likely the result of more diversion in Hamilton County and a concerted effort of R3Source staff to survey non-traditional diversion organizations such as reuse stores, small-scale composters, and food rescue operations.

Year	Weight (tons)
2016	365,068
2017	442,991
2018	489,364
2019	453,856
2020	544,456

Residential diversion accounted for 10% or 58,602 tons of material while the commercial sector accounted for 90% of this diversion. R3Source programs such as Let’s Stop Waste, Residential Recycling Incentive, Yard Trimmings Drop-Off, and the Reuse and Recycling Outlet search helped increase the amount diverted.

In 2020, the largest amounts of material diverted from landfill by the residential/commercial sector are:

- Cardboard (156,143 tons)
- Yard Trimmings (112,709 tons)
- Paper (66,151 tons)
- Ferrous Metals (98,109 tons)

In R3Source’s current Plan, residential/commercial recycling tonnages were projected at 416,573 total tons which is a 23% lower than the 2020 actual recycling tonnages.

### Industrial Recycling Tonnages

In 2020, 819,558 tons of material was recycled and composted from the industrial sector. Table 2 shows the amount of material diverted from landfills by this sector over the past five years. The change in weight reports can be explained by differences in survey response rate.

In 2020, flue gas desulfurization was the largest material diverted from landfills in the amount of 474,341 tons.

In R3Source’s current Plan, industrial recycling tonnages were projected to 642,143 total tons—22% lower than actual recycling tonnages.

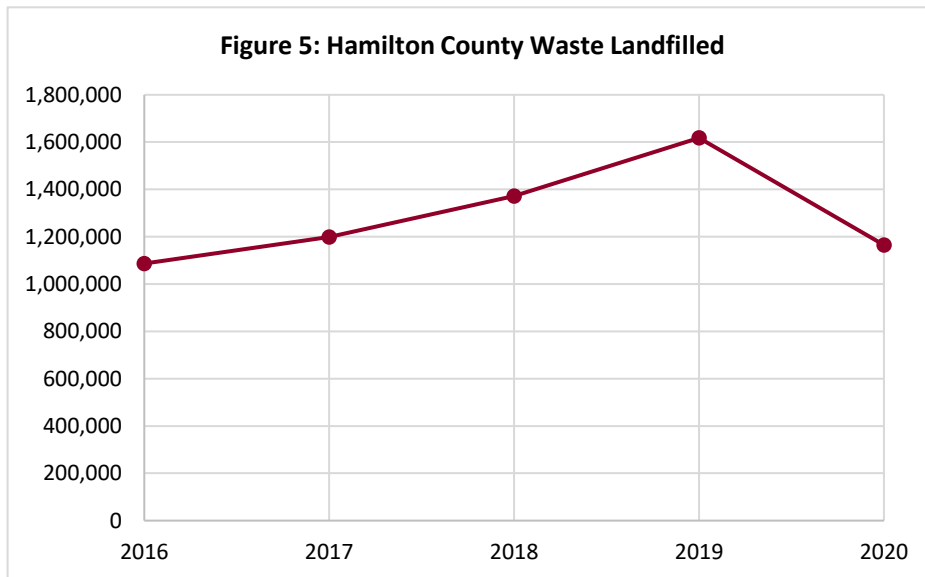
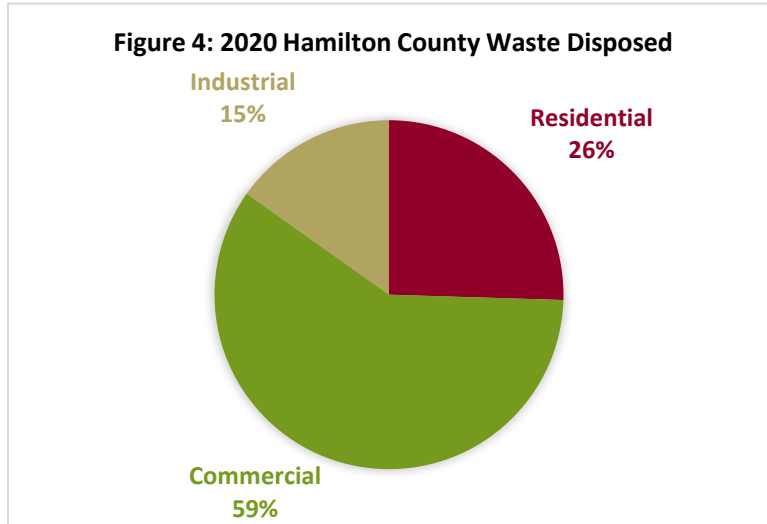
<b>Year</b>	<b>Weight (tons)</b>
2016	635,510
2017	632,195
2018	863,447
2019	863,078
2020	819,558



## Waste Disposed

In 2020 Hamilton County generated 1,164,616 tons of waste. Figure 4 shows the distribution of that waste between the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Commercial waste makes up the largest percentage of waste generated at 59% followed by residential at 26%, and industrial at 15%.

Figure 5 shows the waste generated by Hamilton County businesses and residents from 2016 to 2020. The uptick in 2019 is the result of an increase in exempt waste.



## Summary

R3Source has historically exceeded Ohio’s state mandated waste reduction rate for the residential/commercial sector. For the year 2020, the reference year for the Plan Update, R3Source has demonstrated that it exceeds both goals. To continue to exceed the goals, R3Source should place continued emphasis on the commercial sector that represents 59% of the waste currently entering the landfill from Hamilton County. R3Source will implement ways to increase the response rate to its survey to commercial and industrial businesses as outlined in the Data Collection Analysis.



# **Attachment E**

# Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Selection Summary

1-19-22 thru 3-16-22 Update

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## Background

The Waste Reduction Innovation Grant assists communities, schools, non-profits and for-profit organizations with innovative waste reduction and recycling programs that significantly reduce waste in Hamilton County, Ohio.

## Criteria for Funding

The Grant Review Committee, made up of Department of Environmental Services' staff, evaluated each grant proposal based on the following criteria:

- Focus on waste reduction, reuse, and/or recycling
- Cost-effectively diverts a significant amount of waste and/or reaches a significant number of people
- Shows plans for sustainable funding in the future
- Demonstrates ability to complete project objectives
- Complete and easy to understand
- Includes detailed information on all items/services listed in budget
- If organization received funds in the past, grant administration was positive

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## Grant Proposals Selected for Funding

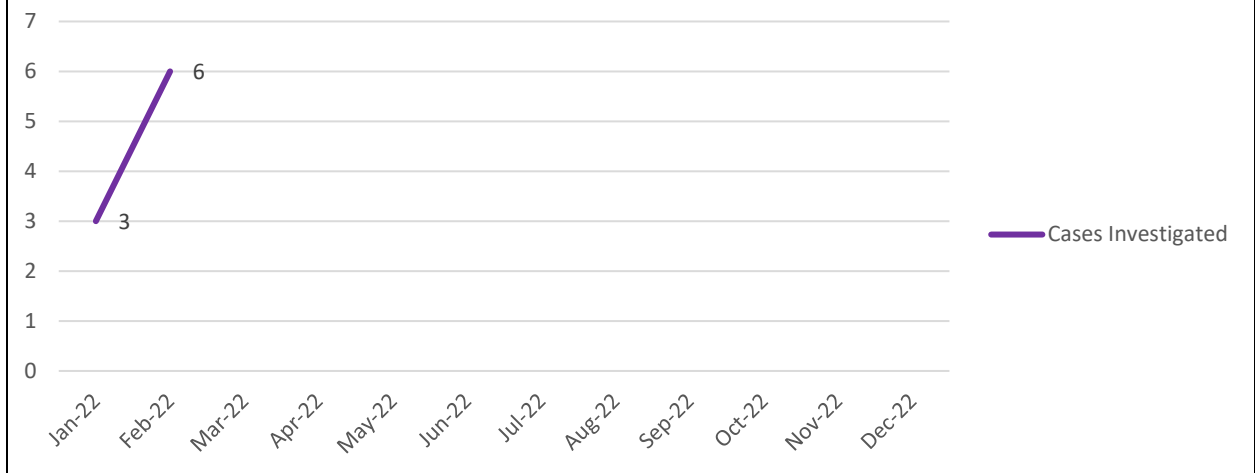
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<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Church on Fire Ministries</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	Put Waste in the Right Place
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$10,000.00
<b>Matching Funds Promised:</b>	\$25,000.00
<b>Estimated Waste Diverted:</b>	60-80 Tons
<b>Estimated People Reached:</b>	95,000
<b>Project Summary:</b>	Grant funds will be used to transport and install a donated walk-in refrigerator and freezer to store rescued surplus food that will be distributed through the organization's food pantry. Matching funds will cover cost of permits, and in-kind donation of equipment and electrical upgrades.

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>MadTree Brewing</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	Make Beer, Not Waste Recycling Project!
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$8,802.00
<b>Matching Funds Promised:</b>	\$2,934.00
<b>Estimated Waste Diverted:</b>	0.84 Tons
<b>Estimated People Reached:</b>	137,000
<b>Project Summary:</b>	Grant funds 75% of the cost of a bailer for woven polypropylene bags to facilitate recycling through Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub. Matching funds will cover the other 25% of the cost of the bailer.

# **Attachment F**

## 2022 Hamilton County Environmental Enforcement Activity



### [2022 Complaints Received of Illegal Dumping \(click for interactive version\)](#)

