

History of Solid Waste Planning in Ohio

Structure, Roles, Responsibilities, and Purpose of the Clinton County SWMD



Executive Summary

Solid waste planning in Ohio began in response to serious landfill capacity and environmental concerns in the 1980s. House Bill 592 (1988) established Solid Waste Management Districts (SWMDs) to ensure responsible waste management, reduce landfill reliance, and promote recycling. The Clinton County SWMD develops and implements a locally adopted plan that meets state requirements while addressing the specific needs of our community.

A. Why Solid Waste Planning Began

- Groundwater contamination, methane migration, and limited landfill capacity created statewide concern.
- Increased out-of-state waste highlighted the need for coordinated long-term planning.
- House Bill 592 (1988) established Ohio's modern solid waste planning framework.
- Primary goal: reduce reliance on landfills and strengthen recycling efforts.

B. What House Bill 592 Requires

- Every county must participate in a Solid Waste Management District (SWMD).
- Each SWMD must prepare and implement a multi-year Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Plans must demonstrate recycling progress, disposal capacity, and financial stability.

C. Governance Structure – Roles and Responsibilities

- The Policy Committee serves as the planning and policy-setting body.
- The Board of Directors serves as the operational and implementation authority.
- Together, they ensure strategic direction and operational accountability.

Policy Committee sets the direction. The Board delivers the results.

POLICY COMMITTEE (Planning & Strategy)	BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Operations & Implementation)
<p>Primary Role: Writes the Plan and provides long-range policy direction</p> <p>Core Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develops and approves the Solid Waste Management Plan b. Sets long-term program direction c. Establishes funding structure and financial projections d. Determines authority for rules, facility ownership, and designations e. Focuses on policy, strategy, and fiscal sustainability 	<p>Primary Role: Implements the Plan and manages day-to-day operations</p> <p>Core Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implements programs and services in the approved Plan b. Oversees staff and daily operations c. Ratifies fees and executes contracts d. Adopts rules authorized in the Plan e. Conducts annual reviews to ensure compliance

D. Ohio EPA's Role

- Regulatory: Reviews and approves plans, ensures compliance with state law, and monitors implementation.
- Collaborative: Provides technical assistance, shares best practices, and administers recycling grant programs.

E. Clinton County SWMD Plan Update Timeline

- April 11, 2026 – Begin preparation of next Plan.
- July 11, 2027 – Draft Plan due to Ohio EPA.
- October 13, 2028 – Final Plan due to Ohio EPA.
- January 11, 2029 – Anticipated final approval.

F. Purpose of the Clinton County SWMD

- Develop and implement the legally required Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Provide recycling, waste reduction, and education programs.
- Ensure responsible waste infrastructure and long-term capacity.
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and protect public health.
- Support Ohio's environmental and sustainability goals.