

#0633

April 1996

# Local Solid Waste Management Planning

House Bill 592 (H.B. 592), a comprehensive revision to Ohio's 1967 solid waste law, became effective in 1988. One of the requirements of the law was that single or joint county solid waste management districts be formed. Currently, there are 52 districts incorporated in all Ohio counties.

Solid waste includes but is not limited to: garbage, tires, combustible and non-combustible material, street dirt, and debris. Solid waste does not include any material that is an infectious waste or a hazardous waste.

## Q. What are the requirements of H.B. 592 that affect local planning?

**A.** The requirements of H.B. 592 and its subsequent revisions include:

- Boards of county commissioners must establish single or joint county solid waste management districts by March 24, 1989. Fifty-two districts now have been formed.
- District policy committees must prepare, adopt and submit a solid waste management plan to Ohio

EPA. The plan must provide for the safe and sanitary management of solid wastes generated within the district for a minimum of 10 years. (See the chart below for disposal data for 1990-94.)

- Solid waste disposal facilities must meet best available technology (BAT) standards and owners must provide proof of financial responsibility.
- All existing sites have to meet current regulations.

## Q. What are the requirements for a district plan?

**A.** Each district must develop a 10-year plan to manage solid waste that includes:

- An inventory of existing facilities;
- An estimate of waste generated and disposed of in the district;
- A projection of future facilities needed and their costs;
- A schedule to implement the plan;

• Strategies to meet recycling goals: 25 percent for residential/commercial waste and 50 percent for industrial waste, or programs that provide adequate service to residents and businesses in the district;

• Strategies to reduce the amount of waste generated at the source;

• Strategies to manage restricted waste such as yard waste, lead acid batteries and tires; and

• A strategy for household hazardous waste management.

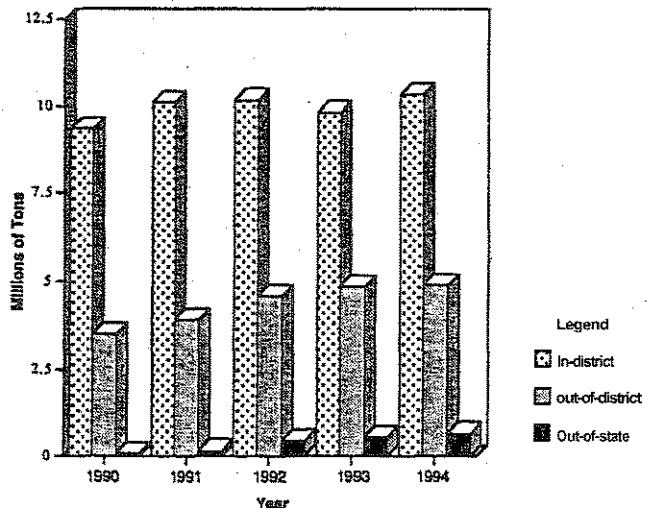
District plans must be updated every three years.

## Q. What steps are involved in the approval process for a district plan?

**A.** The following 11 steps are a brief overview of the approval process for a district plan:

1. The district prepares a draft plan.
2. The district receives Ohio EPA's advisory opinion on the draft plan.
3. The district revises the plan, as appropriate, based on Ohio EPA's comments.

Where Did SWMDs Dispose of Their Waste?



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4. A 30day public comment period follows during which a public hearing is held.

5. The plan is revised as appropriate.

6. The plan is adopted by the district policy committee and sent to counties, cities and townships for review and approval.

7. H.B. 592 requires local plan approval by:

• Each board of county commissioners in the district;

• The largest municipality in each county; and

• City councils and township trustees representing at least 60 percent of the districts population.

6. Once the plan is approved, it is declared to be ratified by the district policy committee.

9. The plan is submitted to Ohio EPA for review. The Ohio EPA director either approves or disapproves it within 90 days.

10. If the plan is disapproved, the district has 90 days to revise, re-ratify and resubmit a plan. The district may request a 60day extension.

11. If the district plan has not been approved within 18 months of the draft plan due date, the director shall:

• Issue an order terminating district fee collection; and

• Prepare a plan for the district.

**Q. What happens if the district plan has not been approved within 18 months of the draft plan due date?**

**A.** Ohio EPA prepares a plan for the district. The Ohio EPA planning process for preparing district plans includes the following steps:

1. Prepare a written request for district information that includes:

• Baseline waste generation data;

• Survey data of industries, haulers and recyclers.

• Master copy of district plan.

2. Initiate a data review and plan drafting process.

3. Hold a public information session in the district.

4. Send out Ohio EPA plan for 30-day public comment period to:

• Public libraries

• County commissioners and district offices

• Largest municipalities

• Health districts

5. Meet with the district to present the Ohio EPA plan.

6. Hold a public hearing to present the plan and obtain public comment.

7. Revise the plan based upon public comment.

8. Issue Directors Findings & Orders ordering district implementation of the plan.

9. The district implements the plan as ordered. Ohio EPA monitors the plan implementation with enforcement oversight.

10. The policy committee\* reports annually to the board of county commissioners. The district reports annually to Ohio EPA.

12. The district may submit a plan for approval at the three year update.

11. If the district plan has not been approved within months of the draft plan due date, the director shall:

• Issue an order terminating district fee collection; and

• Prepare a plan for the district.

For more information about local solid waste management planning, contact your county commissioners' office. Look under the county government section in your local phone directory.

For more information about solid waste planning in the state of Ohio, contact:

OhioEPA  
Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio  
43216-1049  
(614) 644-2621

For additional fact sheets about the 1995 Revised State Solid Waste Management Plan or statewide solid waste planning, contact:

Ohio EPA  
Public Interest Center  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio  
43216-1049  
(614) 644-2160

\*Unless abolished by the board of county commissioners within 30 days of an order by the director implement the plan.