

**HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2022**

**3:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**1. Introduction/Opening Comments**

**2. Clerk's Report**

- a. Approval of Minutes –September 21, 2022 – Attachment A

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

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

**5. Policy Items for Discussion**

- a. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update
  - i. Tier Two- Out of District fee increase
  - ii. Aspirational Diversion Goal
  - iii. Draft Organics Diversion Plan – Attachment C

- b. Public Member

**6. Informational Items**

- a. Third Quarter Performance Measures – Attachment D
- b. Environmental Enforcement Program – Attachment E
- c. Household Hazardous Products (HHP) Program Update

**7. Upcoming R3Source Meetings**

The next scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be a meeting on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219**. Zoom will also be available for persons, other than the Policy Committee, who would like to attend virtually.

**8. Adjournment (Target Time - 4:30 p.m.)**

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

**DATE:** November 10, 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, November 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in person and available to the public in person or virtually using Zoom.

*Policy Committee information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) is available on R3Source's website at <https://hamiltoncountyr3source.org/357/Policy-Committee>.*

**2. Clerk's Report**

**A. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the September 21, 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. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update**

- Tier Two- Out of District fee increase: R3Source's Solid Waste Consultant for the Plan Update will present findings of her research.
- Aspirational Diversion Goal: Described at the end of Chapter One of the Draft Plan Update, the current aspirational goal is to increase the overall diversion rate by one percentage point each year. Staff will give a brief presentation on this goal.
- Draft Organics Diversion Plan: Attachment C provides a draft plan for increasing programming to decrease organics entering the landfill.

**B. Public Member**

The current public member, Mr. Bob Gedert's term will end in January of 2023.

***Staff recommendation:*** Staff recommends forming an interview subcommittee comprised of two statutory policy committee members.

**6. Informational Items**

**A. Third Quarter Performance Measures**

Attachment D summarizes the third quarter performance measures.

**B. Environmental Enforcement Program**

Attachment E shows activity of the deputy through October 2022.

**C. Household Hazardous Products (HHP) Program Update**

Staff will provide a brief update on the 2022 HHP event and plan for 2023.

**7. Upcoming R3Source Meetings**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 3 p.m.** This meeting will be held in person at 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219, first floor. Zoom will also be available for persons, other than the Policy Committee, who would like to attend virtually.

**8. Adjournment (Target Time: 4:30 p.m.)**

# **Attachment A**

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

**DATE:** September 21, 2022

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Hamilton County Environmental Services  
250 William Howard Taft Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

[Virtual meeting recording can be viewed here.](#)

**PRESENT:** **Policy Committee Members**  
Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative  
Denise Driehaus, County Commissioner, Chair  
Bob Gedert, Public Member  
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Representative  
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative  
Domonique Peebles, General Interest Member  
Matt Wahlert, Township Representative

**Staff**

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager  
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist  
Mary Copenbaker, Assistant Manager  
Ashley Dove, Fiscal Analyst  
Elise Erhart, Outreach Specialist  
Brad Johnson, Director  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager  
Mike Kramer, Assistant Director  
Joy Landry, Communications Specialist  
Cher Mohring, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

**Others in Attendance**

Michelle Ackenhausen, Ohio EPA  
Stephanie Bradford, Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub  
Chet Chaney, Ohio EPA  
Nee Fong Chin, Prosecutor's Office  
Sally Dannemiller, Sierra Club – Miami Group  
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke  
Ruth Hardy  
Marie Kocoshis, League of Women Voters  
Gerri Kraus, Public  
Jennifer Wright Linz  
Karen Luken, EESI  
Tim Mara, Oxbow  
Lori McMullin  
Colleen McSwiggin, Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub

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Rich McVay  
Jeanne Nightingale  
Jim O'Reilly, Individual  
Owner  
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
Kevin Tighe, Hamilton County  
Declan Tom, Cincinnati CM Jeffreys  
Monica Windholtz, Cincinnati CM Owens  
Lisa Wynn, Ditch the Dump  
Molly Yeager, Rumpke

**1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING COMMENTS**

Ms. Driehaus called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 minutes. Mr. Kesterman moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Mr. Wahlert seconded. Mr. Gedert and Ms. Magness recused themselves from the vote. Everyone else in favor and the minutes were approved as corrected.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nine public comments were given.

**4. REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS**

Ms. Balz gave a summary of the revenue report.

Mr. Gedert discussed out-of-district waste being between 54 and 57 percent since January and in January did note that this is something that should be looked at in the Plan Update since the majority of revenue is coming from out-of-district waste.

Ms. Magness stated that we received a memo regarding the conflict of interest and asked when the Committee was going to discuss that. Ms. Driehaus stated that it could be discussed at the end of the meeting.

**5. POLICY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

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

- i. Timeline – Ms. Balz gave a presentation on the Plan Update timeline. Ms. Balz showed two timelines and explained the differences and asked the Committee to recommend one to staff. Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the preferred Plan Update timeline. Mr. Wahlert moved; Mr. Kesterman seconded. All in favor and the motion was approved.
- ii. Universal Waste, Recycling, and Composting – Mr. Gedert summarized this and the Fee Increase. After discussion, it was decided to wait for the Prosecutor's opinion to see if the Universal Waste, Recycling, and Composting was under the authority of the Policy Committee and/or the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Driehaus suggested to wait for the opinion and if the opinion says that the Policy Committee and the Board of County Commissioners does have authority, then authorize Ms. Balz to follow-up on behalf of the Policy Committee and ask those follow-up questions of 1) Is there any interest from the Sheriff to enforce this and 2) Would the Prosecutor's office prosecute offenders.

Mr. Kesterman stated that if it comes back that we can adopt a policy, he would be curious if other communities have experienced what Ms. Magness has shared. The City of Cincinnati, which does have universal trash collection, has seen an increase in open dumping.

Ms. Luken stated that this is a valid point and that 80 percent of the open dumping and litter complaints that Environmental Enforcement receives, comes from the City of Cincinnati who has universal trash collection. There needs to be more analysis before motions are drawn up.

A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Luken introduced herself and stated that she does not work for Rumpke and that she works all over the world designing recycling programs, designing composting programs, and does work with World Bank as Ms. Hardy brought up.

Ms. Luken gave an overview of the planning process.

Ms. Luken stated that she is happy to say that OEPA commends the District for its efforts to thoroughly evaluate its programming through the analysis in Appendix H.

Ms. Luken stated that there was quite a bit of comment about organics and food waste and the Plan has extensive conversation about developing the public/private partnership for a centralized composting facility. The Plan also talks about helping community composting over the next five years which OEPA also complimented the District.

OEPA also complemented the District with working with townships on moving from subscription recycling to contract. A big difference in what Ms. Luken is hearing today is not taking a mandated required approach with the townships with collection.

Ms. Luken stated that she wanted to share a little bit because what she was hearing today was definitely did not reflect the work of Ms. Balz's team and the inclusion of the public throughout this process.

iii. Fee Increase

Mr. Gedert stated that the fee structure proposal is to increase the Tier II, out-of-district but in-state fee structure from two dollars to four dollars.

Mr. Gedert stated that there were a couple of ways to approach this and summarized Attachment C in the Policy Packet.

Mr. Gedert stated that the purpose of raising the out-of-district fee is based on current disposal records, more than 52% of the waste disposed in the District is from Tier 2 Out of District waste flows (May 2022 Tipping Fee Report). As the District engages in waste reduction and diversion activities to reduce reliance on landfilling, the capacity of the local landfill is greatly reduced due to out-of-district waste flows into the County. The current capacity of the Rumpke landfill is 23 years (noted in Appendix M). To protect landfill capacity for Hamilton County residents, this extra fee on Tier Two is intended to create an incentive to reduce waste flows from out of district.

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There is the intent NOT to raise Tier 1 and Tier 3 fees, as there is a requirement to ratify this Plan through the local townships and municipalities. We do not wish to raise the tax load on local communities within Hamilton County.

Mr. Gedert stated that the second purpose is that the extra revenues from this \$2/ton increase on Tier Two is estimated to raise \$2.48 million annually.

Ms. Magness stated that the City of Cincinnati Administration supports this, and several council members are on board with this. We have the lowest landfill costs there are around the United States and feels that Hamilton County has become the dumping ground.

Mr. Kesterman stated that the Plan Update has to be ratified by the communities and he wondered if staff has done any work with the entirety of the 48 communities to know if we would get 24 to say that they would support it.

Mr. Kesterman stated he would challenge that a two dollar jump, even though this is being proposed in 2024, is a huge one-time increase. If this community at some point entertains it, he would be more palatable to \$0.50 over a certain number of years.

Mr. Kesterman stated he would like to see the fee increase be analyzed to bring feedback to the Committee which then can set the policy after the administrative staff have shared their opinions.

Ms. Magness stated that she did not think the City would approve it without the fee increase.

Ms. Luken stated that as your consultant, we need to look at other districts that are sitting on a border of another state to see if they raised their fees, what happened to waste flows. Because what was not mentioned, in a worst case scenario, out-of-district Ohio waste goes to Kentucky or Indiana and the Kentucky or Indiana waste comes to Rumpke which would not save any landfill space and now, instead of two dollars a ton, the district is only getting one dollar per ton.

Ms. Luken stated that a sensitivity analysis is needed of how these waste flows are affected before raising fees.

Ms. Magness stated that the City is more interested in a staggered increase. Mr. Gedert stated that he favors the \$0.50 over four years. Mr. Kesterman stated that it is important to have the City and all other communities to agree.

Mr. Gedert stated that the ratification is percentage of population; not count of communities.

Mr. Gedert stated that he recognizes there is not votes to support this concept at this moment. He would like the Committee's consideration on this topic at a future meeting.

Mr. Gedert stated that he would like a motion that is separate and distinctly different than what was originally proposed in Attachment C of the Policy Committee Packet.

Mr. Gedert moved that the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee request District staff to contract for a financial analysis and a programmatic analysis on what would happen if Tier II fees were changed under the following scenarios:

- Tier II fee raised two dollars effective January 1, 2024



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- Tier II fee raised 1 dollar effective January 1, 2024 and one dollar effective January 1, 2025
- Tier II fee raised \$0.50 effective January 1, 2024 and each of the following three years for a total of two dollars.

Furthermore, the report due back to the Policy Committee and its January 2023 meeting for discussion.

Mr. Gedert stated that the reason he picked that date was because it fits in with the timeline.

Ms. Driehaus stated she would like to hear from staff on that timeline. Ms. Balz stated that she would lean on Ms. Luken since she is our contractor for the Plan Update.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he did not understand the study Mr. Gedert is talking about and what the scope of programmatic is because it so broad and general. Mr. Gedert asked Ms. Luken if she understood. Ms. Luken stated that she would approach it differently and gave a short summary.

A brief discussion ensued about waste flows.

Mr. Gedert restated his motion to say that he moved that the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee request District staff to contract for financial analysis and a programmatic analysis on what would happen if Tier II fees were changed for saving landfill space. In addition to that we would like ideas as to how to divert waste and look at composting. Furthermore, the report is due back to the Policy Committee at its March 2023 meeting for discussion.

Mr. Wahlert seconded. All in favor and the motion was approved.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Mr. Gedert remaining on the Policy Committee for another term.

**b. 2023 Waste Characterization Study**

Ms. Balz stated that it has been five years since our last residential waste sort with the last one being in 2018 so we would be on schedule if we do it every five years in 2023. Ms. Balz stated that this was included on the agenda because there have been other discussions on how to spend carry-over dollars, but this is timely for the budget office if we are able to add \$150,000 into our budget.

Ms. Balz stated that she believes the waste sort would be very helpful to support the work that we are doing to try to see where we are at, if we reduced certain waste streams, and identify possible new waste streams. There are many opportunities coming our way to work with Ohio State University on food waste and the Recycling Partnership on curbside.

Ms. Balz stated it is good timing also to do some of these waste audits. Staff would like to look at innovative ways and not just do the same old thing and gave examples.

Ms. Balz stated that the staff recommendation is to set aside \$150,000 for the 2023 budget for waste characterization studies.

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Mr. Gedert agreed and suggested a recycling characterization study as well for the material going to the MRF and discussed the reasons why. Ms. Balz stated that something similar was done in 2019 and worked with the City and twelve other communities.

The Committee discussed conducting another recycling characterization study and Ms. Driehaus suggested altering the amount staff requested not to exceed \$225,000 to include both studies.

Ms. Driehaus moved that staff conducts waste characterization study and incorporates recycling into that study at a cost not to exceed \$225,000. Mr. Kesterman seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Ms. Balz stated that the Committee could accept these as written in the Manager's Memo but did want to mention that R3Source has a household hazardous products collection event coming up which will be a two-day event. Staff expanded it to try and accommodate more residents.

The event dates are Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22, 2022.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Environmental Enforcement Program.

Conflict of Interest:

Ms. Magness discussed the lack of a legal opinion regarding the conflict of interest for Mr. DiPuccio. Ms. Magness moved that Ms. Balz request an opinion related to Mr. DiPuccio's appointment, waive privilege once it is received and then the Policy Committee receives access to it. Mr. Pebbles seconded. Mr. DiPuccio abstained. All else in favor and the motion was approved.

**7. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next Policy Committee meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

**8. ADJOURNMENT (Target Time – 4:30 p.m.)**

Mr. Kesterman moved adjournment. Mr. Wahlert seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 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	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	0.46	0.00	0.00		0.46	\$0.46			
Aug	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	\$0.00		0.46	\$0.46
Oct					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.46</b>		<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.46</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	70,758.58	84,147.41	10,016.66		164,922.65	\$249,070.06			
Mar	86,351.37	113,479.97	10,995.56		210,826.90	\$324,306.87		551,823.24	\$840,391.53
Apr	79,344.07	111,723.47	9,442.60		200,510.14	\$312,233.61			
May	90,639.79	120,045.36	10,409.13		221,094.28	\$341,139.64			
Jun	94,501.93	127,369.22	9,833.79		231,704.94	\$359,074.16		653,309.36	\$1,012,447.41
Jul	82,165.97	116,851.95	8,517.00		207,534.92	\$324,386.87			
Aug	85,359.53	117,057.61	12,103.19		214,520.33	\$331,577.94			
Sep	78,644.43	102,577.76	9,003.09		190,225.28	\$292,803.04		612,280.53	\$948,767.85
Oct					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>743,282.17</b>	<b>984,193.66</b>	<b>89,937.30</b>		<b>1,817,413.13</b>	<b>\$2,801,606.79</b>		<b>1,817,413.13</b>	<b>\$2,801,606.79</b>
<b>Grand Ttl</b>	<b>743,282.63</b>	<b>984,193.66</b>	<b>89,937.30</b>		<b>1,817,413.59</b>	<b>\$2,801,607.25</b>		<b>1,817,413.59</b>	<b>\$2,801,607.25</b>
<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Tier 3</i>						
<i>tonnage</i>	40.90%	54.15%	4.95%						
<i>dollars</i>	26.53%	70.26%	3.21%						

### 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			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					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					0.00	\$0.00			
Nov					0.00	\$0.00			
Dec					0.00	\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>752,759.94</b>	<b>906,084.57</b>	<b>79,524.90</b>		<b>1,738,369.41</b>	<b>\$2,644,453.98</b>		<b>1,738,369.41</b>	<b>\$2,644,453.98</b>
<b>Grand Ttl</b>	<b>752,760.09</b>	<b>906,084.57</b>	<b>79,524.90</b>		<b>1,738,369.56</b>	<b>\$2,644,454.13</b>		<b>1,738,369.56</b>	<b>\$2,644,454.13</b>
<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>Tier 3</i>						
<i>tonnage</i>	43.30%	52.12%	4.57%						
<i>dollars</i>	28.47%	68.53%	3.01%						

# **Attachment C**

# Hamilton County Organics Diversion Plan (Draft)

**Organics:** Organic materials include food waste, yard trimmings, soiled paper, and wood waste and they make up approximately 40 to 45% of the material landfilled in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

## Yard Trimmings Programs

Since the start of R3Source, Hamilton County has promoted and encourage yard trimmings composting. This document primarily focuses on reducing wasted food, rescuing food, and composting food scraps. The composting programs often work in conjunction with yard trimmings composting.

- R3Source budgets roughly \$320,000 per year for the three Yard Trimmings Drop-Off locations. These locations only accept Yard Trimmings and not food scraps. R3Source will go out to bid for this program in 2023 for new contracts in 2024. This is the ideal time to make changes to this program.
- R3Source's largest budgeted program, the Residential Recycling Incentive, also encourages communities to collect and compost yard trimmings by including yard trimmings in the program (since 2018).
- R3Source also provides grant funding to improve yard trimmings infrastructure, particularly to communities.

## Outreach Priority: Food

R3Source has recognized food as the priority waste stream. The Waste Composition Analysis in Appendix H of the Draft 2024 Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update (2024 Plan Update) identified food as the most predominant single material category in both residential and business waste landfilled. In addition, the Processing Capacity Analysis in Appendix H of the 2024 Plan Update revealed processing capacity for this material as the largest area for improvement within Hamilton County. Given that one in five Hamilton County residents is food insecure<sup>2</sup> and food waste in the landfill can create greenhouse gas emissions, focusing on reducing wasted food can have a major impact socially and environmentally.

Strategies to address reducing wasted food will need to focus on multiple audiences to have a broad impact. R3Source plans to regularly evaluate strategies and adapt based on successes and available technology. R3Source continues to maintain a Food Waste Diversion Coordinator on staff to coordinate these efforts.

## Food Waste Gap Analysis and Solutions

Many solid waste planning organizations are transitioning from focusing on end-of-life management for food waste (i.e., composting) to a sustainable materials management (SMM) philosophy. SMM is an approach to using and reusing materials most productively throughout their entire lifecycle. It represents a change in how our society thinks about using natural resources and environmental protection<sup>3</sup>.

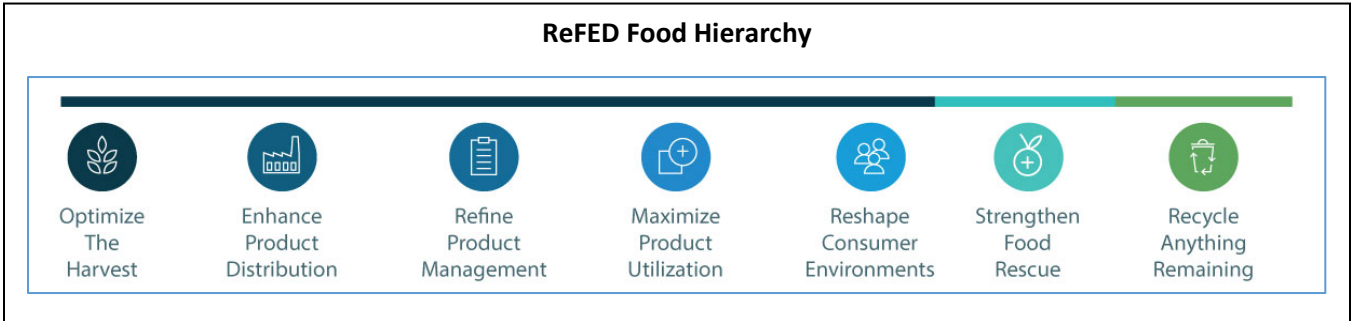
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials#Landfilling>

<sup>2</sup> Feeding America

<sup>3</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency

ReFED is a national organization that many consider the leader in applying SMM principles of food waste management. ReFED is a non-profit dedicated to ending food loss and waste across the United States by advancing data-driven solutions. The Refed Food Hierarchy figure below shows the strategic planning document created by ReFED outlining specific action items to meet a food waste diversion goal of 50% by 2030.



R3Source already applies much of the SMM concept toward food management through its grants and technical assistance programs, especially in strengthening food rescue. However, as discussed below, R3Source has limited influence on harvesting, distributing, managing food product inventory, or using food. Additionally, there continue to be numerous barriers even in the areas where R3Source has the most significant opportunities to reduce food waste.

**R3Source Action Items to Address ReFED Action Steps**

R3Source has the most significant opportunity to influence activities to reshape consumer environments, strengthen food rescue, and recycle anything remaining. The following table lists action items and programs that align with these three opportunities to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Action Items		
Reshape Consumer Environments	Strengthen Food Rescue	Recycle Anything Remaining
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential Wasted Food Stops with Us campaign</li> <li>• Lunch and Learn presentations</li> <li>• Special events</li> <li>• Guest Chef presentations</li> <li>• Promote school food share tables</li> <li>• Field Trips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants for food rescue infrastructure</li> <li>• Technical support</li> <li>• Partner with Health Departments to promote safe food donation to restaurants</li> <li>• Waste audits for businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support to increase business participation</li> <li>• Support small-scale composting</li> <li>• Encourage backyard composting for residents</li> <li>• Develop a Public-Private partnership to establish a larger facility</li> <li>• Grants for composting infrastructure</li> </ul>

**1. Reshape Consumer Environments**

**Purpose/Goal:** To change residential behavior around reducing wasted food. Identified behaviors include shopping with a grocery list, inventorying the pantry and refrigerator before shopping, storing food properly to optimize useable life, and consuming leftovers.



# WASTED FOOD STOPS WITH US.

R3Source's current campaign website is <https://www.wastedfoodstopswithus.org/>

**Target Audience:** Current audience are Hamilton County residents with young families who are the primary grocery shopper and/or cook in the home. Young families were identified as they create the most food waste. Secondary audience are all Hamilton County residents who grocery shop and prepare food.

**Strategy Development and Implementation:** R3Source will use current data gathered by a research consultant and other data available from similar research to identify the best audience and strategies for reducing waste. The Food Waste Diversion Coordinator will work closely with Communications staff to identify barriers to behavior change and develop strategies to overcome those barriers. R3Source will hire outside consultants and advertising firms as needed for campaign material and video development and advertising purchasing.

Lunch and Learn presentations will be offered virtually and in person every other month starting in 2023. Topics for 2023 include:

- February: Virtual cooking class
- April: Shop, store, serve, share- tips and tricks for your kitchen
- June: Composting
- August: How to teach students about food waste and recovery
- October: Zero waste shopping
- December: Food waste and hunger



*Chef Anthony Jordan presents a cooking demonstration during the 2022 Hamilton County Fair*

Special events will target major existing events and include appropriate outreach tailored to the event. This could range from a featured chef doing a wasted food related cooking demonstration to a static display with pertinent information. Bringing the message to where people have already gathered will broaden the audience and impact.

Work with schools to set up food share tables for appropriate items that one student does not want to eat to set aside for another hungry student. School food share tables teach students that food is a valuable resource and not garbage.

Continue field trip opportunities to Gorman Farm and La Soupe to educate students on food waste reduction and food rescue.

**Determining Success:** R3Source will determine success using a few quantitative and qualitative measures. R3Source will gather quantitative data using waste sorts either at the landfill or the curb to measure success over time. For schools, cafeteria waste audits before and after the implementation of a school food share table. R3Source will also look at statistics from the campaign such as website view and number of individuals watching the videos. Finally, R3Source has partnered with the University of Cincinnati and outside firms to measure the amount of awareness and self-reported behavior change over time. The ultimate measure of success will be less overall waste entering landfills from residents.

## 2. Supporting Food Rescue Infrastructure

**Purpose/Goal:** Support existing and development of new infrastructure as needed for recovering edible food and getting it to those in need.

**Target Audience:** Food pantries, food rescue operations, venues creating edible food that is currently wasted (e.g., wedding venues, restaurants, institutional kitchens).

**Strategy Development and Implementation:** Food Waste Diversion Coordinator will work with stakeholders on a regular basis to receive their input on needs, barriers, and ideas where R3Source could support. Large new programs and grants will be presented to the Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy Committee before approval.

Technical support includes promoting share tables at schools and providing scales and other technology needed for food rescue to a variety of organizations.



*CAIN (Churches Active in Northside) staff show off the new refrigeration allowing them to rescue more food*

R3Source will continue to partner with all health departments in Hamilton County to publish a concise [pamphlet](#) encouraging restaurants and other food generating businesses to safely donate usable food.

Food rescue organizations will continue to be eligible to apply for grants to improve and establish food rescue infrastructure in Hamilton County. These grants in the past have ranged from refrigeration (such as the CAIN refrigeration pictured above) to app development to promoting new programs.

R3Source offers both in-house and contractor led waste audit to businesses that make have excess food. These audits identify opportunities to reduce waste but also opportunities to set aside edible food for donation.

**Determining Success:** Increase in amount of food rescues as measured by our annual commercial survey. Success can also be measured by number of organizations receiving technical assistance and grants.

### 3. Recycle Anything Remaining

**Purpose/Goal:** Divert food scraps that cannot be reduced or rescued from the landfill to composting, anaerobic digestion, or other food scrap processing facilities.

**Target Audience:** Hamilton County businesses, schools and residents; small-scale composting operators; potential large-scale composting and anaerobic digestion operators.

#### **Strategy Development and Implementation:**

- Through the Let's Stop Waste program, R3Source will provide technical support to increase business and school participation. This includes site visits, interior collection containers, and coordination with providers.
- Provide technical support to 48 Hamilton County communities, encouraging communities to adopt food scrap drop off locations and supporting organics collection through the RRI.
- Support small-scale composting with grants, educational opportunities, and technical support. Support current food scrap drop-off locations on website and through paid advertising. Develop a Community Compost Marketing Guide. Offer a small-scale community composting refresher training to build local knowledge.
- Develop a Public-Private partnership to establish a larger facility. Work with local interested operators and organizations like Hamilton County Development Corporation to establish partnership.
  1. Adopt a Siting Strategy for potential Hamilton County-owned composting facility.
  2. Conduct a study for appropriate locations.
  3. If needed, purchase property and issue RFI or RFP to find potential operating partners.
- Continue to support backyard composting with annual seminar series and a composting blog.
- Consider opportunities to adapt the Yard Trimmings Drop-Off program.

**Determining Success:** Increase in amount of food composted as measured by our annual commercial survey. Success can also be measured by number of organizations receiving technical assistance and grants as well as the number of participants in trainings.

## **Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2024-2038**

*Reference sections for further reading*

**Compost Facilities (Chapter 4: page 19)**

**Residential/Business Waste Composition Analysis (Appendix H: Page H-24)**

**Food Scrap Processing Capacity (Appendix H: page H-38)**

**Appendix I, Conclusions, Actions and Priorities (page I-1)**

**Appendix L, Outreach and Marketing Analysis (page L-7)**

DRAFT

# **Attachment D**

**2022 Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District  
3rd Quarter Results**

	Performance Measure		3rd Quarter Results		Year to Date Results	
<b>Direct Service Programs</b>						
Yard Trimmings Drop-off	Drop-off visits	13,000	Drop-off visits	4,960	Drop-off visits	11,154
	Tons diverted from landfill	2,000	Tons diverted from landfill	807	Tons diverted from landfill	1,676
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program	Households participating	1,600	Households participating	0	Households participating	0
Tire Clean-ups (KCB and OEPA grants)	Tires collected	5,500	Tires collected	412	Tires collected	4,488
	Participating communities	15	Participating communities	2	Participating communities	16
Event Recycling	Events using District containers	20	Events using District containers	7	Events using District containers	18
	Residents reached	25,000	Residents reached	20,750	Residents reached	51,420
Illegal Dumping Enforcement Program	Citations	80	Citations	39	Citations	77
	Cases Investigated	100	Cases Investigated	46	Cases Investigated	89
Compost Bin Sale (6/4/22)	Bins sold	500	Bins sold	5	Bins sold	105

**Grant Programs**

Residential Recycling Incentive Program	Provide funding to communities based on tons recycled.	N/A				
Waste Reduction Innovation Grant	Applications received	10	Applications received	2	Applications received	6
Infrastructure Grant	Applications received	5	Applications received	0	Applications received	3
Smart Kitchen Initiative	Implement technology or technical assistance in commercial kitchen	5	Kitchens implemented	2	Kitchens implemented	2
Market Development Grants	Tons of manufacturing capacity added		Tons of manufacturing capacity added	0	Tons of manufacturing capacity added	0
	Applicants assisted	1	Applicants assisted	0	Applicants assisted	0
Community Development Grant	Applicants Assisted	1	Applicants assisted	0	Applicants assisted	0

**Technical Assistance**

Pollution Prevention Internships	Interns Placed	2	Interns Placed	0	Interns Placed	2
General Technical Assistance	Website inquiries	340	Website inquiries	46	Website inquiries	126
	Hotline calls received	4,000	Hotline calls received	460	Hotline calls received	1653
Let's Stop Waste	Facilities Assisted	100	Total Facilities Assisted	17	Total Facilities Assisted	48
	Schools		Schools	7	Schools	9
	Office/Retail/Institutions		Office/Retail/Institutions	10	Office/Retail/Institutions	39
	Bars/Restaurants		Bars/Restaurants	0	Bars/Restaurants	0
	Multi-Families		Multi-Families	0	Multi-Families	0
	People Reached	20,000	People Reached	6,188	People Reached	8,678
513Green Certification	Organizations Certified	10	Organizations Certified	2	Organizations Certified	7
Waste Audit	Organizations Audited	3	Organizations Audited	0	Organizations Audited	5
Small Scale Community Composting Training	Implement phase two and three of program	N/A				0

**Outreach and Awareness**

Social Media	Social media followers	6,500	Social media followers	6,185	Social media followers	6,185
	Compost blog page views	50,000	Compost blog page views	8,668	Compost blog page views	35,956
TAKE Back Your Home	Unique page views	850	Unique page views	163	Unique page views	601
General Public Outreach & Marketing	Unique visitors to website	190,000	Unique visitors to website	26,577	Unique visitors to website	98,408
Residential Campaign Reduce/Reuse/Recycle	Develop behavior change marketing campaign		Campaign in development			0
Wasted Food Reduction Campaign - Develop behavior change marketing campaign	Interactions	15,000	Interactions	161,182	Interactions	3,171,910
	Website views	50,000	Website views	508	Website views	14,691
	Partners pledged	8	Partners pledged	0	Partners pledged	3
Public Events	People reached	520	People reached	139	People reached	447
	Events attended	8	Events attended	4	Events attended	11
School Based Programs	Assemblies and classroom	250	Assemblies and classroom	33	Assemblies and classroom	79
	Field trips	10	Field trips	2	Field trips	10
	School events	3	School Events	2	School Events	9
	Students and adults reached	11,200	Students and adults reached	1,575	Students and adults reached	3,128
Adult Seminars/Education	Residents reached	1,300	Residents reached	75	Residents reached	1,021

**2022 Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District  
3rd Quarter Results**

(seminars- presentations-all)	Presentations	30	Presentations	5	Presentations	29
Annual Awards Program	Implement awards program			0		0
Community Outreach	Target communities assisted	2	Target communities assisted	2	Target communities assisted	4
	General community meetings	10	General community meetings	4	General community meetings	14
Information Emails	Residents opening email	32,000	Residents opening email	8,485	Residents opening email	28,374
District Newsletter	Stakeholders reached	6,000	Stakeholders reached	1,942	Stakeholders reached	6,615
Wasted Food Event	Attendees	500	Attendees	300	Attendees	335

**Data Management/Reporting**

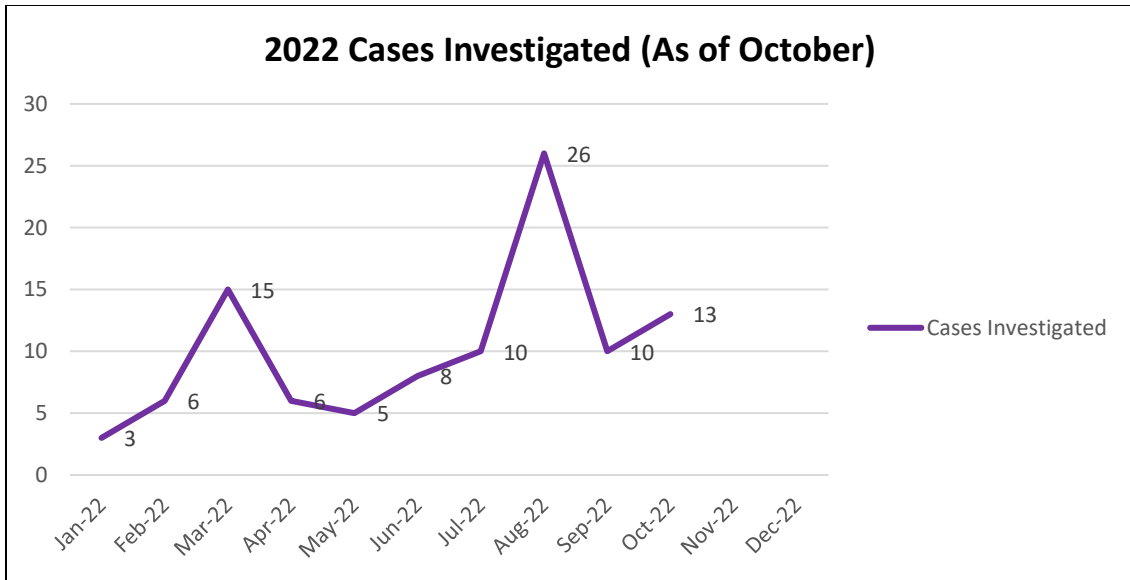
OEPA Annual District Report	Submit complete report to OEPA		no activity	
	Conduct commercial recycling survey		no activity	

**Regional and State Leadership**

OSWDO	Attend Quarterly Meetings	6	Meetings attended	1	Meetings attended	5
AOR	Meetings Attended	4	Meetings attended	3	Meetings attended	9
Regional Solid Waste Meetings	Meetings organized and attended	2	Meetings organized and attended	0	Meetings organized and attended	1
Great Lakes Food Matters Cohort	Meetings attended	6	Meetings attended	3	Meetings attended	11
	Strategies implemented	4	Strategies implemented	0	Strategies implemented	2

# **Attachment E**





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

