



Dear Ohio Business:

The Richland County Solid Waste Authority and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency invite you to participate in a statewide recycling survey. The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, and Ohio Chamber of Commerce support this survey initiative for the valuable data it yields about Ohio's recycling programs.

The purpose of this survey is to collect data on the amounts and types of materials commercial and industrial businesses recycled in Ohio in 2016. The Richland County Solid Waste Authority is required to document its recycling efforts in an annual report to Ohio EPA. The Authority uses the data it receives through surveys to complete that report. By submitting data, your business can help the Richland County Solid Waste Authority meet its reporting requirements. Your data will also help the Authority track its progress towards meeting local and state recycling goals.

Why is your business being surveyed?

Your business is in the Richland County Solid Waste Authority. The Authority facilitates recycling and reduction efforts for commercial and industrial businesses, institutions, residents, and schools. To identify the programs that make the most sense and determine whether programs are achieving intended results, the Richland County Solid Waste Authority needs to know what and how much material was recycled.

Your completed survey will help the Richland County Solid Waste Authority better understand recycling in the business community in Richland County. Submitting a completed survey also allows your business to connect directly with the Authority which may be able to assist your company with its recycling needs.

How do I participate in the survey?

You can print and fill out a hard copy or download a Microsoft Word fillable form from Ohio EPA's survey [webpage](#) – whichever is easier for you. Click on the arrow next to the county your business is in and select the correct survey for your business. When you are done, you can either mail or email the completed survey to the Richland County Solid Waste Authority. Instructions for completing and returning the survey are provided on the survey form.

What happens to my data?

The Richland County Solid Waste Authority will combine your data with data it receives from other businesses and submit the combined data in its annual report to Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA will use the data to calculate recycling rates for the Authority. The Authority's 2015 data is posted on Ohio EPA's [webpage](#) along with the survey forms. To see that data, click on "View Previous Year's Survey Results." Ohio EPA will also combine the data reported by all solid waste management districts to calculate a recycling rate for Ohio.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact Haley Rowe, the Richland County Solid Waste Authority's consultant, with any questions regarding the survey. Haley can be reached at 419-891-2222 x 186 or HRowe@manksmithgroup.com. For questions about Ohio EPA's survey webpage, please contact Ernie Stall. You can reach Ernie at ernest.stall@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 728-5356.

Please complete and return the survey to Haley Rowe by 3/1/2017.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Ken Bender