

Ohio EPA Celebrates 25 Years of Cleanups, Redevelopment of Old Industrial Properties around the State

A revitalization project in Cleveland's Flats East is among the properties to be returned to productive use as part of the 25-year history of Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program. The innovative program has benefitted communities across the state economically and environmentally by encouraging property owners to voluntarily clean up land for redevelopment.

More than 13,540 acres on 615 sites in 69 counties have been cleaned up since the Voluntary Action Program was created in September 1994.

"Through the Voluntary Action Program, Ohio is turning contaminated land into a cleaner, healthier foundation for our future," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "This program has helped ready properties across Ohio for redevelopment, making way for economic opportunities and job growth while also ensuring a safer environment for Ohioans."

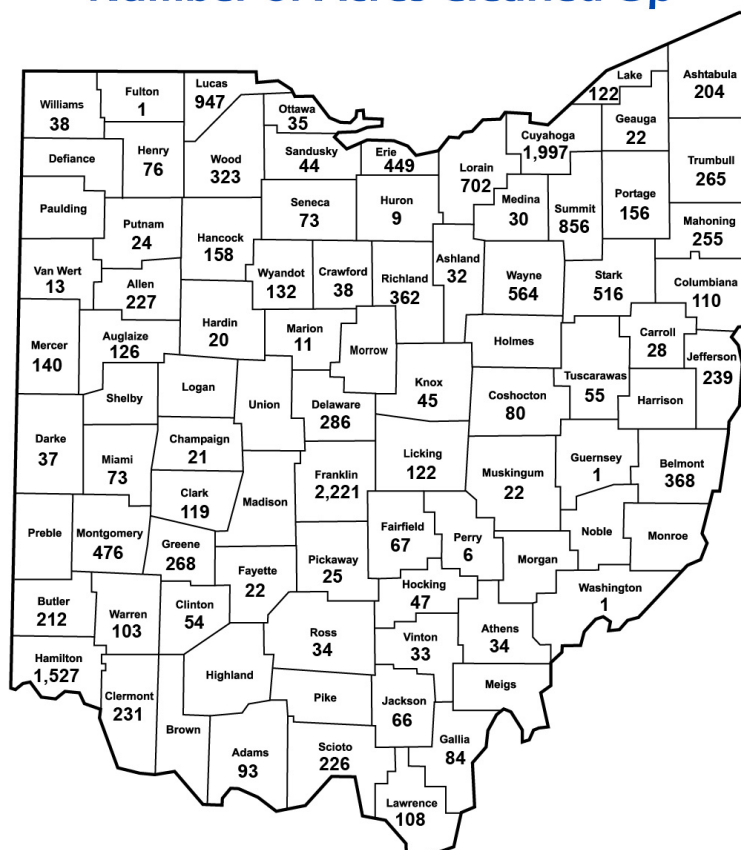
The Voluntary Action Program was created to cut through red tape that could stall redevelopment, providing property owners and communities a path to follow for remediating old industrial sites.

"For many years, the VAP has provided a flexible pathway for private entities to work in partnership with state and local government to clean up properties that would otherwise be left abandoned," said Ohio EPA Director Laurie A. Stevenson. "The VAP standards ensure properties are remediated to safe levels and the program has helped communities turn hundreds of sites back into productive use. VAP projects are wins for the environment and Ohio's economy."

The program fits properties of all sizes – from former gas stations to properties covering hundreds of acres where former steel mills and factories once were located. The program has opened old lands to new industrial and commercial enterprises as well as new housing and parkland in communities large and small.

The Voluntary Action Program and a handful of redeveloped former industrial sites around the state are highlighted in a 25th-anniversary video available through the website at epa.ohio.gov/derr/volunt/volunt.

Number of Acres Cleaned Up



Scrap Tire Management in Ohio — 26 Years and Counting

For more than two decades, Ohio EPA has been working diligently to address the problem of illegal scrap tire dumping in Ohio. In the late 1980s it was found that an estimated 47 percent of all scrap tires generated in the state were unaccounted for and presumably open dumped or otherwise improperly disposed. This was a huge problem, considering that Ohio citizens generate, on average, 11 million scrap tires per year.

Today, Ohio has a comprehensive regulatory framework for managing scrap tires that covers all aspects of scrap tire management including: transportation; collection; storage; recovery; disposal; beneficial use; remediation; and market development.

Health Threats

The drive to address scrap tires stems not only from the vast number generated, but also two main health threats associated with scrap tires; mosquitos and fires. Scrap tires provide an ideal breeding environment for mosquitos due to their circular shape that holds water and organic debris which provides nutrition for the larvae and insulating properties that can speed up mosquito egg hatching and larval growth. A bite from an infected mosquito can spread disease to humans and livestock. Scrap tires are also made of very combustible compounds. When burned, the average passenger car tire is estimated to produce more than two gallons of oil, in addition to run-off oil and air pollutants released during fires.

End Uses for Scrap Tires

Today, thanks to the regulations enacted by Ohio EPA, most scrap tires in Ohio are properly managed by the secondary tire market where they are graded for resale or processed by licensed recovery facilities into other useable products such as tire-derived aggregate, tire-derived fuel, and crumb rubber.

Scrap Tire Remediation

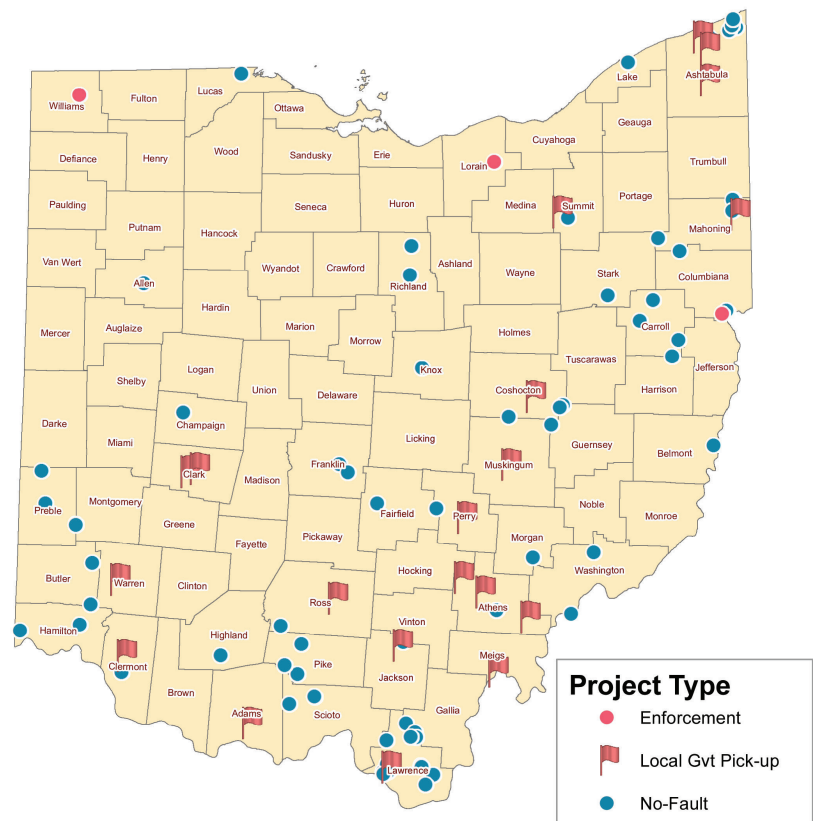
Since 1997, Ohio has also had a remediation program to address accumulations of scrap tires that pose a threat to human health and the environment. To date, more than 40 million scrap tires have been removed from disposal locations across the state.

Funding to Support Scrap Tire Initiatives

Since its inception, Ohio's scrap tire program has been funded by the scrap tire management fund which receives revenue based upon a fee assessed on all new tires sold at the wholesale level in the state. Currently the fee is \$1 per tire. Ohio EPA receives half of this fee which is then used to pay for expenses associated with maintaining the scrap tire regulatory program, conducting scrap tire removals, funding market development grants, and more recently, funding mosquito control and education and outreach grants. The remainder of the fee is transferred to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation Program.

In 2019, Ohio EPA provided more than \$3 million to address scrap tires in Ohio - either by financing cleanup and disposal of discarded tires, providing funding for development of recycling and reuse of scrap tires, or helping to ensure that communities could afford to properly implement and manage mosquito control programs to protect residents.

Fiscal Year 2019 Scrap Tire Cleanups



2019 State Revolving Loan Fund Awards



Award Amount

- \$0 - \$250K
- Between \$250K and \$500K
- Between \$500K and \$1 million
- Between \$1 and \$5 million
- Between \$5 and \$20 million
- Greater than \$20 million

Ohio EPA's state revolving funds, the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) and the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA), provide below market rate loan financing for public wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. Since these programs started, over \$10 billion in financing has been provided to Ohio communities for a wide variety of wastewater and water infrastructure projects across the state. This financing has helped improve water quality in Ohio while providing substantial savings to Ohio communities when compared to market rate loan financing.

2019 Awards by Month

Month	Water Pollution Control Loan Fund	Water Supply Revolving Loan Account
January	\$39.7M	\$5.6M
February	\$38.9M	\$5.4M
March	\$65.2M	\$5.7M
April	\$23.5M	\$19.8M
May	\$58.2M	\$2.2M
June	\$111.5M	\$10.6M
July	\$38.9M	\$8.7M
August	\$10.1M	\$22.6M
September	\$12.7M	\$0.7M
October	\$78.7M	\$4.4M
November	\$27.1M	\$17.4M
December	\$37.4M	\$6.6M
Grand Total	\$542.0M	\$109.7M

Program	SFY 2019 Funding
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Principal Forgiveness	\$31.79M
Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Principal Forgiveness	\$14.20M
Ohio Volkswagen Mitigation Grant	\$13.29M
Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program	\$11.71M
Diesel Emission Reductions	\$7.76M
Nonpoint Source Reduction	\$2.72M
Scrap Tire Recycling and Cleanup	\$2.52M
Community Recycling and Litter Prevention	\$2.33M
Alternative Fuel Vehicle Grant	\$1.08M
Water Quality Management Planning	\$0.82M
Market Development for Recycled Materials	\$0.78M
Mosquito Control Grants	\$0.66M
Ohio Environmental Education Fund	\$0.39M
Brownfield Grants	\$0.38M
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	\$0.23M
Surface Water Improvement Funds	\$0.05M
Grand Total	\$90.71M

2019 Grant Funding

Ohio EPA provides grant funding for various programs to clean and protect our land, air and water resources and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

In 2019, the Agency provided nearly \$91 million dollars to support a wide variety of activities, including helping small communities meet infrastructure needs, reducing litter, supporting scrap tire and mosquito control programs, promoting air and water quality projects and revitalizing old industrial sites.

Emergency Response

Ohio EPA's Office of Emergency Response (ER) includes staff stationed throughout Ohio who coordinate with local, state, and federal first responders and support entities on environmental emergencies. Typical environmental response incidents include train wrecks, facility malfunctions, highway crashes, fish kills, chemical releases, and natural disasters. Our team works in partnership with others to minimize and abate the impact these releases cause to the public and the environment.

Our ER teams respond 24-hours a day, seven days a week to incidents across the state. Statewide, Ohio EPA records more than 5,000 incident reports annually through calls to our emergency response spill hotline from citizens, companies, law enforcement, emergency responders, and other agencies.

Customer Outreach, Assistance, and Interactions

Ohio EPA's eBusiness Center is a secure portal for regulated entities to electronically complete and file Ohio EPA-related reports and permit applications.

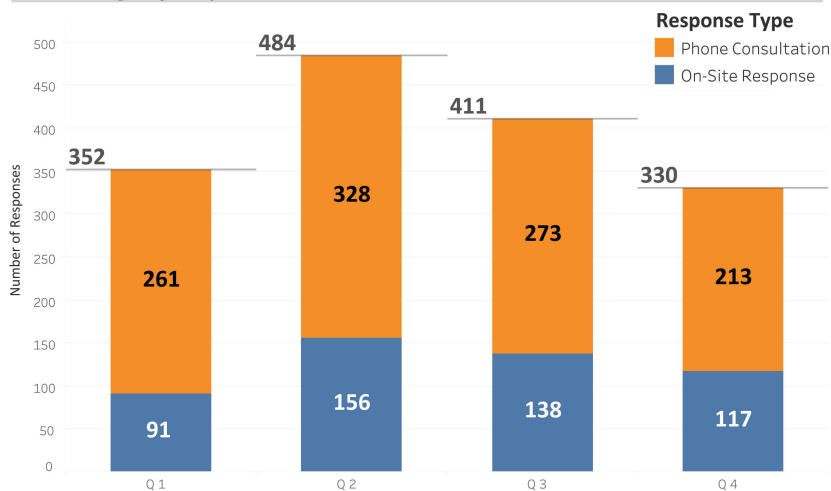
In addition to these business transactions, Ohio EPA also interacts with the regulated community, public and other stakeholders daily through on-site visits, email, newsletters and webinars. The numbers shown here are for the second half of 2019.

e-Blast/Other Digital Outreach	
July	101,794
August	24,012
September	62,068
October	93,388
November	108,271
December	133,476

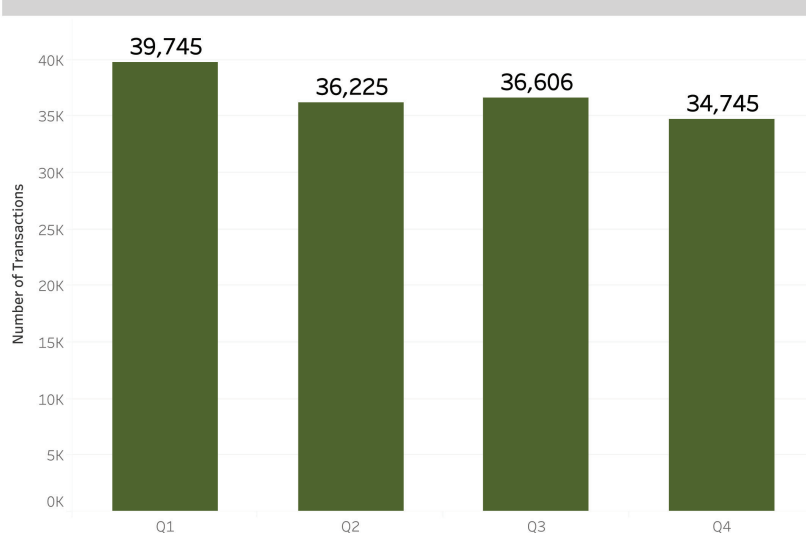
Outreach Type

- Conference, Training, Workshop
- Meeting
- Webinar

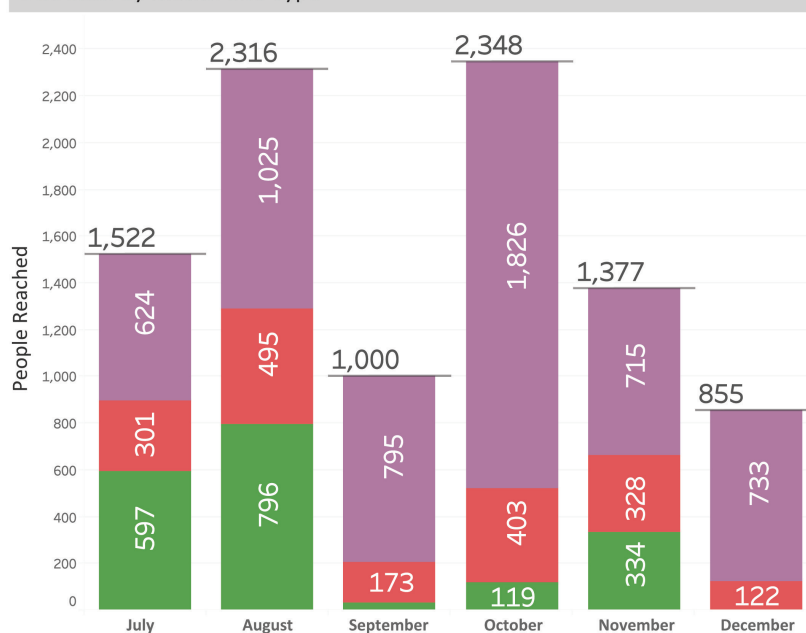
2019 Emergency Response



eBusiness Center Transactions

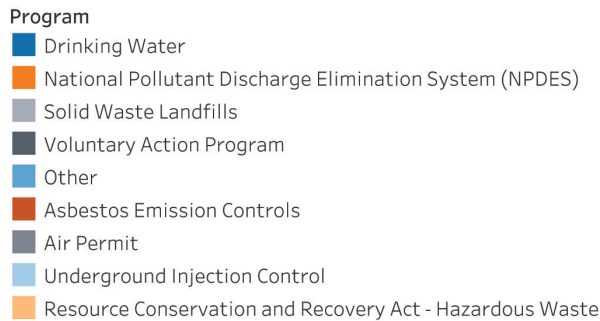


Outreach by Month and Type

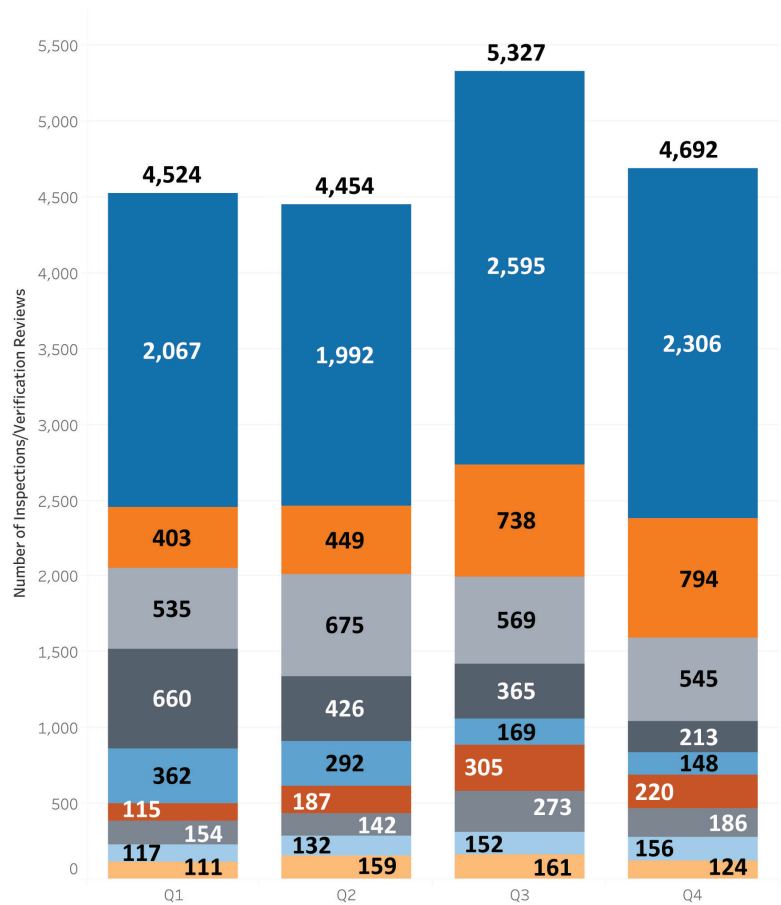


Compliance Inspections and Verification Reviews

This dashboard reflects the Agency's efforts to verify or inspect for compliance with permits, environmental rules and other requirements. These are broken down by quarter and Agency program. An inspection is defined as Agency personnel conducting a field visit to a site or facility. Verification review includes review of submittals that are required by the regulations, such as compliance reports, monitoring data, etc. The large numbers in the drinking water program reflect the Agency's work in reviewing monitoring and analytical reports that are submitted by thousands of public water systems each month.



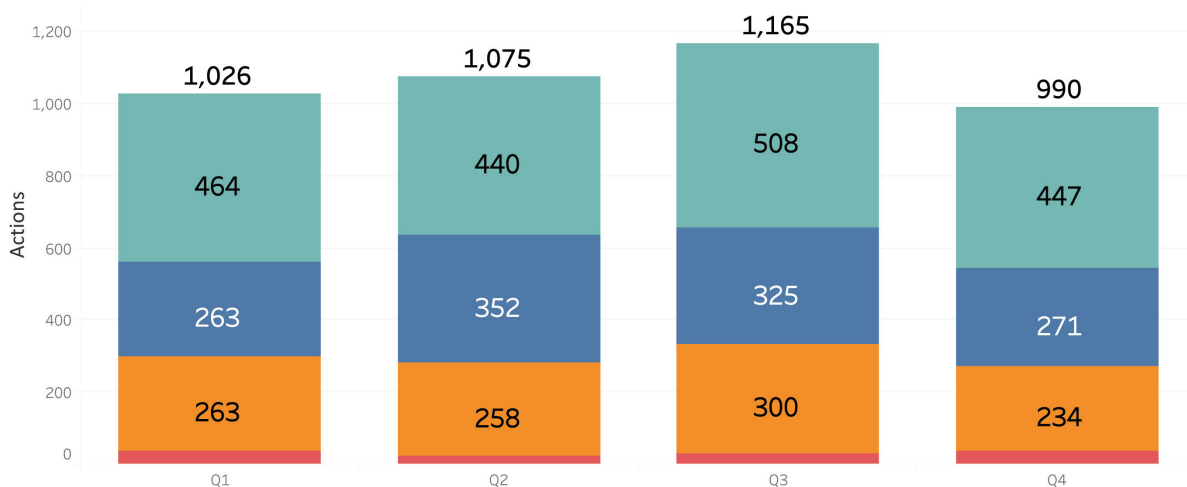
2019 Compliance Inspections and Verification Reviews



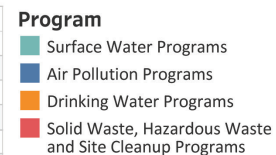
Agency Permits and Authorizing Actions

This dashboard displays permits and other authorizing actions, which include plan approvals and permits-to-install, issued in 2019 for key program areas, including surface water, air pollution, and drinking water.

Number of Permits by Program



Program	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Surface Water Programs	464	440	508	447
Air Pollution Programs	263	352	325	271
Drinking Water Programs	263	258	300	234
Solid Waste Programs	22	19	17	26
Site Cleanup Programs	9	3	8	11
Hazardous Waste Programs	5	3	7	1



Data Source: Notices Database Dashboard

H2Ohio –

A Collaborative Approach to the Issues Facing Ohio's Water

The H2Ohio Fund was proposed by Governor DeWine in March 2019 to invest in targeted solutions to help ensure safe and clean water for Ohioans across the state. Through the budget bill, the General Assembly invested \$172 million in the plan.

In November 2019, Governor DeWine announced the full details of the plan, which is being implemented by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

H2Ohio focuses on:

- Reducing phosphorus in Lake Erie and elsewhere through farming best practices.
- Creating new wetlands to reduce excessive nutrients entering lakes and rivers.
- Addressing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including failing home sewage treatment systems in disadvantaged communities.
- Preventing lead contamination in water at daycares and schools.

Under H2Ohio, Ohio EPA will fund infrastructure projects in disadvantaged communities to help ensure they have safe drinking water and quality sewer infrastructure.

H2Ohio will also help replace hundreds of failing home sewage treatment systems in low-income households to prevent the release of raw sewage onto property or into waterways.

Additionally, through a combination of state and federal funds, H2Ohio will assess lead exposure in daycare centers and schools in high-risk areas of Ohio and will help replace lead pipes and fixtures.

H2Ohio Protecting Ohio's Water



Infrastructure



Septic Systems



Lead

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Targeted Priorities

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**Reducing
Phosphorus**



Creating Wetlands



**Addressing Failing
Septic Systems**



**Preventing Lead
Contamination**

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about the data
and statistics
summarized here,
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