Solid Waste Generated in Ohio - 2018

Ohio EPA annually calculates and publishes the quantities of waste generated statewide and by each of Ohio’s 52 solid waste management districts (SWMDs). Ohio EPA uses those quantities to calculate waste reduction/recycling rates for the state and the SWMDs, to monitor solid waste, and for effective solid waste management planning.

Ohio EPA tracks waste generation according to three categories of solid waste – residential and commercial (R/C) solid waste, industrial solid waste, and excluded waste. Solid waste from the R/C category is essentially municipal solid waste, industrial solid waste is generated primarily by manufacturing operations, and excluded waste includes nontoxic foundry sand, nontoxic fly ash and bottom ash, and construction and demolition debris.

Solid Waste Generation
Ohio EPA calculates how much waste was generated for a category by adding together the associated quantities both disposed and reduced/recycled. Statewide generation is calculated by adding together the generation figures for all categories.

Ohio EPA receives recycling/reduction data through annual district reports that SWMDs submit to Ohio EPA. SWMDs in turn obtain data for the annual district reports by surveying communities, businesses, industries and other entities that recycle. Completing and returning these surveys is strictly voluntary, so obtaining accurate, complete data is often a challenge for the SWMD.

Ohio EPA obtains disposal data from the annual facility reports that owners and operators of solid waste facilities are required to submit.

Ohio EPA may adjust data reported by owners/operators of landfills to correct for waste that was misreported because it went to a transfer facility before being taken to the landfill. Ohio EPA also adds waste that was disposed in landfills in other states.

In 2018, Ohio generated approximately 32.75 million tons of solid and excluded waste. This equates to a per capita generation rate of 15.42 pounds per person per day (ppd). Analyzed by category, Ohio generated approximately 14.55 million tons of R/C solid waste, or 6.85 ppd; Industrial solid waste totaled approximately 16.03 million tons of solid waste, or 7.55 ppd; and Excluded waste totaled over 2.16 million tons, or 1.02 ppd. The contribution of each category’s waste to total waste generation is depicted in Figure 1.

2018 Fast Facts
Ohio’s Population
• 11,635,725

Solid Waste Generated (tons)
• Residential/Commercial – 14,551,305 tons
• Industrial – 16,034,715 tons
• Total – 30,586,020 tons

Solid Waste Generated (ppd)
• Residential/Commercial – 6.85 ppd
• Industrial – 7.55 ppd
• Total – 14.40 ppd

Excluded and C&DD Waste Generated (ppd)
• Excluded and C&DD – 2,166,321 tons
• Excluded and C&DD – 1.02 ppd

Total Waste Generated (tons)
• Total – 32,752,341 tons
• Total – 15.42 ppd

ppd = pounds per person per day

For More Information
A variety of information is available on the Solid Waste Management Planning webpage — epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/Home/SWMgmtPlanning2.aspx.

Visit our website at epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/ or contact us directly using the following contact information:
Ohio EPA
Division of Materials and Waste Management
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
(614) 644-2621 (phone)
(877) 372-2621 (toll free)
(614) 728-5315 (fax)

For information about solid waste management in your area, contact your local SWMD. To find your SWMD, use the Map of Ohio’s Solid Waste Management Districts that is available on the Solid Waste Management Planning page.

1 Goal 1 establishes standards for recycling infrastructure. Goal 2 establishes a solid waste reduction and recycling rate (WRR). SWMDs may select which of these two goals to achieve. SWMDs that opt to achieve Goal 1 are not required to also achieve Goal 2 and vice versa. SWMDs that opt to provide Goal 1 rather than Goal 2 may dedicate limited time and resources to gathering and analyzing data.
**Ohio Generation Compared to National Generation**

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generated an average of 4.51 pounds per person per day of municipal solid waste in 2017. This is much lower than the 6.85 pounds per person per day that was generated by Ohio’s R/C category.

It isn’t surprising that Ohio would have a higher per capita generation rate than the national average. According to the Ohio Development Services Agency, in 2018, Ohio’s gross domestic product was the seventh largest of the 50 states. In fact, if Ohio was a separate nation, the state’s 2018 gross domestic product would have been the 36th largest worldwide. Ohio ranked as the third state in the nation as a source of manufactured goods after California and Texas.

**Generation trends**

**Total Waste**
The amount of waste generated by Ohio’s industrial category has historically been greater and more volatile than the amount generated by the R/C category. As a result, changes in industrial waste generation tend to affect the overall statewide generation trends. However, since 2016, changes from the R/C solid waste and Excluded waste categories have led to a general increase in total waste generation.

**R/C Waste**
R/C waste generation saw a slight decrease between 2008 and 2011. Since then, Ohio has seen a gradual increase in the amount of R/C waste generated, reaching over 14.54 million tons in 2018.

**Industrial Waste**
In 2009, the industrial category saw a decrease in waste generation. Since then, industrial generation saw a steady increase in waste generation until 2014, and then decreased through 2016. Industrial waste generation has remained constant since that point, reaching 16.03 million tons in 2018.

**Excluded Waste**
Excluded waste has remained consistent throughout the last ten years. There has been some fluctuation in tonnage, but the totals are typically between 1.22 and 2.32 million tons. In 2018, Excluded waste generation totaled 2,166,321 tons.
Solid Waste Generated in Ohio - 2018

Figure 2: Total Waste Generation in Ohio Over Time

Table 1. Statewide Ohio Total Waste Generation (based upon disposal + recycling)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Residential/Commercial</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Excluded</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Residential/Commercial</th>
<th>Industrial</th>
<th>Excluded</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>13,590,207</td>
<td>16,708,489</td>
<td>1,772,890</td>
<td>32,033,871</td>
<td>6.49</td>
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<td>12,859,351</td>
<td>15,520,596</td>
<td>1,227,826</td>
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<td>1,936,426</td>
<td>32,025,416</td>
<td>6.05</td>
<td>8.20</td>
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<td>5.95</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>12,615,443</td>
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<td>13,348,512</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>32,752,342</td>
<td>6.85</td>
<td>7.55</td>
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