

CHAPTER 2 DISTRICT PROFILE

Purpose (Include this purpose statement in the solid waste management plan.)

This chapter provides context for the SWMD's solid waste management plan by providing an overview of general characteristics of the SWMD. Characteristics discussed in this chapter include:

- The communities and political jurisdictions within the SWMD;
- The SWMD's population in the reference year and throughout the planning period;
- The available infrastructure for managing waste and recyclable materials;
- The commercial businesses and institutional entities located within the SWMD;
- The industrial businesses located within the SWMD; and
- Any other characteristics that are unique to the SWMD and affect waste management within the SWMD or provide challenges to the SWMD.

Understanding the characteristics listed above helps the policy committee make decisions about the types of programs that will most effectively address the needs of residents, businesses, and other waste generators within the SWMD's jurisdiction.

Population distribution, density, and change affect the types of recycling opportunities that make sense for a particular community and for the SWMD as a whole.

The make-up of the commercial and industrial sectors within the SWMD influences the types of wastes generated and the types of programs the SWMD provides to assist those sectors with their recycling and waste reduction efforts.

Unique circumstances, such as hosting an amusement park, a large university, or a coal burning power plant present challenges, particularly for providing waste reduction and recycling programs.

The policy committee must take into account all of these characteristics when developing its overall waste management strategy.

A. Profile of Political Jurisdictions

1. Counties in the Solid Waste Management District

As its name suggests, the Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Solid Waste Management District (OSS SWMD) is comprised of Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca counties.

In addition to the populations of the three counties, the OSS SWMD's jurisdiction includes the populations of Fostoria that reside in Hancock and Wood counties and the population of Bellevue that resides Huron County¹.

2. County Overview

Ottawa County

Ottawa County is the District's northernmost county. With 25 percent of the population, Ottawa County is the least populated of the OSS SMWD's three counties. Ottawa County consists of the following notable communities:

- Port Clinton comprises 15 percent of the county's population and is the only city in Ottawa County.
- There are seven villages, ranging in population from 138 people to 2,759 people.
- Put-in-Bay Township, the least populated township, is comprised of several islands located in Lake Erie. The village of Put-In-Bay is located on South Bass Island.

Sandusky County

Sandusky County is the most populated of the three counties and is sandwiched between Ottawa County to the north and Seneca County to the south. Sandusky County consists of the following notable communities:

- There are three cities:
 - Fremont is the largest city. It had a population of 16,734 people in 2010 which comprised 26 percent of the county's population;
 - Clyde, population 6,325; and
 - Bellevue, population 8,200. The city of Bellevue is located partially within Sandusky County (4,527 people) and partially within Huron County (3,673 people).
- There are seven villages that range in population from 172 people to 2,581 people

Seneca County

Seneca County is the southern-most County in the District. Seneca County consists of the following notable communities:

- There are two cities:
 - The largest and only city that is completely located in Seneca County is the city of Tiffin with a 2010 population of 17,963 people which comprised 30 percent of the county's population.

¹ When a community's population resides in more than one SWMD, the entire community's population is added to the SWMD where the majority of the community's population is located. The SWMD where the minority of the population lives subtracts the community's population when calculating the total SWMD's population.

- Portions of the city of Fostoria, total population of 13,441, are located in Seneca County (9,471 people), Hancock County (2,932 people), and Wood County (1,038 people).
- There are six villages, ranging in population from 249 to 956.

B. Population

1. *Reference Year Population*

After adding in the populations of Fostoria and Bellevue that are partly located in other SWMDs, the District had a total adjusted population of 166,760 people in 2010.

Table 2-1 presents the adjusted populations of each county within the SWMD, the largest city in each county, and the populations of those cities. In the reference year:

Table 2-1 Population of Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Joint SWMD in 2010

County		Largest Policial Jurisdiction		
Name	Population	Community Name	Population	Percent of Total County Population
Ottawa County	41,428	Port Clinton	6,056	15%
Sandusky County	64,617	Fremont	16,734	26%
Seneca County	60,715	Tiffin	17,963	30%
Total	166,760			

Source: Ohio Development Services Agency, "Population and Household Counts for Governmental Units: 2010, 2000, 1990". <http://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P1005.pdf>, March 27, 2013.

2. *Population Distribution*

As is illustrated in Figure 2 below, the District’s population is distributed relatively evenly throughout the three counties. While Sandusky County comprises the largest percentage of total population and Ottawa County the smallest percentage of the population, no individual county’s population constitutes an overwhelming percentage of the District’s total population.

Figure 2-1: Contribution of Each County to District Population

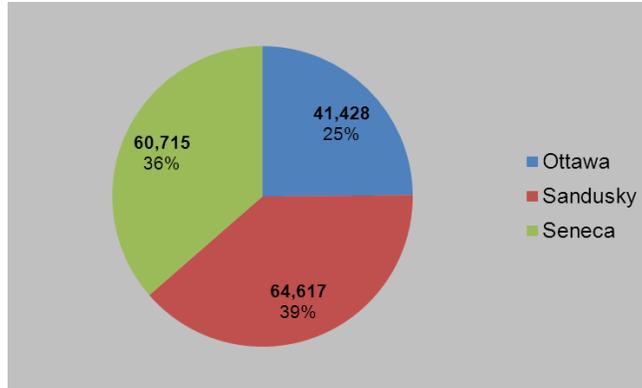


Table 2-2 below presents the distribution of each county’s population in cities, villages, and unincorporated areas

Table 2-2 Population Distribution

County	Percent of Population in Cities	Percent of Population in Villages	Percent of Population in Unincorporated Township
Ottawa	15%	20%	65%
Sandusky	48%	10%	42%
Seneca	52%	6%	42%

Source: Ohio Development Services Agency, “Population and Household Counts for Governmental Units: 2010, 2000, 1990”.
<http://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P1005.pdf>, March 27, 2013.

According to the Ohio Development Services Agency’s profiles for Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca counties, all three counties are comprised primarily of rural areas. As is illustrated in the bullet points below, the largest use of land is for agricultural purposes.

- Ottawa County – 8% of land use is urban and 71% is agricultural
- Sandusky County – 6% of land use is urban and 82 % is agricultural
- Seneca County – 5% of land use is urban and 84% is agricultural

Large portions of the populations in Sandusky and Seneca counties are concentrated in cities that comprise small geographical areas. Conversely, a very small portion of the population in Ottawa County lives in cities with the majority of the population spread throughout the county.

3. *Population Change*

Table 2-3 below presents data regarding the District’s population change.

Table 2-3 District Population Change

Time Period	Area	Ottawa	Sandusky	Seneca
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		County/ Port Clinton	County/ Freemont	County/ Tiffin
2000 to 2010	County	1.2%	-1.4%	-3.4%
	Largest City	-5.2%	-3.7%	-0.9%
	Unincorporated areas	2.3%	-3.2%	-3.3%
Planning Period	County	-5.6%	-5.9%	-10.3%
	Largest City	-1.1%	-3.0%	-4.0%
	Unincorporated areas	-1.0%	-3.0%	-4.0%

Sources:

Ohio Development Services Agency, "Population For Cities, Villages, and Townships: 2010, 2000, and 1990", <http://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P1005.pdf>, April 11, 2013.
 Ohio Development Services Agency, "2011 Population Estimates For Cities, Villages, and Townships", <http://development.ohio.gov/files/research/P5027.pdf>, April 11, 2013.

Based on the results of the 2000 and 2010 censuses, the District experienced an overall decrease in its population from 2000 to 2010. Ottawa County was the only county of the District’s three counties to experience population growth during that time.

According to population projections developed by the Ohio Development Services Agency, the populations in all three counties are projected to decline during the planning period. The projected rates of decline during the planning period are greater than those experienced from 2000 to 2010. Seneca County is projected to experience the most dramatic population decrease.

4. Implications for Solid Waste Management

As all of the information above illustrates, large portions of the District’s population live in rural, primarily agricultural areas. This presents the OSS SWMD with challenges to provide residents with comprehensive, convenient, economical opportunities to recycle. In particular, there are limited communities where providing curbside recycling services is feasible. Consequently, the OSS SWMD has an extensive network of recycling drop-off locations to provide residents with opportunities to recycle.

C Profile of Commercial and Institutional Sector

Erie County has a very strong commercial sector due, in large part, to the extensive tourism opportunities in the county. Erie County hosts Cedar Point, an extensive amusement park which is the most visited seasonal amusement park in the United States. Cedar Point draws an estimated 3.2 million visitors to Erie County annually. Erie County’s entire northern border is formed by Lake Erie. Consequently, fishing, wineries, and other water sports also bring a large number of tourists to Erie County.

The large influx of visitors during spring, summer, and fall dramatically increases the waste generated in Erie County which in turn affects the District's waste management strategy. According to the county profile for Erie County that is produced by the Ohio Development Services Agency, there are approximately 1,550 commercial establishments in Erie County that employ a combined total of more than 23,600 people. Many of these establishments cater to the tourists that visit Erie County. Consequently, the waste generated by the Erie County's commercial sector fluctuates throughout the year. Generation is generally at its highest in summer which is the county's peak tourist season and lowest in winter. The influence of the county's tourism industry on waste generation and management is explained in more detail in Chapters III and IV.

Since 2005, the number of commercial businesses in Erie County decreased by almost five percent. Over that same time, employment in the commercial sector decreased by 3.6 percent. According to the Department of Job and Family Services' publication, 2018 Ohio Job Outlook, employment in the commercial sector is projected to increase by 7.6 percent statewide by 2018. Therefore, it is likely that the District will experience an increase in the amount of waste generated by the commercial sector in the upcoming planning period.

In addition to Cedar Fair/Cedar Point, major commercial/institutional sector employers in Erie County include Erie County Government, the Firelands Regional Medical Center, and Kalahari Resorts. With 1,900 employees, the Firelands Regional Medical Center is the largest year-round employer in Erie County.

D Profile of Industrial Sector

Brown County is primarily a rural, agricultural county. As a result, the county has a limited industrial sector. The 2011 Harris Ohio Industrial Directory reported that there were 49 manufacturing establishments in Brown County that employed a combined total of 785 people. Brown County ranked 72 out of the 88 counties in terms of the number of manufacturing establishments and 82 for the number of manufacturing employees. In 2011, manufacturing employees represented 9.4 percent of all employed people in Brown County. Ohio's average manufacturing employment in 2011 was 15 percent of all private employees.

The limited size of the Brown Authority's manufacturing sector is further illustrated by the amount of waste generated by the industrial sector. In 2011, the Authority's industrial sector generated 4,793 tons of waste. That represented a little less than 12 percent of all solid waste generated within the Brown Authority.

The primary industrial sectors in the Brown Authority are fabricated metal products and industrial/commercial machinery manufacturing. These two sectors accounted for 85 percent of total manufacturing employment and 77 percent of all industrial waste generated in Brown County in 2011.

From 2005 to 2010, employment in the Brown County's manufacturing sector decreased by 12.7 percent despite a small increase in the number of manufacturing establishments over that same period². That decrease isn't surprising given the economic recession that began in 2008. The decrease in employment was likely a contributing factor to the overall 17 percent decrease in industrial waste generated over that same period.

The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services projects that employment in fabricated metal products manufacturing establishments will increase by at least 10 percent by 2020. That is over the same period that overall manufacturing employment is projected to decrease by 0.5 percent in Ohio³. As the largest industrial generators in Brown County produce fabricated metal products, the Brown Authority could experience an overall increase in waste generated by the industrial sector in the upcoming planning period.

E. Other Characteristics

Franklin County is host to The Ohio State University which has a student population of more than 52,000. Of those, approximately 10,000 students live on campus. The students comprise a transitory population that is not included in the count of Franklin County residents for the census. The waste generated by the students is, however, included in the amount of waste generated by the residential/commercial sector and in the per capita generation rate for that sector. Essentially, the waste that is generated by the students at OSU becomes attributed to the permanent residents of Franklin County. This artificially inflates waste generated by the residential/commercial sector which in turn understates the Authority's waste reduction and recycling rate.

² Ohio Department Services Agency, "Ohio County Indicators", July 2012, pp 61 and 62, <http://development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1091.pdf>

³ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, "Manufacturing in Ohio: A Post-Recession Employment Outlook". April 2013. pp 10 and 11. http://ohiolmi.com/research/publications/Manufacturing_in_Ohio_2013.pdf.