

ERIE COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT



2008  
ANNUAL REPORT

## Solid Waste Plan Update

In the 1980's, Ohio faced a combination of solid waste management problems, such as declining landfill capacity, increasing generation of wastes to be disposed, environmental problems at many existing solid waste disposal



facilities and an influx of Out-of-State waste. Citizen, government, and private sector concerns over these pressing problems forged a legislative coalition to create a comprehensive solid waste management program for Ohio. As a result, the Ohio EPA required all counties in Ohio establish Solid Waste Management Districts (SWMDs), either independently or jointly with other counties. All SWMDs were required to develop and implement their own solid waste management plans that comply with the following goals established in the OEPA State Plan:

- 90% of the County's Residents have access to waste management alternatives. (3R's)
- The SWMD shall reduce/recycle 25% of solid waste generated in residential/commercial sector and at least 66% of the solid waste generated in the industrial sector.
- To provide information and technical assistance on source reduction.

- Provide informational and technical assistance on Recycling, Reuse, and Composting Opportunities.
- Strategies for managing scrap tires, yard waste, lead-acid batteries and household hazardous wastes.
- Evaluate the feasibility of incorporating economic incentives into source reduction and recycling programs.
- SWMD are encouraged to conduct market development activities to promote the use of recycled products and to develop local markets for recovered materials. (This Goal is Optional).
- Annual reporting of plan implementation.

Every five years the SWMDs Plan must be updated to project the next fifteen years. Once the Plan is complete and the Board of Directors approved the content, the Plan is open for public comment. Copies are distributed to the local municipalities for approval. The SWMD must have 60% of the municipalities approve their Plan.

The goal of the Erie County SWMD is to develop, maintain, coordinate, monitor, and implement the Erie County Solid Waste Management Plan. This is achieved by providing environmental education, recycling, source reduction, litter prevention, and natural resource conservation to the residents of Erie County. Generation Fees are collected from the delivery of municipal and industrial solid waste to the Erie County Sanitary Landfill. These fees provide the budget for the programs and staff. The generation fee is currently \$4.00 a ton.

### Erie County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee of 2008

Representatives per ORC 3734.54 (B)(1) to(7):

1. Commissioner Representative – William J. Monaghan
2. Largest Municipality Representative – Matthew D. Kline
3. Township Representative – Janet E. Knittle, Vice Chairman
4. Health Dept. Representative – Robert L. England, Chairman
5. Largest Generator Representative – James A. Guerra
6. Citizen Representative – Dr. Linda P. Cornell
7. Public Representative – Andrew D. White

### Erie County Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors of 2008

1. William J. Monaghan
2. Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr.
3. Nancy C. McKeen

## Solid Waste Plan Update (Continued)

The Generation Fee provides the residents of Erie County with:

- 14 Drop-Off Recycling Locations – coordinat-



ing and maintaining the hauling contracts, and maintaining good working relationships with those that maintain these sites,

- Tire recycling at Erie County Sanitary Landfill – fees collected make this program self-sustaining—no profit
- Special Collections including: Appliance/



Electronic Round-Up, and Household Hazardous Waste Collections, and Administrative Costs,

- Personnel costs for two full time employees: a District Coordinator whose responsibilities include:

- Reporting to the Ohio EPA on activities of the District.
- Reporting to the Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee and Board of Directors (Erie County Commissioners)
- Searching for Grants to Subsidize the District's Programs.

And an Education Specialist whose responsibilities include:

- Promoting environmental awareness to all residents of Erie County
- Searching and applying for grants to sustain ongoing and develop new projects
- Participate in other duties as the Coordinator deems necessary.

The District Plan is currently being reviewed by the Board of Directors, Policy Committee and the Coordinator of the Solid Waste District. Changes in the updated plan will include:

- That 50% of the population will have curbside recycling five years (2015)



after the plan is approved.

- That 75% of the population has available curbside recycling ten years (2020) after the plan is approved.

Once this has been accomplished, funding will be available to establish new programs and sustain well established programs such as:

- Electronics recycling.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collections.
- Free tire day.
- Community Grants
- Tire recycling
- Battery Recycling

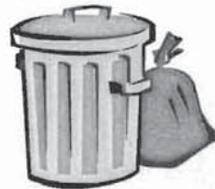
## Solid Waste Disposal

HB592 requires that each Solid Waste District assure that disposal capacity is available to meet the needs of the District for the duration of the planning period. The District Plan designates the Erie County Sanitary Landfill as the only in-state facility for the disposal of solid waste generated within the District. To monitor compliance, the District tracks the receipts of Erie County waste at Ohio landfills using generation fee reports and landfill tonnage reports where available.

## Service Provider Agreements

Effective April 15, 2007, the District entered new Service Provider Agreements with all haulers operating in the District. The agreements, first implemented in 1999, authorize solid waste haulers to provide solid waste collection services within the District. The agreement specifies that all solid waste collected in Erie County must be delivered to the Erie County Sanitary Landfill unless otherwise approved by the Solid Waste District with an agreement. The current agreements are effective for five years with an option to renew for two additional years.

The initial implementation of these agreements in May of 1999 increased waste receipts at the Erie County Landfill substantially as waste which had previously been taken to privately owned landfills outside Erie County were now delivered to the Erie County Landfill. In the Year 2000, waste receipts increased by 20% over 1999 levels and have remained at over 100,000 tons per year until this year.



## 2008 Landfill Receipts

Waste receipts at the Erie County Landfill in 2008 were 92,290 tons, down 14% from 106,978 tons in 2007.

Municipal Solid Waste of 63,879 is down 10% from last years total. Both Industrial and Exempt Wastes decreased over 2007 totals as seen in the chart below.

Erie County Landfill tonnage is down in the industrial sector, due to loss of industry. Exempt waste is also down due to lack of new construction and demolition.

**2008 Erie County Landfill Receipts**

Waste	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Municipal	63,792	71,330	66,507	73,396	66,899	73,873	71,311	63,879
Industrial	25,231	26,689	26,735	27,306	23,539	22,350	19,481	14,605
Exempt	9,855	10,129	13,829	14,332	18,775	14,272	16,036	13,535
Unknown	3,216	21	22	11	16	15	18	28
Transfer Station					115	113	133	243
<b>Total Tons</b>	<b>102,094</b>	<b>108,169</b>	<b>107,093</b>	<b>115,045</b>	<b>109,344</b>	<b>110,623</b>	<b>106,979</b>	<b>92,290</b>

## Waste Reduction & Recycling

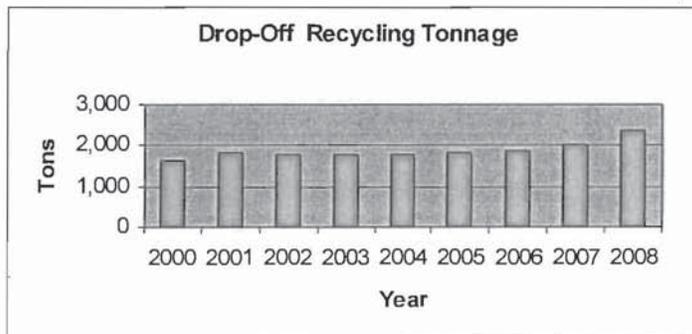
The State Solid Waste Plan, prepared by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency EPA, mandates that the District either recycle 50% of its waste, or ensure that at least 90% of the District's population has access to recycling opportunities. In its 1998 plan, the District chose to pursue the access goal through a combination of drop-off recycling locations, special county-wide recycling events and grants to cities, villages, and townships to conduct recycling events for their residents to ensure 90% of the population has access to recycling activities.

### Recycling Opportunities

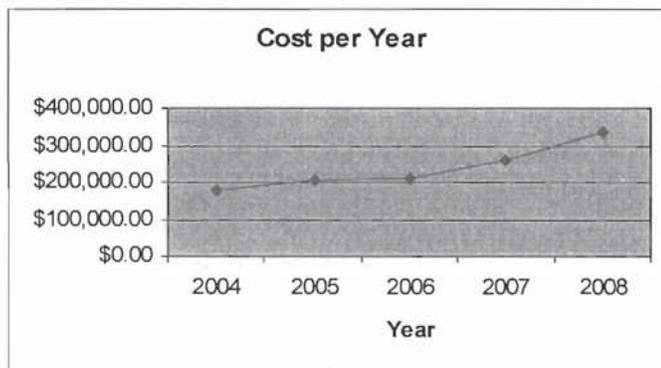
#### Drop-Off Recycling Sites

The District operated fourteen public drop-off recycling sites throughout the County in 2008. The sites were all open 24 hours a day, everyday. Cardboard and paper recycling continues at the Erie County Care Facility and Huron Basin, Wastewater Treatment Plant with the container rental and hauling provided by the District.

During 2008, a total of 2,340 tons of recyclables were collected in the drop-off program, up 15% from 2007's total of 2034 tons. Mixed recyclables (plastic #1 and #2, glass, steel, aluminum, bi-metal and occasionally paper) made up 1,490 tons of the total tonnage. Paper (cardboard, mixed, and magazines) made up the remaining 850 tons. Since 1994, a total of 25,125 tons (or 50.20 million pounds) of material has been recycled in the drop-off program.



Total cost of the mixed recyclables contract was \$273,496.20 or \$183.55 per ton, up from \$204,106.40 in 2007. Total cost of the paper contract was \$83,800.00 in 2008, up from \$74,311.57 in 2007. Paper markets reached a peak in July then dropped out completely in November.



The sale of all paper yielded \$19,380.55 in revenue to the District. This lowered the net cost of paper processing to \$64,419.45 or \$75.79 per ton

The total net cost of the drop-off program was \$337,915.65 an increase of 29% over last year's \$261,270.92 cost. The District has spent \$2,341,207 in the past eleven years on the drop-off program contracts.

Both contracts for hauling and processing of mixed recyclables and paper were bid out in June 2007. Terms of the contracts are 2 years with 3 optional 1-year renewals with 3% price increases.

## Tire Recycling

A Tire Amnesty Grant was received from Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention in July of 2004. The grant funds of \$10,000.00 helped establish a permanent recycling program for scrap tires at the Erie County Sanitary Landfill.

In August 2005, the District established the user fee (\$2.00 for a passenger tire without the rim or \$0.10 per pound) to be collected by the Erie Count Landfill to maintain the program.

The tire recycling program has collected 32.43 tons of tires in 2008 down 1% from 2007's 32.85 tons. The program is now self sufficient with revenues and expenditures nearly balancing.



## Scrap Metal Drop Off

A scrap metal collection bin was placed at the Erie County Services Center in September 2004. Due to the success of the pilot project, the box remains at the site at no cost to the District. A total of 27.75 tons were collected in 2008 down 40% from 46.50 tons in 2007.



## Household Battery Recycling

Household battery recycling for 2008 totaled 4,950 pounds, up 1% from 2007's total of 4,915 pounds.

There are seven public locations for battery drop off: BGSU Firelands Campus, Erie County Department of Environmental Services: Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer & Water Billing Office,

Sandusky Feed & Supply (formerly known as Gallagher's), Goodwill Retail Store, Huron Ace Hardware and Island Market.

The program was changed from shipping the batteries to a central collection point where the contractor picks the batteries up from that point. This saves the District shipping fees.

Wet cell (automotive) batteries are collected at the Erie County Sanitary Landfill and processed free of charge. During 2008, 5.56 pounds of wet cell batteries were recycled at the Landfill. This is a huge decrease from 2007 due to the fact that retailers must provide recycling of these batteries to their customers.

## Community Cleanup Grants

The District offers cities, villages and townships an annual fund to aid in community cleanup events for their residents. Allocation of funds for this program are as follows: \$500 for Villages, \$750 for Townships, and \$1,100 for Cities. These funds assist the municipalities of Erie County to recycle appliances, tires, batteries, scrap metal, composting materials, electronics, and household hazardous wastes. This program was downsized in 2008 and will no longer be offered due to budget constraints.



In 2008, three communities were given \$360 to conduct their own events collecting 13.89 tons of scrap steel, and 36.07 tons of tires. These materials totaled 49.96 tons down from 2007's total of 1,655 tons. A total of 675.14 tons of tires have been collected and recycled since the program's beginning in 1999.



### Community Cleanup Grants (Continue)

When the District's budget has a better outlook this program will be brought back. The program may be modified to include curbside recycling options, recycled content materials (benches for parks), and other ideas from the Policy Committee will be considered before bringing the program back.

Loading the appliances into a roll-off container.



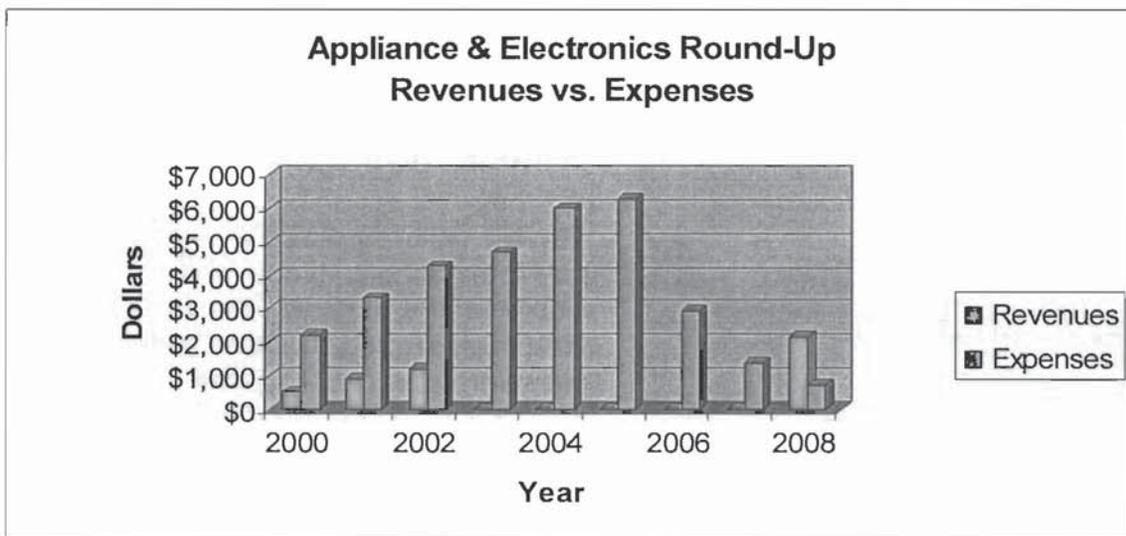
### Appliance & Electronic Round-Up

On Saturday, May 3rd, 313 cars came through the Appliance & Electronics Round-Up. Collections this year included 10.73 tons of appliances and 12.70 tons of electronics, for a total of 23.43 tons of materials. This is down 52% from last years 49.03 tons.

Total cost of this event was \$718.88, which included labor costs. The cost is 63% lower then last year's total of \$1,924.47, which included advertising, labor, and hauling services.

The cost savings were due to \$2,152 in revenue generated from the scrap metal of the appliances. Proceeds paid for the following:

- Expenses of the Appliance & Electronics Round-Up
- Provided funding to the Community Grant Program, which allowed communities to host their own collection.
- Started a separate tire fund to pay for scrap tires at the drop-off recycling locations.





## What we do...



### **Recycled Art Contest at Earth Day Extravaganza**

The District partners with a multitude of other non-profits and private businesses to provide residents with a day of information and fun filled eco-friendly events. Pictured above are contestants from the Recycled Art Contest held at the Sandusky Mall.

### **Kid's Day at Sandusky Mall**

The District partners with the Sandusky Mall for their Kid's Day event. Here participants are creating a recycled art masterpiece.



### **Huron Citywide Clean Up Event**

The City of Huron participates in our Keep America Beautiful Great American Clean Up by holding a citywide litter pick up. Pictured above are volunteers for this event.



### **Provide 14 recycling drop off locations throughout Erie County**

This site is located at 2900 Columbus Avenue in Sandusky. It collects the most recyclables in the State of Ohio. In 2008, 511 tons of paper and 319 tons of mixed recyclables were collected here. The District's total revenues for 2008 were \$369,246. The cost of maintaining the 14 drop off locations was \$337,024. The District's total expenses for 2008 were \$453,578. Curbside recycling will help defer this cost and keep the budget in the black.



## Lucky the Ladybug Ohio's 1st Lady of Litter Prevention at Huron Safety Town

Lucy is asked to appear at all types of events throughout Erie County. Here she is at Safety Town, an pre-school education opportunity the City of Huron provides for children who will attend kindergarten in the coming school year.

## Pipe Creek Clean Up Event

The Friends of Pipe Creeks are a volunteer group concerned with the health and sustainability of the Pipe Creek Watershed. They participate each year in our Keep America Beautiful Great American Clean Up events, doing litter clean ups and providing beautification efforts. Here they are planting saplings on the shores along the creek to help stop erosion.



## Sandusky Arbor Day Celebration

The City of Sandusky is a Tree City. Every year, they have an Arbor Day Celebration. This year the District provided a display of the 2008 Biggest & Best Enviro-Poster Contest winners, pictured below.

Sandusky also sponsors a poem contest for area students and the winners read their entries at the celebration.

Students help with the planting of a new tree in one of the City's parks, as shown by the picture to the left.



## Education Program

The Solid Waste District is mandated, by Ohio EPA, to provide education and awareness of solid waste issues to Erie County residents and businesses.

To meet these mandates, the District, conducts classroom, adult, youth group presentations, participates in special events, such as Huron City Safety Town, Harvest



Happenings, MetroParks Safety Stars, City of Sandusky Kid's Fair, BGSU Firelands Recycle Ohio Day, Earth Day Extravaganza, Keep America Beautiful litter free events, and many more.

Thousands of residents have seen displays,



received brochures and fliers, and been exposed to information on recycling, litter collection, waste reduction and resource conservation information at special events and a multitude of adult and youth presentations..

With grant funding, the District is able to provide beautification supplies for special projects, like this butterfly garden located at a local area school.



## Mercury

A mercury thermometer exchange program initiated by the District in 2007, continued into 2008. Five local fire stations, namely, Huron, Perkins, Berlin Heights, Groton and Milan were supplied with digital thermometers to exchange with old mercury thermometers brought in by residents. In 2008, the numbers decreased dramatically, hopefully indicating old mercury thermometers are being eliminated.



## Recycle Bin Loan Program

Several area teachers and students requested use of recycling containers to promote and provide a recycling opportunities in their schools. The District gave these schools Clearstream Recycling containers. The District has additional containers that it loans out for special events, such as for the annual Relay for Life event sponsored by the Cancer Society.



## Special Events

In 2008, over 1,700 volunteers and residents participated in recycling and litter free events during the Great American Clean Up weeks, March 1 through May 31, 2008. A total of 56 tons of litter and debris were collected from public properties, including parks and beaches, and collected during recycling events held throughout the county. The District provides supplies for numerous community clean up events, such as, the City of Sandusky Clean



Up, Huron Citywide Clean Up, and Vermilion Pride Day. Neighborhood clean-ups are also provided with clean up supplies through the District.

Various community groups also perform clean up events, such as Friends of Pipe Creek and Friends of Old Woman Creek.



## Environmental Education

To promote Earth Day, the District initiated a multi-agency event, partnering with non-profit and other businesses to present "Earth Day Extravaganza", held at the Sandusky



Mall. In 2008, over 1,700 residents visited displays, were provided with sustainable lifestyle information and partici-

parted in hands on activities.



The Recycled Art Contest was held, and five teams of three were given 30 minutes to construct artwork out of recyclables provided by the District.

bles provided by the District.



Attendees were invited to leave their mark on Christie Lane's truck used to pick up recyclables. Stamps were made from old aerosol can lids with designs made from sponges, dipped in water soluble paint.



### Environmental Education

The District applied for and received a \$1,500 grant from Keep America Beautiful's Cigarette Litter Prevention campaign. An area was chosen, scanned before and after implementation of the campaign, and results were documented.



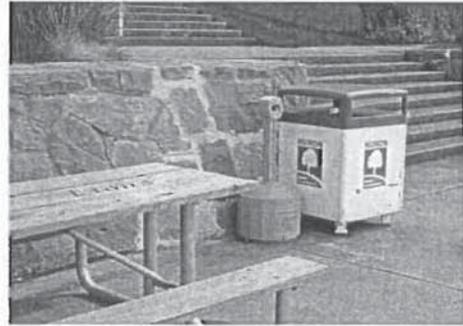
The Huron Boat Basin and Amphitheater was chosen as the area. The District partnered with Huron Park and Recreation personnel, providing them with pocket ashtrays and cigarette receptacles purchased with the grant funds. These receptacles were placed in various locations around the basin. They will help with the sustainability of this project as they will be used around the basin year after year.

Erie County Solid Waste sponsored a K96 Boppin on the Basin in Huron. At this event, over 600 pocket ashtrays were distributed. An additional 200 pocket ashtrays were distributed by Park and Recreation staff members throughout the summer.

In addition to the providing the pocket ashtrays, KAB chose Erie County to participate in a pilot project because the target area bordered Lake Erie. The project was to determine the effect special cup holder ashtrays would have on cigarette litter being thrown directly into the lake. These cup holder ashtrays were distributed to 100

boaters along the basin. Huron Basin staff reported a genuine appreciation from the boaters upon receipt of the ashtrays as well as a noticeable decrease in the amount of cigarette litter in the water.

Due to these efforts, the scan results showed a decrease in cigarette litter in the target area of 83%! The numbers show that the installation of the cigarette litter disposal receptacles, dis-



tribution of pocket and cup holder ashtrays and public awareness helped combat the blight of cigarette litter.

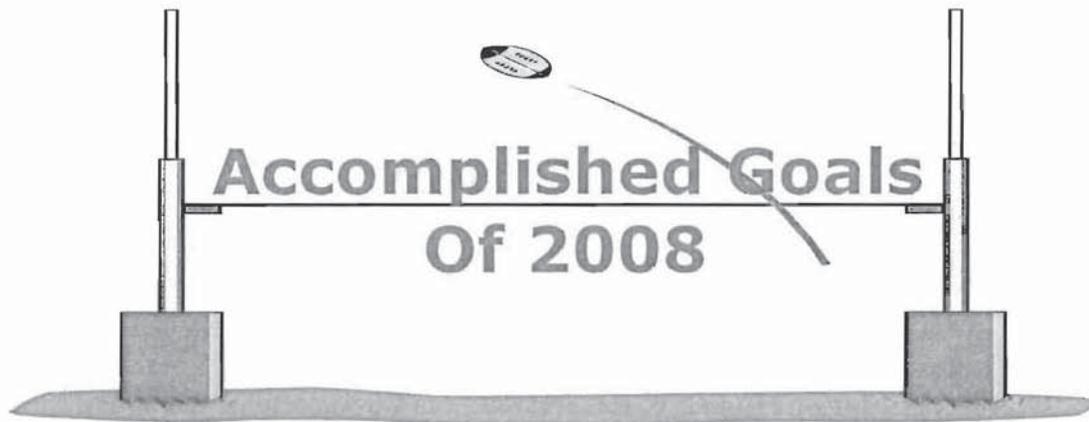
### Awards and Memberships



The District was awarded the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) President's Circle Recognition Award for the program's achievements in 2008. An affiliate must be in good standing with Keep America Beautiful, and the District has been so for five years running.

Other memberships:

- Ohio Association of Litter Prevention and Recycling Professionals (OALPRP)
- Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio (OSWDO)
- Women's Network
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)



- ◆ The Erie County Solid Waste Management District Plan Update projecting out 15 years is currently underway.
- ◆ Expansion of seasonal recycling included: promotion of shrink wrap recycling, and use of recycling containers at special events.
- ◆ Although not initiated by the District, Dell Inc. and Sandusky Bay Area Goodwill Industries established the "Reconnect" Program in the Erie County Area. The program allows Goodwill patrons to bring computers and computer related equipment to anyone of their stores to be recycled.
- ◆ A workshop for government entities promoting the District was held on Tuesday, February 26 at Osborn Park.
- ◆ The once mailed Recycler newsletter is now distributed by email, available online, and used at programs to educate the public on environmental issues.
- ◆ All forms of outreach, including but not limited to newsletters, recycling guides, brochures, annual reports, and web pages were updated every three months.
- ◆ The 2nd Annual Earth Day Extravaganza was held at Sandusky Mall on April 19th promoting environmental programs and organizations offered in Erie County.
- ◆ The District received five out of six grants applied for in 2008, totaling \$19,250 in additional funding.
- ◆ An Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention Community Development Grant provided recycling containers and provided pick-up services to Erie County Middle Schools and High Schools.
- ◆ Litter Prevention Grants provided funding to support the Great American Clean-Up along Erie County Roadways and waterways.



## Revenues



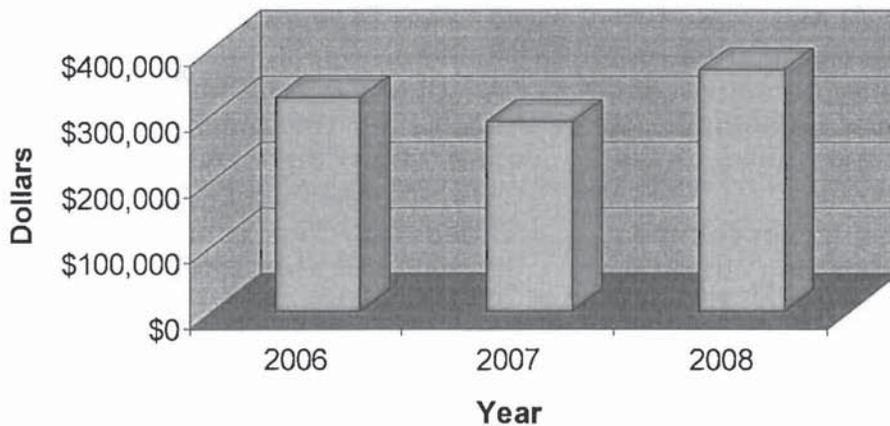
Revenues are collected by the following:

- Generation fees—per the Solid Waste Management District Plan.
- Waiver fees—for Erie County Waste waived from flow control regulations.
- Contributions and Donations

Total revenues for 2008 were \$369,245 which is up 27% from \$290,667.00 in 2007 as seen in the chart below.



**Annual District Revenue  
2006-2008**





# Expenses

The total expenses of the Solid Waste Management District were \$453,767.60, an increase of 26% over 2007 due to a rise in cost of the drop-off recycling contracts and increase in recycling tonnage.

Contract Services line item includes the contracts for not only the drop-off recycling program, but also: battery recycling and any special material recycling events that occurred for the year.

Administration includes one full-time employee to develop, coordinate, and implement the Erie County Solid Waste Management District Plan.

Education includes one full-time employee to develop, and implement environmental education to present to the public.

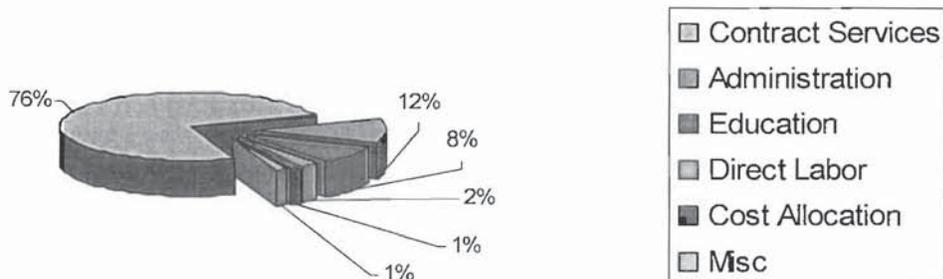
Direct Labor includes one part-time employee to maintain the Services Center drop-off location and pick-up batteries at various locations for recycling. This also includes employees from other departments to run equipment at special collection events.

Cost Allocation is a fixed amount assigned to the District for overhead costs.

Miscellaneous includes: Advertising, Supplies, Travel, and Community Grants. Advertising and Printing represent tools necessary for promotion of the District. Promotion is achieved in two local newspapers, three area phonebooks, and the printing is done in-house. Supplies ie: paper, ink, binding materials, and laminate. Travel includes various meetings that occur out-of-county and any direct cost relating to that travel. The District allocates some money to be given back to the community as grants for collections ie: appliances, tires, and yard waste.

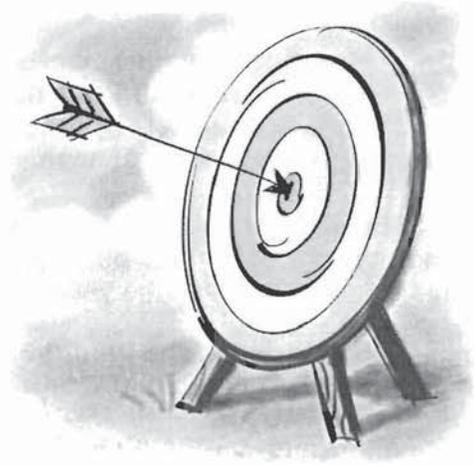
Expenses are shown in the chart below by line item.

**Expenses as a Percentage of Total Expenses**



## Looking Ahead to 2009

Since its conception, the District has provided free recycling to its residents. Recycling increased 15% in 2008 from the 2007 figures, and is expected to increase even more in 2009. With this increase comes a decrease in the District's funding, as funding comes from tipping fees from the landfill. Less goes into the landfill because residents are recycling, resulting in less funding for the District to provide other free events to residents. Because the cost of recycling continues to consume the majority of the District's budget, other funding must be found to continue this service. That is why the District continues to pro-



### 2009 Goals for the District

The District's goals for 2009 include maintaining the successful drop-off recycling program and special collections of previous years, as well as accomplishing the following:

- Update the Erie County Solid Waste Management District Plan.
- Expand curbside recycling within the District targeting Huron Township, Perkins Township, Vermilion Township, and the City of Sandusky by 2015.
- Think regionalization: Solid Waste & Landfill regionalization with surrounding counties when it comes to contracts and services.
- Provide the following special events: Great American Clean-Up (March 28th), Earth Day Extravaganza (April 18th), Appliance & Electronics Round-Up (July 18th), and Household Hazardous Waste Collection (October 10).
- Apply and hopefully receive the grants listed on the grant budget forecast.
- Provide a workshop for government entities of Erie County, promoting the Solid Waste District goals, programs, and events.
- Provide a teacher workshop in collaboration with Old Woman Creek.
- Collaborate and implement a grant writing workshop with Old Woman Creek.
- Extend special events to include a Rock N' Green concert by (August 16, 2010) to benefit Erie County Solid Waste District and Erie MetroParks.
- Encourage purchasing recycled content materials by local governments, organizations, businesses and schools.
- Provide a Hauler meeting to discuss curbside recycling within the District and the effects on the waste haulers of Erie County.