

2014
Erie County Department of
Environmental Services

The Erie County Department of Environmental Services was created by the Board of County Commissioners of Erie County, Ohio, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6117 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Department is under the supervision of the Board and in the charge of a registered professional engineer, the County Sanitary Engineer, who is appointed by the Board for the purpose of aiding it in the performance of its duties under Section 6117.01 to 6117.45 of the Revised Code.

The Department of Environmental Services (DOES) is responsible for planning and construction of new water, wastewater and solid waste facilities, implementation and compliance with new solid waste regulations, compliance and enforcement of constantly changing environmental requirements that impact operation of County water, wastewater and solid waste facilities, as well as the day-to-day routine of operating and maintaining these same facilities, customer billing and administers the County recycling program along with other recycle/reuse/disposal programs.

DOES staff was at 38 full time and 1 part-time employees. Union employees received a 1.5% raise beginning of year and management employees received a 1% raise at year's end.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ohio EPA approved the Erie County Solid Waste Management District Plan update on September 28, 2010. The Plan forecasts 15 years of solid waste management including, but not limited to; landfill capacity, recycling opportunities, education, and waste reduction. The Plan is required to be updated every five years.

The updated Plan goals include self-funded curbside recycling in Cities and Perkins Township where populations are over 5,000 and to establish self funded efficient drop off sites in area with less than 5,000 population by 2015.

In 2014, recycling increased by 12% from 2013 statistics. The Solid Waste District provided recycling opportunities for Erie County residents:

- Provided 5 drop-off sites where residents recycled 528 tons of aluminum, glass, plastic, paper, and cardboard and through the curbside program collected 1,905 tons of recyclables.
- City of Sandusky, Margaretta Township, and Vermillion Township operated drop-off recycling locations within their communities and collected 501 tons of material.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

(continued)

- Collected 25.70 tons of recyclables from our school recycling program and 20 tons of recyclables from 9 Erie County businesses Through our partnership with Christie Lane Industries.
- The District also partnered with Christie Lane Industries to provide a shredding event for Erie County residents.
- Conducted Electronics Collection with the Volunteer Center of Erie County that collected 18.98 tons of Electronics.
- Provided twelve battery drop-off recycling locations to collect and recycle 4 tons of household batteries.
- A total of 23 tons of tires was recycled with the Tire Recycling program at the Erie County Landfill.
- Held the 7th annual "Earth Day Extravaganza" with other environmental organizations to promote Earth Day at Osborn Metro Park, over 1,650 in attendance.
- Held five household hazardous waste material collections from July through September and collected 23.17 tons of hazardous materials from Erie County residents.
- The District participated in 19 local events including Harvest Happenings and the Erie County Fair.
- The District reached over 5,000 people through programs, school activities, and events.
- The GREEN Bean was utilized by several agencies and organizations to clean up 12.5 miles of roadway/waterways, cleaned up 3,380 pounds of trash, at 15 locations throughout Erie County.
- A total of 300 volunteers aided the District working 8,616 man hours saving an estimated \$62,466 (based on dollar amounts from the Erie County Volunteer Center) in paid time and benefits.

LANDFILL

The Landfill received and disposed of 134,707 tons of waste; a 9.71% decrease from 2013. Buried waste was compacted to a density of 0.72 tons per cubic yard (1,440 lbs/cu yd). At EPA permit maximum disposal of 800 tons per day, the EPA permitted remaining life is 17.6 years, and at 2014 receipts of 135,000 tons per year is 32.1 years. These figures include the EPA approved 1.2 million cubic yards Vertical Expansion Permit. As of January 1, 2015 the remaining constructed capacity is 1.32 million cubic yards. The Landfill is located on approximately 230 acres. The Landfill opened in 1969 for the disposal of non-hazardous solid waste. The Landfill's disposal rates for 2014 were:

- \$52.00/ton for municipal solid waste
- \$30.00/ton for EPA ordered contaminated soil and wastewater municipal sludge; \$20/ton for road base quality

SEWER DISTRICTS (continued)

LANDFILL (continued)

- \$10.00 for small vehicles up to 400 lbs and \$20 for 400-800 lbs
- The Landfill Gas-to-Energy Program transported and sold 336,017,582 cubic feet of Landfill Gas to the Renewable Energy Services of Ohio for the generation of electricity. The County received \$58,093 in gas sale revenue. The Green House Gas emissions were reduced by 47,076 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent and the Landfill is due to receive \$118,912 for Carbon Credit Sales.
- Two pressure transducers were replaced in the Leachate management system due to failure in 2014 and both units are functioning as required.
- Maintained roads and access to working face and installed new access and turn around areas.

SEWER DISTRICTS

The Erie County Sewer District sewer rate is \$14 minimum for the first 2 CCF of water use and \$5/CCF for all additional water use. Note 1 CCF = 748 gallons. The Erie County Sewer District consists of approximately 132 miles of sewer and 42 pumping stations.

Wastewater Collection Division projects include, 33 pump station wet wells were cleaned, 83,237 lineal feet of sewers were cleaned; 10 ton of debris was removed from the sewers and pump stations and disposed of at the Landfill. Acknowledged 964 Mission alarms, 18 sewer calls (plugs or possible plugs), 5 sewage in basement due to County line blockage and Rain Events. Assisted Water Division, WWT Division, Landfill Division, City of Huron and Village of Castalia with various projects. Performed smoke test on Mittawanga-Ruggles sewer system.

Mittawanga-Ruggles Wastewater Treatment Plant in Berlin Township treated 38.04 million gallons of wastewater averaging 0.11 million gallons per day.

Sawmill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Huron treated 254.82 million gallons of wastewater for an average of 0.70 million gallons per day.

- A new chlorine building and feed system was installed with a yearly savings of \$40,000.00
- A new 4 inch main water line installed
- Chlorine analyzer installed

Huron Basin Wastewater Treatment Plant in Huron treated 354.56 million gallons of wastewater for an average of 0.98 million gallons per day. All three plants together processed 169 dry tons of sludge. All sludge from the plants was either land applied or hauled to the Huron Basin Plant or the City of Sandusky's WWTP. Septic revenue totaled \$230,000. The following projects were completed:

- 3 RBC bearings replaced
- Boiler # 2 was replaced
- Changed chemical for phosphorus removal to sodium aluminate which will create a yearly savings of \$12,000.00

WATER DISTRICTS

The Erie County Water District is divided into two Districts called "A" and "B" Districts. The total combined water consumption for Districts "A" & "B" was 1.298 billion gallons for the year.

The Water Division repaired 72 water main breaks, 48 fire hydrants, performed 2,744 customer service orders, and installed 59 new water service taps turned on 72 new water services. Water lines were flushed in Huron East, Huron South, Huron West and Vermilion Water Districts. In the fall, fire hydrants were inspected and pumped down in all districts. In addition, 68 miscellaneous work orders were performed which included raising and lowering meter pits, repairing check valves and repair/replace leaking shut-off valves. 10 side taps were installed and 12 valves were repaired. Meter reading and meter repairs occur monthly; 2,002 meters had to be checked and/or repaired.

The Cedar Brook Water Tank was cleaned and painted in 2014. Also installed automatic meter reading systems for master meters.