

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 and administers the County recycling program along with other recycle/reuse/disposal programs.

In 2010 the DOES staff was reduced from 41.5 to 34.5 full time employees through layoff and early retirements for cost reduction towards balancing budgets and the working employees all took 40 hours of furlough (unpaid time off) and no pay raises.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ohio EPA approved the Erie County Solid Waste Management District Plan update on September 28, 2010. The Plan projects out 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 2010 the Solid Waste District provided recycling opportunities for Erie County residents. In 2010 the District:

- Provided 7 drop-off sites where residents recycled 1,629 tons of aluminum, glass, plastic, paper, and cardboard.
- Conducted an Appliance and Electronic Round-Up that recycled 8.55 tons of Appliances and 14.03 tons of Electronics.
- Provided ten battery drop-off recycling locations to collect and recycle 12,245 pounds of household batteries.
- Partnered with five fire stations for ongoing mercury thermometer exchanges.
- Recycled 33.3 tons of scrap metal at the Services Center drop-off site and 38 tons of scrap metal at the Landfill.
- A total of 32.12 tons of tires was recycled with the Tire Recycling program at the Erie County Landfill.
- Presented 22 educational programs about recycling and waste reduction for Erie County residents and students and displayed waste reduction information at 32 events.
- Held the fourth annual "Earth Day Extravaganza" with other environmental organizations to promote Earth Day at the Sandusky Mall, over 1,700 in attendance.

LANDFILL

In 2010, the Landfill received and disposed of 134,782 tons of solid waste; a 70.84% increase from 2009. The Landfill is located on approximately 230 acres. The Landfill opened in 1969 and is permitted to receive a maximum of 800 tons of non-hazardous solid waste per day. The Landfill's disposal fees for 2010 were:

- \$50.00/ton for municipal solid waste
- \$30.00/ton for EPA ordered contaminated soil & wastewater municipal sludge
- \$20.00 for pick-up trucks for first 880 lbs.
- \$10.00 for cars for first 440 lbs.

In addition,

- The Landfill flare destroyed 770 metric tons of CO₂ in 2010. The flare burned until April 7th. The balance of 121,234 million cubic feet was transported to the RESO generator for reusable energy. The well field was balanced monthly, and performed minor maintenance (troubleshooting).

- Collected \$38,597 from sale of landfill gas to RESO in 2010. Collected \$68,064 for sale of 72,497 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents (Carbon Credits) and banked an estimated 39,364 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents (from April 7, 2010 to April 7, 2011) for sale in 2011.
- Performed two ground water events including re-samples and field measurements as indicated in groundwater sampling and analysis sampling plan.
- Maintained roads and access to working face and installed new access and turn around areas.

SEWER DISTRICTS

The Erie County Sewer System is divided into two areas: the Erie County Sewer District and the Huron Area Sewer District.

The Erie County Sewer District consists of approximately 85 miles of sewer and 22 pumping stations. Approximately 1,000 lineal feet of sewers and 14 pump station wet wells were cleaned and vacuored. The Outlet Mall Package Plant treated an average flow of 3,000 gallons per day, and a new blower meter was installed, along with a new control in raw wet well. Mitiwanga-Ruggles Beach Treatment Plant in Berlin Township treated an average flow of 91,369 gallons per day (61% of design capacity). The plant had new siding installed on final building, a new hot water tank installed and removed broken discharge pipe from beach area.

The Huron Area Sewer District consists of approximately 47 miles of sewer and 15 pumping stations. Approximately 1,000 feet of sewers and 9 pump station wet wells were cleaned and vacuored. Major forcemain repairs were completed at the intersection of River Road/Cleveland Road due to pipe failure. Adams Street flooded due to a major mechanical failure (pump casing) and was repaired within 48 hours.

The Sawmill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant had an average flow of 632,876 gallons per day (53% of the design capacity). 2010 projects included rebuilt rotomat, raw pump, and Tigermag flow meter for EQ and installed new raw pump VFD.

The Huron Basin Wastewater Treatment Plant had an average flow of 981,989 gallons per day (48% of the design capacity). During the year, 9,700 lab tests were analyzed on the plants' effluent to insure the best wastewater quality possible and for EPA compliance. 2010 projects included rebuilding of the digester mixer, bearing replacement on RBC #8, primary sludge grinder rebuilt, boiler #2 and #3 were repaired and State Inspection completed, operation of the video surveillance system back up and running, designed and implemented new skimmer box wash down system, implemented Operator Log Book at all plants and cross training of the Operators at all plants.

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" in 2010 was 1.6 billion gallons.

District "A" is comprised of a network of distribution piping ranging in size from 4 to 24 inches in diameter, which serves portions of Perkins, Huron, Margaretta, Oxford, Berlin, Milan and Vermilion Townships; including the Villages of Castalia, Bay View and Berlin Heights. There are over 9,000 water services, 1,745 hydrants, 1,550 valves, and 196.01 miles of water main within Water District "A". In 2010, the Water Division repaired 65 water main breaks, 17 fire hydrants and performed 2,641 customer service orders. This year, fire hydrants were flushed in the Huron South, Vermilion South and Huron West Water Districts. A leak survey was completed in Perkins, Berlin Heights, Bay View and Castalia. Thirty (30) leaks were found. The SCADA System (computer monitoring and alarms at pump stations and tanks) was put on a website to allow remote viewing.

District "B" This network of distribution piping ranges in size from 4" to 16" diameter waterlines serving portions of Perkins, Huron, Margaretta, Groton, Oxford, Berlin, Milan and Vermilion Townships. There are approximately 1,068 water services, 208 hydrants, 258 valves, and approximately 115.0 miles of water main within the Water District "B".