

**Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District**  
**(BCSWMD) Five Year Plan**

**2016-2020**



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F: Bartholomew County Solid Waste District

## **History of BCSWMD**

The City of Columbus and Bartholomew County have been leaders in the municipal management of solid waste since 1969. Prior to 1969, the community's disposal needs were served by several open dumpsites. Recognizing the need for improved services, the City and County formed a blue ribbon commission recommended a need for both a modern sanitary landfill and a management authority to oversee its construction and operation.

In 1969, via an inter-local agreement, the City and County formed the Columbus-Bartholomew Solid Waste Disposal Authority (SWDA). The SWDA opted to construct a waste shredding operation in the building now housing the Columbus City Garage. The aim was to mill all possible waste, and landfill the resultant fluff on City-County owned property (adjacent to the City Garage and Recycling Center). The ungrindable portion was to be landfilled on leased property on CR 500 E (Petersville solid-fill site). The mill proved unreliable and was shut down after only a few months of service. The SWDA then leased property from Dora Fischer on CR 250 E and opened the Clifty Hill Landfill (aka the Dora Fischer landfill). The authority began looking for a new landfill site, ultimately locating on what was then SR 46, just east of Petersville. The Clifty Hill landfill was closed in 1974, when the new Bartholomew County Landfill opened on SR 46 (BCLF 1). The authority functioned primarily as a landfill manager from 1974 until 1990.

With the advancements in landfill technology, increased reporting requirements, impending State legislation to reduce waste disposal, and an active local recycling task force, the SWDA hired its first full-time administrator in July 1990. That same year the State legislature passed landmark legislation requiring all counties to form solid waste districts and to develop a 20-year waste management plan to achieve State waste reduction goals.

Upon formation of the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District in July of 1991, the SWDA was modified in both title and responsibility. The Solid Waste Disposal Authority became the Solid Waste Management Authority, or SWMA. The SWMA was charged by the District Board with the day-to-day operation of all solid waste programs, including landfill construction and operation. The District Board retained sole discretion with regard to the formulation of a comprehensive 20-year solid waste management plan, and the selection of a new landfill site. Until January 1999, the SWMA remained responsible for the operation of our sanitary landfill, the City Garage foundry sand monofill, our municipal recycling and education center, a rural refuse collection program, a household hazardous waste collection program, and our 10-acre municipal composting operation. In January 1999, at the request of the SWMA Board of Director's, the District Board placed the SWMA in indefinite inactive status. The District Board assumed the daily management responsibilities formerly held by the SWMA.

BCLF 1 closed to the general public on January 31, 1999. The site, modified to serve as a Saturday convenience station, opening in April 1999. BCLF 11 was opened to the public on February 1, 1999 after a lengthy public and permit process. BCLF 11 has public reuse facilities, teacher reuse facilities, public drop-off recycling, and a public refuse disposal area.

During the transition to a formal Solid Waste District and transition from SWDA to SWMA to Board of Directors formal recycling efforts were also established. Recycling efforts in Bartholomew County began with an ad hoc committee, the Recycling Task Force, in October 1988. The committee conducted a study and concluded composting would have the greatest impact in landfill space savings as well a need for conventional recycling was noted. This need created a drop-off recycling program in May 1990, Saturday only at a storage building behind the City Garage. Due to the volume at the drop-off facility the currently Recycling Center was constructed in February 1992. The construction of the Recycling Center afforded the District the ability to begin a Household Hazardous Waste collection day on a weekly basis thus forming Tox-A-Way Wednesday in 1994 after the purchase of a small purpose containment building.

In 1994, the Commercial Cardboard and Office Paper program began as a partnership between the City of Columbus and SWMD with approximately 200 participants. In 2014, the SWMD assumed the sole responsibility of collection.

Respectively during the transition period, 1998 to 1999, Teacher Reuse at the Recycling Center and Public Reuse at the Landfill opened. This allowed the District to take another slice out of the landfill waste stream. In 2003, an additional Teacher Reuse space was opened at the Landfill.

New programs have been added through the years including recycling of CFC appliances in 2000 at the Landfill, Mercury containing products in 2002, computers in 2003, CFL bulbs in 2008, All electronics recycling in 2012, Vinyl Siding recycling in 2013.

# **Bartholomew County District Board, Citizens Advisory Committee, and Staff**

## Board of Directors

Frank Miller– Chairman, City Council  
Chris Ogle– Vice-chairman, County Council  
Larry Kleinhenz –County Commissioner  
Rick Flohr– County Commissioner  
Carl Lienhoop– County Commissioner  
Kristen Brown– Mayor, City of Columbus  
Steve Rucker– Hartsville Town Board

## Citizens' Advisory Committee

Lou Renshaw (E)  
Greg Littleton (E)  
Dan Arnholt (E)  
Roger Brandt (S)

Jan Banister (E)  
Darrell Mclemore (S)  
Dennis Tibbetts (E)  
Barry Kastner (E)

Max Lemley (E)  
Vacant  
Vacant

(Constituent Interest; E= Environment S= Solid Waste)

## District Staff

Director  
Education Coordinator  
Operations Manager  
Controller  
Office Manager  
Recycling Center Supervisor  
Recycling Center Assistants (Full-Time)

C&D/Yard Waste Operator  
Weighmaster  
Small Load Operators

Reuse Assistant/Education Outreach  
Commercial Cardboard Drivers

Heather Siesel  
Vacant  
Jay Perkins  
Diana Hodnett  
Debra Arnholt  
Rex King  
Sara Goforth  
Daniel Sutton  
Jerica Haley  
Brianna Robertson  
Jacob Conrad  
Lisa Best  
Tom Coon  
Stuart Records  
Renay Cannon  
Ben Sanchez  
Johnny Smith

## Bartholomew County District Demographics

Bartholomew County is located in south central Indiana. It is 409 square miles and includes the cities and towns of Clifford, Columbus, and a portion of the town of Edinburgh, Elizabethtown, Hartsville, Hope, Jonesville, Petersville, and Taylorsville. The general population of Bartholomew County is 76,794 residents, while the City of Columbus is 44,061 residents. The County's age distribution is 6.5 % of the population under the age of 5, 24.3% is under the age of 18, and 14.7% of the population is 65 years and older. 50.2% of the population is women, while men make up 49.8%. 90.6% of county residents being Caucasian, 2.3% African American, 5% are Asian, and 6.4% are Latino. Education levels in the county include 89.1% of the population are High School graduates or higher and 26.6% have a Bachelor's degree or higher. 11.8% of Bartholomew County's residents live below the poverty line. (All data was reported from the 2010 Census results.) In 2020, Bartholomew County population is estimated to grow to 81,267 residents ([www.stats.indiana.edu](http://www.stats.indiana.edu))



## **Waste Generation in Bartholomew County**

Bartholomew County generated 69,936.21 tons of municipal solid waste in 2010. (Most up-to-date IDEM figures currently available)

### Waste Facilities

Bartholomew County Landfill II

Rumpke Columbus Transfer Station

City Garage Construction Demolition Disposal Site

Petersville Convenience Station

Harrison Convenience Station

### Collection Services

Rumpke

Best Way Disposal

Ray's Trash Service

City of Columbus

## **Existing Waste Reduction Efforts**

Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District has an integrated solid waste management system with all components from Source Reduction/Reuse to Recycling/Composting to Final Disposal.

### Waste Reduction Services offered by BCSWMD

Education (Youth- In-classroom, Tours, Events & Adult- HSE Fairs, Events, Presentations, Publications, PR)

Reuse (Public Reuse at Bartholomew County Landfill II, Little Red School House Bartholomew County Landfill, Little Red School House Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center, Reuse Cart Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center)

Recycling (Kroger, Harrison Convenience Station, Petersville Convenience Station, Bartholomew County Landfill II, Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center, Hope Utility Garage, Bartholomew County Yard Waste Site)

Roll-offs- Harrison Convenience Station, Petersville Convenience Station, and Bartholomew County Landfill II

Drive-Through- Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center

Satellite Recycling Trailer- Hope Utility Garage and Kroger

Electronics- Bartholomew County Landfill II and Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center

Commercial Cardboard and Office Paper Recycling Program- Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center (drop-off or curbside)

Vinyl Siding- Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center

Tire Recycling- Bartholomew County Landfill II

Household Hazardous Waste (Tox-A-Way Wednesday at Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center)

Other Waste Reduction Services in Bartholomew County (Non-BCSWMD)

City of Columbus Curbside Program

Ray's- Paper Retriever and EcoRewards

Speedy Shred- Document Shredding and Recycling

Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department- Medications Disposal Program

Goodwill

Orphan Grain Train

Sans Souci

Tech Reconnect

Various "second hand stores" such as Big Top Kid Shop,

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## **Prediction of Solid Waste Needs in the Next Five Years**

In 2020, Bartholomew County population is estimated to grow to 81,267 residents. This is a 5.82% increase in a ten year period. Bartholomew County generated 69,936.21 tons of municipal solid waste in 2010. Bartholomew County projections for 2010 show waste generation rate of 74,006.49. The small increase in population potentially correlates to an increased need of waste management facilities. Our current facilities are able to accommodate the needs of the population increase, but added services may need to be considered.

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## **Five Year Plan Goals**

BCSWMD is committed to:

- 1) Minimizing the solid waste stream and managing it comprehensively;
- 2) Providing excellent customer service; and,
- 3) Conserving financial, physical, and natural resources for current and future residents of our district.

A. High Level Objectives to Achieve These Goals:

*1) Goal: Minimize the Waste Stream and Manage it Comprehensively*

Objectives:

- a) Every type of waste should have a diversion strategy and a management plan.
- b) The District should strive to adopt best practices in solid waste management.
- c) The District should continuously improve its diversion efforts so as to never have to site a replacement landfill again.

*2) Goal: Provide Excellent Customer Service*

Objectives:

- a) The District should address the demand for greater, more convenient recycling services.
- b) The District should increase the market value of its compost and mulch products and services so as to better manage the inventory and provide a good return.
- c) Tipping fees and volumes should be periodically reviewed for reasonableness and to drive desired behaviors.
- d) Landfill and recycling facility hours of operation should be periodically reviewed relative to service demand and cost-effectiveness.
- e) Services should be reviewed periodically to ensure that residents of the City and County are treated equitably.
- f) The District should decide whether and how to serve (or avoid serving) non-Bartholomew County Residents at its facilities.
- g) The District should refine its service offerings through deeply understanding citizen requirements and increase the utilization of its services through effective marketing.
- h) The District should provide community education to influence behaviors

### 3) Goal: Conserve Financial, Physical, and Natural Resources

#### Objectives:

- a) The District should seek to drive resource-conserving behaviors not only through education, but also, when necessary, through economic incentives and disincentive.
- b) The District should recognize the real value of the landfill to the community so that it is conserved for generations deep into the future, knowing that the opportunity cost of consuming it today is the contentious matter and expense of siting another landfill.
- c) The District should be diligent in seeking to provide services in a cost-effective manner.
- d) The District should ensure competitive bidding for all major contracts and evaluate periodically whether any services should be moved in-house or outsourced.
- e) The District should evaluate capitalizing on Waste-to-Energy opportunities.
- f) The Diversion efforts should seek to generate feedstocks for industries and help create economic and employment opportunities in the region.

#### B. Work Plans (Top Recommended Initiatives)

##### 1) Develop a Stronger Diversion Plan For Construction/Demolition Debris

- a) This primarily relates to the goal: Manage the Waste Stream.
- b) Construction and Demolition debris presents operational challenges at the landfill and represents a high-volume stream, with several opportunities for increased diversion.
- c) Evaluate best practices for reduction, diversion, and disposal. For example,
  - i) Masonry into aggregate fill material.
  - ii) Lumber into re-use, chipping, waste-to-energy
  - iii) Roof Asphalt Shingles into road material or aggregate fill material
- d) Also, create a contingency plan for handling large volumes from major damage events (e.g., flooding, tornadoes)
- e) Timing: By end of 2016.

##### 2) Review Tipping Fees

- a) This primarily relates to the goal: *Excellent Customer Service*
- b) Evaluate usage patterns and fee incidence of small users:

- (1) Residential
  - (2) Businesses
  - (3) Small Commercial Haulers
  - c) Evaluate frequency and intensity of use by out-of-county users.
  - d) Examine enforcement of existing policies
  - e) Develop objectives and proposals.
  - f) Timing: By mid-2016
- 3) Reduce Costs of Landfill Operations
- a) This primarily relates to the goal: *Conserve Resources*.
  - b) Evaluate self-operation, at least as a baseline comparison for private bids.
  - c) Prepare for and execute competitive bidding before the end of the current contract.
  - d) Timing: End of 2016.
- 4) Develop a Plan to Never Site a Landfill Again
- a) This primarily relates to the goal: *Manage the Waste Stream*.
  - b) Figure out how to maximize all reduction and diversion opportunities so as to minimize disposal.
  - c) Evaluate feasibility at a future date of waste-to-energy conversion.
  - d) Timing: Years 1-4 of Five Year Plan
- 5) Develop a Plan to Site the Next Landfill
- a) This primarily relates to the goal: *Conserve Resources*
  - b) If work plan item #4, above, fails...
  - c) As land in the county becomes more scarce and expensive and as population density increases, securing the next suitable landfill site will be increasingly difficult.
  - d) Securing the next site soon will be more cost-effective.
  - e) Timing: Year 5 of Five Year Plan

## **Financing**

The hope with all implementation efforts is to utilize current funding methods to implement any plans. Currently, the Solid Waste District receives a small property tax assessment (2 cents per accessed \$100) in addition to tipping fees, sale of recyclables, farm ground rental, and investments. New potential funds sources could include grants as available.

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## **Five Year Plan Approval**

This plan for the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District has been approved this day, \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Larry Kleinhenz – Chairperson, County Commissioner

Rick Flohr– County Commissioner

Carl Lienhoop– County Commissioner

Frank Miller– City Council

Kristen Brown– Mayor, City of Columbus

Chris Ogle– County Council

Steve Rucker– Hartsville Town Board