

**Bartholomew County
Solid Waste Management District**

2025 Annual Report



...providing cost effective, environmentally sound programs of waste management and waste reduction for all residents of Bartholomew County.

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General Information

The City of Columbus and Bartholomew County have been leaders in 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 to study the waste disposal needs of the county. The commission recognized the 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 was comprised of five members appointed by the City and County. The SWDA opted to construct a waste shredding operation in the building now housing the Columbus City Garage, now called Department of Public Works (DPW). 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 unground 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. 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 (HHW) 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. This involves the supervision of 15 full-time employees and the administration of a 5.4 million dollar annual budget (2025).

In December 2020, the SWMD Board and Citizen's Advisory Committee approved a new Five Year Plan (2021-2026), providing an analysis of current issues and direction for the next 5 years. An update to this plan is anticipated at the end of 2026 and every 5 years moving forward.

Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District Board and Staff

2025 Board of Directors (As of July 2025)

Michael Bell– Chairperson, County Council
 Carl Lienhoop– Vice Chairperson, County Commissioner
 Mary Ferdon– Mayor, City of Columbus
 Larry Kleinhenz– County Commissioner
 Tony London– County Commissioner
 Ohmer Miller– Hope Town Council
 Frank Miller– City Council



Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management Authority Board of Directors

*The Solid Waste Management Authority was placed in an inactive status when the District Board assumed its responsibilities January 28, 1999

2025 Citizens' Advisory Committee (As of August 2025)

Dennis Tibbetts	Kelly Geckler	Natalie Perry	Louise Norman
Scott Keen	Cathy Caldie	Jenna Pesano	Jennifer Ehara

2025 District Staff (As of July 2025)

Director	Heather Siesel
Operations Manager	Randy Murphy
Controller	Amber Breeden
Office Manager	Leigha Bruning
Recycling Center Supervisor	Dan Sutton
Recycling Center Assistants (Full-Time)	Luron Morgan
	Sughey Nieves
Commercial Cardboard Route Drivers	Lenny Jessie
	Jerry Bense Jr.
C&D/Yard Waste Operator	Michael Smith
Landfill Weighmaster	Michelle Conrad
Scale Operator/Floater	Carl Moore
Small Load Operators	Dylan Fleener
	Stuart Records
Reuse Assistant/Education Outreach	Renay Cannon

Bartholomew County Sanitary Landfill

History – BCLF I - Original Site in Petersville

The first mission of the SWDA was securing a landfill site and closing the Petersville Solid Fill Site. An innovative approach was taken. Property adjacent to the existing Columbus City Garage was rezoned for solid waste activities. A large building (the current Department of Public Works) was built to house a solid waste shredder operation. The intent was to reduce the volume of organic waste via shredding, and to landfill this material on adjacent property. All solid fill would continue to be disposed of at the old Petersville site on CR 500 East. This scheme would be continued until the new landfill, sited along SR 46 east of Petersville, was prepared for use. Unfortunately, the shredder proved a failure. Frequent breakdowns caused the cessation of activities in just a few months.

In 1974, the original Bartholomew County Sanitary Landfill (BCLF I) was opened. Operated using contractual services, this facility served the community well for over 26 years. Until 1991, no direct disposal fees were charged to users. As a part of the modernization of operations, the landfill was transformed from a tax-based utility to a user-based utility, much like water, sewage, and gas service. In January 1991, the Bartholomew County Sanitary Landfill became self-supporting. User fees offered residents the opportunity to control their costs by reducing their waste, an important aspect of our waste management charge from the State of Indiana. In an effort to curb illegal dumping, the SWMA maintained a 500-pound no-fee disposal policy at the landfill.

BCLF I closed to the general public on January 31, 1999. The small amount of permitted airspace remaining was used to assist the Columbus City Utilities with a special sludge disposal project. The site, modified to serve as a Saturday convenience station, opened in April 1999. Regrading of the site and periodic maintenance continues as needed on the site that is still in Post-Closure care. In 2022, maintenance work was performed on the east side of the closed landfill. We estimate needing \$384,171 (per June 2025 Local Government Test) in the remainder of post-closure costs to maintain the closed landfill site, end of post-closure would be January 31, 2029.

Petersville Soil Borrow – McNealy Farm

The McNealy property west of the landfill was purchased in November 1997 for soil borrow purposes. Soil borrow for daily, intermediate and final cover continued from this property until final closure. In early 1999, the District completed the planned lake on the property. Construction of the dam structure was completed during closure activities. Fencing and “No Trespassing” signs have been installed. Final disposition of the site is yet to be determined though another soil borrow to repair differential settlement of the old landfill is a potential. In summer 2003, the McNealy home and farm buildings were sold at auction for reuse. District staff demolished the remains, which were hauled to our landfill. In Late 2018, the SWMD Board sold approximately 25 acres to Bartholomew County for the development of a County Highway Garage.

History – BCLF II - CR 450 S

The SWMA recognized the need for additional landfill capacity in 1986 as BCLF I was nearing capacity. The SWMA sought approval for a 20-acre expansion of the landfill from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. State approval was received in 1989; the SWMA began searching for a new landfill site. Since 1990, there were three unsuccessful attempts to secure a site.

In March of 1994, the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce approached the District Board of Directors with a proposal to form a public-private partnership to site a new landfill. This concept was embraced by the District Board with a financial commitment not to exceed \$20,000. Private contributions would make up the remainder of funds necessary (\$125,000) to hire a professional landfill siting consultant. A steering committee was formed to guide the consultant selection and project oversight. Geraghty and Miller, a national environmental consulting firm was hired to perform the search.

Gathering information from applicable regulations and local residents, via a series of public meetings, Geraghty and Miller formulated first a list of search areas in the county. This was sequentially refined to a list of eleven candidate sites. A negotiating committee of the District Board then approached landowners.

Ultimately, two sites were secured under options to purchase. On August 3, 1995, the District Board opted to proceed with development of site 2049 (a.k.a. Wagner site) while retaining the purchase option of the other site (2048, a.k.a. Cummins site).

BCLF II Site Summary

Site 2049, now BCLF II, lies along the south side of CR 450S, directly south of the intersection of CR 50W and consists of two parcels, one owned by Strietelmeier Farms, and the other by Robert and June Wagner. Together the parcels total 283 acres. By virtue of its size, this site offers a long term (40+ years) solution to our solid waste disposal needs. Features of the new site include a 24' wide paved access road with a remotely operated main gate, acceleration/deceleration and passing lanes on CR 450S designed per the City Engineer, a scale house, maintenance building, and small load area with recycling and reuse areas available, and a dedicated vehicle untarpping area.

A professional landscape architect, Peter Walker/William Johnson and Associates, assisted the SWMA by developing a landscape plan for the site. The disposal area will comprise nearly 90 acres, and should provide 40+ years of disposal capacity for our community.

The SWMA submitted a permit application to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on March 4, 1996. We received our construction and operating permit on May 1, 1997. An objection to the permit was filed on May 15, 1997. After lengthy negotiations, the objection was settled in late October. The settlement involved direct payments to property owners to allow for their connection to public water supply, additional monitoring wells, and the incorporation of our property value guarantee terms into the settlement agreement.

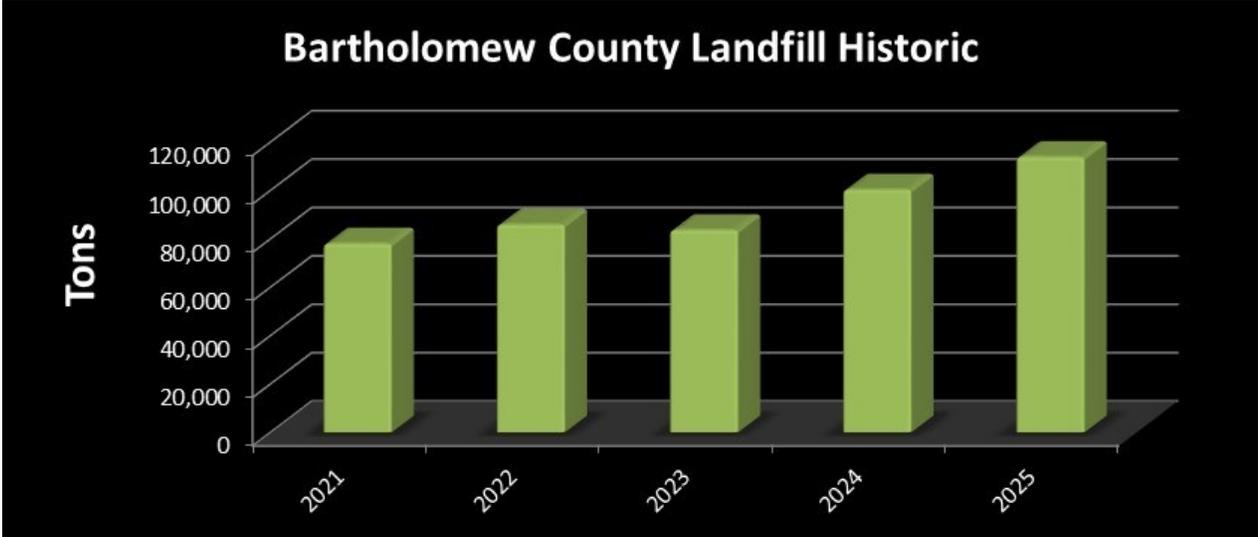
Construction of the site began in early 1998 to prepare the site for acceptance of refuse upon closure of the existing Petersville landfill in early 1999. Property acquisition and initial site development was budgeted for 1997 without the need for any debt obligation to the community. BCLF II was opened to the public on February 1, 1999.

Landfill Gate Rates

1999-2019	\$27.50
2020	\$30.00
2021	\$30.00
2022	\$34.00
2023	\$34.00
2024	\$36.00
2025	\$37.00
2026	\$39.00

In March 2005, the 500 lb. no-fee disposal policy was reduced to 200 lbs. In October of 2019, the first closure occurred at the site of 3.8 acres with the start of flaring (2nd Closure in 2023– 4 acres). The gate fee was increased to \$30/ton on January 2nd, 2021, \$34/ton on January 2nd, 2022, \$36/ton on January 2nd, 2024, and \$37 on January 2nd, 2025. In 2023, solar panels were banned from landfill disposal by the BCSWMD Board. In 2024, BCSWMD started accepting up 2,000 tons per month of out-of-county trash from our Landfill Operator with an annual 3% increase. Per 2025 capacity calculations, we estimate 65 years of life remaining with a closure date of 2091 utilizing our Historic Average Capacity if we use our Updated Capacity (with the addition of out-of-county trash) we would anticipate 47 years of capacity with a closure of 2073. Based on BZA approved and future IDEM permit modifications (slope & height increases) we project 10-12 years of life can be added to both projections above giving an estimated years remaining to be 57 to 80 years. As of June 2025, we would estimate needing \$4,481,601 for closure and \$1,569,652 for post-closure care. Waste Diversion from Landfill is 25.4% when looking at all District Residential/ Commercial Recycling, Reuse, HHW, and Yard Waste Recycling versus Landfill Disposal. 2025 Landfill Tonnage was 100,425 tons with 21,003.87 tons Out-of-County and 2,934 tons Edinburgh.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
78,095	85,968	83,683	100,426	113,919



Bartholomew County Landfill

Materials/ Fees/ Hours of Operation

Landfill Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday– 7:30 A.M.– 4:30 P.M.

Saturday– 7:30 A.M.– 4:00 P.M.

(Effective April 1, 2017 Backside of Landfill (Working Face) Close at 1 P.M. on Saturdays)

CLOSED for the Following Holidays: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

Landfill Disposal Fees	Excluded Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective 03/2005 one load/day under 200 lbs. is not charged. • Loads above 200 lbs. are charged \$37.00 / per ton (pro-rated) as of 1/2/2024 • Quartered vehicle tires: \$47.50 / per ton with no weight exemptions • Whole tires for recycling (Effective as of 8/31/2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Truck & Car w/o rim \$3 Light Truck & Car tires w/rim \$5 Truck tires (19.5 & up) w/o rim \$14 Truck tires (19.5 & up) with rim \$26 Floater (wide truck tire) w/o rim \$22 Floater (wide truck tire) with rim \$36 Farm tractor tire \$50 • Pre-approved industrial process/spill cleanup waste: \$36.00 / per ton with no weight exemptions as of 1/2/2024 • CFC appliances \$20 each • TV & Computer Monitors \$20 each 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We accept Bartholomew County material only, The following items are not accepted for Disposal except for the listed exceptions in parentheses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yard Waste (Free residential disposal available at our Yard Waste Site) • Vehicle Tires (Unless quartered or cut into thirds. Tire recycling available at Landfill) • Automotive Batteries (Free residential disposal. Recycling available at Recycling Center/Landfill) • White Goods/ Appliances (CFC accepted for Freon Removal/Recycling for a \$20 fee, Non-CFC accepted for Metals Recycling at no charge) • Hazardous Waste or Liquids (Limited HHW recycling available at the Recycling Center) • Electronics (Residential Small Appliances/Electronics. Accepted for recycling at the Recycling Center/Landfill - TV and computer monitors for a fee of \$20 as of July 1, 2017) • Solar Panels (Recycling may be available at the Recycling Center/Landfill via our Electronics Recycling Program)

Random Load Inspections

The landfill randomly inspects commercial vehicle loads on a daily basis. The scale operator identifies each vehicle that is to be inspected and the Landfill Contracted equipment operators at the disposal area surveys the debris for prohibited materials, hazardous waste and related material. The inspection reports are then kept on file for IDEM review.



Environmental Controls

BCLF I & II

Both landfills are active in managing programs to maintain the environment. All loads entering the landfill (excepting those containing only bagged trash) are required to be effectively tarped. This requirement along with monthly refuse pick up along CR 450 S from S.R. 11 to Norcross Drive by our Landfill contractor, provides an effective means to control debris along the main artery to the landfill. The high netting litter control fencing around the new landfill cell continues to function well.

Inspections

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) inspects both our active and closed landfills for compliance to regulations governing construction, operations and permit conditions. These inspections are conducted on a quarterly schedule for our active sites, and annually for our closed sites.

Leachate

Both landfill's leachate collection and storage systems (leachate being rainwater which passed through solid waste) worked without incident, other than normal repairs. In an effort to better quantify leachate volumes, a flow meter was installed near the leachate storage basins in 2012. We continue to input volumes based on pump run hours and flow meter readings. BCLF I in Petersville captured 260,125 gallons of leachate in 2025 directly discharged to City sewer system. BCLF II, using twin 100,000 gallon lined leachate storage basins discharging directly to the City sewer system, captured 1,714,809 gallons of leachate in 2025. Rainfall for the Columbus area in 2025 was 45.31 inches (NOAA Data).



Future Plans

Operations

In 2022 at BCLF II, we continue to monitor vegetation and provide fertilization as required. In 2022 at BCLF II, we continued to fill cells 1A through 1E and 2A through 2E, and 3S. No significant operational problems were experienced. In 2019, we closed 3.8 acres on the Northwest side of the Site and are currently flaring that portion. In 2021, we constructed cell 3S, 4.5 acres. The Landfill remained essential for trash disposal and incurred no closures during COVID. Closure of 4 acres occurred in 2023 and additional cell construction occurred in 2025 adding 4.3 acres. In 2025, we received waived projects from the County roadside trash, and 4H Fair.

Improvements

In late 2006, work at BCLF I commenced to provide a direct sewer discharge for the site. Construction was completed in 2007; however, a property line disagreement delayed the use of the new pipeline. In 2008, this issue was resolved and pumping of leachate directly to the City Utilities Royal View lift station began in December. In 2008, litter fencing was expanded along the south side of Cell 2 C helping us to control nuisance litter onsite. In 2012, BCLF I received soil cap re-grading to minimize rainwater ponding. The solar ignited flare stations were also upgraded in 2012 including the installation of HDPE manifold piping to reduce maintenance. In 2016, BCLF II relined the leachate basin to current standards with a double liner system. A new pump system at BCLF II leachate basin was added in 2017. Upgrades to BCLF I leachate pump system were made in 2018. The Landfill Recycling opportunity was updated to a compactor through an IDEM grant in 2021. The Landfill still accepts plastic, metals, glass, and paper at the site now via the Recycling Compactor and Cardboard is accepting separating in a roll-off container.

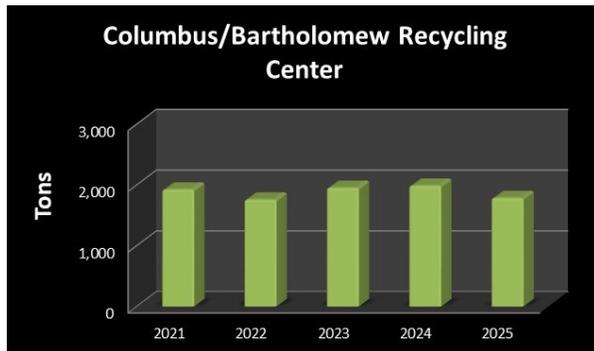
Waste Minimization, Recycling, Reuse & Education

History

Recycling efforts in Bartholomew County began with an ad hoc committee, the Recycling Task Force (RTF), in October 1988. The RTF conducted a pilot residential curbside program and later concluded that composting would have the greatest impact in landfill space savings. The RTF believed that more "conventional" recycling was important and worked with the City of Columbus to establish a drop-off recycling program in May 1990. An area was designated in a storage building behind the City Garage for delivery of recyclables on Saturdays only. Hundreds of residents dropped off recyclables that first Saturday in May, indicating a definite need for the center.

Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center

In February 1992, construction of the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center began. The new facility opened in July of that year. Since the opening of our drive through center, many Midwest markets have become stable allowing cost effective collection and transportation. In 1995, we extended hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm for days of residential delivery. Also, Monday's from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm were designated for business drop-off.



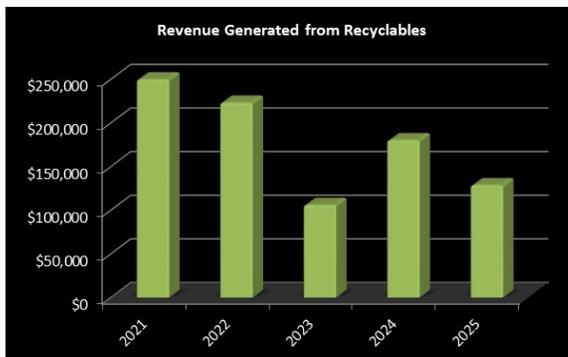
Continued public support showed the need for extended Tuesday and Thursday residential recycling hours in 1995. Fridays were added to the residential drive through recycling hours of operation in October of 2004. January 2010– May 2012, the City of Columbus implemented a 3-tier "pay-as-you-throw" (PAYT) Toter system encouraging residents to reduce and recycle their waste. In response to the City, the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center Drive through hours were extended to also include Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00am to 3:30pm. This change provides residents with a 6-day per week opportunity to make recycling in the community more convenient. In 2013, several new recycling opportunities were added including everyday Electronics recycling. In May of 2015, the Recycling Center began accepting plastics #3-#7 in addition to plastics #1 and #2. In May of 2016 it was determined that due to curbside recycling the Recycling Center hours would be modified for residential and businesses to Tuesday through Saturday 7:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M., and closed on Mondays. On July 1, 2017 the BCSWMD began charging a fee of \$20 for all TV's and Computer Monitors. In February 2020, #3-#7 plastics were dropped from our menu of accepted items due to our Recycling vendor no longer accepting the material. COVID closed the Recycling Center and Offices from March 25th through May 18th, 2020 to limit personal contact. On June 13th, 2022 Recycling Center days changed to Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm due to a staff reduction. In 2025, Recycling Center hours changed to 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, following the hours change of Bartholomew County Offices. In 2025, we diverted 1,788 tons of material from the Landfill through the Recycling Center. The Center will be moving away from processing material due to equipment and employee costs.

Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center Hours of Operation

Since October 1, 2025– Monday-Friday– 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Revenue & Volume

Material volumes and revenues received at the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center vary monthly depending upon season and activities. Revenues fluctuate with market demand, the cost of transportation to market, the level of processing and the volume of material shipped to market. In 2025, the District received a total of \$128,739 from the sale of recyclables.



24/7 Roll-Off Recycling

In 1992, nine locations throughout Columbus and Bartholomew County were selected to site 24/7 roll-off recycling containers as an added convenience to recyclers. The roll-offs accepted plastic, glass and metal containers but had no educational value for the users. This resulted in a 40% contamination rate and deletion of several locations. The drop boxes that remained in Bartholomew County were located at Kroger Grocery, the Petersville Convenience Station, and the Bartholomew County Landfill. In 2010, an additional site was added at the Harrison Convenience Station.

Volumes increased considerably in 2004 due to Rumpke of Indiana's decision to drop their curbside collection program. As a result, a large sector of their subscribers began using the containers for their recycling needs. Kroger Grocery's 24/7 roll-off ended January of 2015, due to curbside collection being offered to residents of Columbus through the City's Department of Public Works, viewed as a duplication of services. Commingled Recycling still remains at Harrison and Petersville on Saturdays.

Satellite Rural Recycling Program

July 1, 1995 brought staffed recycling collection to four county locations (Ogilville, Hope, Elizabethtown, Taylorville). This program was the result of the full cost analysis completed for recycling in 1994. The analysis showed the drop box program was not consistent with our goals of education and cost-effective service.

In October of 1997, three of the original four county satellite rural recycling locations were changed to better accommodate recyclers (Walesboro, Hope, Hwy 7/31, Long Road). The new sites were at the same location as the rural refuse collection program thus increasing participation.

In December of 1998, it was decided to move two of the sites due to the relocation of the landfill and Rural Refuse Collection sites. The Walesboro site was moved to ABC Stewart School on the 1st Saturday of the month and the Lowell Bridge site was moved to Long Road, located in the Flatrock Industrial Park, on the 4th Saturday of the month.

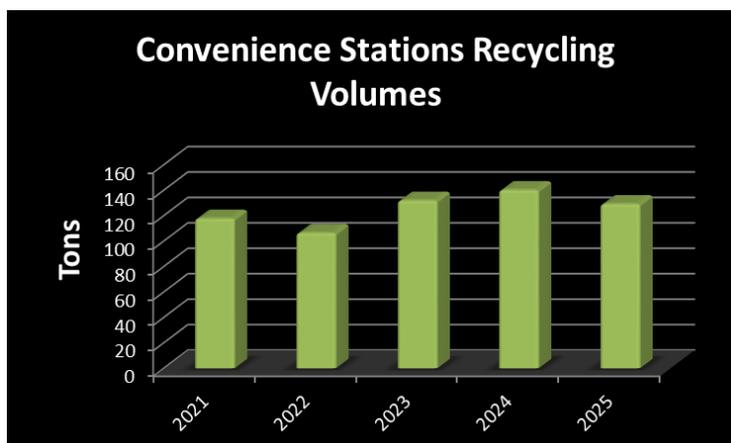
Due to lack of participation at the 7 & 31 rural recycling site and a large increase in volumes at the new ABC Stewart location, the District decided to shift the 3rd Saturday of the month to ABC Stewart as well. This allowed for efficient collection of recyclables in a section of the county that is growing rapidly. Users of the 7 & 31 site were encouraged to use the Petersville Convenience Station or the county landfill, which began accepting a limited menu of recyclables in 1999.

In 2003, the ABC Stewart rural site was relocated to Harrison Township on Old Nashville Road, just off State Road 46 West. The new site, secured through the Sycamore Land Trust, is about 2 miles west of ABC Stewart.

In 2009, we discontinued collection at the Long Road site due to lack of participation. In order to fill the need of paper and cardboard collection at the Kroger site, the mobile recycling trailer collected sorted materials at the Kroger location on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

In 2010, Harrison Township became a permanent site, with roll-off containers for commingled recycling, a container for cardboard collection, and Abitibi bins for paper collection. In 2011, the mobile trailer provided service at the Kroger Store the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month and travels to the Hope Utility Garage on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month.

Volumes collected at satellite locations were down in 2015. We speculate this decrease was caused by the curbside program in the City of Columbus and the removal of Kroger's 24/7 roll-off bin. In May of 2016 both the Kroger and Hope Utility mobile sites were discontinued due to continued decreases in volumes of recyclables collected. Therefore, the satellite recycling program is currently offered on Saturdays at the Harrison and Petersville Rural Convenience locations. These two locations collected 129.35 tons (258,700 lbs.) of recyclable material in 2025.



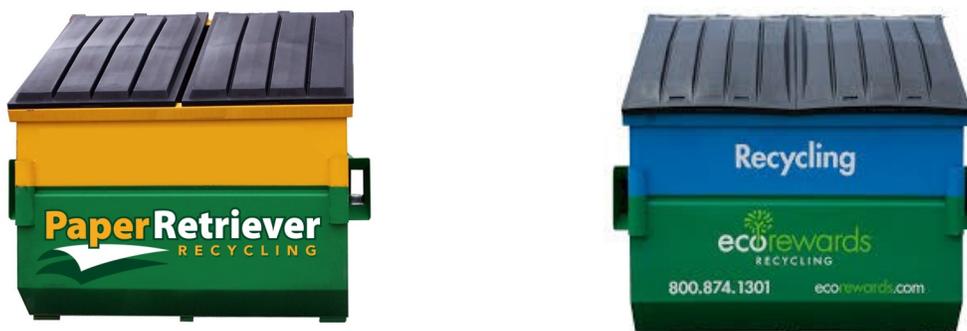
Paper Retriever Program

In late 2005, after a yearlong courtship of Abitibi Paper Recycling, the District successfully brought the number one paper recycler in the world to Bartholomew County. Abitibi has over 17,000 of their colorful green and yellow bins in metropolitan areas across the United States, servicing communities mainly through not-for-profit entities such as schools, churches and governmental units. Groups willing to site a container at their facility are compensated for their paper but must be willing to allow residents in the surrounding area to access the bin.

Upon Abitibi's agreement to service Bartholomew County, the Solid Waste Management District Director and the Education Coordinator met with the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation and the Flatrock-Hawcreek School Corporation in an effort to site containers at as many schools as possible. Other not-for-profit agencies were also recruited to host the paper recycling bins as we strive to divert as much of the paper waste stream from landfill disposal as possible.

Due to the cost and labor involved with transporting recycled paper materials from the landfill to the recycling center, the District opted to place Abitibi bins at the landfill. Abitibi bins are also located at Petersburg and Harrison Township for convenient paper recycling options for residents.

In August of 2014, the Indianapolis market was purchased by Ray's Trash Service, who now owns and operates the Paper Retriever program. Due to market conditions in late 2010's the vendor is reducing the number of containers in the community and rebates are limited. In 2022, Ray's Trash Service was bought by Waste Management (WM). In February 2023, the free Paper Retriever bins were being converted to pay commingled recycle bins and largely removed from our community and no other vendors collect source separated paper.



EcoRewards Program

In 2011, a new program called EcoRewards was introduced to Bartholomew County for businesses to receive curbside service for all recyclable materials. Owned by the same company as Paper Retriever, the EcoRewards Recycling Program is aimed to help "green" businesses. In August of 2014, Ray's Trash Service bought out the Indianapolis market and took over the program. Ray's helps clients redirect waste and disposal costs to minimize the impact on the environment. The EcoRewards Program collects and recycles paper, plastics (#1-#7), cardboard, aluminum and steel cans at each business. There is a cost for the service, however, a rebate is offered each month for the volume recycled. This helps businesses trim down on their waste disposal expenses and help the environment at the same time. Ray's Trash Service was bought by Waste Management in 2022, future service with this company is unknown. Due to the acquisition, the EcoRewards program was largely dropped and converted to pay per service program with no rebate through Waste Management.

Business Recycling

Columbus/Bartholomew Drop-off Business Recycling

Beginning in 2011, the Recycling Center started to accept businesses throughout the week to provide more convenient recycling options. Many businesses utilize the program to not only drop off paper (newspaper, magazines, cardboard, office paper, & books), but also other materials recycled at the Center (plastics, glass, metal). Businesses had the option to deliver their recyclables to the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center during open hours from May 2016–November 2025. Currently, Business can deliver material to the Commercial Pad at the Bartholomew County Landfill for a fee, this Commercial Pad was opened December 3, 2025.

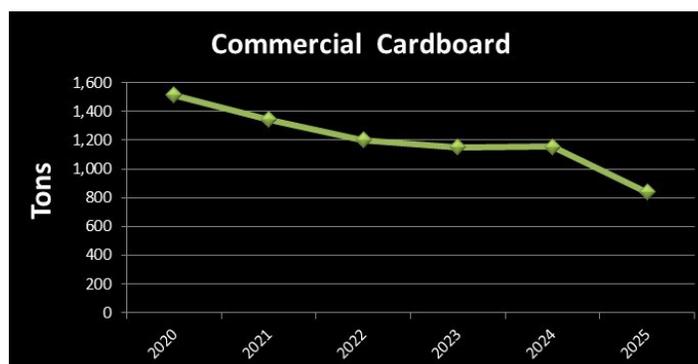
Commercial Cardboard Curbside Collection Program

The Commercial Curbside collection program started January 2, 1994 with approximately 200 participants and was a Governor’s Award winning joint effort between the City of Columbus and the Solid Waste Management District (SWMD). Materials collected were cardboard, computer paper and white copy paper. Mixed office white, junk mail and shredded paper were added to the collection program in 1997 in an effort to capture a larger portion of the commercial waste stream. The collaboration collects paper products using a conventional refuse collection truck and delivers materials to the recycling center for processing and shipping.

In 2004, the District purchased an industrial size baler in order to keep up with the escalating volumes of cardboard processed at the recycling center. The auto-tie, open-door baler also increased employee productivity.

In 2006, the District utilized a \$15,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to upgrade the commercial collection program. Funds were used to pay half the cost of cardboard collection containers to entice new subscribers and publishing of business recycling booklets that were distributed to current clients and prospective businesses.

Since the program’s inception, participation and volumes have steadily increased, thanks in large part to business recycling advertisements, the inclusion of industry to the program and several grant opportunities that have allowed the District to offer local businesses recycling dumpsters at half the normal cost. In 2014, the District assumed the sole responsibility of collection from the city collaboration in an effort to expand the program. In 2015, there were approximately 250 stops in the Commercial Cardboard and Office Paper Program. A replacement Commercial Cardboard Truck was received in March 2023. In September 2025, the decision was made to end this program due to employee and equipment costs exceeding revenues. The program had approximately 300 stops (200 customers) in 2025 and was our second largest program to divert large amounts of waste materials from the landfill; volumes in 2025 reached 838 tons (1,676,000 lbs.). The Commercial Cardboard and Office Paper Program was discontinued in 2025 as expenses far exceeded revenues. A Commercial Recycling Pad was developed by Rumpke at the Landfill for Commercial customers use.



Recycling Diversion

Year	Cost of Recycling	Recycling Collected	Compaction Rate	Reduction in Airspace Consumed	MSW Compaction Rate	Additional MSW	Price Per Ton	Total Future Gross Revenue
2025	\$143,597	2,047 tons	6.4 cy/ton	13,101 cy	0.76 ton/cy	9,957 tons	\$15.15	\$150,843

The cost of Standard Recycling in 2024 was \$25,368.10 for 2,047 tons of material (Glass, Plastics (#1/#2), Steel Cans, Scrap Metal, Books, Cardboard, Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines) for direct processing and hauling of recycled materials from the Recycling Center, Landfill, and Convenience Stations. This recycled material brought in revenue in 2025 of \$128,739 (from page 10) from the sale of recyclables. Direct employee costs for the Commercial Cardboard Route was \$70,869 (through September 8, 2025, program discontinued) and 2/3 of Recycling Center employees was \$72,728 for a total of \$143,597 for employee costs.

The 2025 gate rate at the landfill was \$37/ton of this \$21.85/ton is paid to the operating contractor leaving \$15.15 ton to be utilized by BCSWMD for projects, personnel, programs, etc. Therefore, diversion of recycling material initially removes money from revenue generated at the Landfill (\$31,012).

However, the reduction in landfill revenue is outweighed by the reduction in the consumed air-space of recycling material. 1 ton of recyclables consumes a larger volume of space than 1 ton of municipal solid waste. Kind of like the extreme example that a ton of bricks weighs the same as a ton of feathers, but a ton of feathers would consume a lot larger volume than a ton of bricks. Compaction rate calculations at the landfill have shown that one 1 ton of MSW consumes approximately 1.6 cubic yards. In comparison Waste Management/SWANA estimates that 1 ton of recyclables consumes 9 cubic yards of air-space or 5.6 times that of MSW. To use a conservative number, it is assumed herein that 1 ton of recyclables consumes 6.4 cubic yards of air-space or 4 times that of MSW. (As well, 6.4 cu. yd. utilized in the 2014 Analysis of Commercial Cardboard Collection) For instance, at the current conditions with 2,047 tons of recycling being diverted from the landfill this is reducing the volume of air-space consumed each year by 13,101 cubic yards. This air-space will then be filled with MSW at a density of 0.76 ton/cy (from our Compaction Report from Regional Services for 2025) or 9,957 tons to a total a future gross revenue of \$150,843. Our total savings from continuing to recycle materials would amount to \$135,985, which includes the net revenue from sale of recycling (after deducting recycling costs) combined with our projected future gross revenue at the landfill.

Not included in these numbers is the value of the wants and needs expressed by the community in regards to recycling.

Reuse

Little Red Schoolhouse (Recycling Center)

In 1998, thanks to a donation from the Custer-Nugent Foundation, the District opened The Little Red School House (LRSH) Teachers Reuse Facility behind the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center. Bartholomew County educators can shop for educational supplies, donated by local businesses and residents, at no cost. Educators can access the LRSH during normal Recycling Center hours: Monday-Friday from 7:30am – 4:30pm.

Little Red Schoolhouse Too (Landfill)

The new building added in 2003 to the landfill also houses the Little Red School House Too (LRSH,Too), an extension of the original LRSH located at the Recycling Center. While the original LRSH had classroom supplies, the new center would make available furniture and other durables to teachers, also at no charge. The reused items are either donated by the general public or garnered through NAEIR (National Assoc. for the Enhancement of Industrial Resources), a not-for-profit organization that supplies scratch and dent or unused material to other not-for-profit entities at shipping cost only. The grand opening took place in January 2003 with several businesses and local dignitaries in attendance. The open days of the LRSH Too were changed toward the end of 2018 to better meet the needs of teachers. Educators did not need to schedule an appointment on open Saturdays, but could make appointments to visit the LRSH Too during the week. Visitor numbers for 2025 were a total of 24 educators visiting. Currently, we receive donations that stock the site. 2025 Dates were Feb. 8th, May 17th, Aug. 9th, and Nov. 15th or by appointment. We will continue to schedule quarterly open dates in 2026 as well as by appointment.

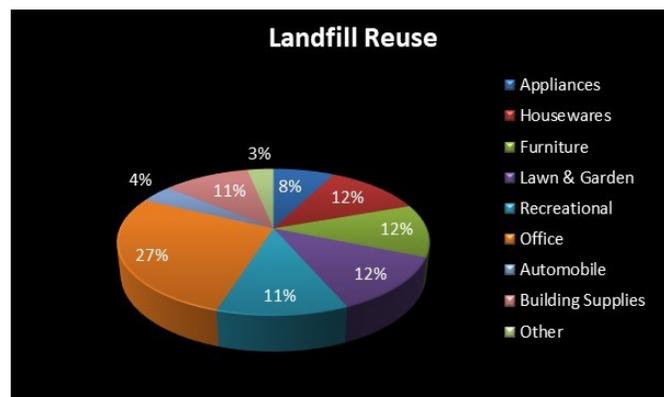
Landfill Reuse Center

In 1999, the District opted to take another slice of the landfill pie out of the waste stream by opening the public drop and swap reuse center at the landfill. Residents could drop-off reuse items for others to take home at no cost, thus reducing waste from entering the landfill and reusing salvageable items. In 2003, through a grant from IDEM, the center added a new building that would house a drop-off area for reuse items. Materials could then be dropped off on one side and picked up on the other. This permitted the reuse and recycling attendant to keep track of the volume of materials dropped off for reporting purposes and discover what might be wrong with the item as to inform the future owner.

Items accepted for Reuse include appliances, housewares, furniture, lawn & garden, recreational, office, automobile and building supplies. Exclusions include CFC or refrigerant containing appliances, mattresses, stuffed furniture unless in excellent condition, tires, HHW, medications and firearms/ammunition.

In 2015, the District partnered with Ohio Mills Corp. to provide a clothing bin that would accept residents used clothing for recycling. The clothing bin was stationed at the Reuse Center. This service was discontinued in 2018 due to vendor removal.

In 2025, The Reuse Center brought in 171 tons (342,632 lbs.) of reusable items. Office and furniture are the most frequently reused items.



Education and Community Outreach

On September 9, 1996, a part-time Recycling Educator was added to the staff. As our twenty-year plan progressed, the District recognized the increasing need for ongoing public education and a full-time Education Coordinator. The part-time position was upgraded to full-time in January of 2001. Emphasis has been placed on continued school and community outreach programs, as well as forging relationships with local businesses and not-for-profits. In 2022, our Educator position was cut from the 2023 Budget in an attempt to balance expenses versus revenue. The listed activities, see below, have continued by other BCSWMD Staff.

Community Outreach

Earth Day– Our Earth Day celebration was held on Friday, April 25th, 2025. Community Partners included BCSWMD CAC, BCPL Book Express, BCPL Cleo Seed Share, Sans Souci, BCRC Fliers, Purdue Extension-Master Gardeners & Blazing Stars CISMA, Marilyn Brackney, and City of Columbus DPW. Sponsorship for the event along with trees were provided by Toyota Material Handling. Amnesty collections included 325 tires, 250 refrigerant containing appliances, and 2 propane tanks were collected free of charge.

Déjà Vu Fine Craft and Art Show– BCSWMD sponsored the show in 2025, the show features artists who creatively reuse and recycle materials including woodwork, wearable art, mixed media, assemblage, jewelry, mosaic, glass art, sculpture, natural and sustainable and much more. 1,426 attendees were recorded for the 2025 show.

Community Presentations and Collaboration– In 2024, we gave 6 presentations in the community for the Monroe County SWMD, Free Masons, Cummins We Care Fairs. Also, we assisted with the Cummins Community Wide Recycling Day on Thursday, October 2, 2025. BCSWMD accepted the standard recyclables as a participant of the Recycling event collecting over 1.04 tons of books, plastics, glass, metal cans, scrap, cardboard, and paper (junk mail, magazines).

Adopt-A-Road– Nine groups beautified seven stretches of roadside in 2025 collecting over 142 bags of trash. Program participants agree to clean a mile-and-a-half section of county road at least twice a year for a two year period. Signs are installed along the adopted stretch of road to acknowledge their commitment.

Community Event Recycling– BCSWMD loaned Event Recycling containers out for 3 events total, including Empty Bowls, CAC at the Bartholomew County Fair, and Taskey Golf Outing. Containers are available for free to borrow for any community events.

Media Outreach

District Website— A recycling directory was added to the District website in 2021. Customers can find how to recycle or dispose of items using the alphabetical listing. The website address is www.bcswmd.com. We continue to update the website with timely information and any closures.

Facebook— Follow the District on Facebook at [Bartholomew County Solid Waste District](https://www.facebook.com/BartholomewCountySolidWasteDistrict) for timely communication about closings, events, updates, and shared articles. BCSWMD has 1,542 followers in 2025.

Instagram—Our followers grew to 381 in 2025. Find us on Instagram at [Barth Co Solid Waste District](https://www.instagram.com/BarthCoSolidWasteDistrict).

Twitter—Our followers grew to 73 in 2025. Another great social media option for District news and information. Follow us on Twitter [@BCSWMD](https://twitter.com/BCSWMD).

AM Columbus with John Foster - Catch the Director monthly on 1010 WCSI for District news and information.



**Event
Sponsored By:**



**Bartholomew County
Solid Waste Management District**



Bartholomew Co. residents only. No businesses or out of county residents.

AMNISTY WASTE 8-3
Refrigerant-containing Appliances - up to 2 at no cost
Propane Tanks - up to 2 gas grill size tanks at no cost
Tires - up to 4 personal vehicle tires, rims removed, at no cost
TVs & computer monitors \$20 each.

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS 8-3
RCPI Express - bring a book to swap or donate, BCRC Filers- on hand with giveaway planes, Come learn more about Sans Souci, City of Columbus DPW (8 Recycle Man), & BCSWMD CAC with program information.

MULCH/COMPOST LOADING 8-12
Bartholomew Co. residents get one pick-up truck load of mulch or compost for FREE!

REUSE ACTIVITY 10-12
Create a REUSE craft with Marilyn Brackney!

DOCUMENT SHREDDING 9-11
Residential quantities of documents accepted for secure shredding.

PLANT SWAP 8-3
Bartholomew Co. residents can bring plants to swap. Master Gardeners will have advice and garden tips! As well, BCPL Cleo Seed Share will be on hand to share seeds!

TREE GIVEAWAY 8-3
Toyota Material Handling is committed to give back to our local eco-system. Tulp and Redbud trees will be given away to encourage the planting and support of our local habitat maintenance.

HOT DOG ROAST 11-1
Enjoy a FREE hot dog, chips, and a pop at the 3Rs Pavilion! Sponsored by Toyota.

Friday, April 25, 2025
8 AM - 3 PM
Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center
720 S. Mapleton Street, Columbus, IN 47201 www.bcswmd.com

hosted by
Cummins Inc. CEP



**Community Wide
Recycling Day**

Thursday, Oct. 2nd, 2025

This event is open to all households in the community!
Bring your recyclable materials to the Cummins Inc., CEP
entrance at 500 Central Ave. from 7 A.M. until 4 P.M.

Materials accepted for recycling:



Household Recyclables	Miscellaneous
Beverage Containers (Aluminum, Glass, Steel, and Plastic #1-#2)	Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) 4' Bulbs
Cardboard	Used Batteries (All Types)
Scrap Metal	Household Paints, Stains, Chemicals
Paper	Mercury-containing Devices
Gently-used Shoes & Clothing	Car/Truck Tires (No Tractor Tires)
	Propane Tanks
	Antifreeze, Motor Oil (<5 gal container)

Appliances and Electronics

Televisions, IT Equipment, Computers, Monitors & Components
Appliances (Refrigerators, Humidifiers, A/C Units)
Electronics and Accessories (Wires/Phones/Servers/Radios)



Unacceptable Items

Styrofoam, Plastic bags, Plastics #3-#7
Bricks, Pavers, Concrete Blocks, Tractor Tires,
General Trash, Wood Waste



Most materials collected will be donated to local Cummins partners.

Columbus/Bartholomew Yard Waste Site History

Yard Waste management activities were initiated in 1989 by the Bartholomew County Recycling Task Force. This ad hoc group of interested citizens was formed to promote recycling in Bartholomew County. Their investigation into a broad spectrum of waste reduction schemes led them to recommend the implementation of a leaf/grass composting operation for the County.

Using property jointly owned by the City and County, the City of Columbus began this operation in the fall of 1990. City crews collected the fall leaves, which were brought to the new composting facility located adjacent to the City Garage. A private contractor was hired by the SWDA to operate the site in conjunction with the new City Garage Foundry Sand Site. A total of just over 11,000 cubic yards of leaves, and some grass, were placed into windrows. During this same time, the SWDA had applied to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for their first round of recycling grants. The SWDA was successful in obtaining \$10,000 from the State towards the purchase of a windrow-turning machine. Cummins Engine Company donated a diesel engine for the compost turner. Christmas 1990 also marked the inauguration of the SWDA's Christmas tree collection program, "Bring One for the Chipper". A total of 3,142 trees were diverted from the landfill and chipped into holiday mulch that year.

Since that first year, private lawn care firms and residents have been encouraged to use our facility for their grass clippings. All materials brought to the site MUST be debagged by the generator. In the fall of 1991, the SWMA purchased a brush chipper to gain experience with wood waste management. In 1994, faced with an impending State Ban on yard waste, the SWMA decided to use a private contract service provider for brush grinding services.

The District opted to continue the local ban on landfill disposal of leaves, grass, brush, and garden waste even though the State repealed portions of the yard waste ban in 1995. Commercial brush receiving at the yard waste site and loading of compost/mulch were discontinued in 1997, but due to public demand, commercial brush receiving was reinstated. Residents may still self-load during regular Recycling Center business hours as supplies are available. In the spring of 2000, the District took delivery of a new, self-contained, windrow turner. This replaced the pull-type turner used since the inception of the yard waste program in 1990. The new turner, funded in part by a \$100,000 Traditional Grant from IDEM, improved the efficiency of processing yard waste due to its single pass capability. The machine also utilizes a high-speed drum, which helps break down the yard waste much quicker.

In the Spring of 2001, the City of Columbus began accepting yard waste in Toter carts only. The new format meant cleaner compost, since plastic bags were omitted from the program. The District Education Coordinator assisted the City in educating the public of its new collection method at various Mayors' Town Meetings. As always, residents are encouraged to leave yard waste on the lawn. The technique of mulching your grass and leaves returns valuable nutrients to the lawn, prevents weeds from seeding, and helps keep moisture in during dry summer days.

In 2002, the District began selling its overstocked mulch as a means of recapturing grinding costs. In 2008, the District recovered \$73,391.56 from the sale of mulch and compost, covering all costs of the grinding operation. A supply is always available at no cost to local residents. In 2004, the District began its Friday only loading program (April through October). Residents can get a pick-up truck size load of compost or mulch loaded for \$10.00. Hours for the program are Friday's only from 2:00pm – 4:30pm. In 2008, two days at the end of March were set aside to load compost and mulch for senior citizens and we continue to offer this popular program. A new loader was purchased for use in the yard waste site in 2016. In 2017, we also sold leaf only compost in addition to mixed compost as well as our overstocked mulch to a landscape business through a bidding process. During the COVID Closure of our Recycling Center and Offices the Yard Waste site remained open but there were limited public loading programs.



Pallet Grinding

In 2000, the County Commissioners recommended that the District look into alternatives to landfilling of pallets. After thorough research by the District, it was decided to add pallets to the menu of materials accepted at the Yard Waste site. The pallets are ground into high-grade mulch and given back to the public at no cost. The program has diverted over 541.960 tons of pallets in 2025 and 7,190 tons since it inception in October of 2001.

Operating Information

Materials Accepted

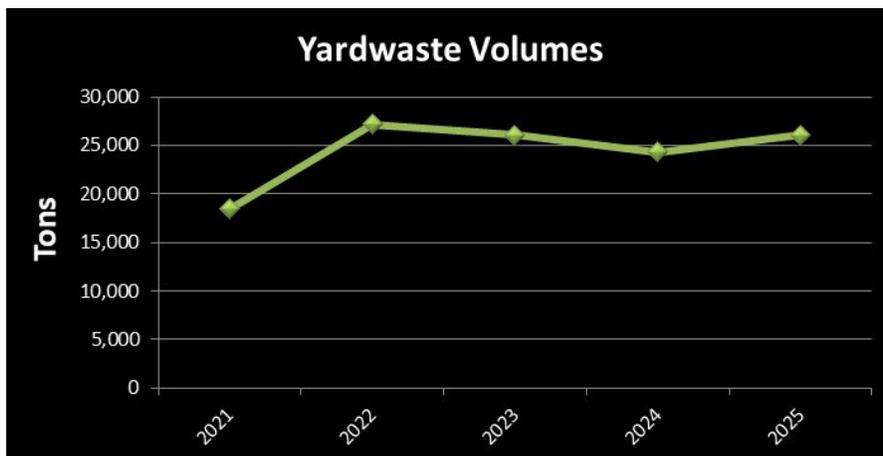
Grass • Leaves • Garden Waste • Flowers • Weeds • Brush & Tree Trimmings • Shrubs & Bushes

Hours of Operation & Fees

Yard Waste Volumes Received

Residential	Commercial																				
(Drop Off and Self-Load)	(Drop-Off Only)																				
<u>Monday-Friday</u> 8:00am-4:00pm	Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm																				
<p><i>Residents also can participate in mulch/compost loading every Friday April-October 2:00 pm-4:00pm. Each pick-up size load of material is \$10. Free loading for Seniors is available the last two Wednesday's in March from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.</i></p>	<p><i>Businesses are charged by load size for brush and tree trimmings to offset the cost of grinding. Leaves and grass are accepted at no charge.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fees (As of June 1, 2023)</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Heaping Pick-Up</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$23</td></tr> <tr><td>1-Ton Single Axle</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$43</td></tr> <tr><td>2-Ton Truck</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$66</td></tr> <tr><td>20-30 Yd. Roll-Off</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$66</td></tr> <tr><td>2-3 Axle Dump Truck</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$88</td></tr> <tr><td>40 Yd. Roll-Off</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$88</td></tr> <tr><td>Semi Trailer</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$131</td></tr> <tr><td>Standard Chip Truck</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$43</td></tr> <tr><td>Stumps (<3')</td><td style="text-align: right;">3x brush rate</td></tr> <tr><td>Pallets</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$0.75/ 4x4 size</td></tr> </table> <p>Heaping loads subject to additional fees</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No land clearing projects accepted</p>	Heaping Pick-Up	\$23	1-Ton Single Axle	\$43	2-Ton Truck	\$66	20-30 Yd. Roll-Off	\$66	2-3 Axle Dump Truck	\$88	40 Yd. Roll-Off	\$88	Semi Trailer	\$131	Standard Chip Truck	\$43	Stumps (<3')	3x brush rate	Pallets	\$0.75/ 4x4 size
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In 2025, the Yard Waste and Composting Site diverted a cumulative total of 26,054 tons (52,108,000 lbs.) of yard waste and pallets from going into the landfill. Of that total 718.350 tons (1,436,700 lbs.) were received as part of the Christmas Tree recycling program. \$102,156 was received for yard waste, pallets, loading of mulch and compost, and mulch/compost sales in 2025. Total Grinding expenses for 2025 were \$99,755.



Household Hazardous Waste

History



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) refers to a whole range of products found in the home that in their original form, are best kept out of a sanitary landfill. About 80% of all HHW consists of two materials; used motor oil and waste paint. Other common items include automotive antifreeze, old gasoline, weed killers, pesticides, drain cleaners and auto or rechargeable batteries and more.

Until the early 1990's, we disposed of all of these items along with our regular refuse or worse by dumping them carelessly into the environment. We now know that dumping these products out into our yards or storm sewers harms the environment in a variety of ways. While our sanitary landfill is designed to contain all household quantities of these materials, there are advantages to keeping these out of the waste stream. For example, at our landfill we must collect all of the rainwater that percolates through the refuse. This liquid, called leachate, is then treated and disposed of at the wastewater treatment plant. Just as industrial users pay more for the treatment and disposal of more concentrated wastewaters, so too does our landfill.

The collection of HHW began in May of 1990. The Saturday recycling offered at the Columbus City Garage afforded disposal of used motor oil and automotive batteries. After construction of the Columbus-Bartholomew Recycling Center (C/B Recycling Center) in the summer of 1992, the SWMA increased the disposal availability for these materials to include Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as Saturdays. The SWMA also began to evaluate single event HHW collection, commonly called Tox-A-Way days, versus a fixed facility collection program. The SWMA concluded that a fixed facility could offer a weekly service for the same cost as a one-day event. Starting in May 1994, a small purpose containment building was purchased and placed adjacent to the C/B Recycling Center. A one-half day per week program, called Tox-A-Way Wednesdays, was initiated. Mercury-containing items were added to the menu of materials accepted in 1998. Development of the District website in 1999 allows residents to seek alternatives to HHW and has proven to be one of the most accessed pages of the Internet site.

Oil and oil filter recycling at the landfill were added to the menu of services offered in 1999. A grant from IDEM was used to fund a 400-gallon oil reservoir that was placed in the reuse barn at the small load area of the landfill. Residents can recycle their waste oil and filters during regular landfill operating hours.

In 2000, the District offered free recycling of CFC (Freon) containing appliances at the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center on Earth Day and America Recycles Day. Also, tires were added to the menu of hard-to-manage problem wastes.

Elemental Mercury was added to the menu of HHW reclaimed during the Wednesday Tox-Away-Day in 2002. New edicts passed down by the State mandated removal of Mercury containing items from all schools as a safety precaution.

In 2003, computers were added to the list of recyclables accepted at the Landfill including monitors, tower and associated peripherals (mouse, keyboard, etc.). Up to 2 computers were accepted at no cost to Bartholomew County residents.

In 2005, the District had specific staff members attend CFC removal training so we could recycle internally instead of through a contractor. As a result of that training, the District began offering recycling of refrigerant containing appliances year round at the landfill for a \$20 per unit fee. Whole tires were also added to the menu of materials accepted for a fee.

In 2008, the District began accepting compact fluorescent and CFL light bulbs for recycling. These energy saving devices are enjoying widespread acceptance. Some contain trace quantities of mercury and are therefore accepted for recycling.

In 2009, the District discontinued the collection of non-rechargeable household batteries due to changing DOT transportation regulations. The District continues to accept rechargeable and automotive type (lead acid) batteries.

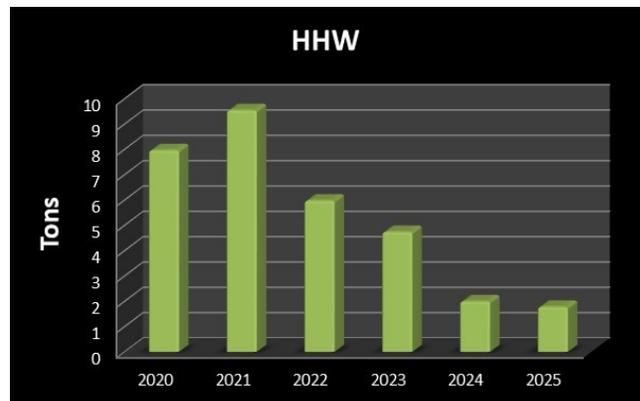
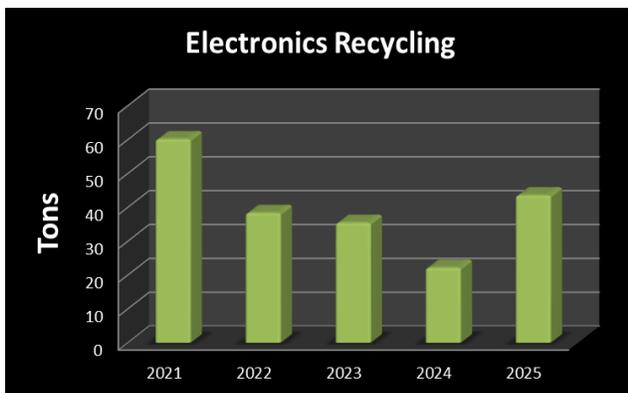
In 2011, computer recycling was expanded by the District accepting computers at the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center.

In 2012, the District purchased an oil can crusher in order to reduce our cost of proper disposal. We estimate we could save as much as \$1,750 in 2013. Through the oil crushing process we reclaim a small amount of oil. This oil can then be used to heat our Recycling Center through our oil-burning furnace.

Also in December 2012, the District expanded the electronics recycling from just computers to include all electronics with a power cord. This includes televisions, office equipment, household appliances, and computers. Exclusions include non-intact appliances, items composed of glass/wood/ceramics, and refrigerant containing appliances. Electronics are taken free of charge for recycling at the Landfill and Recycling Center locations during normal hours of operation. As well, CFL tube lighting was added to the recyclables list including 2 feet, 4 feet, and 8 feet lengths.

In 2013, the District started offering Vinyl Siding recycling at the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center. The District was working with a vendor that accepted clean (free of other materials) vinyl siding for recycling. Approximately, 3.40 tons of vinyl siding was diverted from the landfill through this program. In 2014, The District expanded the Household Hazardous Waste program by adding smoke detectors and alarms to the list of accepted items.

In July 2017, a \$20 fee was instated for Computer Monitors and Televisions due to rising costs from our Recycling vendor. As well, in July 2019, the Vinyl Siding Recycling Bin was removed by the vendor. In 2021, Tox-A-Way was expanded to 5 days a week at the Columbus/Bartholomew County Recycling Center. Earth Day 2025 was held on Friday, April 25th with 250 CFC containing appliances, 2 propane tanks, and 325 tires collected. Amnesty events will be reduced moving forward to one event around Earth Day each year. As well, we will continue to partner with Cummins on their annual Recycle Day. In August 2023, the accepted list of HHW was updated to reduce HHW disposal/recycling costs. In 2025, we collected 1.78 tons (3,560 lbs.) of HHW and 43.623 tons (87,246 lbs.) of Electronics.



<u>Materials Accepted</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automotive Batteries • Rechargeable Household Batteries • Waste Motor Oil • Transmission Fluid • Power Steering Fluid • Brake Fluid • Oil Filters • Hydraulic/Gear Oil • Cooking Oil • Diesel Fuel • Kerosene • Fire Extinguishers • Ink Cartridges • Cell Phones • Propane Cylinders • Other items please call for acceptance 	<p>Tox-A-Way</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</p> <p>Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm</p> <p>At the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center</p> <p>720 S. Mapleton St. Columbus IN 47201</p> <p><u>For Bartholomew County Residents Only</u></p>

Rural Refuse Collection/ Convenience Stations

History

The Saturday Rural Refuse collection program was started in 1972 as the "Clean-Way Packer Service", two years prior to the opening of the Bartholomew County Landfill. The Saturday program was intended to provide service to county residents living away from the proposed new landfill site in Petersville.

The Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District has retained the county rural refuse collection program. By 1999, the service was consolidated to provide service at two locations in the county using refuse collection trucks (SR 46 West at the ABC Stewart School, and Long Road approximately ½ mile off Indianapolis Road) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday except those following a major holiday. The District also operates the Petersville Convenience Station on SR 46 East now 25th Street, at the old landfill location every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both via contract services. This facility was opened the first Saturday in April, 1999.

The District's 20-year solid waste management plan called for the consolidation of the mobile sites into a lesser number of fixed facilities like the Petersville Station. This was planned because the cost per ton for the fixed locations is less than half the cost for packer truck collection and, the fixed locations offer recycling services and potentially collect disposal fees from all users.

In late March 2003, the District was requested by school officials to abandon the packer truck collection service at ABC Stewart. A new site (Harrison Township), 2 miles west was identified and secured for use courtesy of the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation.

In late 2006, the District learned that the Harrison Township site was being donated to the Sycamore Land Trust. The transfer has been accomplished. Our District has entered into a long term (20 year) lease agreement with the land trust. In 2008, the District sought and received a Conditional Use Approval from Columbus Planning Department. This final approval allowed us to construct the planned improvements in late 2009. We began operation of this new station in 2010. The last packer truck based collection, at Long Road, ceased operating in March 2010.

Current Operations

Our residents now enjoy a paved, easy access experience at both our Petersville and Harrison Township Convenience Stations. They also enjoy expanded recycling options every Saturday. Cost savings to the District (with the Long Road closure and Harrison opening) exceed \$35,000/year. A metal recycling bin was added in January 2017 to the Harrison Township site. We changed our Commingled vendor in 2020 to reduce our costs and provide the same service to residents. No COVID closures occurred in 2021 as trash disposal remained essential. Signage was updated at Harrison Township to reflect use by only Bartholomew County residents in 2021 in addition to litter fencing at Petersville to slow blowing material. Tonnage for 2025 was 593.72 tons at Petersville and 539.43 tons at Harrison.

Future Plans

No changes are planned in the near future. Our fixed convenience stations, coupled with our landfill provide cost effective services for all our county residents. We continue to monitor the site for out-of-county use.



City Garage Construction Demolition Site

History

In 1985, the City of Columbus and Bartholomew County each adopted economic development ordinances to fund the disposal of spent foundry sand from Golden Castings at our sanitary landfill. The City and County each agreed to provide up to \$16,000 per year, for a period of 10 years (1986-1995). It was soon learned that this was insufficient to pay for the increasing sand tonnages.

In an effort to reduce foundry sand disposal costs, the SWMA developed the City Garage Foundry Sand Site in July of 1991. Subsequently, all of Golden Casting's sand was received at this facility.

New Sand Disposal Area History

The property purchased by Golden Castings consists of approximately 62 acres immediately adjacent to the City Garage site. Allowing for the required 100 foot setback along property lines yields about 47 acres for disposal. The fill height will be limited to elevation 630, in order to blend in with the surrounding property. Therefore, this site will provide approximately 1.3 million cubic yards of disposal space. Assuming an average density of 95 lbs./cu. ft., the site will hold 1.67 million tons. At a generation rate of 70,000 tons per year, this site should provide 24 years of disposal capacity.

The SWMA/District assisted Golden Castings in rezoning the property to a Special Use - 14 classification. In December 1995, the District and SWMA executed a contract with Golden Casting, which allows for the SWMA to construct and operate the new disposal area on a cost basis. The property is to be deeded to the City and County. By working cooperatively, the District, SWMA and Golden all benefit from this agreement. Per contract terms, the SWMA has moved its yard waste operations to an unused portion of the property, providing much needed additional space. The final disposal cell at the original disposal area was filled in 1996.

The City Garage Foundry Sand Site was originally permitted by the State to accept spent foundry wastes (Type III or IV only) from Golden Castings, Inc. only.

In October 1996, we received approval from the State of Indiana to begin using a new disposal area, immediately south of the original area.

The 2002 new disposal capacity built at the site was used temporarily for the storage of semi-trailers by Dorel Industries to aid their facility expansion project. In 2004, Dorel Industries discontinued their use of our site. Only a small quantity of sand was received at the site as part of the cleanup of Golden in 2002/2003.



Current Operations

In 2005, the District received approval from IDEM to allow the acceptance of construction/ demolition materials at the site. Since 2006 the site, by permit, is only allowed to accept C/D materials. In 2008, we received a substantial amount of home demolition material from the record flood of June 7th. In 2009, we constructed additional disposal capacity at our site (cell 150'x700'). This capacity will be used for larger demolition projects in our community as taking in more than 50 tons per day requires us to install scales at the site. We anticipate additional construction of the site in 2032.

Inspections

The City Garage site is inspected by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for compliance with regulations governing construction, operations, and permit conditions. These inspections are conducted on a quarterly schedule.

Future Plans

The conversion of the site to a construction demolition fill area for large projects such as the Golden Casting demolition and the Central Middle School demolition (completed in 2007) has proved a valuable tool to preserve landfill capacity. In 2013, we received debris from a small Town of Hope demolition project totaling 1,989.52 tons diverted from our municipal landfill. In 2014, we diverted 160 tons of debris from our landfill for construction of a duplex on 9th street in Columbus. In 2024, our construction demolition site was used for 120 tons of C/D material, if we use the site over 50 tons per day, scales are required. We will continue to use this site for municipal projects that are acceptable for disposal. We estimate only 25% of the permitted capacity has been filled leaving 30.5 acres undeveloped at the site. A large portion of the 25% occurred while Golden Foundry was disposing of foundry sand. Since the transition to a C/D Site the majority of the disposal has been from demolished houses (2008 Flood), or special projects (ex. Commons Mall). Upon closure we estimate needing \$555,113 for closure and \$229,900 for post-closure care per June 2025 Local Government Test estimates.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
536	342	469	120	120



**BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR 2025**

Beginning Balance of General Fund Budget JANUARY 1, 2025	\$	5,489,089.00	100%
Maximum Levy \$2,115,516 - Districts 2025 Levy \$2,121,923.74 - Tax Rate 0.0334			
Encumbrances from 2024 \$154,247.24			
		Y-T-D	
REVENUES:			
District Tax	\$	2,121,923.74	
Landfill Tipping Fees	\$	3,212,249.01	
Scalehouse Receipts Daily	\$	496,196.94	
Construction/Demolition Fees	\$	-	
Sale of Recyclables	\$	128,738.38	
Tires	\$	2,589.00	
Refrigerators	\$	7,480.00	
Monitors and TV's	\$	17,980.00	
Loading	\$	3,351.20	
Yard Waste	\$	76,697.00	
Pallets	\$	6,893.25	
Sale of Compost and Mulch	\$	15,215.40	
Farm Rental	\$	27,164.00	
Miscellaneous	\$	3,586.19	
Reimbursements	\$	13,825.01	
Donations	\$	4,183.35	
Recycling	\$	90.00	
Interest on Sweep Account/Checking Int.	\$	32,676.25	
Transfer of Funds to General			
General Fund Adjustment			
Total Revenues General Fund	\$	6,170,838.72	
Less Transfer of Funds	\$	-	
	\$	6,170,838.72	
EXPENDITURES:			
		Unexpended Balance Remaining	
100 Salaries, Wages, Fica/Med and Benefits	\$	1,087,967.24	\$ 29,221.76 3%
200 Materials, Supplies, Repairs	\$	73,032.75	\$ 5,993.60 8%
300 Services and Other Charges	\$	2,957,381.77	\$ 98,189.12 3%
400 Buildings, Machinery and Equipment	\$	1,173,693.69	\$ 217,856.31 16%
Total Appropriated Expenditures:	\$	5,292,075.45	\$ 351,260.79 6%
Unappropriated Miscellaneous Expenditures :	\$	4,595.67	
General Fund Adjustment:			
	\$	5,296,671.12	
Transfer to Rainy Day Fund	\$	7,946.15	
	\$	5,304,617.27	
Ending Balance of General Fund Budget December 31, 2025	\$	343,314.64	
<i>Encumbrances upon approval of Resolution 1-2025</i>	\$	271,799.24	
<i>Total 2025 Unexpended Appropriated Balance</i>	\$	71,515.40	