

Public Hearings Scheduled for Proposed Rates/Charges for Ashtabula County Solid Waste District Programs

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners will be holding six (6) public hearings regarding the implementation of a new rate or charge per ORC 343.08, not to exceed \$5.00 upon each improved parcel of real property, excluding exempt parcels situated in Ashtabula County, Ohio.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- July 25, 2017—5:30 PM—Wayne Township Offices, 4280 SR 322, Williamsfield OH
- August 7, 2017—5:00 PM—Ashtabula City Council Chambers, 4717 Main Ave., Ashtabula OH
- August 14, 2017—5:00 PM—Geneva City Council Chambers, 44 N Forest St., Geneva OH
- August 15, 2017—1:30 PM—Ashtabula County Commissioners, 25 W Jefferson St., Jefferson OH
- August 28, 2017—5:00 PM—Conneaut City Council Chambers, 294 Main St., Conneaut OH
- August 29, 2017—5:30 PM—Windsor Township Office, 5159 SR 534, Windsor OH

Ashtabula County Solid Waste Policy Committee has recommended that the County Commissioners implement a rate and charge of up to \$5 per improved parcel to fund a variety of programs for the Solid Waste District. The programs that can be implemented with this funding mechanism include:

- Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
- Annual Tire Amnesty Collection Event
- Drop-off Recycling locations throughout Ashtabula County
- School and Public Education and Awareness
- Illegal dump cleanup funds
- Community Recycling or Cleanup Grant Program
- Environmental Enforcement

The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the Solid Waste District and to express opinions regarding the proposed funding mechanism. Written comments will be accepted until August 31, 2017 at Ashtabula County Solid Waste District, 25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 44047. Questions call 440-576-1530.

Solid Waste District Financing

Ohio Solid Waste Districts were established by law in 1988 to ensure there was sufficient waste disposal capacity and to reduce the dependence on landfills by providing recycling opportunities. A variety of funding options are available to districts to provide these opportunities. Options include tier fees, generation fees, designation fees, contract fees, general revenue, and rates and charges. Ashtabula County SWD has utilized the tier fee mechanism since 1993 with no increases. Rate is \$2/ton of waste disposed in municipal landfill within the county.

Proposed Rate/Charge Mechanism

- Improved parcel is defined as having one or more permanent, portable, or temporary building.
- Rate/Charge if established will be certified to the County Auditor, who shall place them on the real property duplicate against the parcel.
- Proposed rate/charge will supplement the existing funding
- Proposed rate/charge will generate about \$170,000 per year to support SWD Programs

Why Rate/Charge method is recommended

- District is dependent on solid waste disposal to fund recycling and special collection events. Historically the amount of in-district waste disposed is decreasing by 2.7% per year.
- Every other funding option, except using County general revenue funds, is tied to tons of weight disposed.
- Rates/Charges provides a stable funding mechanism that is not impacted by reductions in the waste disposed.
- Other funding options (generation, contract, or designation fees) create a financial burden for large waste generators such as industries, health care facilities, and Ashtabula City. Also, waste haulers will pass along cost of rate hike to customers and the increase would likely be more annually than the proposed rate and charge.

FAQs

How quickly can you start?

If the Rate and Charge funding is approved by September 1, 2017 the expanded recycling program and special collection events will be scheduled in Spring, 2018.

My community already has curbside recycling why should I pay an additional charge?

Thank you and your community for taking responsibility for all your waste disposal costs. This funding will enable the SWD to provide Household Hazardous Waste and Tire collection events that are not provided by your waste hauler. Also, your community will be eligible for priority to the Community Grant program for extra recycling or cleanup funds.

How can I help?

If you support the proposed funding, try to attend one of the public hearings and express your support. If you are unable to attend call or write the Board of Commissions and let them know you support this funding mechanism. If you would be willing to be a recycling ambassador and help increase awareness about what can be recycled, contact the SWD at 576-1530.

I don't recycle, why do I need to pay an additional charge?

Even if you don't choose to recycle now the law requires the District to provide you access to recycling. You will have an opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste and tires at collection events and your community may receive funding for cleanup events.