

WOOD You Recycle?



3rd Quarter 2021

See You at the Wood County Fair!

The Wood County Solid Waste Management District is looking forward to being back at the Wood County Fair this year! Please stop by our booth to learn about local strategies to reduce, reuse, and recycle household materials. We will be at the fair from Monday, August 2 through Saturday, August 7 and will set-up across from the Republican and Democrat booths. This year, we have several sustainable giveaways and fun activities to teach children how to “recycle right.” Our staff will be available to answer all of your disposal questions and to provide information about how you can go green at home, school, and work. While at the fair, be sure to recycle your plastic and aluminum cans at one of our several Clear Stream containers located throughout the fairgrounds!



Landfill Tours and In-Person Presentations

We are once again providing in-person Landfill tours and environmental presentations for students and small groups this summer. Learn about landfills,



View of the Wood County Landfill from above

recycling, zero-waste, compost, and sustainability initiatives through programs that can be adapted for all ages and interests. This is a great way to keep kids learning during the off-school season. Virtual programs are also available as well. To schedule a tour or presentation, please contact Hannah Bumb, Recycling Outreach Coordinator, at 419-354-1515 or hbumb@woodcountyohio.gov

Note: Wind Turbine tours can be scheduled through The City of Bowling Green Public Works Department.

Celebrate Sustainably this Summer

If you are organizing an event, party, or tournament in Wood County this summer, the SWMD is here to help ensure it is eco-friendly. We have free Clear Stream containers that you may borrow to collect beverage bottles (plastic and metal) for recycling. The containers are easy to set up and can be used at any function. The individual or organization borrowing the Clear Streams is responsible for transporting them to and from the event as well as taking the recyclables to the Bowling Green Recycling Center located on Poe Road prior to returning the containers. We can also provide tips and tricks for reducing waste, including single-use plastic and food waste, at your next event. Contact our office at 419-354-1515 for more information about the Clear Streams container loan program.



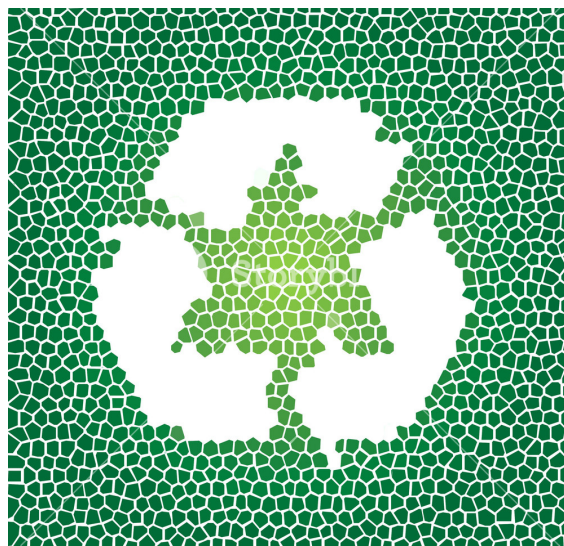
New Landfill Superintendent



Meet Matt Limes, the new Superintendent for the Wood County Landfill! Matt has been a Landfill employee for over 21 years, starting as a Utility Worker I and most recently as Assistant Landfill Superintendent. With a wealth of waste management and heavy equipment operation experience, he is excited to lead the upcoming landfill expansion project that will increase the lifespan of the Landfill by over 100 years. When Matt is not working at the Landfill, he enjoys spending time outdoors, hunting and camping. Matt is also a husband, father of three, and grandfather and is looking forward to a lot of family time this summer.

Bloomdale Recycling Site Community Group Needed

If your school, church, sports, or small group is looking for a way to earn green while helping the County go green, we have a great opportunity for you! Several of the District's recycling sites are maintained regularly by community groups to ensure issues like illegal dumping, contamination, and litter are minimized. Community groups are compensated for their efforts through an annual per capita payment. We are in need of a Community Group for the Bloomdale recycling site! The recycling drop-off is located near the Bloomdale water tower at the intersection of Harrison and Railroad Streets. Requirements for community groups include: visiting the site multiple times per week, removing trash and non-recyclables, reporting back to the District on any site issues, and keeping the site litter-free. For more information about signing up to support the 24/7 recycling program, please contact Recycling Outreach Coordinator, Hannah Bumb, at 419-354-1515.



FAQ - Why is there so much Plastic in the Ocean?



Our waterways are swimming with plastic with an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic waste entering our oceans annually (1). Although plastic has made human life more convenient, it has also created an unprecedented pollution problem for our rivers, lakes,

and oceans. Due to its chemical properties, plastic never breaks down in the natural environment like other materials, but breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics. Microplastics are consumed by aquatic animals, bioaccumulating within the food chain and ultimately ingested by larger species, including humans. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by volume (2).

Plastic waste enters the waterways through several sources. The largest contributors to ocean plastic pollution include: China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam (3). Many of these Asian countries lack solid waste infrastructure such as trash collection and disposal, so rivers and lakes serve as landfills, carrying plastic and other pollutants out into the ocean. While China is the top producer of plastic waste in the world, America has the highest rate of plastic consumption. The demand for cheap, single-use plastic drives production in countries that do not have the capacity to safely and sanitarily handle disposal. Much of the plastic that was sent to Southeast Asia to be recycled, was ultimately incinerated or dumping into local rivers instead due to its low economic value. Plastic waste can also enter waterways through aquatic sources such as fishing and boating. Fishing gear and boating equipment that is left behind can entangle wildlife and remain in the environment for hundreds of years. Plastic can also enter waterbodies through high winds or rain, littering, and storm drains which flow directly into local waterways. Additionally, plastic microfibers from clothing can enter the water as they are too small to be filtered by most water treatment plants.

Marine Debris continues to harm our streams, rivers, Great Lakes, and oceans. To reduce the amount of plastic pollution, we must reduce our consumption of plastic. The top ocean pollutants are all single-use plastics including: cigarette butts, beverage bottles, food wrappers, bottle caps, straws and stirrers, and plastic bags (4). You can help save our seas by choosing reusable container options, participating in a local clean up, securing trash containers with lids, and recycling right. Check out these organizations to learn more about how you can get involved in being part of the solution to ocean pollution: [NOAA](#), [Ocean Conservancy](#), [5 Gyres](#), and [Partners for Clean Streams](#).

Sources:

- 1) National Geographic - <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/150212-ocean-debris-plastic-garbage-patches-science>
- 2) Time - <https://time.com/4186250/ocean-plastic-fish/>
- 3) Forbes - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/hannahleung/2018/04/21/five-asian-countries-dump-more-plastic-than-anyone-else-combined-how-you-can-help/?sh=691527991234>
- 4) Ocean Conservancy - <https://oceanconservancy.org/news/top-ten-items/>

2021 Policy Committee Members

Doris Herringshaw, Ed.D., *Chairman*, Wood County Commissioners (term - permanent)

Mike Aspacher, *Mayor*, City of Bowling Green (term - permanent)

Jim Rossow, *Representative*, Plain Township (term - permanent)

Lana Glore, *Director of Environmental Health*, Wood County Health Department (term - permanent)

Nicki Kale, *Public Representative* (term - 2 years, expires 11/30/2021)

Judy Hagen, *Citizen Representative* (term - 2 years, expires 12/31/2021)

Lori Carson, *Industrial Representative* (term - 2 years, expires 12/31/2021)

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Visit our Website

