

Preble County Solid Waste District

4239 US Rt. 127 South

Eaton, Ohio 45320 Phone: 937-456-6880



Simply Green Newsletter

Can your business **donate** to the 2020 Trash Bash Roadside Clean-up? Our office is in need of trash bags and bottled water. **Call us** to donate and help beautify Preble County. Your contribution will make a difference!

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Preble County Trash Bash Roadside Cleanup Days Scheduled for April 4-5, 2020

Each year, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is forced to spend \$4 million on litter pick-up. This is a preventable problem. That money could be used to install 323 culverts, pave 40 miles of a two-lane road, install 340 miles of guardrail, or purchase 28 snowplow trucks. Preble County is no exception when it comes to the problem of roadside littering.

Have you ever driven along our county's roadways and witnessed roadside littering and wondered what could be done? Here is an excellent opportunity to be a part of the solution! The Preble County Community Roadside Clean-Up Days (A.K.A. Trash Bash 2020) are scheduled for April 4-5, 2020. It is a two-day event hosted by the Preble County Solid Waste District which will take place rain or shine. The collection is set to begin at 9:00 AM Saturday, April 4 following a 30-45 minute mandatory safety training for volunteers at the Preble County Fairgrounds Horse Barn (student groups and adults) in which each member will receive a **special goodie bag** with information inside. Each group will be given black trash bags for collecting trash and clear bags for collecting items that can be recycled as well as other supplies. Volunteers clean assigned two mile stretches of roads then they leave the bags to be picked up from predetermined collection points by workers from the Preble County Engineer's office the following Monday.

All volunteers wishing to participate in the roadside clean-up effort must receive a registration packet and then they will be required to submit a registration form and a release of liability which will be returned to the district office no later than March 2, 2020. Call the Solid Waste District at 937-456-6880 to request a packet be sent to your group's representative or stop by the office at 4239 US 127 South in Eaton to pick one up. **This is the first year ever for this event. Volunteers are needed for our success!**

Waste Disposal and Recycling Numbers: State vs. Preble County Solid Waste District

How does Preble County compare to the state of Ohio in waste generation, waste disposal and recycling? Using 2017 statewide and county data, we can see the following trends:

2017 Ohio EPA Data

Location:	Residential/Commercial Waste Disposal	Residential/Commercial Recycling	Residential/Commercial Waste Generation (Disposal + Recycling)
State of Ohio	4.71 Pounds Per Person Per Day	29.06%	6.64 Pounds Per Person Per Day
Preble County	3.47 Pounds Per Person Per Day	13.60%	4.02 Pounds Per Person Per Day

We can do so much better!

As you can see, Preble County has some catching up to do to be able to catch up to the state's 29% recycling rate. In the newly approved state of Ohio's solid waste plan, Preble County Solid Waste District must provide at least 80% of its citizens with recycling opportunities and the district is strongly encouraged to achieve the goal of reaching a 25% residential/commercial recycling rate. The district is therefore half-way toward accomplishing that goal. Educating our residents about the many economic and environmental benefits of proper materials recycling is one of our solid waste district's top priorities.

Waste Disposal and Recycling Numbers: State vs. Preble County Solid Waste District (continued)

The U.S. EPA estimates that **75 percent of all solid waste is recyclable, yet only about 30 percent is actually recycled.** That means that every one of us can do better regarding the improvement of our recycling efforts. However, a big concern is that not everything that has a recycling label on its box, carton, bottle or wrapper is truly recyclable due to the existing local recycling infrastructure and materials recovery technologies, economics, market values for recovered recyclables, etc. Some things really are just “trash” and not recyclable no matter how much we want them to be. Don't be guilty of “wish-cycling”!

The best policy is for people to consult their local waste and recycling hauler (Rumpke) or entities such as Ohio EPA or Preble County Solid Waste District for proper waste disposal and recycling guidelines. A complete list of items that can be recycled, recycling tips and drop-off recycling site locations as well as a list of landfill services is posted on the Preble County Solid Waste District's website:

www.preblecountyrecycles.org. Items which are hard to recycle or dispose of such as hazardous chemicals, electronics, tires, and so forth can be safely taken to the Preble County Landfill for disposal or recycling. Residential quantities of hazardous waste and electronics are collected for free at the landfill during regular landfill hours. Landfill hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Saturday hours from March 1 through December 1 are 8:00 AM until Noon.

2019 Preble County Solid Waste District's Environmental Calendar Contest Winners



It was an exciting year for the Preble County Solid Waste District as we sponsored our first ever Environmental Calendar Contest! Created to inspire young artists to be good environmental stewards, the contest was open to all Preble County students in grades K-12. Students' entries consisted of artwork on the following themes: Water Conservation, Recycling, and Soil Conservation. On December 19, 2019 seven Eaton Middle School students were awarded prize packages which included such goodies as recycled tote bags, school supplies, water bottles, gift cards, and a copy of the new 2020 environmental calendar in which their artwork was featured. The following students were recognized for their talent:

Grand Prize Winner (Illustrator of the Cover): Josie Eilerman

Other Winners: Paiten Brierly, Emma Irwin, Olivia Elliott, Lydia Hofmann, Brody King, Savana Bulach

Congratulations to all of the winners. And a big thank you to our contest donors: MSD Environmental and Wings Etc. Our office would also like to thank Amanda Tinstman, the art teacher at Eaton Middle School for encouraging her students to participate in this year's contest and for allowing our staff to present awards in her classroom. The Preble County Solid Waste District reminds all citizens that they can make a real difference in preserving and protecting our environment with *thoughtful* waste management and recycling!