

CHAPTER 2 DISTRICT PROFILE

Purpose

This chapter provides context for the SWMD's solid waste management plan by providing an overview of general characteristics of the SWMD. Characteristics discussed in this chapter include:

- The communities and political jurisdictions within the SWMD;
- The SWMD's population in the reference year and throughout the planning period;
- The available infrastructure for managing waste and recyclable materials within the SWMD;
- The commercial businesses and institutional entities located within the SWMD;
- The industrial businesses located within the SWMD; and
- Any other characteristics that are unique to the SWMD and affect waste management within the SWMD or provide challenges to the SWMD.

Understanding these characteristics helps the policy committee make decisions about the types of programs that will most effectively address the needs of residents, businesses, and other waste generators within the SWMD's jurisdiction.

Population distribution, density, and change affect the types of recycling opportunities that make sense for a particular community and for the SWMD as a whole.

The make-up of the commercial and industrial sectors within the SWMD influences the types of wastes generated and the types of programs the SWMD provides to assist those sectors with their recycling and waste reduction efforts.

Unique circumstances, such as hosting an amusement park, a large university, or a coal burning power plant present challenges, particularly for providing waste reduction and recycling programs.

The policy committee must take into account all of these characteristics when developing its overall waste management strategy.

A. Profile of Political Jurisdictions

1. *Counties in the Solid Waste Management District: Darke County*
2. *County Overview*

Darke County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2021

Darke County is in western Ohio bordering on Indiana. It is one of Ohio’s most productive agricultural counties but is also is the home of notable manufacturers. The county seat is Greenville City. Greenville is also the largest municipality in the county. The remainder of the population resides in smaller villages and in the unincorporated areas of the twenty townships. The estimated population density in 2019 was 89 persons per square mile.¹

B. Population

1. Reference Year Population - 2018

The reference year population calculation:

The Solid Waste District population is calculated by subtracting the population of Bradford Village located in Darke County, and the population of Burkettsville Village located in Darke County from the total population of Darke County. These two villages straddle county lines and are part of neighboring solid waste districts because a divided municipality is attached to the district where the majority of the residents of the municipality reside.² $51,323 - (753+101) = 50,469$

Table 2-1 Population of District in the Reference Year

County		Largest Political Jurisdiction		
Name	Population	Community Name	Population	Percent of Total County Population
Darke County SWMD	50,469	Greenville City	12,695	25%

Table 2-2 Population Distribution

County	Percent of Population in Cities	Percent of Population in Villages	Percent of Population in Unincorporated Township
Darke	25%	24%	51%

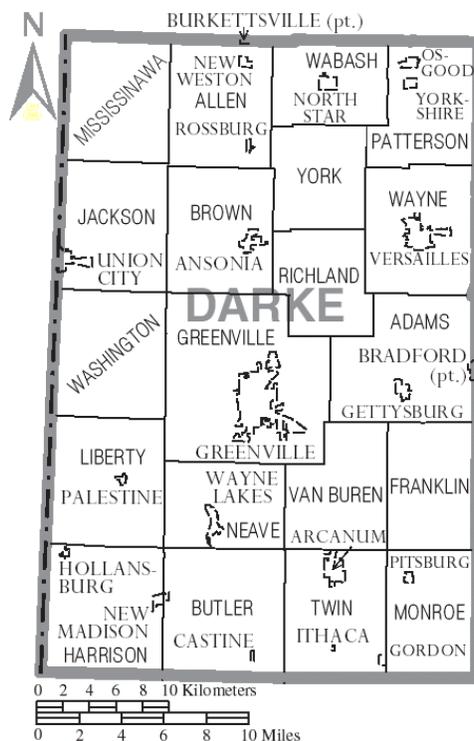
¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darke_County,_Ohio

² Source for population information: Ohio Department of Development: Darke County 2018 population Estimates for Cities, Villages and Townships.

2. Population Distribution

Table 2-2 shows that one fourth of the District population is concentrated in Greenville City, about one-fourth live in villages which are scattered over the county. To better understand the population density or the lack of population density, it should be noted that 13 of the 18 villages in the District have populations under 1,000 and 7 of those thirteen have populations under 200. Most of the county is sparsely populated agricultural land. The last U.S. Department of Agriculture Census in 2012 reported 1,693 farms averaging 201 acres. Agricultural acreage was 339,981 acres which amounts to 88.5% of the total area of the county.

Map of Darke County with Township, City and Villages³



Housing statistics for Darke County shed additional light on the issue of population density. In 2019 Darke County had 22,844 housing units, which is an average of 38 units per square mile. In comparison, the average for all of Ohio is 126.8 units per square mile. Obviously, the housing density in Greenville and the villages is considerably more than the average of 38 per units per square mile. The density in the unincorporated areas is less.

³ By US Census, Ruhrfisch - taken from US Census website [1] and modified by User: Ruhrfisch, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=917251>

Darke County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2021

Most Darke County residents live-in single-family homes. 28% of the housing units in Darke county are rentals. The remainder are owner occupied.⁴ Most multi-family units are in Greenville and the larger villages.

3. *Population Change*

The population of Darke County decreased slightly from the 2010 census to the 2018 population (estimated). There was a loss of 1,855 people or -4%. During the planning period, 2022 through 2036 the projected loss is 3,682 people or -8%.⁵

4. *Implications for Solid Waste Management*

If the population decreases to the extent predicted, it is likely that the two areas in the county that will see the greatest part of the decrease are the city of Greenville within the city limits as some of the aging housing stock is abandoned and the newer neighborhoods on the outside the edges of the city expand, and the already sparsely populated townships as smaller farms are consolidated into larger acreage operations. If residences are more scattered, it could result in higher costs for regular waste and recycling collection. If curbside collection were abandoned in rural areas due to increased cost, the District would be burdened with the cost of additional drop-off sites. However, the decrease in population, if it materializes, will probably be gradual giving time to adjust programs as needed. So many factors go into the quantity and quality of participation in residential recycling and waste reduction efforts that it is difficult to predict what, if any, effect this moderate and slow decrease in population will have on waste management and waste reduction programs.

C. **Profile of Commercial and Institutional Sector**

Commercial activity in Darke County is centered in Greenville. In addition to being the county seat and the largest city in the county, it is centrally located and is easily accessed from most of the county by main highways. The largest non-manufacturing employers in Greenville are the Brethren Retirement Community, Greenville City Schools, and Wayne Health. Walmart is the largest retail business employer and Dick Lavy Trucking is the largest transportation employer.

Many national or regional chain stores are present in Greenville. These include Kroger, Walmart, Lowes, Rural King, Tractor Supply Company, Walgreens, CVS, Pet Valu, Cato, Ace hardware, and others. Greenville also has chain and franchise restaurants, service stations, and convenience

⁴ Source: [/www.towncharts.com/Ohio/Housing/Darke-County-OH-Housing-data.html](http://www.towncharts.com/Ohio/Housing/Darke-County-OH-Housing-data.html)

⁵ Calculations based on projections published by Ohio Dept. of Development
http://www.development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_pop_proj_map.htm

Darke County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2021

stores. Locally owned businesses in Greenville include agricultural and construction supply stores, clothing and specialty stores, and restaurants.

Commercial businesses in the villages are more likely to be locally owned and smaller than those found in Greenville. At the time this draft plan update was being finalized, the Covid-19 virus had disrupted commercial business. Many businesses were closed. It is too early to know what the long-term effect will be. Even before Covid-19 some local businesses closed permanently. Most notable was the closing in 2019 of locally owned supermarkets in Greenville, Arcanum, and Union City. This is part of a trend of local businesses finding it difficult to compete in a changing retail market which is gravitating to on-line-shopping and larger chain stores.

Although some business sectors may be declining, one potential growth is logistics, the process of managing how resources are acquired, stored, and transported to their final destination. Darke County is well suited to attract this type of business. Its location, close to the intersection of U.S. Routes 70 and 75, puts Darke County within a one-day drive of almost 50% of the U.S. population.

Education opportunities are important to assure that a region can supply the workforce necessary for a thriving commercial and industrial base. Edison State Community College has a branch campus in Greenville. The Greenville Campus offers 5 degree programs, two of which are designed for transferring to a four-year college or university, and three which prepare graduates for immediate employment.

Vocational education opportunities are provided at the Career Technical Center within Greenville City Schools and at the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) in near-by Englewood. Located in western Miami County, MVCTC serves five counties including Darke County. MVCTC is a full-service adult career technical education and occupation school. In addition to providing career education for high school students, MVCTC provides adult learners with high-quality training and education by offering full-time career programs, short-term courses, and a wide range of education and training services such as GED, ASPIRE, and ESOL classes.

There are 9 public school districts in the county and 2 private schools. The total number of students reported in 2020 was 8,785 in grades K through 12.

D. Profile of Industrial Sector

The list of the seven largest manufacturing employers in Darke County provides a good overview of the types of industries located in the District.

Company	Employees	Products
Whirlpool Corporation	1,200	Household appliance mfg.
Midmark Corporation	936	Medical, dental, and animal health equipment mfg.

Darke County Solid Waste Management Plan Update 2021

Company	Employees	Products
Greenville Technology, Inc.	700	Plastic automotive parts mfg.
Fram Group	338	Auto oil filters
Weaver Brothers Inc	334	Agricultural egg producers and processors
King's Command Food, Inc.	150	Food processors
BASF Corporation	150	Coatings and resins used in auto production

Smaller industries include food production, wood and plastic products manufacture, metal fabrication, machine shops, refrigeration equipment production, commercial printing, stone monument production, and production of decorative fixtures.

E. Other Characteristics

Darke County is one of the top agricultural counties in Ohio. Major farm products are soybeans, corn, hogs, poultry, livestock, wheat, dairy products, and beef cattle. Darke County ranked second in the state of Ohio for total ag receipts of \$559,494,000.⁶ Darke County was first in corn, second in soybean production, fourteenth in wheat, fourth in cattle and calves, and second in hogs and pigs.

Driving around the county outside of Greenville and the villages, it is evident that livestock far out numbers people. Farms are spaced at distances along county and township roads, some of which are unpaved. The challenges for waste and recycling collection in these rural areas are much different than in cities or residential suburbs.

Although Darke County is normally quiet and peaceful, the county attracts visitors to several local campgrounds, parks, and the Darke County Fair. The biggest event venue on the county is the Eldora Speedway which hosts more than 25 racing events a year and provides on-site camping spaces. The speedway says that its major events attract 20,000 spectators.

⁶ US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service and 2012 Census of Agriculture website.