

# Lakewood Resiliency Task Force



**Objective Category: Waste** – *Contribute to a more healthy and productive community by diverting waste from landfills and combustion through "reduce and reuse" activities as well as recycling and composting.*

*First Draft: September 18, 2018*

## **Our Purpose Statement:**

To understand current and emerging forces that can impact Lakewood and the wellbeing of its citizens. Examining environmental, political, social and economic forces through the lens of resiliency, the Task Force will pursue and recommend systemic process enhancements that will allow Lakewood to identify, prioritize, execute and measure solutions that will lead to a continuously improving and thriving city for all, especially the most vulnerable among us, for generations to come.

## **Indicators of the "Current State" in Lakewood:**

**Solid Waste to Landfill** – 16,357 tons

**Recyclables Recycled per capita**– .105 tons per person

**Organics Recycled** – 11,159 tons

**Recycling Rate** – 50.09%

**Regulated Combined Sewer Outfall Sites** - 9 (3 Rocky River, 6 Lake Erie)

**Estimated Annual Overflow Events** – 472 (84 Million Gallons)

- Cost benefit of disposal, recycle, down cycle, donation vs landfill
- Decouple yard debris from food waste
- Backyard composting numbers
- Food waste at schools
- Presence of composters/compost sites
- % of people who do not have access to recycling and composting
- Per capita cost to dispose in landfill vs recycle

## **Relevant highlights from previously adopted City of Lakewood Plans:**

**Vision – Community Wellness** “Grow our strong recycling program by exploring new strategies to improve compliance including fees for refuse collection by volume”

**Vision – Community Wellness** “Educate about the responsibility of maintaining sewers citywide”

**Vision – Economic Development** “Educate property owners on best practices for commercial building rehabilitation”

## **Systems Level Connections to other Priorities:**

**Energy:** Use of food waste in energy production

**Prosperity:** New business opportunities in waste reclamation products and services. Reduced appearance of trash attracting business clientele.

**Living Infrastructure:** Waste and storm water captured and repurposed. Soil toxins (e.g. lead) remediated through natural processes with industrial application (e.g. inert hemp).

**Resource Regeneration:** Reclaimed materials used in construction. Reclaimed water used for agriculture and industrial purposes.

**Climate:** Reduced organic waste in landfills resulting in reduction in methane gas emissions.

**Housing:** density greatly impacts amount of waste created & transportation costs of food delivery

## **Current and Proposed Projects and Programs in Lakewood:**

- Integrated Wet Weather Improvement Plan

**Objective Category:** Waste

**Primary Goal or Objective: (the change we seek):**

- Reduce per capita landfill waste over X years

**Illustrative indicators, baseline measurements and performance targets:**

- 1.) What does this cost me per year until tax payer changes habits?
- 2.) Does Lakewood provided services vary from other local efforts?
- 3.)

**Strategies and Interventions, Projects and Programs to meet the targets:**

- Pay per bag/volume (variable garbage bin size)
- Sticker/decals to put on residential bins to help inform what can/should be recycled
- Municipal ordinance mandating residential food scrap composting
- Use Ithaca and Seattle as waste case studies
- Reuse/donate list
- Quick reference disposal sheet
- Opt out or have add on service to sort; provide higher end service
- Recycling memoire
- Publicize how much residents pay for trash collection
- Workshops on composting
- "Oops" tags for recycle mistakes
- Incentives for proper recycling
- Give positive reinforcement/recognitions for "good" recycling
- Waste audits
- Encourage businesses that do creative deconstruction and recycling
- Residential waste vs commercial waste
- Donations
- Diverting waste
- Fees hurt people who can least afford it

**Necessary and desirable stakeholders and partners, within Lakewood and beyond Lakewood:**

- Large multi-family buildings (density is good in these initiatives)

**Required changes to Policies and Procedures**

- People respond to prices. Need to better capture true cost (externalities) of landfill, recycling, composting.

**Resources required vs. resources available and the time frame:**