

# Pipelines

SPRING 2020



## Director's Note: "Waste Not, Want Not"

AS GCSED rolls out a new Solid Waste Management plan, we ask that each resident becomes "aware" of their own waste generation and recycling practices.

**Waste not, want not:** if you use a commodity or resource carefully and without extravagance, you'll never be in need. In today's fast-paced, throwaway culture, this concept feels almost foreign. But should it? Just because trash isn't billowing into our local streets doesn't mean we don't have a crisis on our hands. Landfill capacity continues to dwindle as our addiction to single-use plastics and other disposables climbs to record levels. Solid waste management is everyone's business and ensuring effective and sustainable practices is vital for our society to thrive.

**Did you know that GCSED is responsible for Greene County's solid waste management program?** The Ohio EPA requires all solid waste management districts update a plan for proper waste management practices every 5 years. GCSED recently submitted its latest update of this plan to the Ohio EPA for review. This function is guided by a policy committee (PC) of various stakeholders from the local community and participating jurisdictions. The PC leads the direction of the district, implements effective policies and procedures, and oversees the district's finances. Although Greene County neither hauls waste nor houses a solid waste landfill, it's still responsible to meet the program requirements of the state. In 2018, 157,608 tons of solid waste was generated in Greene County.

### **How is the program funded and what does it get the residents of Greene County?**

Residents pay a \$10 per ton generation fee to fund the solid waste management district. This fee is built into individual solid waste fee structures, whether they are subscription (individual service) or non-

subscription (community-wide service). This revenue funds the management of the solid waste management district and all the services offered through GCSED's Environmental Services Division such as yard waste, recycling, and special waste drop-offs. More info on their offerings can be found at <https://www.co.greene.oh.us/199/Environmental-Services> or by calling **937-562-5925**.

**What is normal household waste comprised of?** Generally, household waste consists of 1/3 landfillable, 1/3 compostable, and 1/3 recyclable products.

### **What can you do at the individual level to ensure that future generations will have a safe and healthy environment?**

- Start to be more "aware" of your waste generation footprint and where it goes! Reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Buy what you actually need, not what you think you need. It is estimated that 40% of America's produced food is wasted.
- Use curb or drop-off recycling programs.
- Take reusable bags when shopping.
- Minimize single-use plastics (including bottled water).
- Look for opportunities to compost.
- Donate unwanted clothing, slightly used furniture, and other household items to local non-profit organizations.
- Call GCSED Environmental Services for a tour, to ask questions, or to find recycling options!

— Jason Tincu, Director

## The Mission of the Laboratory

The Sanitary Engineering Laboratory meets the analytical needs of the Wastewater and Water Treatment Divisions. We provide chemical and bacterial testing for the two divisions.

According to the Lab Manager, Lori Kyle, the Lab performs analysis and supplies data to ensure they're meeting their permit limits. Some of the results are reported to the Ohio EPA, while others are used in-house for operations.

The Lab Staff, consisting of five full-time employees, communicates findings with other Divisions. We have three active Labs: general chemistry, bacteriological, and an operational Lab. Our Lab Technicians must be certified by the State of Ohio in order to analyze samples.

Tests vary from simple to complex. One major test we run is for phosphorus, as required by the OEPA as a means of protecting our streams and rivers. The Lab also tests for nitrogen in various forms (ammonia, nitrates, nitrites). We are certified for bacteriological tests for total coliform bacteria and e-Coli in drinking water.

A variety of equipment is necessary to perform the tests, ranging from a simple pH meter to a UV visible spectrophotometer to measure phosphorus; ion meters to measure fluoride, ammonia and pH; as well as an incubator to cultivate bacteria, to name a few.

The Lab also analyzes samples for private and public well owners. These tests include Total Coliform Bacteria, e-Coli, and Nitrates.

We love keeping Greene County healthy and safe. If you'd like to find out more, call us to schedule a group tour at **937-562-7450**.

# Save on Summer Irrigation and Recreation Water Usage!

**D**uring summer months, using more water for irrigation and outdoor recreation can lead to higher sewer charges. Water used for these purposes that is **NOT measured separately by a special meter** is charged at the standard water and sewer rates (typically an added cost of \$12.09 for each additional 1,000 gallons). However, water used for outdoor purposes and measured with a special meter is charged at the irrigation service rate of \$5.62 per 1,000 gallons. This will reduce your sewer charges because irrigation water is not discharged to the sanitary sewer system for treatment at our wastewater treatment plants.

## What Meter Options are Available?

- 1. Irrigation system meter** – Customers are charged a one-time connection fee, \$8.33 per month, and are required to obtain annual backflow certification from a qualified plumber.
- 2. Deduct meter** – Customers are charged a one-time connection fee, \$8.33 per month, and are required to obtain annual backflow certification from a qualified plumber.
- 3. Hose-bib meters** – Detachable hose-bib meters are also available for one-time or short-term use, such as filling a pool or watering new sod. These meters are provided by the county for a rental fee of \$20 for four business days, \$50 for half season (July 15 – Oct 15), or \$100 per season (April 15 through October 15).

## Should I Have a Special Meter?

Because of the meters' monthly fees and rental charges, the answer depends on how much water you use for outdoor purposes. If you don't use much water outside, the meter costs will be higher than the potential water and sewer savings.

## General guidelines to consider:

- Customers using a garden hose to spot-water the grass or flowers occasionally typically don't need a special meter.
- Running a built-in lawn sprinkling system regularly (2-3 times a week) can use thousands of gallons of water a month for irrigation. **If you use more than 17,000 gallons in a season, you will pay less with a special meter than you would under the current standard combined water and sewer rate.**
- **You should use a special meter when you fill in-ground swimming pools.**

Customers with special meters are responsible for any costs associated with meter loss or damage due to neglect. Arrangements for the installation or rental of a special meter should be made through our office.

**Call GCSED office at 937-562-7450 to find out more about irrigation meters.**

## More Convenient Payment Options

We launched a new online billing and payment solution, offering these features:

- **Easy-to-use Online Portal** – registration is NOT required
- **Go Paperless** – view bills via email
- **Payment Options** – Recurring Scheduled Payments
- **Email Reminders** – when your bill is ready, a scheduled payment is pending, and a confirmation of payment
- **Pay by Phone** – check your account balance or make a payment
- **Pay by Text** – get notifications and make payments

Paying through your checking or savings accounts has a \$0.90 service fee. Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Card has a service fee of \$2.25, with a maximum transaction amount of \$500. Go to <https://www3.invoicecloud.com/xeniaoh> to register your account.

## Ways to pay your bill

**Online:** [co.greene.oh.us/sanitary](http://co.greene.oh.us/sanitary)

**By Phone:** 855-925-1665

### By Mail:

Greene County Sanitary  
Engineering Department  
P.O. Box 340  
Xenia, OH 45385-0340

*Remember to update your GCSED online banking vendor address. Some banks send your payment via USPS rather than ACH transaction.*

## Special Waste Drop-off Events

**T**he following Household Hazardous Waste is accepted: paint, stain, anti-freeze, fuels (up to 5 gal.), vehicle maintenance fluids, lawn and garden products. Large household appliances (with or without Freon), scrap metal, and fluorescent tube lamps are also accepted.

**Items not accepted:** motor oil, televisions, or materials generated from businesses.

Visit [www.co.greene.oh.us/recycle](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/recycle) or call 937-562-5925 for more information.

### Tuesdays:

**March 17, April 21, May 19, June 23**  
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

### Saturdays:

**April 4, May 9, June 13**  
9 am – noon

### Greene County Environmental Services

2145 Greene Way Boulevard  
Xenia, Ohio 45385

## Greene County Sanitary Engineering

### Administration Building

937-562-7450  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
667 Dayton-Xenia Road  
Xenia, OH 45385

### After-Hours Emergencies

937-562-7450

### Billing/Bill Payments

937-562-7457

[co.greene.oh.us](http://co.greene.oh.us) 