

## Funding Environmental Protection & Soil and Water Conservation

### Overview

Governor Strickland's proposed new two-year state operating budget (Ohio House Bill 1) includes a fee increase on landfill waste. The Governor is proposing this fee

increase to fund important clean air and clean water programs administered by the Ohio EPA and soil and water conservation programs administered by the Ohio DNR.

Proposed Waste Disposal Fee Increases				
	Current Fee	Increase	New Fee	Estimated Revenue
Municipal Solid Waste	\$3.50/ton	\$1.25/ton (\$1 to OEPA and \$0.25 to ODNR)	\$4.75/ton	\$13.5 million annually for OEPA and \$3.38 million for ODNR
Construction & Demolition Debris	\$1.70/ton	\$2.70/ton (\$0.45 to OEPA and \$2.25 to ODNR)	\$4.40/ton	\$1.85 million annually for OEPA and \$9.23 million for ODNR

### Background

The OEPA and ODNR are struggling to maintain important programs because of declining tax and fee revenues. The OEPA has eliminated 32 positions in SFY 2008-09 and has identified 33 additional

positions that may have to be eliminated due to declining fee revenues. ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation has undergone similar staff reductions; it lost 38% of its staffing level since 2001.

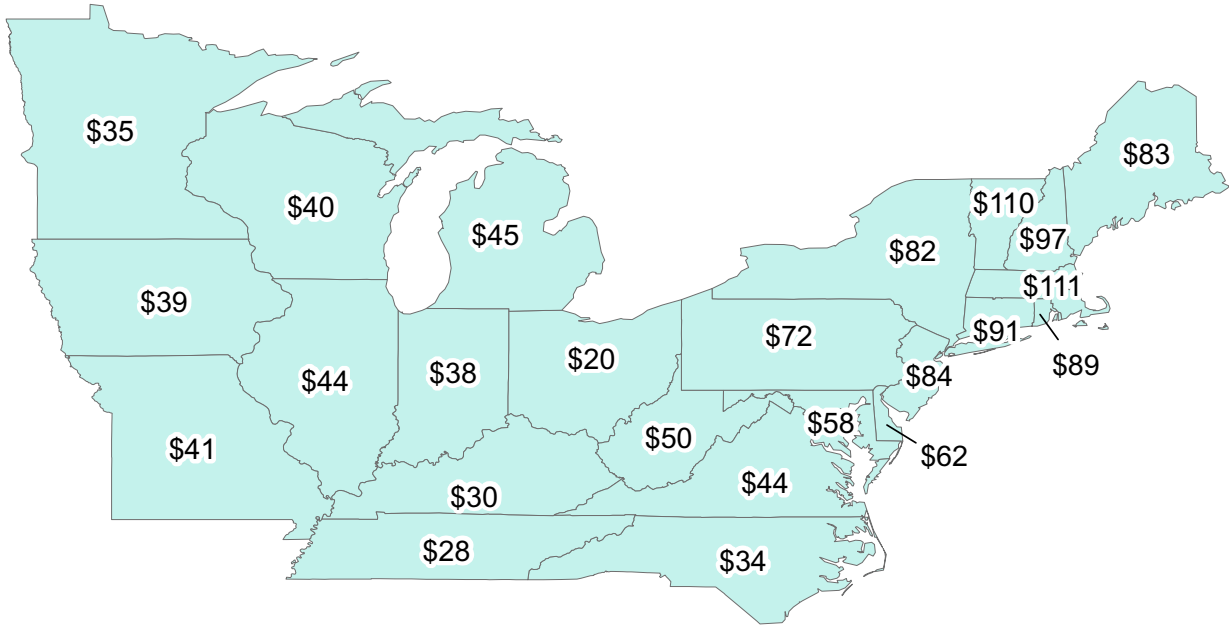
### Why approve the fee increase?

- » Residents and businesses alike benefit from a clean environment and soil and water conservation. And we all generate waste. Paying higher fees on waste disposal is a fair alternative to a general tax increase.
- » Waste disposal costs in Ohio are, on average, much lower than many other states. Raising disposal fees may help reduce the amount of waste that is generated.
- » With the fee increase, OEPA and ODNR will be able to maintain existing staff and provide assistance critical to:
  - Achieve compliance with federal standards for clean air, safe drinking water, and protected ground and surface water;
  - Thoroughly and quickly review new air and water permits;
  - Provide the 1:1 state matching grant to all 88 county soil and water conservation districts;
  - Provide Ohio's match to the federal Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which is implemented by county soil and water conservation districts. This is a 20% state-80% federal cost-share program, leveraging up to \$167 million in federal investment in Ohio.

### Without the fee increase:

- » Public water systems oversight will be reduced substantially;
- » Stream cleanups will slow down considerably;
- » Local governments (primarily counties) will have to fully fund the soil and water conservation districts on their own;
- » Lake Erie water quality, particularly in the Western Basin, will decline as programming to prevent runoff is ended;
- » Assistance to communities with flood protection, stormwater and drainage needs will be reduced or eliminated.

**C&DD Tipping Fees (2007)  
(cost per ton)**



**Municipal Solid Waste Tipping Fees (2007)  
(cost per ton)**

