

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

**Dan Scott**

**Ashland County Solid Waste Management District Coordinator &  
Recycling Center Director**

This time of year signals a change in routines for many folks. The kids are out of school, the class of 2010 has graduated, and many families are planning summer recreational activities and vacations. As routines and schedules change, many things remain constant. If you recycle at home, school or work, I hope that you will remain steadfast in that commitment over the summer months. If you don't presently recycle, now would be a good time to start and blend that habit into your daily/weekly routines. We all need to do all we can to conserve our natural resources and reduce waste. A good way to do that is to recycle all the material we can. Whether it be recycling metals, fiber materials or plastics, we can drastically reduce the need for virgin materials such as copper and aluminum, wood pulp from harvested trees and crude oil if we will recycle materials made from these materials. Keeping materials out of the landfills and being reused to manufacture new products is a way we can all responsibly reduce waste and save materials for use by future generations. I thank all residents who take the time to recycle.

May was a busy month for the Recycling Center and Solid Waste Management District. We finalized our 2009 Annual District Report and filed it with the Ohio EPA well ahead of the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. This year for the first time we have placed the report on our web site so it is readily available to our residents. Just go to [www.ashlandcounty.org/recycling](http://www.ashlandcounty.org/recycling) and click in the middle of the homepage where it says the report is online. We also have our current commodity buyback prices and our helpful recycling guide that lists our recycling drop-off locations and the materials we accept and how to prepare them listed under the Recycling Guide tab for your convenience.

We also submitted our 2011 budgets and appropriation requests to the Commissioners office in May. Our estimates were very similar to the 2010 budgets since I don't anticipate a lot of changes for next year. Revenues generated from sales will probably remain flat as the commodity markets continue to move back and forth, but I expect volumes to continue to grow.

So far this year volumes have been very good at our drop-off locations and coming through our drive-thru here at the Recycling Center. The first and second quarters both had increases of about 13% over the total volumes collected in the fourth quarter of 2009. The realignment of our drop-off sites a year ago and the addition of more open hours at our drive-thru have proven to be a good decision. We want to have as much access to recycling as we can and maintain good service. I feel we have a good array of opportunities around the county and will continually look for others areas we can serve in the future as our funding allows.

We have started work on the much needed repair and resurfacing of our parking lot and drives. The patching and repair work needed was completed in late June and the whole lot will be chip and sealed soon. This work will not entail any traffic problems for us since it will be done at times when we are not open in the evenings or on weekends. With all the heavy truck traffic we have, our lot has greatly deteriorated over the last couple years and must have something done this year to avoid a very expensive removal and replacement later. We have partnered with the County Highway Department to participate in their chip and seal program that they use annually for road repair. Thanks to Ashland County Engineer Ed Meixner and his staff we will be getting this work done at a cost much lower than total resurfacing.

With funding remaining very tight, I am sorry to say that we will not be having a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day again this year. With the expense of the lot repairs and also paying for our five year Solid Waste Management District plan update this year, there were just not funds available. However, we are planning to have the collection event in 2011. Since 2005 we have been on a cycle to have a collection every third year and next year will be the year barring any unforeseen financial crisis.

The Recycling Center still has available a number of recycling containers shaped like a pop can and a plastic bottle that can be used to gather these recyclable items at home parties, festivals and other events. If you or your group is having a gathering and would like a unique way to collect cans and plastic bottles, call the Recycling Center at 419-289-7382 and arrange to reserve them for your event. We just ask that you bring the units back clean and that all material collected be brought directly to the center.

As always, if you have questions, comments or need clarification with any recycling or disposal issue, feel free to call me or my staff at the Recycling

center at 419-289-7382, or stop by our offices at 1270 Middle Rowsburg Road.