



SWANA
Ohio Buckeye
Chapter

Awards Program

October 15, 2025

Overview

The SWANA Ohio Buckeye
Chapter Annual Awards Program

21st Year.



James S. Bridges
Solid Waste
Professional of the
Year Award



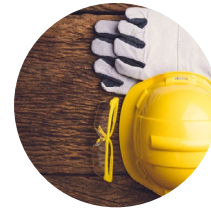
Kevin M. Bonzo
Solid Waste
Innovator Award



Michael D. Long
Solid Waste
Operator Award



Young Professional
of the Year



Safety in Excellence
Award



Special
Recognition



Dedicated Service Awards

OSS Solid Waste Management District



Gary Baty



James S. Bridges *Solid Waste Professional of the Year*

“a solid waste professional that has provided valuable services and exemplary contributions to the field of solid waste management”

- Our award recipient has served as Executive Director of OSS Solid Waste Management District since 2020.
- He began his career in solid waste with Republic in 2018, leading a multi-functional team of 70 associates and managing a \$10 million budget. At Republic, he cut safety incidents by 40% saving \$180k year over year.
- At OSS, our recipient provides daily leadership and strategic guidance to a team of eight direct reports and manages an annual budget of \$4M.
- Our recipient has provided strong leadership through the challenges of a global pandemic and has navigated challenges related to a local landfill.
- Through the recipient’s leadership and forward thinking, the Aim to be Green recycling drop-off program implemented improvements including rebranding and signage for all sites and containers, direct engagement projects on “Recycle Right”, and the development of enforcement camera grants for township sites.

Ashland County Solid Waste Management District



James Skora



James S. Bridges ***Solid Waste Professional of the Year***

“a solid waste professional that has provided valuable services and exemplary contributions to the field of solid waste management”

- Our award recipient has been at the forefront of solid waste management in Ohio for decades, serving as a leader in professional consulting, solid waste management, and strategic direction for SWANA at both the state and national level.
- As a consultant, he helped entities across Ohio create effective, sustainable waste management strategies. Within the Ohio Buckeye Chapter of SWANA, Jim coordinated training programs such as the MOLO, Transfer Station Management, and Collections courses
- Our recipient led specialized training initiatives for the City of Cleveland, tailoring programs to meet local needs and fostering collaboration within the industry.
- His coordination of the first Ohio EPA Landfill Operations training set a new benchmark for educational opportunities.
- Currently, the recipient leads solid waste management activities for Ashland County, where his influence continues to make a meaningful impact

OSS Solid Waste Management District



Jim Darr

Kevin M. Bonzo

Solid Waste Innovator Award

“unusually noteworthy achievements and/or highly significant contributions in his/her field of solid waste management that has resulted in an innovative solution to the management of solid waste”

- Our award recipient began his environmental career in 1993 working for the Sandusky County Recycling and Litter Prevention as a Program Manager, where he established the County’s first appliance collection event, created the position of education specialist through annual ODNR grant funding, and established and supervised operation of a recycling center which included service to several cities and townships in the District.
- In 2006, he joined the team at OSS where he coordinates recycling and waste reduction programs including the Aim to Be Green (A2BG)
- He created and maintained a safety manual for operation staff, developed a service agreement for 80+ public entities receiving pickup services from the OSS Recycling Center, created an online registration process for HHW, appliance, farm tire and e-waste events, and rebranded recycling containers and conducted a comprehensive direct engagement program to reduce contamination.

OSS Recycling Drop-Off and Processing Center



Michael D. Long Solid Waste Operator Award

“an operator in the field of solid waste management who has demonstrated unusually noteworthy achievements and/or highly significant contributions to the solid waste management industry”

- This “small but mighty” processing center has been in operation since 1999 and began as a partnership between the OSS Solid Waste District and the Ohio Division of Civilian Conservation.
- The center has recycled over 11,624 tons of materials over 26 years and provides an essential service to the surrounding smaller communities and rural areas.
- Recycling services include:
 - The Aim to Be Green drop-off, available 24 hours/day
 - Collection services to 87 schools, government agencies, civic organizations, and nonprofits
 - Bulk plastics recycling for ODOT and the Fostoria Water Treatment Facility
 - Additional collections of textiles and tennis shoes, campaign signs, hard and soft bound books, solar glasses, shredded paper, and cardboard

Put-in-Bay Township



Kelly Mohn



Special Recognition Award

“a solid waste professional, government agency, non-profit organization, or company who has demonstrated unusually noteworthy achievements and/or highly significant contributions to the management of solid waste in Ohio”

- Put-in-Bay encompasses an area of 108,344.47 acres, making it the largest township in Ohio. However, only 4.44 square miles in composed of land. This township is home to 813 residents but sees more than 750,00 tourists every year. These factors present numerous difficulties for solid waste management and recycling but Put-in-Bay remains dedicated to finding innovative solutions to manage waste.
- South Bass Island began recycling cans in 1989, with Middle Bass Island joining in 1993. Residents can now recycle newspaper, metal food and beverage cans, glass, select plastics and mixed paper. Commercial businesses can recycle cardboard with the purchase of a voucher.
- PNB provides a Fish Waste Disposal Container, helping to keep the island clean and prevent illegal dumping of fish waste. In 2024, the Township collected 87,880 pounds of fish waste.
- In the mid 1990s, Put-in-Bay conducted a HHW collection program for its residents. This event presented a host of logistical challenges in collecting and transporting hazardous material off the island, but the Township remained undeterred and conducted the event without issue, a testimony to their desire to provide safe and effective material management for residents.

OSS Solid Waste Management District



Tim Hassinger



Young Professional of the Year

“An individual in the solid waste industry, aged 35 or younger, who demonstrates a passion for the environment, industry, and success; provides advice, ideas, and solutions; contributes to innovations, programs, and projects; and represents the next generation of SWANA.”

- Our award recipient began his career in the solid waste industry with OSS in 2020 as a Communications & Outreach Specialist.
- At OSS, our recipient leads public presentations on recycling, composting, litter prevention, and green purchasing to inform residents on sustainable practices.
- His accomplishments include managing the OSS Solar Eclipse Glasses Recycling program. He also coordinates the Adopt-A-Road program and has overseen the collection of roughly 3,000 pounds of litter by 588 volunteers, how dedicated over 900 hours to keeping the community clean.
- Our recipient spearheaded the 2024 redesign of recycleoss.org, introducing innovative features to improve user experience, accessibility, and engagement with recycling resources.
- Tim has written articles that have been featured in the national publication Waste Advantage Magazine, highlighting key initiatives for his District.

Montgomery County Environmental Services- Solid Waste



Chad Branham



Excellence in Safety Award

“ a solid waste professional that implements or develops significant or innovative safety improvements, assists in the prevention of accidents, demonstrates passion for safety, and/or provides advice and solutions in a safe manner”

- Our award recipient has served as a Facility and Equipment Maintenance Worker for Montgomery County for three years, and is known for his unwavering dedication to upholding and enforcing safety standards and his meticulous attention to detail.
- In the past year, he has been essential in extinguishing approximately ten fires at the facility, including fires on the tipping floor and inside semi-trailers. Using the fire hose and water cannon, he thoroughly doused hot spots, effectively extinguishing the flames and preventing further damage and danger to personnel.
- In 2024, our recipient demonstrated remarkable composure and skill when he administered first aid to a commercial driver who had become overheated and collapsed on the tipping floor. Upon the driver losing consciousness and sustaining a large laceration from a fall, Chad immediately sprang into action. He applied pressure to the wound, used water to cool the driver down, and stayed by the driver's side until medical personnel arrived.

Buckeye Chapter

Special Recognition Awards

“Recognize Outgoing Ohio Buckeye Chapter Board
Members and President”



James Profitt
President
2025-2026



Jamie Zawilla
President
2023-2025
Past President
2025-2026



Beth Biggins-Ramer
Board Member
2022-2026



Thank You!

Keep an eye out for next year's
award nomination instructions in
January!



Increased
Professionalism



Environmental,
Economic, & Effective
Waste Mgmt. Systems



Cooperative
Atmosphere