



Awards Program

September 24, 2024

SWANA Ohio Buckeye Chapter

Overview

The SWANA Ohio Buckeye
Chapter Annual Awards Program
20th Year.



James S. Bridges
Solid Waste
Professional of the
Year Award



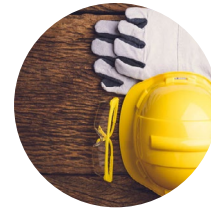
Kevin M. Bonzo
Solid Waste
Innovator Award



Michael D. Long
Solid Waste
Operator Award



Young Professional
of the Year



Safety in Excellence
Award



Special
Recognition



Dedicated Service Awards

Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District



Rob Egbert



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 a valuable part of the Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District of over 18 years and currently serves as Recycling Foreman.
- He began his career with the organization as a driver, and his willingness to take on new challenges quickly propelled him to higher levels of responsibility. He now serves as both the CDL and forklift training manager.
- He has an exceptional track record of accident-free operations and has played a key role in implementing safety procedures and training programs that have helped to reduce accidents and injuries.
- He has been instrumental in driving the growth of the organization, resulting in a 106% increase since 2015.
- His work in optimizing the recycling process has been critical to the organization’s expansion, allowing the organization to expand services and meet the growing demand for sustainable waste management solutions.

Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District



Alexa Schwaderer



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 as an office assistant in 2015 and now serves as the District Office Coordinator and Environmental Educator.
- She has used her talents to increase production, modernize operations, and expand social media and marketing initiatives throughout Auglaize County.
- Her achievements include securing grant funding opportunities, developing and implementing effective branding strategies, managing volunteers, strengthening customer relationships, and introducing new software systems.
- She has been an active member of the Ohio Association of Litter Prevention and Recycling Professionals since 2016 and currently serves as the Executive Board Secretary and Membership Committee Chair.

Montgomery County Environmental Services- Solid Waste



Darren McGuire



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 been with Montgomery County Environmental Services for 8 years as an Equipment Operator II (Heavy Equipment Operator), operating front-end loaders, wheeled excavators, grinders, roll-off trucks and street sweepers.
- He demonstrates a focus on safety while ensuring that the Montgomery County Transfer Station loads 85-100 tractor trailers daily and transfer 640,000 tons of waste per year.
- He completed several safety trainings, including water cannon training, and was instrumental in putting out a recent fire at the transfer station by using a loader to back drag burning material to a safe location.
- He uses his knowledge to mentor new employees on safety practices, keeps a watchful eye on operations to ensure safety of all employees, and keeps himself informed of best practices for safe operations. In his 8 years at MCES, he has been accident-free.

Montgomery County Environmental Services- Solid Waste



John Minear



Kevin M. Bonszo Solid Waste Innovator of the Year

“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 has been with Montgomery County Environmental Services since 2018 and has 36 years of both private and public sector experience in the waste industry.
- He has worked diligently to provide solutions for food waste in Montgomery County, including initiating the idea for the first “Nourishing Montgomery County: A Celebration of the Local Food System” festival, establishing a quarterly regional compost meet-up, and applying for a 10-million-dollar federal grant to establish composting infrastructure in the County.
- He has added new equipment to Montgomery County’s recycling drop-off to increase efficiencies, most notably an OCC compactor and a shrink wrap machine for electronics.
- He is a certified FEMA Disaster Management Representative and assisted as a project manager for the town of Duck and Southern Shores in North Carolina for hurricane Isabel in 2003.

Miami County Solid Waste Management District



Scott Pence



Special Recognition

“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”

- Our award recipient has 40 years in the waste industry, with 31 years as the Miami County Transfer Station manager.
- He was critical to the design and construction of the current Miami County Transfer Station in 1998 and worked tirelessly to meet the needs of a growing Solid Waste District.
- He implemented numerous recycling programs for Miami County, including a seasonal permanent HHW collection, a permanent electronics recycling program, propane tank recycling, light bulb recycling, latex paint disposal, and a robust battery recycling program.
- Responding to customer need, he twice expanded public drop-offs, added an additional outbound lane, and an automated checkout lane, resulting in an average transaction time of just over eight minutes daily.

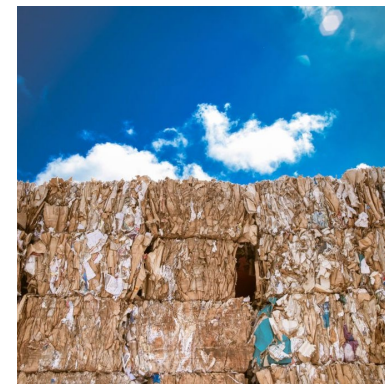


Thank You!

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



Increased
Professionalism



Environmental,
Economic, & Effective
Waste Mgmt. Systems



Cooperative
Atmosphere