



# Rural Action

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The Work You



## Waste Matters

## February 2016

### OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital Launches Recycling Program

After a year in the works, the Zero Waste Program is excited to announce that OhioHealth O'Bleness' Recycling program is fully operational with new bins and signs making recycling easy and accessible for visitors and staff.

The final change over to a recycling system took place during the last week of January and the first week of February. The hospital's newly established team of "Green Champions", COMCorps AmeriCorps

Members, and Rural Action staff and AmeriCorps members placed over 70 recycling hubs and 160 office recycling bins in O'Bleness Hospital, the Cornwell Center and the Gastrop Center.

The Zero Waste Pledge Program has explored new territory by working in the large hospital where there are a variety of office and visitor spaces, but they were excited about the challenge.

OhioHealth has chosen to include recycling in their strategy to achieve a healthier region, noting the connection between environmental and public health. Many O'Bleness employees were supportive of the new recycling efforts and interested in getting involved in the process.

"In order to place all of the recycling bins throughout O'Bleness Hospital, I needed the help of many hands. Volunteers were recruited from the hospital employees as well as fellow AmeriCorps members. It was so great to see the program succeed with the spirit of volunteerism." - Caitlin Garrity, Rural Action Zero Waste AmeriCorps Member





## Athens City Council Woman Focuses on Waste Reduction

"The abundance of plastic bags," Jennifer Cochran points out, "is a fairly new phenomenon." She is talking about the flimsy, single-use grocery bags we see at supermarkets, retail stores, and littering our streets, storm drains, and landscape. But it doesn't have to be like this, and Cochran is taking action to reduce plastic bag waste.

This year she is beginning her third year and second term as a member of the Athens City Council and plans to introduce an ordinance in the spring to discourage single-use bags. It is an issue that many of her constituents have expressed interest in and Cochran is aware that many community members are already doing their part. She's impressed with the "Take a Bag- Leave a Bag" program at The Farmacy, and encouraged by community members who bring their own reusable bags when they are out shopping.

Throughout this process Rural Action and The Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission have been co-hosting meetings drawing in large and small retailers as well as interested citizens to discuss plastic bag waste and come up with creative ways to encourage the use of reusable bags.

Building off of the work of the plastic bag committee, Rural Action plans to launch a Zero Waste Action Plan Waste Reduction Working Group. The groundwork for this group was built at the 2015 Zero Waste Celebration where Cochran facilitated a conversation about increasing waste reduction in Athens-Hocking Counties. The group is open to all interested community members. For more information contact Zero Waste Program Manager, [Andrea Reany](#).

## Billboards Ask Residents to Report Illegal Dumpsites

The Illegal Dumping and Burning working group of the Athens-Hocking Zero Waste Action Plan has been spreading the word that Sheriffs' Offices' phone numbers can be used to report illegal dumpsites. To this end, the working group has designed and placed billboards in Hocking and Athens counties. The Hocking County billboard is located on St. Rt. 664 North and the Athens County billboard is located on Rt. 33. They went up in December and both Sheriffs' Offices hope to see an increase in



community participation in reporting illegal dumpsites.

The working group encourages individuals to properly dispose of waste and luckily there are several safe and cheap alternatives to illegal dumping. Twice a year The Athens-Hocking Solid Waste district holds recycling days for hard-to-dispose-of materials including mattresses, large appliances and TVs. See the event calendar below for more information. For disposal of everyday household waste the Athens-Hocking Recycling center accepts 30lb bags of trash at \$2.00 a piece at their Sand Ridge location as long as recyclables are sorted out and recycled at the same time.

If you see an illegal dumpsite in your community, please report it!

Athens: (740) 593-6633

Hocking: (740) 385-2131

And for more information about safe disposal of waste, contact the [Zero Waste Program](#).

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## Zero Waste Pledge Program Signs On New Members

We are pleased to announce two local organizations that have taken the Zero Waste Pledge and are committed to reducing waste for a healthy environment, a healthy economy, and healthy lives.

If your business is interested in joining please contact Caitlin Garrity at [caitlin@ruralaction.org](mailto:caitlin@ruralaction.org) or call her (740) 677-4047 ext. 28.



### OhioHealth O'Bleness

has pledged to:

- Implement a battery recycling program.
- Implement recycling systems throughout the hospital and in offices.
- Conduct trainings with environmental services staff, kitchen staff, and managers of all departments.
- Establish a team of Champions to serve as recycling liaisons to the rest of O'Bleness staff.
- Eliminate the use of Styrofoam in the cafeteria.

### Jaclyn Collins, American Family Insurance

has pledged to:

- Transition to using bulk coffee creamers, phase out K-cups, use rags and natural spray.
- Get recycling bins for office and for curbside recycling.
- Educate staff and get signs for recycling bins.

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## Director on Leave

While Program Director Erin Sykes is on maternity leave please note that Andrea Reany, Program Manager, will be the point of contact for the Zero Waste team.

Andrea Reany:

## Rural Action Zero Waste Program Staff

Kuhre Center for Rural Renewal  
9030 Hocking Hills Drive  
The Plains, OH 45780  
740-667-4047 ext. 28

[Website](#)

[Erin Sykes](#) / Program Director

[Andrea Reany](#) / Program Manager

[Heather Fuston](#) / AmeriCorps

[Shannon Pratt-Harrington](#) / AmeriCorps

[Caitlin Garrity](#) / AmeriCorps

[Luke Black](#) / Media and Volunteer Involvement, ZW Event Productions

[Tyler Bonner](#) / Sales and Outreach Coordinator, ZW Event Productions

## Upcoming Events



[See More  
Events Here](#)

### March 17

#### Partner Event

Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful  
Meeting @ Wayne National  
Forest Headquarters, 10am-12  
Athens. OH

[More Info](#)

### April 9

#### Partner Event

Free Scrap Tire Drop-Off Event  
@ Wayne National Forest  
Headquarters  
8am-1pm  
Athens, OH

[More Info](#)

### April 16

#### Partner Event

Free Scrap Tire collection  
Event @ Green Township  
Garage  
10am-12pm  
Hocking, OH

[More Info](#)

### April 16

#### Partner Event

Free Scrap Tire Drop-Off  
Event @ Lodi Township Garage  
10am-2pm  
Athens, OH

[More Info](#)

### April 17

#### Partner Event

Athens Beautification Day @  
College Green, Ohio Univeristy  
11am-5:30pm  
Athens, OH

[More Info](#)

### April 23

#### Partner Event

Free Scrap Tire collection  
Event @ Good Hope Township  
Garage  
10am-12pm  
Hocking, OH

[More Info](#)

### April 30

#### Partner Event

Free Scrap collection Event @  
Washington Township Garage  
10am-12pm  
Hocking, OH

[More Info](#)

### May 21

#### Partner Event

Athens County Recycling  
Day@ Athens County Public  
Recycling Drop-off site  
8am-12pm  
Athens, OH

[More Info](#)

### May 21

#### Partner Event

Hocking County Recycling Day

### April 29-May 2

#### Partner Event

OU Move Out @ Ohio

@ Hocking County Public  
Recycling Drop-off site  
8am-12pm  
Hocking, OH  
[More Info](#)

University  
Athens, OH  
[More Info](#)

## Zero Waste Program Sponsors



## Get Involved



Be part of the ACTION! Join today.



Volunteer with us



Learn about National Service Opportunities through Rural Action.

## Support Rural Action While You Shop



Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards and Support Rural Action every time you shop.



Select Rural Action as your charity and we will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases.