

# **MEC**

## **Environmental Permitting in Ohio Conference**

August 2021

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Director, Ohio EPA



## **The Past Year+ Lessons Learned, Challenges and Opportunities**

- Adaptation and Flexibility
- Teamwork
- Leveraging Technology
- Communication and Customer Service
- Innovation and Outreach
- Human Element
- Transformation

## The Past Year+ Priorities and Accomplishments

- H2Ohio
- ARPA Infrastructure Funding
- Drinking Water
- Air and Water Quality
- Waste Management
- Sustainability
- Customer Connection and Service

# H2Ohio

- Launched by Governor DeWine in 2019, H2Ohio invests in targeted solutions to help ensure safe and clean water for Ohioans. H2Ohio focus areas include addressing harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie, improving infrastructure and reducing lead exposure in drinking water from old service lines and fixtures.
- To support H2Ohio, \$172 million authorized by the General Assembly in the 2020-2021 biennium and \$170 million in 2022-2023.
- H2Ohio is administered in partnership between ODA, ODNR, OEPA and OLEC. Many additional partners at the state and local levels.
- For more information <https://h2.ohio.gov/>

# H2Ohio

**\$4,210,000**  
For Seven Critical  
Water and Sewer Projects



three wastewater projects in Miami, Meigs, and Williams counties serving 600 people and 250 homes.



four drinking water projects in Columbiana, Coshocton, Noble, and Pike counties serving 4,100 people in rural Ohio.



Ohio Environmental  
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**\$725,000**



lead service line and fixture replacement for safer water at Ohio daycare facilities.

**\$1,750,000**



for seven local health districts to replace household sewage treatment systems.

## Increased Monitoring and Data Collection

installing an additional 20 rain gages to improve weather forecasting and rainfall estimates in northwest Ohio.



# H2Ohio

## \$7,500,000 For Thirteen Critical Water and Sewer Projects



eight wastewater projects in Athens County, Coalton, Columbiana County, Findlay, Johnstown, Lucas County, West Union, Palestine-Hollansburg Joint Sewer District.



five drinking water projects in Canton, Lowell, Middleport, Mount Eaton, Morgan-Meigsville Rural Water District.

## \$500,000



lead service line and fixture replacement for safer water at Ohio daycare facilities.

## \$1,600,000



to replace failing household sewage treatment systems in 11 local health districts.



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Ohio Environmental  
Protection Agency

# H2Ohio

## Water Infrastructure Projects

### - Drinking Water Infrastructure

- Canton
- Lowell
- Mount Eaton
- Middleport
- Morgan-Meigsville RWD

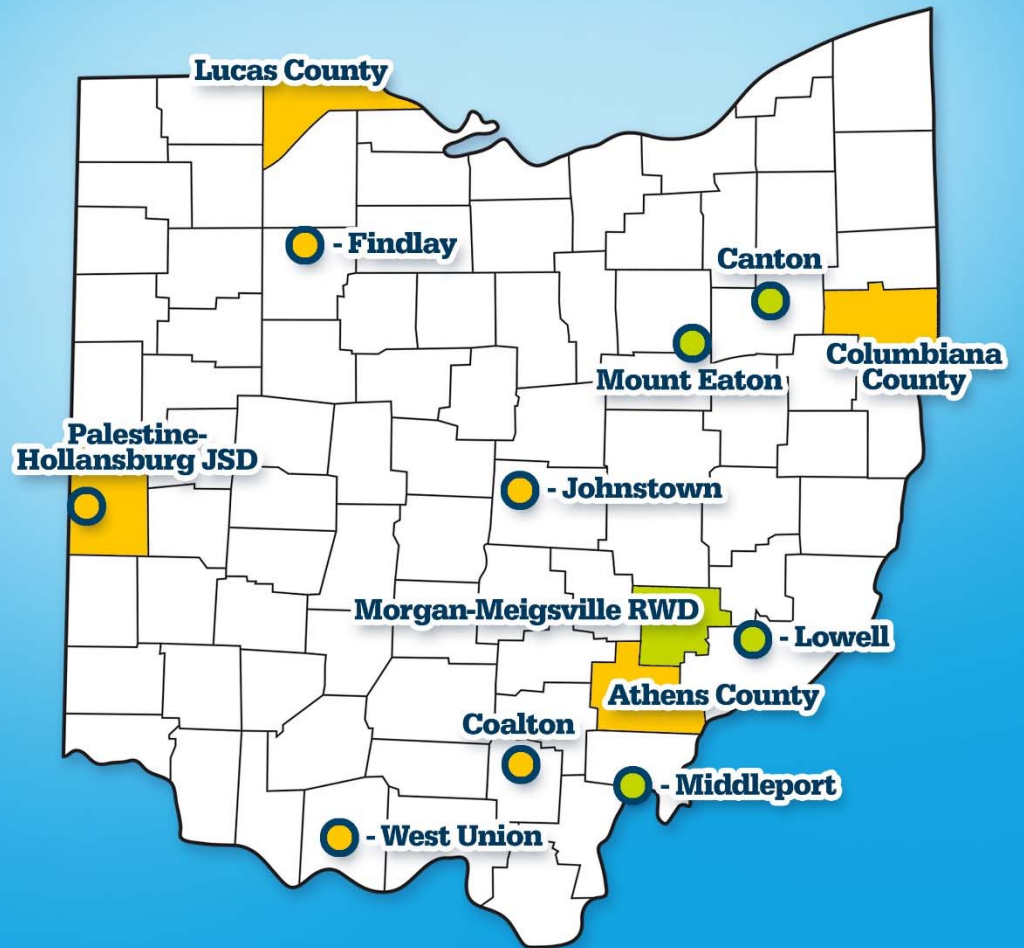
### - Wastewater Infrastructure

- Lucas County
- Athens County
- Palestine-Hollansburg JSD
- Columbiana County
- West Union
- Findlay
- Johnstown
- Coalton

[h2.ohio.gov](http://h2.ohio.gov)



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO





# ARPA Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program

- HB 168 authorizes \$250 million of ARPA funding to improve drinking water and sewer infrastructure
- Ohio Department of Development lead agency in distributing funding
- Grants to support design and construction projects
- Statewide application portal opened July 30<sup>th</sup>. Expecting high demand for funding by communities to address their important infrastructure needs.

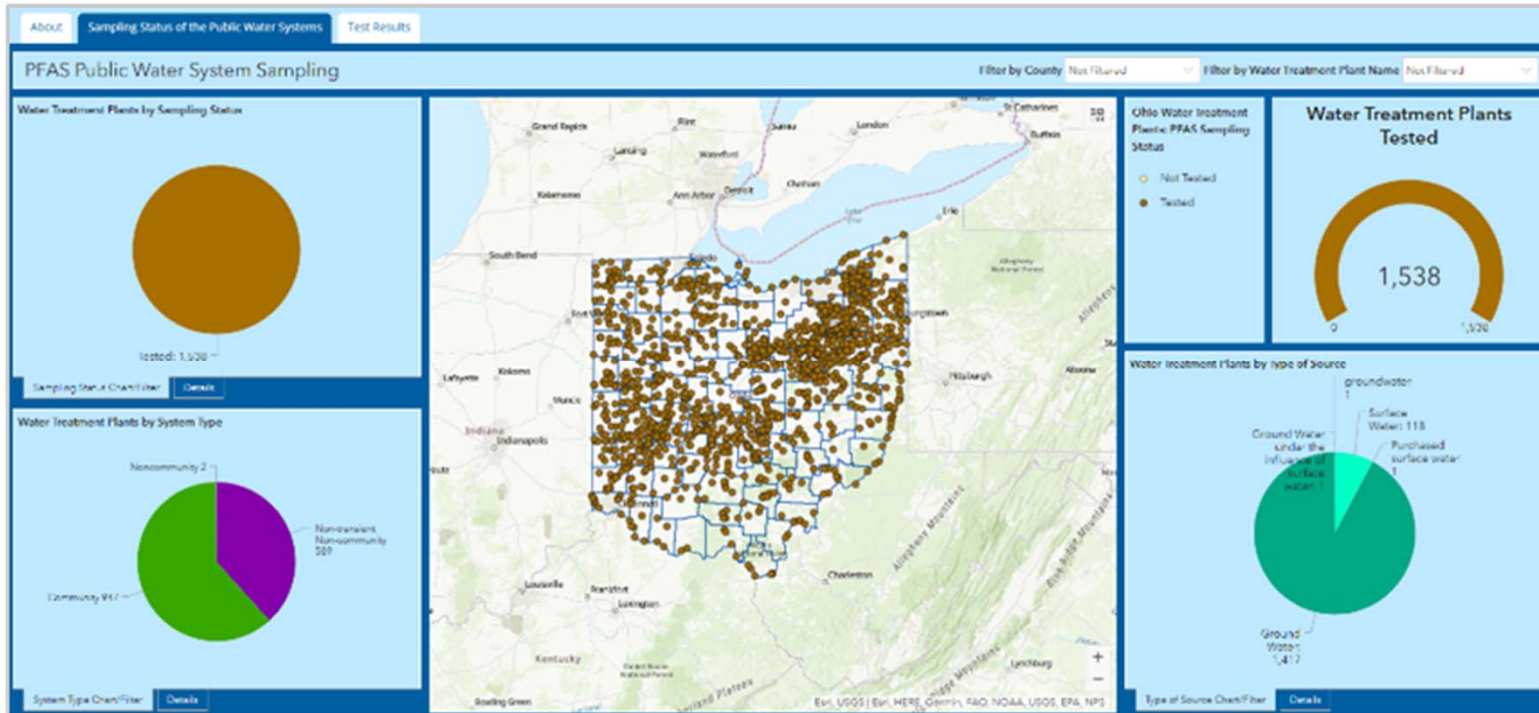


# PFAS Testing at Public Water Systems

- Under Ohio's PFAS Action Plan, >1500 public water systems were tested during 2020 for six PFAS compounds.

~94% systems non-detect, 2 systems with HAL exceedance

Sample results and information available at <https://epa.ohio.gov/pfas>



## Air and Water Quality

- Ozone challenges in Cleveland and Cincinnati
  - DAPC has initiated outreach and is working on strategy/plan to address non-attainment
- ~ \$22.5 million in grants awarded fiscal this year to reduce diesel emissions from school/transit buses and heavy-duty trucks.
- \$3.2 million from VW Mitigation Trust was awarded to install 627 new electric vehicle charging ports in 22 Ohio counties. Partnership between Ohio EPA, ODOT and other agencies.
- Surface Water active in rulemaking, nutrient mass balance study, NWP 401 certifications and Maumee TMDL, among other activities.

# Statewide Anti-Littering Campaign

- Governor DeWine introduced statewide anti-littering campaign on Earth Day
- Create awareness that every single piece of litter adds up to a big problem for the state, our roadways, parks, communities and environment
- Collaboration between OEPA, ODNR and ODOT
- Litter Summit, Aug. 6 first step



# Sustainability

- Virtual Sustainability Conference, Sept. 21-23, 2021
  - Showcase sustainability efforts and perspectives from a diverse group businesses, communities, academic institutions, and organizations
  - [https://epa.ohio.gov/sustainability\\_conference](https://epa.ohio.gov/sustainability_conference)
- Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Award Program
  - <https://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3>

# Agency Dashboard Reporting

- External dashboard reports issued semi-annually to help convey the important work we do and the progress we are making toward environmental improvements and operational efficiency.
- The dashboards include project/initiative highlights, permits/authorizations issued, outreach, funding, emergency response activities and other metrics.
- <https://epa.ohio.gov/dashboard>

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency** **Dashboard**  
January – June 2021

**In Your Community**  
**A Webinar Series for Environmental Issues at the Local Level**

Local officials wear a lot of hats and may not be familiar with the many environmental issues that affect their communities. This webinar series covers a wide range of topics from how Ohio EPA regulates sources of air pollution, waste management, wastewater, and stormwater discharges to different ways your community can promote environmental stewardship and improve the environment in your local area.

Ohio EPA's *In Your Community* webinar series focuses on environmental issues at the local level. These webinars occur throughout the year and cover a wide range of topics from how Ohio EPA regulates pollution sources to ways on improving the environment in your local area. Recordings of each webinar are available on Ohio EPA's YouTube Channel.

So far in 2021, Ohio EPA has presented six webinars for a total of 13 since the launch of the series in May 2020. A list of the topics covered is shown below. The webinars have been well-attended, with more than 2,000 participants for the live events and an additional 2,500 views through the Agency's YouTube channel.

- *Regulation and Funding of Household Sewage Treatment Systems in Ohio*
- *What Local Leaders should know about Water Resource Protection*
- *Opportunities and Challenges of Drinking Water and Wastewater Regionalization*
- *Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community* (held in 2020 and 2021)
- *2021 Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Informational Webinar*
- *Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence for Communities*
- *Ohio EPA's Mosquito Control Grant*
- *Nuisance Waste Sites, Illegal Dumping, and Scrap Tires in Your Community*
- *Environmental Regulations of Businesses in Your Community*
- *Managing Contaminated Sites in Your Community* (held in 2020 and 2021)
- *Sustainability in Your Community*

**In Your Community**  
Local Leaders Webinar Series

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# Customer Connection and Service

- Created new online portal for citizens to file environmental complaints
- Online chat feature available through our Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP)  
<https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/contactus>
- Customers can provide feedback through customer service survey link, included in outgoing emails  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ohioepacustomersurvey>

# Permitting and Regulatory Assistance

Mark Johnson, Deputy Director, Business and Regulatory Affairs

For assistance with regulatory and permitting issues

[mark.johnson@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:mark.johnson@epa.ohio.gov)

Dan Sowry, Assistant Chief, Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

Small business assistance, sustainability, educational/outreach opportunities

[dan.sowry@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:dan.sowry@epa.ohio.gov)



# Looking Ahead

- Continued focus on Governor's priorities, including infrastructure and water quality
- Working with OEPA senior team on goals/objectives through 2022
- Continued focus on staff development, including inspector training.
- Open communication policy to discuss and resolve issues
- Continued focus on soliciting feedback to deliver best service, including permitting performance

**Thank You**

**Laurie Stevenson**

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