

CLIENT PROFILE - PREBLE COUNTY Solid Waste Management District

Name
Preble County Solid Waste
Management District

Client Overview
Population: 42,553

Data Management Requirements

- Sectors:
Residential & Commercial
- Data Sources:
Communities & Businesses

Required Reports

- State Annual District Report
- Municipal Reports
- County-Wide Reports

The Challenge

The Solution

Re-TRAC™ Launches Preble County Into A New Era of Data Management

Situation Overview

Preble County is located in Southwestern Ohio between Dayton and Cincinnati. The Preble County Solid Waste Management District (District) is responsible for the overall solid waste management in the County. Preble County operates a solid waste landfill, which includes flow control. The District operates numerous recycling drop-off sites, a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility, and several special waste collection programs. The District also provides technical assistance to its 23 political subdivisions.

The District recently updated its solid waste management plan, which put a special emphasis on data management in order to reach the goals of the State of Ohio as well as comply with EPA reporting requirements. The District needed to track performance of its programs and their municipal recycling efforts in order to determine where additional efforts and programming should be directed. Previous data management in the District and County was non-existent or was relegated to a few spreadsheets or hand-written notes. The District needed a state-of-the-art, easy to use, and paperless system to manage its data. The District also needed to communicate more effectively to elected officials, residents of the County, and the business community, on how the District was performing, the areas or programs that were working well, and the areas or programs in need of improvement.

The District learned about Re-TRAC from its solid waste consultant, GT Environmental, Inc., and from other solid waste management districts in the state (Hamilton County, Franklin County and others). District staff, upon viewing a demonstration and seeing the success of the system in other solid waste districts, realized Re-TRAC would allow them to achieve their data management objectives quickly and cost effectively. A subscription to both the standard Re-TRAC system and the On-line Business Survey sub-system was soon signed. *"By adding the Re-TRAC Data Management System to our District, we now offer increased value through better data analysis and reporting to our communities,"* says Karen Hake, Coordinator for the Preble County Solid Waste Management District.





The Implementation

District staff, in conjunction with their technical consultants (GT Environmental, Inc.), worked with Re-TRAC client services staff to configure their Re-TRAC system. Data fields that match the state reporting requirements formed the core of both their community input screens as well as their On-line Business Survey. Additional questions specific to the needs of Preble County were also added.

After the input forms had been customized, District staff and their representatives were invited to test the system and confirm that it was ready for launch. This provided a good opportunity for the District level users to become familiar with all of Re-TRAC's features and learn how to generate program performance and benchmarking reports. *"One of the first things that I noticed was that the system is user-friendly and easy to navigate,"* Karen notes.

GT Environmental, Inc. was also impressed. *"This system surpasses spreadsheet data management by leaps and bounds,"* says Jim Skora, lead consultant to Preble County. GT is now promoting Re-TRAC to other solid waste districts in Ohio. *"We think that Re-TRAC can save every District time and money in the preparation of their annual reports while expanding their access to valuable program performance and trend analysis,"* says Skora.

The Benefits

For 2006, the District used the standard Re-TRAC system for Community Data to collect information and data from all 23 political subdivisions in the County. The use of the Standard Re-TRAC system combined with the On-line Business Survey has yielded many tangible benefits for Preble County. With Re-TRAC in place, the District is now able to:

- ▶ Collect additional data with greater accuracy;
- ▶ Assemble more complete information for future solid waste planning;
- ▶ Better manage the solid waste stream in Preble County;
- ▶ Submit reports to the Ohio EPA with greater ease and efficiency;
- ▶ Significantly reduce paper generation; and
- ▶ Offer ease-of-use for communities and businesses.

The Re-TRAC On-line Business Survey also delivered significant benefits to the District, beginning with a spike in participation. In 2006, the District surveyed 885 commercial and industrial businesses, institutional facilities, compost facilities, brokers/processors, and haulers using the Re-TRAC business survey system – more than twice the number of participants (358) than the year before! Other measures of success include:

- ▶ Reported recycling tonnage up 27%;
- ▶ Submitted surveys up 55%;
- ▶ Paper consumption down 60% during the survey period as only an informational letter was mailed to prospective survey respondents; and
- ▶ Survey costs virtually identical for both years.



"By adding the Re-TRAC Data Management System to our District, we now offer increased value through better data analysis and reporting to our communities."

— Karen Hake, Coordinator for the Preble County Solid Waste Management District

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