



40 years and moving forward

Since the 1980s, the **quality of aquatic life** in all of Ohio's large rivers has shown a **remarkable improvement.**

Investment in wastewater treatment and improvement in agriculture conservation practices are credited with the turnaround.



Rivers Meeting Standards

1980s

1990s

Today

21%

62%

89%

40 years and moving forward

Air pollutant reductions since the early 1970s



Carbon monoxide

down

80%

Nitrogen dioxide

down

39%

Sulfur dioxide

down

71%

Particulate matter

10 microns and smaller
down

40%

2.5 microns and smaller
down

36%

Ozone

down

19%

Lead

down

95%

www.epa.ohio.gov

Today a much greater emphasis is placed on **waste reduction and recycling.**

Since Ohio's solid waste law was enacted in 1967, Ohio EPA and local health departments systematically closed down 1,300 polluting dumps.

In their place, we now have 40 licensed, highly engineered landfills with liners to protect ground water, advanced systems to monitor ground water and leachate, and 30 years of required care after closure.



1967
more than
1,300
smelly, unsightly,
rat-infested **open**
dumps in Ohio

Today
replaced with
40
licensed, **highly**
engineered
landfills

40 years and moving forward



In 1980, a new federal law required hazardous waste to be carefully managed from "cradle to grave" – or from generation to disposal. When the hazardous waste program began, Ohio had 177 operating facilities that treated, stored and disposed of hazardous waste.

Today, there are 34. **Newer technologies and waste reduction efforts** helped reduce the need for so many hazardous waste facilities.