



SWANA

Ohio Buckeye Chapter

Awards Program

October 24, 2023

Overview

The SWANA Ohio Buckeye
Chapter Annual Awards Program

19th 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

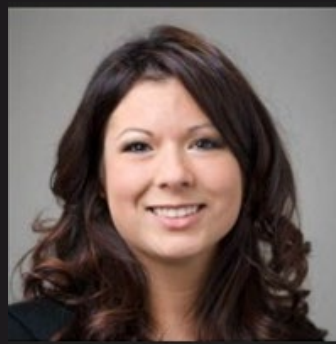


Dedicated Service Awards

The Ohio State University
Facilities Operations and Development



OHIO STATE
ZERO WASTE



Michael D. Long
Solid Waste Operator of the Year

“an operator in the field of solid waste management who has demonstrated unusually noteworthy achievements and/or highly significant contributions to the solid waste management industry”

- Our award recipient provides hauling services for one of the largest universities in the US.
- Provides services for 100,000 students and staff, services more than 175 locations, and maintains more than \$3M in equipment and infrastructure.
- Collects recycling, organics, solid waste, bulk waste, and hard-to-recycle materials.
- Consistently increased landfill diversion from 29% in 2015 to more than 40% in 2023.
- Recently implemented campus-wide composting specialty plastics recycling and supported installation of waste-eliminating infrastructure (i.e., hand dryers and reusable to-go containers).
- Revitalized a Zero Waste job program in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, resulting in a 0% recidivism rate and 100% employment rate for participant's post-release.



HAMILTON COUNTY RECYCLING RESOURCE

Reducing waste. Improving community.

Mary Copenbaker



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.”

- Since 2017, Mary has worked for Hamilton County R3Source (formerly Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District), first as a Business Specialist and then earning promotions to Business Outreach Coordinator and finally to Assistant Solid Waste Manager.
- She serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Ohio Recyclers (AOR), is a certified TRUE Zero Waste Advisor with the US Green Building Council and has taken the SWANA Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems and Zero Waste Principles and Practices trainings.
- Let's Stop Waste at Work.
- The Southwest Ohio Pollution Prevention (P2) program provides industries and large organizations with an upper-level undergraduate or graduate-level intern for the summer.
- Mary developed the [513 Green certification](#) that focuses heavily on waste but also incorporates other sustainability areas.



Pat Murphy
Recycle Driver



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”

- Pat has been with SWACO for 21 years. In 2002, he started as a laborer and then transitioned into a transfer driver in 2006. In 2008, Pat started driving a recycling truck. Since then, he has learned to operate equipment.
- Pat has not had an accident in 21 years.
- Due to his unwavering dedication to safety and commitment to continual improvement, he sets the example for others around him.
- Pat's exceptional driving skills and unwavering commitment to safety earned him a nomination for the Environmental Industry Association and the National Solid Waste Management Association EIA/NSWMA Driver of the Year Award in 2011.



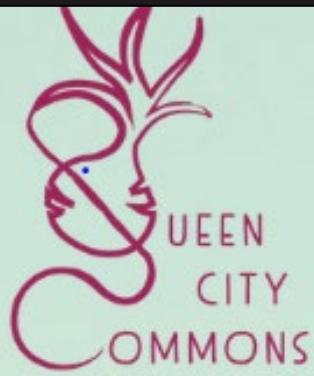
Bernie Janita Operation Specialist



Excellence in Safety Award

“a solid waste professional that implements or develops significant or innovative safety improvements, assists in the prevention of accidents, demonstrates a passion for safety, and/or safely provides advice and solutions”

- Developed and implemented a SWACO Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program. He is the go-to person for all onboard training and remedial training for operators.
- Throughout Bernie's career, he has consistently prioritized the safety of team members. He has implemented comprehensive safety programs, ensuring all employees adhere to best practices and safety protocols.
- He has been awarded the “President Safety Award” for the most improved incident record.
- His exceptional performance resulted in receiving the first “Excellent” rating in the Midwest Group.
- National recognition for the Solid Waste Association of North America annual Landfill Excellence Award Program.



Rebuilding connection with our local foods and soils
through compost

Marie Hopkins



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 reward recipient is the founder of Queen City Commons, a small-scale food scrap collection and composting operation started in Cincinnati in April 2020.
- Their mission is to “harness the energy of Cincinnati’s food scraps to rebuild connection with our local foods and soils.”
- Queen City Commons has built up over 150 residential customers and 21 commercial customers.

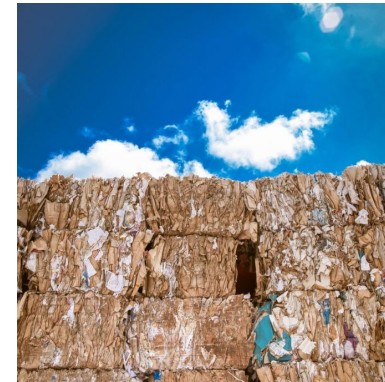


Thank You!

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



Increased
Professionalism



Environmental,
Economic, & Effective
Waste Mgmt. Systems



Cooperative
Atmosphere