



The Board of Trustees for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio adopts the Code of Ethics, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for its Members.

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**Committee of the Whole**

The Board of Trustees for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio ("SWACO") is a public body as defined in statute and, therefore, since each Member holds their position as a public trust, they should act to maintain that trust ensuring the reality and perception that government is conducted according to the highest principles of honesty, integrity, and a concern for justice. As a public body, the Board of Trustees is subject to comply with the Ohio Sunshine Laws, which includes Ohio's Public Records Act and Ohio's Open Meetings Act. As such, the purpose of a code of ethics is to establish guidelines for an ethical standard of conduct for public officials in order to help them determine what conduct is appropriate in particular situations.

The SWACO Board of Trustees is committed to establishing a culture of openness, trust, and integrity in conducting its business and performing their duties in an ethical manner. In recognition of these goals, the Board of Trustees has determined that the adoption of a Code of Ethics for its Members will assist in achieving these ends. As such, Staff recommends the adoption of the Code of Ethics, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for the Members of SWACO's Board of Trustees.

*Requested by:* Rebecca Egelhoff, Legal Counsel

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**BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio that:**

1. The Board of Trustees for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio adopts the Code of Ethics, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for its Members.
2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

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Date Adopted: November 3, 2015

Vote:  
For: 8 Against: 0 Abs: 0

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Bush  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

  
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Barbara Colebank, Secretary

  
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Approved as to Form: Rebecca Egelhoff, Legal Counsel

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**EXHIBIT A**

**Board of Trustees' Code of Ethics**

Ethics

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio ("SWACO") requires all members of its Board of Trustees and all of its employees to conduct business and perform their duties in an ethical manner. We aspire to the ideals of honesty and truthfulness in our relationships, diligently pursuing the public interest to the best of our ability, subordinating self-interest to the public good, and treating all people with fairness and respect.

In addition to our aspirations, there are also rules to which we are all expected to adhere. Since we hold our positions as a public trust, we should act to maintain that trust, ensuring the reality and perception that government is conducted according to the highest principles of honesty, integrity, and a concern for justice. We also must avoid conduct which undermines public trust by creating the perception that a government position has been used improperly. Certain conduct is prohibited, including:

- We may not use our public position for financial gain for (a) ourselves, (b) our family, or (c) a business with which we, or a member of our family, is associated.
- We may not use SWACO property or facilities for private benefit.
- We may not use confidential information received because of our public position.
- We may not solicit or receive a promise of future employment with the understanding the promise will influence our official action.
- We may not solicit or receive a gift that will influence our official action.

Additionally, the Ohio Ethics Laws, including penalties of fines and imprisonment for violation, are contained in Chapter 102 and Sections 2921.42 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code. It is the responsibility of all Board of Trustees members and employees of SWACO to familiarize themselves with the Ohio Ethics Laws and related statutes. The full provisions are available through the Ohio Ethics website at: <http://www.ethics.ohio.gov>.

Ohio Sunshine Laws

In Ohio, the "sunshine laws" refer to Ohio Public Records Act and Ohio's Open Meetings Act. These statutory laws are based on the notion that there should be "openness" in government, with public access to records and meetings and the conduct and activities of government.

SWACO is a "public body" as defined in statute and, as such, is subject to comply with Ohio Sunshine Laws. The Open Meetings Act requires members of a public body to take official action, conduct deliberations, and discuss the public business in an open meeting, unless the subject matter is specifically excepted by law. Additionally, the Public Records Act provides that any person may request to inspect or obtain copies of public records from a public office that keeps those records. It is the responsibility of all Board of Trustees members to familiarize themselves with Ohio Sunshine Laws, which are available at: <https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/13SunshineManual.pdf>.