

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

Report for Fiscal Year 2019



Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
January 2020

Solid Waste Trust Fund

The Solid Waste Trust Fund was established in 1990 as part of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. In 1992, an amendment to the Act established a primary source of funding for the fund in the form of a \$1.00 fee on every new tire sold in the state.

With the passage of House Bill 220 in 2019, the Georgia General Assembly extended collection of the fee for three years. Beginning in FY 2021 and lasting through FY 2022, the fee will be \$0.38 per tire.

Each year, the fees collected the previous year may be appropriated by the General Assembly to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), whose

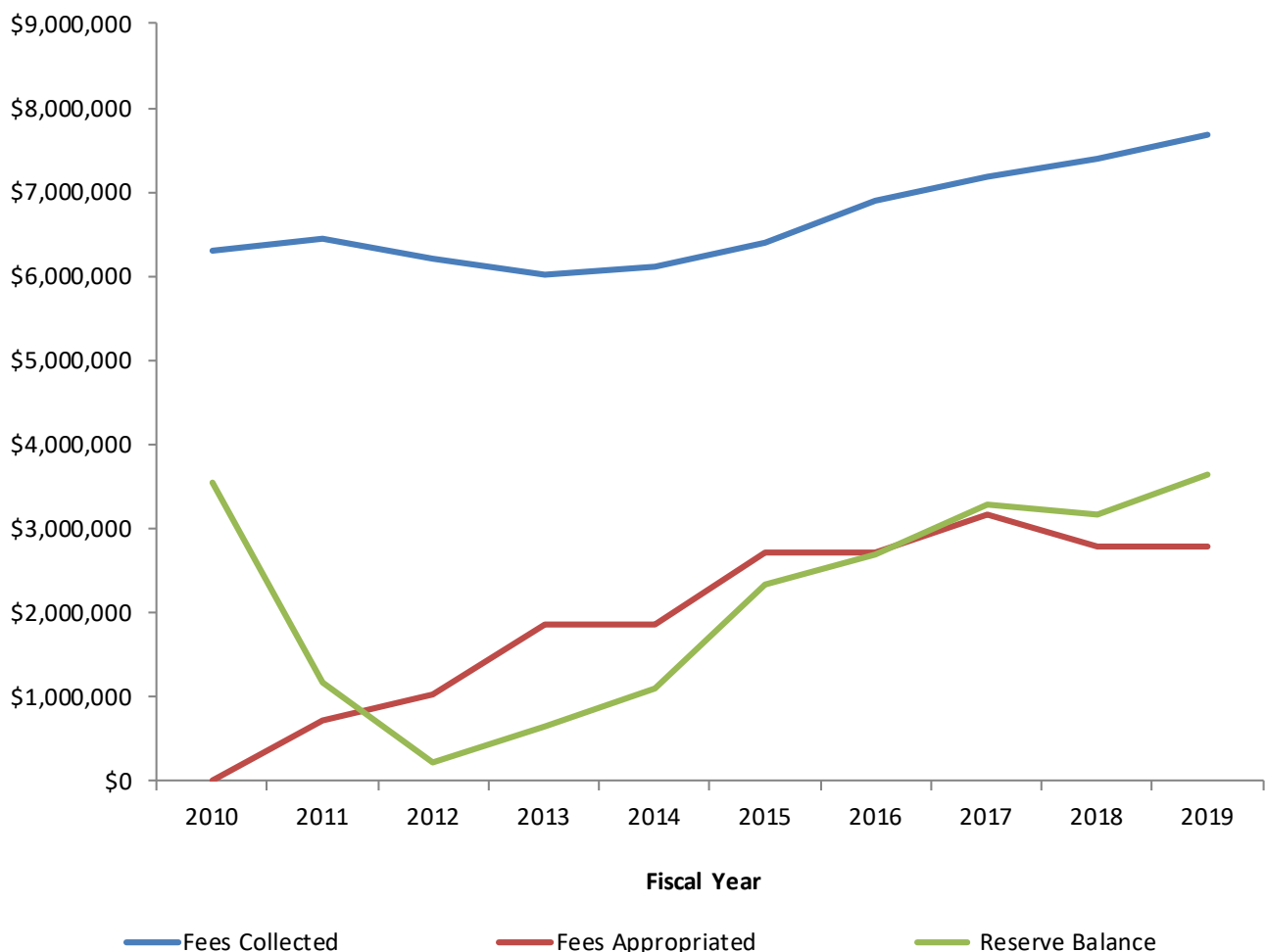
director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee.

Appropriation for FY 2019

The General Assembly appropriated **\$2,790,775** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund to clean up illegal scrap tire dumps, properly close abandoned landfills, fund waste reduction and recycling programs and administrative and operational costs for FY 2019.

EPD is required by the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the trust fund; this report fulfills that requirement.

**Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF
FY 2010 to FY 2019**



Expenses

By Authorized Use

SWTF Expenses by Authorized Use
FY 2010 to FY 2019



Tire Management

EPD has been active in the management and cleanup of tires in Georgia since 1992, using a variety of programs and mechanisms to help ensure scrap tires generated in Georgia are reused or recycled. In FY 2019, **496,440** scrap tires were removed from illegal tire dumps or cleaned up through investigations or by local government partners.

Permits & Approvals

EPD issued **299** scrap tire/retail tire dealer generator identification numbers, **135** used tire dealer numbers, **11** tire carrier permits, and **4** scrap tire sorter permits in FY 2019.

Inspections

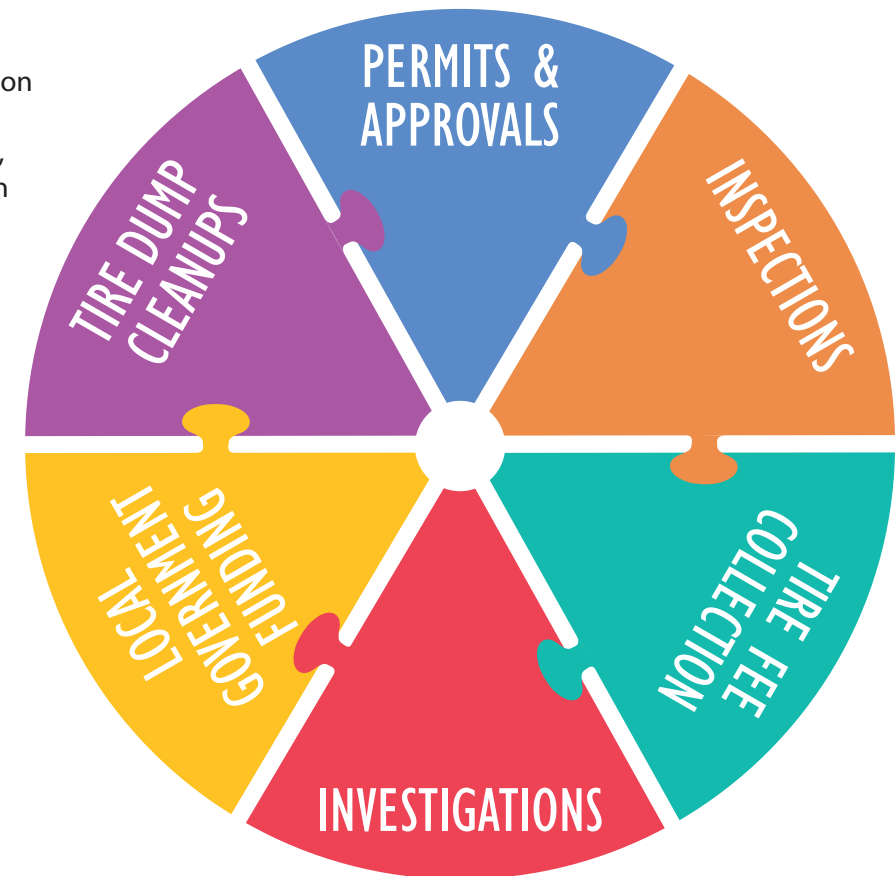
EPD staff conducted **1,322** site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2019.

Tire Fee Collection

Retailers who sell new tires are responsible for collecting the fee from consumers for each new tire sold. In FY 2019, **\$7.7 million** was collected.

Investigations

EPD staff lead investigations in response to complaints from citizens about tire dumps and other tire issues. In FY 2019, **225** investigations were conducted, leading to **20,312** tires being removed from 21 sites.



Local Government Funding

The Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Program funds tire dump and roadside cleanups and amnesty events where residents can bring in their scrap tires for free. In FY 2019, **178,702** tires were cleaned up by 52 local governments that were reimbursed a total of **\$345,380**.

Tire Dump Cleanups

The SWTF is also used to hire contractors to clean up illegal scrap tire dumps around the state. In FY 2019, **297,426** tires were removed from 24 sites by contractors at a cost of **\$723,453**.

FY 2019 Scrap Tire Cleanups Around the State



*This site in Macon was cleaned up under a state contract in May 2019; **407** tires were removed and recycled.*



*Charlton County collected **1,145** tires during its amnesty event in February 2019.*



*During their May 2019 amnesty event, Toombs County residents brought in **4,861** tires.*



*Residents of Grady County brought in **4,029** tires during their December 2018 amnesty event.*

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Staff members in EPD's Recovered Materials Unit respond to inquiries about waste reduction and recycling from businesses and the general public; participate in local, state and national initiatives that promote waste reduction; and manage special projects on specific waste reduction issues.

Sustainable Materials Management

In FY 2019, EPD hosted a stakeholder meeting with representatives from recycling industries, businesses, nonprofits, state agencies, local governments, and others on the Solid Waste Trust Fund.

Unit members also presented at an Atlanta Recycling Metrics Meeting in February at Atlanta City Hall and in Lexington, KY at the annual EPA Region 4 State Solid Waste Managers Meeting in March.

Composting & Wasted Food

In FY 2019, EPD staff participated in initiatives designed to strengthen the infrastructure for mid-size and community-scale composting operations, including working with the Atlanta Community-based Composting Council and the Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC). These activities included providing updates on the new state regulations to audiences at GRC and Emory University. Unit members also participated in a food waste audit at Atlanta's Parkside Elementary in conjunction with Atlanta Public Schools and the U.S. Green Building Council.

Environmental Education

EPD's Environmental Education in Georgia program supports efforts to enhance public health and increase

environmental stewardship by providing resources and direct assistance to K-12 teachers and nonformal educators.

The program's main component, the EEinGeorgia.org website, acts as a state clearinghouse, ensuring that the public has easy access to environmental education resources — a vital part of improving environmental literacy in Georgia.

More than **620** state agencies, nonprofits, K-12 schools, and other organizations have joined the site and can submit resources, events, and other environmental-related information. Each month, a newsletter is emailed to more than **7,500** subscribers, most of whom are educators who rely on the site to find environmental education lesson plans, curriculum guides, grants, awards, outreach programs, field studies, conferences, and professional learning courses.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2019, the unit responded to nearly **50** requests for technical assistance, including questions about grant availability, composting, household hazardous waste, business development, and recycling or properly disposing of various materials — e.g. arsenite, mercury, railroad ties, rubber gaskets, bubble wrap, sharps, propane tanks, escrap, batteries, bulbs, yard waste, and more.

Staff members from multiple units reached hundreds of people from around the state — either in direct meetings or through conferences — about scrap tire regulations, scrap tire dumps, and the availability of funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund for the clean up and beneficial reuse of scrap tires.



Members of the unit helped with a food waste audit at an Atlanta elementary school (above) and toured FoodChain, a nonprofit working in the sustainable food systems space in Lexington, KY (right).



Abandoned Landfill Care & Clean Up

In FY 2017, EPD evaluated the condition of three abandoned landfills to identify activities needed to properly close the sites:

- **Eller Whitlock Avenue Landfill** in Brunswick accepted land clearing debris and construction and demolition (C&D) materials from 1987 to 2013
- **Steele Brothers Landfill** in Walker County accepted municipal solid waste, industrial waste, and C&D materials (including asbestos) from 1976 to 1995
- **Fauconniere Buckeye Cellulose Industrial Landfill** in Andersonville accepted waste from the Buckeye Cellulose Pulp Mill (now International Paper Flint River Mill) from 1983 to 1988; this waste consisted primarily of boiler ash, knots, grits, and dregs from the pulping operations, and sludge

The results of the evaluation showed that the landfills require a variety of activities, including:

- Delineating waste
- Filing landfill deed notices
- Installing and improving existing site access controls and erosion and sedimentation controls
- Removing and disposing of surface waste
- Clearing, grubbing, and grading
- Installing final cover systems

- Assessing and/or redeveloping environmental monitoring wells
- Preparing post-closure care plans

In FY 2018, EPD contracted with Kemron Environmental Services, Inc. to provide closure and post-closure plans for each landfill that will be protective of human health and the environment.

Eller Whitlock's existing environmental monitoring networks were found to be functional, and in February 2018, EPD contracted with Advanced Environmental Management, Inc. to perform environmental monitoring at the site.

Due to groundwater contamination and the discovery of abandoned drums at the Steele Brothers Landfill, EPD's Hazardous Waste Response and Remediation Program (RRP) was brought in to perform additional assessment. In FY 2019, Kemron removed the drums and collected soil samples from below the drums. Testing showed that regulated constituents were not present in soils at levels exceeding their Hazardous Site Response Act notification concentrations and the RRP did not recommend listing it on the state's Hazardous Site Inventory.

EPD intends to issue requests for quotes to properly close both Eller Whitlock and Steele Brothers in spring 2020. Plans for closing the Fauconniere Buckeye site will move forward when funding is available.



The Eller Whitlock Avenue Landfill in Brunswick is located directly adjacent to occupied residences and borders an active rail line (left). EPD staff survey the Steele Brothers site (above).



At the Scales Road Landfill in DeKalb County, a methane sink was discovered near the peak that was prohibiting the establishment of new vegetation. Contractors added a methane trench and vent to release the methane.

The **Scales Road Landfill** in DeKalb County began accepting construction and demolition materials in 1990. The landfill's owner declared bankruptcy and in 2005 notified the state of its intent to abandon the site. Because the landfill was not properly closed, conditions deteriorated. In 2007, the state hired a contractor to properly close the site.

For several years, EPD did not have the funding necessary to properly maintain the site and it fell into disrepair. By FY 2017, EPD was appropriated sufficient funds and contracted with Oasis Construction Services, Inc. to bring the site back into compliance with the closure requirements of the Solid Waste Management Rules. Work under this contract was completed in December 2017.

EPD continues to receive funding for post-closure care of the site and in April 2018, again contracted with Oasis

to provide continued environmental monitoring and maintenance activities. Work completed in FY 2019 under this contract included:

- Landfill cap maintenance (e.g., regrading, topsoil replacement, weeding, revegetation, mowing)
- Groundwater and methane monitoring, sampling, and reporting; surface water sampling
- Well installation and monitoring system maintenance
- Removing and disposing of surface waste
- Maintaining site access controls to prevent dumping and trespassing
- Maintenance of sediment basin and drainage channel



Activities at Scales Road in FY 2019 included ensuring the security of the site (left) and removing dumped waste (right).

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For additional information, please contact
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epd.georgia.gov/land-protection-branch/solid-waste.