

Georgia Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

The Hazardous Site Response Act (Act), which was enacted in 1993, authorizes the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to clean up hazardous sites that threaten human health and the environment. This law enables EPD to use the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF) for hazardous site assessment, remediation and monitoring, local government landfill reimbursements, and abandoned site cleanups.

The HWTF is funded by fees collected from industry and government agencies that produce, manage, and dispose of solid wastes and hazardous wastes, and from fines collected from violators of certain environmental laws. As shown in the chart below, most funding is from a tipping fee of \$0.75 per ton of waste disposed at landfills throughout the State. The hazardous waste/substance fees are assessed based on the volume an entity generates and/or releases, and Georgia's smallest generators are excluded.

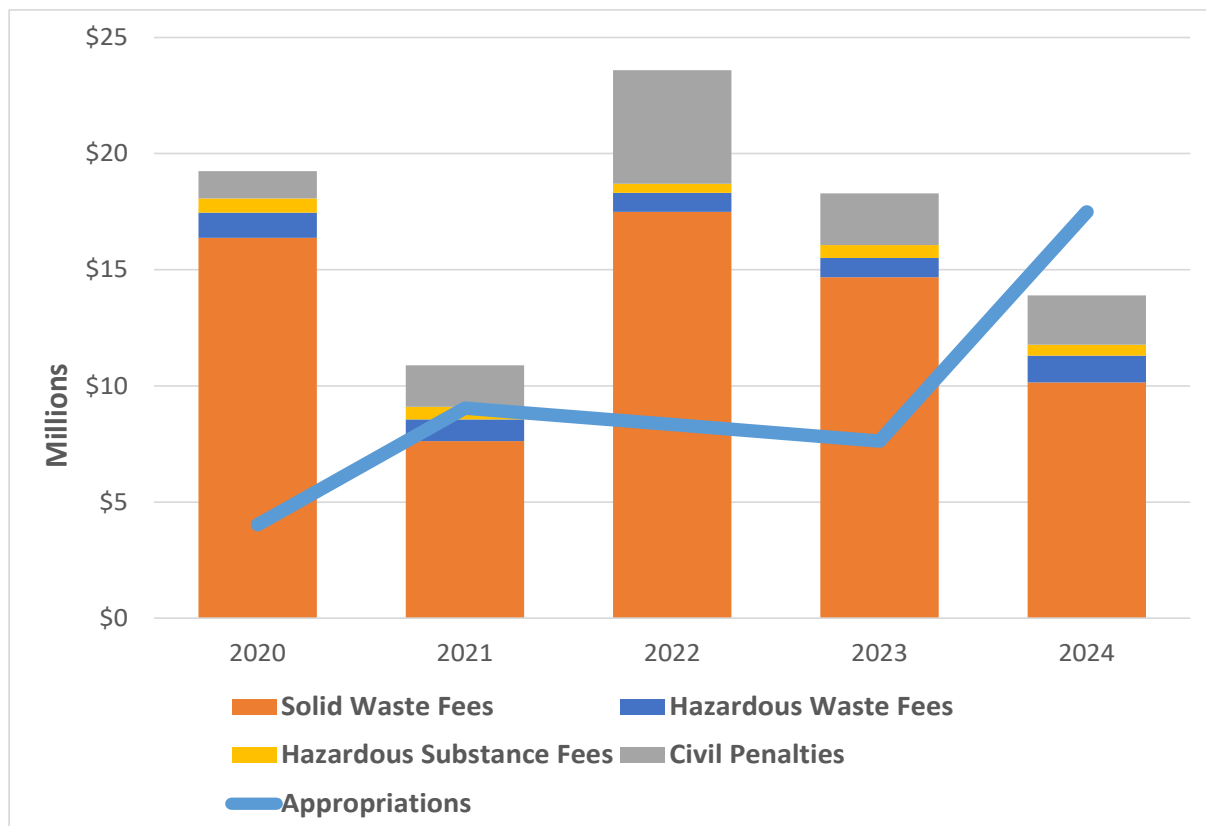
Historically, the fees collected were subject to appropriation by the General Assembly to EPD, whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee. Beginning with FY23 and continuing for the next decade, tipping fees are automatically dedicated to the HWTF. HB31, passed during the FY23 legislative session, dedicates hazardous waste/hazardous substance fees as well. Civil Penalties remain subject to legislative appropriation.

Funding

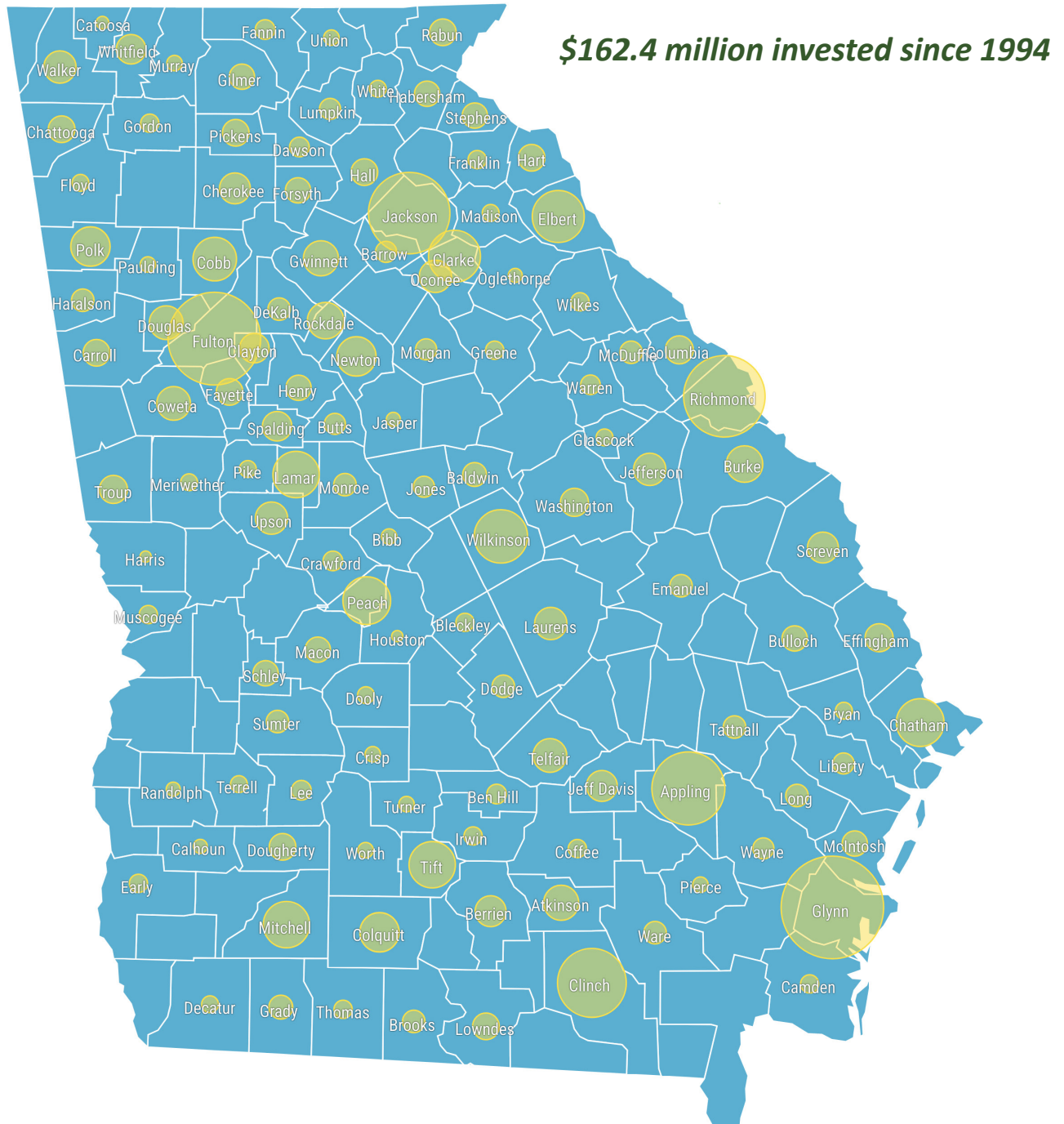
Tipping Fees collected in FY22 and dedicated for use in FY24 total \$17,493,568. Tipping fees collected in FY23 and dedicated for use in FY25 total \$14,679,767.

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

FY20-FY24 Fees Collected and Appropriated



HWTF Spending by County

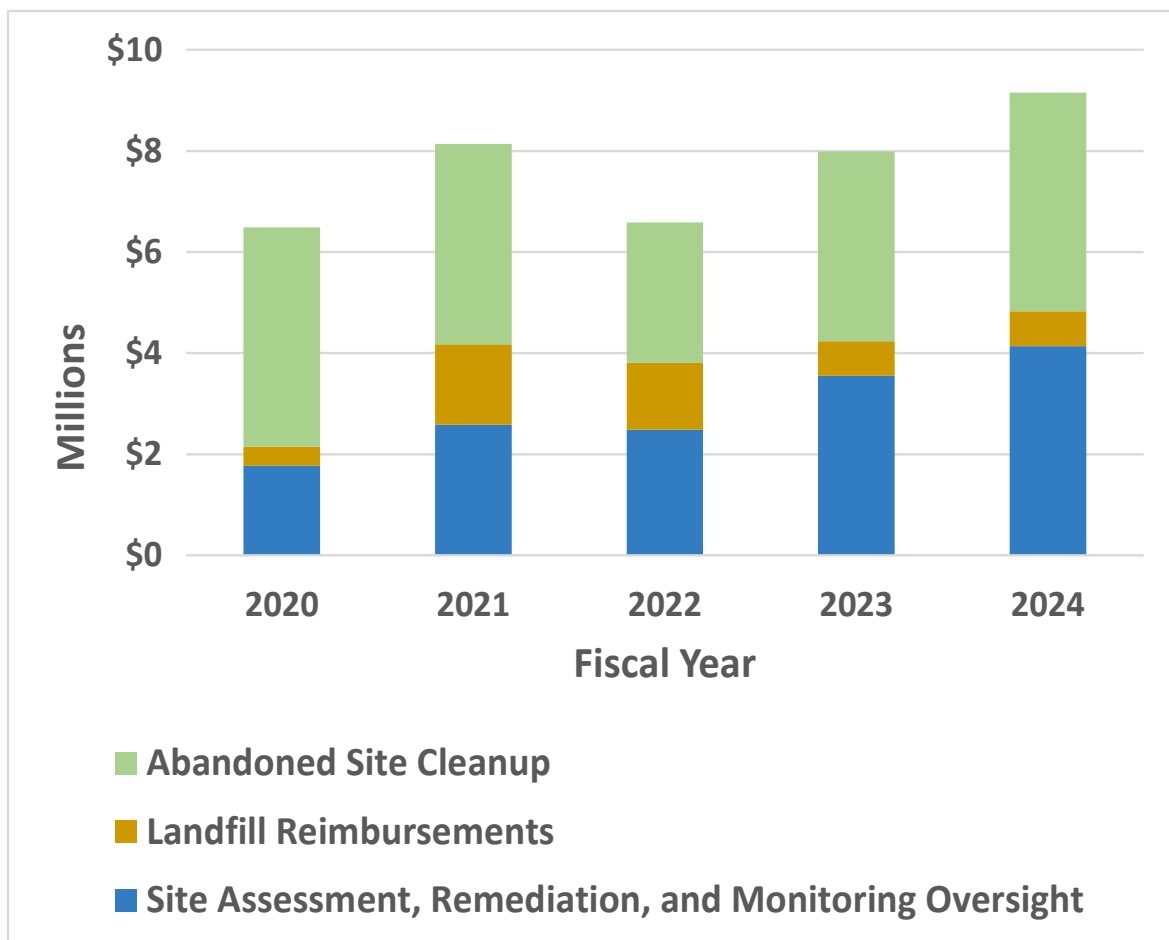


HWTF Expenditures

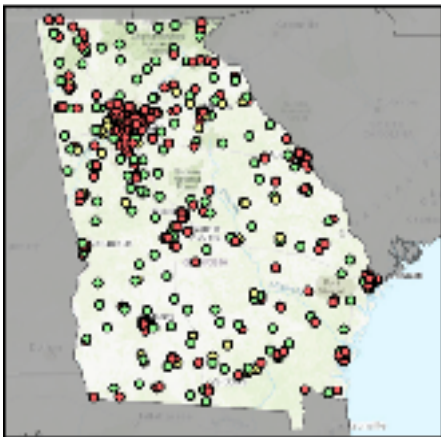
Under the Hazardous Sites Response Act (commonly referred to as the state superfund law), EPD discovers hazardous sites, publishes this information on the Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI), and works with entities who caused the contamination to clean them up. EPD uses the HWTF to help local governments and state agencies investigate and clean up their sites and to investigate and clean up abandoned sites throughout Georgia. Benefits of these actions include the following:

- Communities are made aware of contamination and potential exposure pathways in their area and may access tools and information to help prevent exposure.
- Local governments are provided with funding to assist in cleanup of leaking landfills.
- Bankrupt/abandoned contaminated sites are cleaned up or made ready for development, minimizing the risk of additional contamination, blight and missed economic development opportunities.
- Environmental complaints that require corrective action are prioritized to eliminate threats to human health and the environment.
- Private party cleanups are monitored to ensure steady progress to help prevent continued spread of contamination and the possible creation of additional abandoned sites.
- Property transactions can continue due to regulatory certainty provided by EPD review of “due diligence” reports.

Expenditures by Authorized Use



Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight



Hazardous Site Inventory location map.

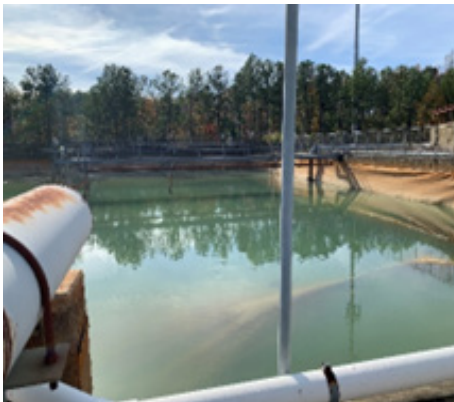
Hazardous Site Inventory

Each year on July 1, EPD publishes the HSI, which is an inventory of the state’s hazardous waste sites. The HSI gives the public detailed information about site location, the type(s) of contamination present at the site, and the cleanup status. An interactive map with site profile information and links to individual site summaries can be accessed on the EPD [website](#).

Release Notifications, Listings, and Delistings

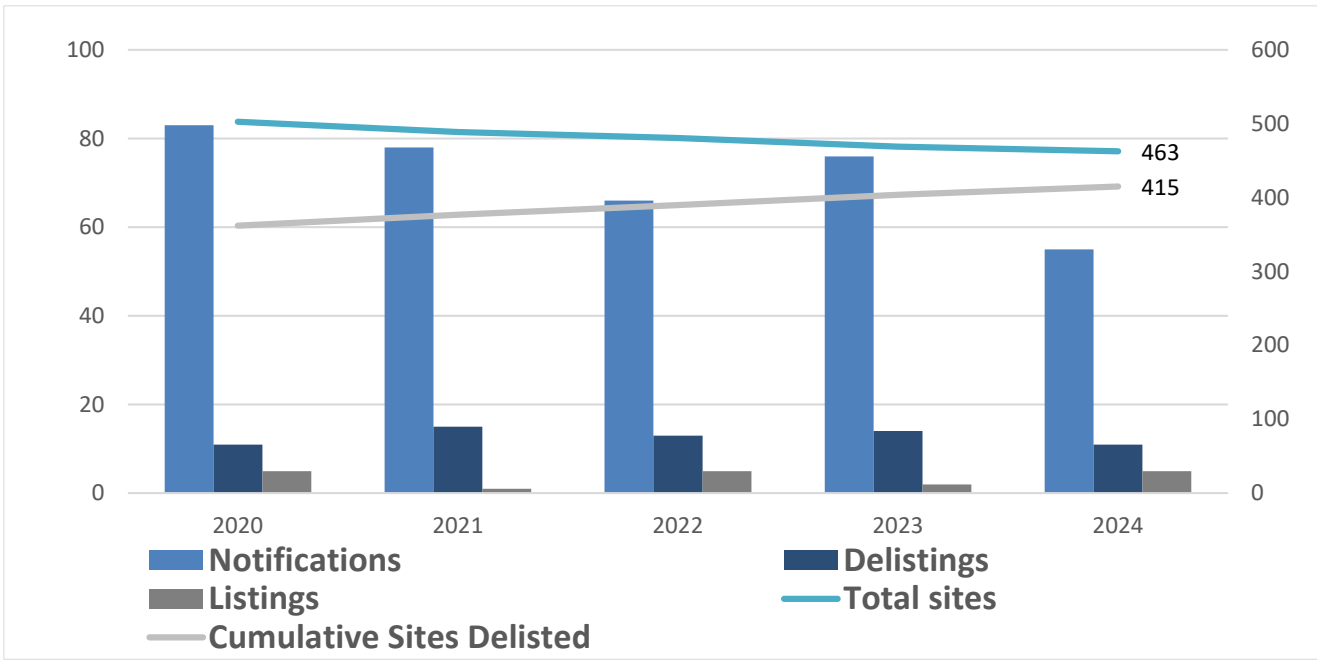
When a suspected release of a regulated substance is discovered in soil or groundwater, the property owner determines if EPD notification is required. After receiving a notification, EPD uses a numerical scoring process which factors the toxicity and physical state of the substance, the proximity to nearby residents and drinking water wells, and public access to the release. If the threshold for either soil or groundwater is exceeded, or if the site otherwise poses a threat to public health or the environment, the site may be placed on the HSI. Sites listed on the HSI are required to meet Georgia clean-up standards, and once applicable clean-up standards are met, EPD can remove the site from the HSI. At the end of FY24, 463 sites are listed on the HSI.

EPD continues to defer HSI listing determinations, when appropriate, to ensure that we have accurate data and to allow exploration of other avenues for cleanup. In FY24, fifty percent of the completed notifications were deferred for additional assessment, pre-scoring cleanup, and/or enrollment in Brownfield or Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). These actions typically result in a similar cleanup, but with lower costs and timeframe for both the property owner and the State.



Former Exide Technologies Site - HSI No. 10382

Notifications/HSI Status



Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight

Success Stories

Voluntary Remediation Program & Brownfield Program Enrollment

A release notification was submitted for the Jarrells Metal and Iron site located at 4405 Tremont Road in Savannah, Chatham County. The property includes a warehouse, a maintenance building, and an equipment building used for industrial purposes. On-site operations consist of metal recycling, including vehicle dismantling and vehicle/machinery maintenance in an automotive repair shop.

Based on the release notification, the property may have scored above the listing threshold for the groundwater pathway. The owner decided to submit a Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Application to enter Jarrell's Metal and Iron into the VRP to address site impacts. After the application, a Prospective Action Corrective Action Plan (PPCAP) was submitted by a prospective purchaser, and was subsequently accepted into the Georgia Brownfield Program to address soil impacts. By utilizing both the VRP and Brownfield Program, EPD is able to ensure the site will meet appropriate regulatory endpoints and avoid a listing on the Hazardous Site Inventory.



Jarrells Metal & Iron Release Notification



View of drums covered with a tarp and enclosed with a temporary fence at the Norcross Trailer Abandoned Drum Site

Complaint Response

EPD received a complaint call in early 2023 for the Norcross Trailer Abandoned Drum Site located in Norcross, Gwinnett County regarding a large number of metal drums that were located within a 53-foot commercial box tractor-trailer at a logistics yard. The trailer was reported stolen in November 2022 and recovered soon after by Gwinnett County Police and was transported to the trailer owner's rented space at the logistics yard. The trailer owner called Gwinnett County Police Department back after the trailer was returned and he discovered that the trailer was filled with pallets of drums containing liquids with a strong solvent odor.

In December 2022, the Gwinnett County Police Department Hazardous Device Unit, accompanied by the Gwinnett Fire Department Hazmat Unit conducted minimal sampling to try and characterize the materials in the 45 drums, which they determined contained industrial waste chemicals. The trailer owner was then advised to contact EPD for assistance.

EPD determined there were no viable responsible parties and utilized funds from the HWTF to properly characterize and dispose of all drums. The drums were classified as hazardous waste and required incineration. EPD Law enforcement and EPA criminal investigation were involved throughout, but no targets were identified. Without EPD involvement and use of the HWTF, the drums likely would have been abandoned.

Site Assessment, Remediation, and Monitoring Oversight

Success Stories

Multi-Program & Agency Collaboration

The **Next Floor Dalton-Former Asset Recycling & Recovery, LLC (ARR) Site** is in Dalton, Whitfield County. EPD and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Response Programs were notified and responded to a fire at the site on March 25, 2022. ARR was an electronic waste and battery recycling business that was operating at the property at the time of the fire.

Burning batteries were difficult to extinguish, and it was unknown whether the remaining batteries that were stored in the warehouse were energized. An approximately 2,000 sq-ft temporary, bermed, clay-lined saltwater pond/ holding cell was constructed next to the warehouse building to extinguish the burning material and to discharge residual energy from the charged batteries. After soaking the burnt batteries, electronic waste, building debris, and ash in the saltwater holding cell for nearly two months, the holding cell water was drained and disposed. Approximately 100 tons of burned batteries, e-waste, and building debris were recovered, temporarily staged onsite in roll off boxes, characterized, and properly disposed as hazardous or nonhazardous waste. The soil remaining in the holding cell was sampled, and hazardous concentrations of cadmium and lead were found in sediment. Contaminated soil that exceeded EPD's soil notification criteria was excavated in phases, and approximately 167 tons of intermixed waste and contaminated soil were disposed at a hazardous waste landfill. The intermixed debris containing damaged batteries was transported offsite under U.S. DOT Special Permit DOT SP 21573.

EPD's Hazardous Waste Management Program and RRP jointly reviewed the May 2024 Remediation Report for the removal action. RRP also received a release notification and determined the resulting soil and groundwater pathway scores did not warrant listing the site on the HSI. The property was sold in March 2024, and the burned area of the warehouse building has been removed for future reuse of the warehouse.



Next Floor Dalton-Former Asset Recycling & Recovery Site - view of the holding cell



Next Floor Dalton-Former Asset Recycling & Recovery post remediation

Landfill Reimbursements

The Act provides for reimbursement of eligible local government costs in the investigation and remediation of solid waste handling facilities listed on the State HSI or the Federal National Priorities List. Fifty percent of the tipping fees allocated to the HWTF are made available for these costs in accordance with the Act.

Up to \$2,000,000 per site is provided for addressing the unexpected costs of leaking landfills such as enhanced monitoring and corrective action. The funding does not provide for routine post-closure care (PCC) at permitted facilities, such as capping or basic monitoring. However, for landfills closed prior to permitting requirements, these costs may be eligible.

Private landfills that have been abandoned may be eligible for PCC funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund, and/or corrective action using the HWTF.

In FY24, EPD reimbursed local government costs from seven HWTF applications for a total of \$692,349. To date, \$50 Million has been reimbursed by the HWTF. The chart shows reimbursements that occurred within Fiscal Year 2024.

HSI Number	Recipient Name	FY24 Reimbursement
10657	Douglas County	\$31,611
10450	Burke County	\$161,526
10661	Fannin County	\$98,680
10664	Glimmer County	\$17,755
10667	Hart County	\$17,019
10714	Turner County	\$55,705
N/A	Dodge County	\$310,051

Landfill Success Story

The **Williams-Mesena Road Landfill** is a 121-acre property in McDuffie County, that operated as an Inert and C&D landfill from approximately 1974 until 1991 when its landfill operation permit was revoked due to continued violations. EPD found metals in soil and groundwater in the early 1990s, and the site was listed on the HSI as HSI# 10021 in 1994. A major fire erupted at the abandoned landfill creating heavy smoke in the area in September 1999. EPD mobilized a State Contractor to perform air monitoring and to cover the fire with sand after responsible parties did not contain and extinguish the fire, as requested.

EPD and the Responsible Party (RP) Group went through several years of soil and groundwater investigations. EPD encouraged the property owner to allow work to proceed, and contractors started to consolidate and cover the waste with a minimum of 2-feet of clean compacted soil in June 2019. By completion in December 2020, the contractor had consolidated waste into three distinct areas totaling 55 acres and established a stormwater retention basin with proper drainage for the entire property in accordance with the CAP. Following completion of the CAP activities, a final Compliance Status Report (CSR) was submitted, which certified the soil and groundwater to nonresidential standards. A Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (MMP) was approved, and a restrictive covenant was filed to restrict use of the property. MMP landfill inspections show a continued improvement in the grassy cover and erosion controls. The site was delisted from the HSI on June 13, 2024.



Fire at Williams-Masena Road Landfill, HSI No. 10021

Abandoned Site Cleanups

When a responsible party fails to perform corrective action, EPD may utilize the HWTF and then attempt to recover the cost of cleanup. There are currently 65 sites on the HSI that are classified as abandoned. The total cost estimate for investigation and corrective action of these 65 sites is over \$60 Million.

EPD conducts ongoing reviews of all abandoned and inactive sites and ranks those sites for enforcement and funding in accordance with a site prioritization model. In FY24, EPD oversaw HWTF Contractor activity on 35 abandoned sites, spending over \$4.2 Million. Funded contractor activities were completed at twelve of those sites.

Clean Up Success Stories

The former **Peach Metal Industries Site, HSI No. 10152**, consists of approximately 9.5 acres situated one mile north of the City of Byron in Peach County. The property was originally used as part of a U.S. Air Force Nike Hercules Missile Battery. In 1967, Mr. Turner McCord acquired the property and leased the property to Peach Metal Industries who operated an electroplating facility until 1987 when they filed for bankruptcy. Site operations resulted in significant metals and chlorinated solvents impacts.

The site was listed on the HSI in 1994. Soil characterization and soil excavation were conducted in the '90s and early 2000s by USEPA. A state contractor conducted an environmental investigation for remaining source areas, delineation of soil contamination, and groundwater monitoring in 2006. This HWTF phase completed soil clean-up to non-residential standards. In 2012, the property was enrolled in the Brownfield Program by a prospective purchaser.

A state contractor recently completed groundwater characterization, and the final report demonstrated that groundwater beneath the property is in compliance with non-residential standards. The site was delisted from the HSI on January 5, 2024.



Remnants of a building at the Former Peach Metal Industries site

FY 24 Abandoned Site Cleanups	County
594 District Line Rd	Sumter
A&D Barrel & Drum Company	Fulton
Agri-Cycle	Jackson
All-Rental	Gwinnett
Barnett Shoals Road Site	Clarke
Ben Gober Landfill	Gwinnett
Berrien Products	Berrien
Best Care Cleaners & Magnolia Hall Property	Cherokee
Cedartown Battery	Polk
Chem-Am	Troup
Dry Clean USA	Chatham
Escambia - Brunswick Wood	Glynn
Escambia - Camilla Wood	Mitchell
Former Busby Cleaners	Liberty
Former Exide Technologies (GNB)	Muscogee
Glennville Wood Preserving	Tattnall
Hometown Cleaners	Morgan
JNV Investments Group	Dekalb
Klouda Estate Site	Peach
Love Your Clothes	Cobb
Marble Top Road Abandoned Drums	Walker
Morgan Post Treating Company	Clinch
Murrow Brothers	Oconee
Norcross Trailer Abandoned Drum Site	Gwinnett
Pelham Phosphate	Mitchell
Rockbridge Square Shopping Center	Gwinnett
Savannah Dry Cleaners	Chatham
Shakerag Cleaners	Henry
Shaver's Farm	Walker
Stephenson Chemical	Fulton
Sun Labs	Fulton
Truman Parkway	Chatham
Union Timber	Clinch
Vantran Electric	Jefferson
Weddington Estate	Fulton

Abandoned Site Cleanups

Abandoned Drums Complaint

Georgia EPD received a complaint in January 2023, regarding a large amount of abandoned metal drums at the **Marble Top Road Abandoned Drum Site**, a 25-acre undeveloped wooded property near Kensington in Walker County. Upon inspection, EPD personnel confirmed more than 100 abandoned 55-gallon metal drums. It was estimated that the drums were abandoned at least 20-30 years prior to discovery, and many of the visible drums were heavily deteriorated with their contents exposed. EPD issued a Project Assignment Form (PAF) to a State Contractor in April 2023. The assigned contractor identified more than 200 drums, and drum waste and sediment samples were collected. A Remedial Activities Report (RAR) was submitted documenting the results, and the property was listed as HSI No. 10969 on June 16, 2024. EPD allocated additional funds for FY25 and assigned a contractor in October to properly dispose of the drums and impacted soil, and to investigate possible groundwater impacts.



Marble Top Abandoned Drum Site - HSI No. 10969

Multi-year Clean Up Success

EPD recently concluded HWTF State Contractor activities and reporting at the Agri-Cycle Site HSI No. 10948. The Agri-Cycle Site is an approximately 84-acre property located in Talmo, Jackson County. Historical activity at the Agri-Cycle Site included pre-treatment and disposal of wastewater using a land application system, initially as a chicken processing plant and subsequently as a plant nursery. Agri-Cycle accepted wastewater from about a dozen septic waste haulers, some of which accepted industrial waste. Following odor complaints in 2005, EPD documented the facility was not operating according to the approved operational plan and pursued enforcement. In 2007, after one of the grease-filled waste lagoons caught fire, EPD filed an emergency restraining order to prevent continued operation until compliance was achieved. The system of treatment ponds contained waste oils, grease and septage. Agri-Cycle subsequently filed for bankruptcy, and the ponds continued to cause odor issues and overflow into the adjacent Allen Creek. The site was listed on the HSI in May 2018 following EPD's determination the abandoned ponds posed a threat to human health and the environment.

Between 2016 and 2023, EPD utilized HWTF resources to perform site assessments, corrective actions, and final reporting for the site. Initial actions included characterization of the wastewater ponds, temporary pond stabilization, soil, groundwater, sediment and surface water sampling. Site assessments indicated that there were seven wastewater ponds over 6-acres at the site containing approximately 14 million gallons of water. A combination of remedial strategies were utilized to reach site closure including wastewater and contact water treatment and discharge of over 2.5M gallons, removal and disposal of approximately 4,000 tons of floating crust material and debris, treatment and stabilization of over 9000 cubic yards of sludge and almost 3-acres of pond stabilization and closure. Final closure documents demonstrate that groundwater meets residential clean-up standards, soil meets non-residential standards, and the remaining finishing pond does not represent a risk to human health and the environment.



View of ponds at the Agri-Cycle Site HSI No. 10948



Progress of Pond Closure at Agri-Cycle

Community Outreach and Highlights from FY24

Throughout the year EPD provides outreach to communities by attending community meetings as well as providing technical assistance to the public. These are a few program updates and highlights from FY24:

- The dedicated fees ensure consistent funding of the HWTF, providing significantly more money for abandoned site cleanups. With a small portion of that funding, the Response and Remediation Program (RRP) formed the Abandoned Sites Unit in FY24. This new Unit is primarily dedicated to abandoned site investigation and cleanups using State Contractors.
- When EPD utilizes the HWTF to investigate and cleanup abandoned sites, a lien is typically placed on the property to recover costs. During FY24, EPD negotiated a lien settlement with a purchaser of the Forstmann & Company, Inc. site (HSI No. 10401). The settlement includes additional work to be performed under Brownfield and partial reimbursement of EPD's lien.
- EPD's Brownfield Coordinator and EPA staff members met with Georgia Tech faculty fellows from their Center for Sustainable Communities and Research to discuss EPA Brownfield Basics. EPD Brownfield staff also attended Emory's Green Networking Night. They met with both undergraduate and graduate students to discuss their careers and to field questions from the students regarding careers in environmental and sustainability related fields.



The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design



Atlanta Beltline Brownfield Bike Tour - Lifecycle Building

- RRP hosted an Atlanta Beltline Brownfield Bike Tour during Biketober. The tour was an opportunity to interact with the local community and learn more about several site investigations and cleanup projects that have come to fruition in southwest Atlanta.
- RRP has initiated an electronic filing system for records pertaining to HSI site files that are not currently managed in the public-facing GEOS System. This facility-centric SharePoint file system will enhance collaboration on projects, ease future transfer of site assignments, and enable file sharing with the public. A long-term goal is to have the Records folders linked to a public-facing system. RRP is also working to transition HSI site data and project management from Microsoft Access to an existing SQL database.

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For additional information, please contact
EPD's Response and Remediation Program at 404-657-8600 or visit
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