

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Georgia Department of Natural Resources



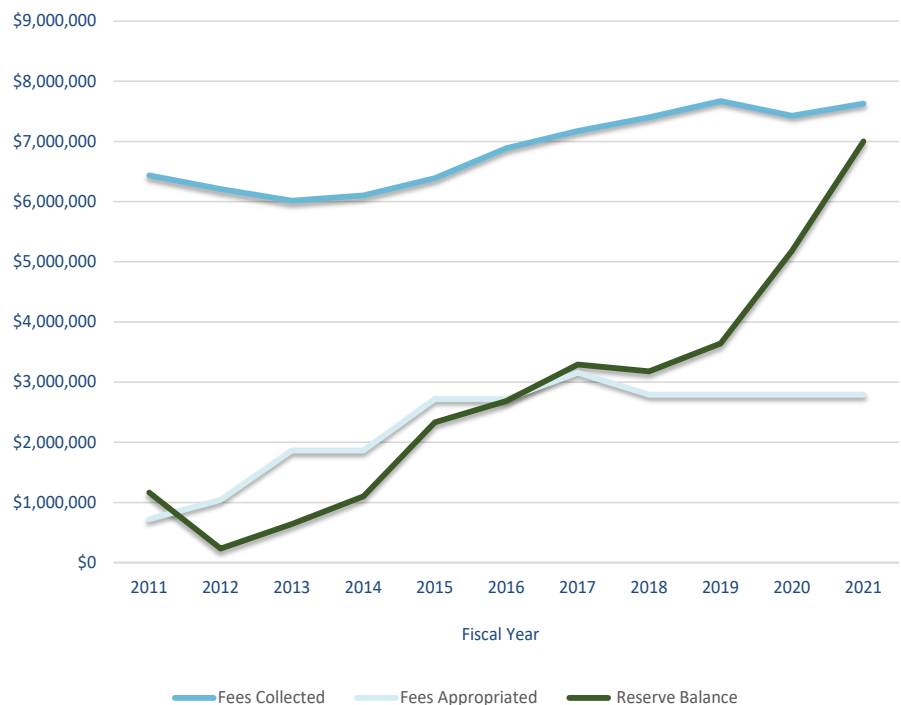
Solid Waste Trust Fund

Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF FY 2011 to FY 2021

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 Solid Waste Trust 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. Each year, the fees collected from the previous year could 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. Since 2008, a large portion of the funds allocated for the Solid Waste Trust Fund were diverted to support other programs.

In November 2020, Georgia voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the Georgia Legislature to dedicate tax or fee revenue directly to the public purpose for which the taxes or fees were imposed. House Bill 511, passed on May 10, 2021, dedicated all funds collected through the fee on new tires sold to the Solid Waste Trust Fund and extended the sunset date to June 30, 2032. The amendment goes into effect July 1, 2022.



COVID-19 Update

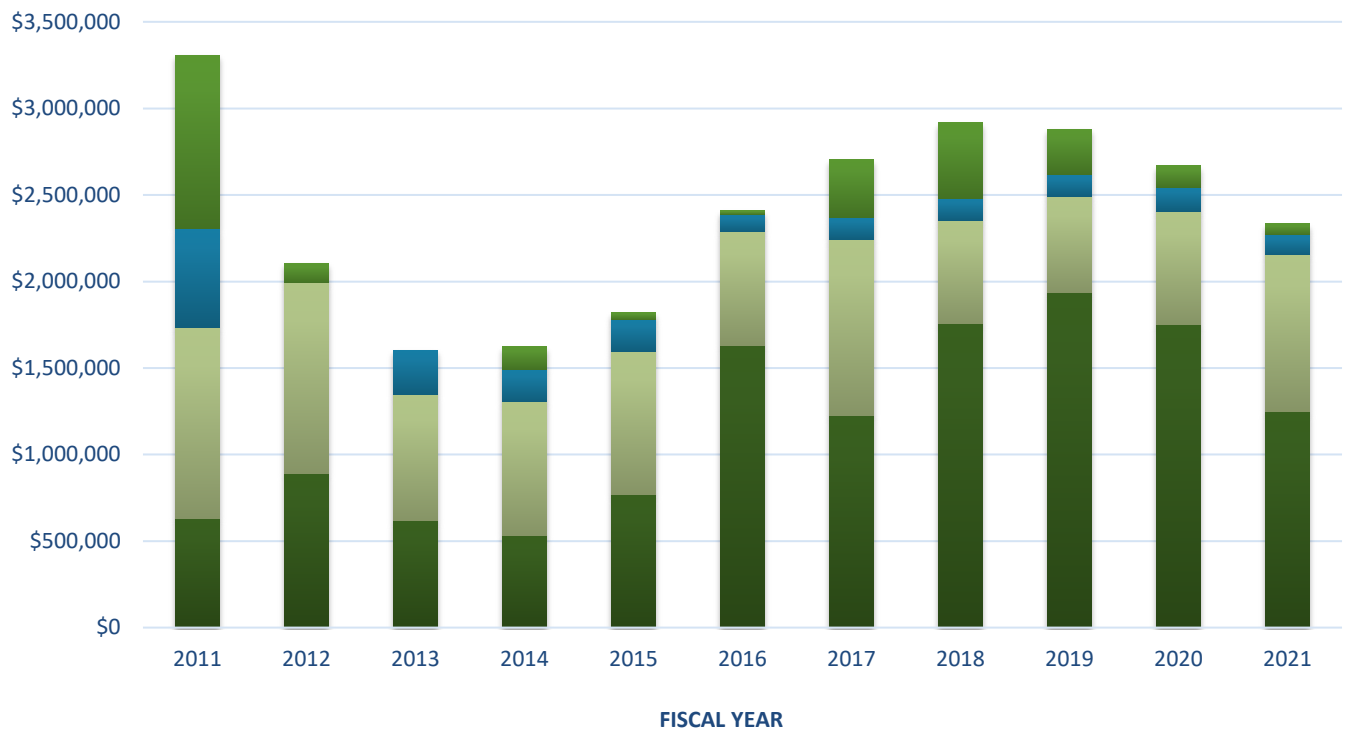
Several Solid Waste Trust Fund activities, such as local government scrap tire clean-up events, were delayed and reduced in number due to operational changes as a result of the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

Appropriation for FY 2021

The General Assembly appropriated **\$2,790,775** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund to clean up illegal scrap tire sites, properly close abandoned landfills, fund waste reduction and recycling programs, and fund administrative and operational costs for FY 2021. EPD is required by the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the Solid Waste Trust Fund; this report fulfills that requirement.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Expenses by Authorized Use



■ Scrap Tire Management and Abatement ■ Operations and Fund Administration
■ Waste Reduction and Litter Education ■ Abandoned Landfills



Solid Waste Trust Fund

Tire Management

Local Government Funding

The Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Program funds illegal tire site and roadside cleanups and amnesty events where residents can bring in their scrap tires for free. In FY 2021, **146,851** PTEs were cleaned up by **36** local governments who were reimbursed a total of **\$427,155**. Precautions taken for the pandemic in FY 2021 reduced the number of local government sponsored events by 35% as compared to FY 2020.

Tire Abatement Projects

The Solid Waste Trust Fund is also used to hire contractors to clean up illegal scrap tire sites around the state. In FY 2021, **21,431** PTEs were removed for **\$63,750**.

Permits & Approvals

EPD issued **372** scrap tire generator identification numbers, **19** tire carrier permits, **one** scrap tire sorter permit, and **one** scrap tire processor permit in FY 2021.

Inspections

EPD staff conducted **1,150** site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2021.

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.

EPD regulates and enforces proper scrap tire management through permits and site inspections, which helps to prevent the accumulation of scrap tires throughout the state. Scrap tire sites are hazards and pose threats to both human and environmental health.

Scrap tires are calculated by Passenger Tire Equivalents (PTEs), which is a unit of measurement used to convert truck and off-the-road tire numbers to passenger tire numbers. This is helpful in determining estimates of the number of tires for abatement projects. In FY 2021, **186,016** PTEs were removed or cleaned up through investigations, local government partners, or state-sponsored abatement.



Tire Fee Collection

Retailers who sell new tires are responsible for collecting the fee from consumers for each new tire sold. In FY 2021, **\$7.6 million** were collected.

Investigations

EPD staff led investigations in response to complaints from citizens about illegal tire sites and other tire issues. In FY 2021, **193** investigations were conducted, leading to **17,734** PTEs removed from **23** sites.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

FY 2021 Tire Clean-ups Across the State



922 PTEs

922 PTEs were collected at the Blalock abatement site in the Metro-Atlanta area.



2,229 PTEs

During an amnesty event in March 2021, Lumpkin County received 2,229 PTEs.

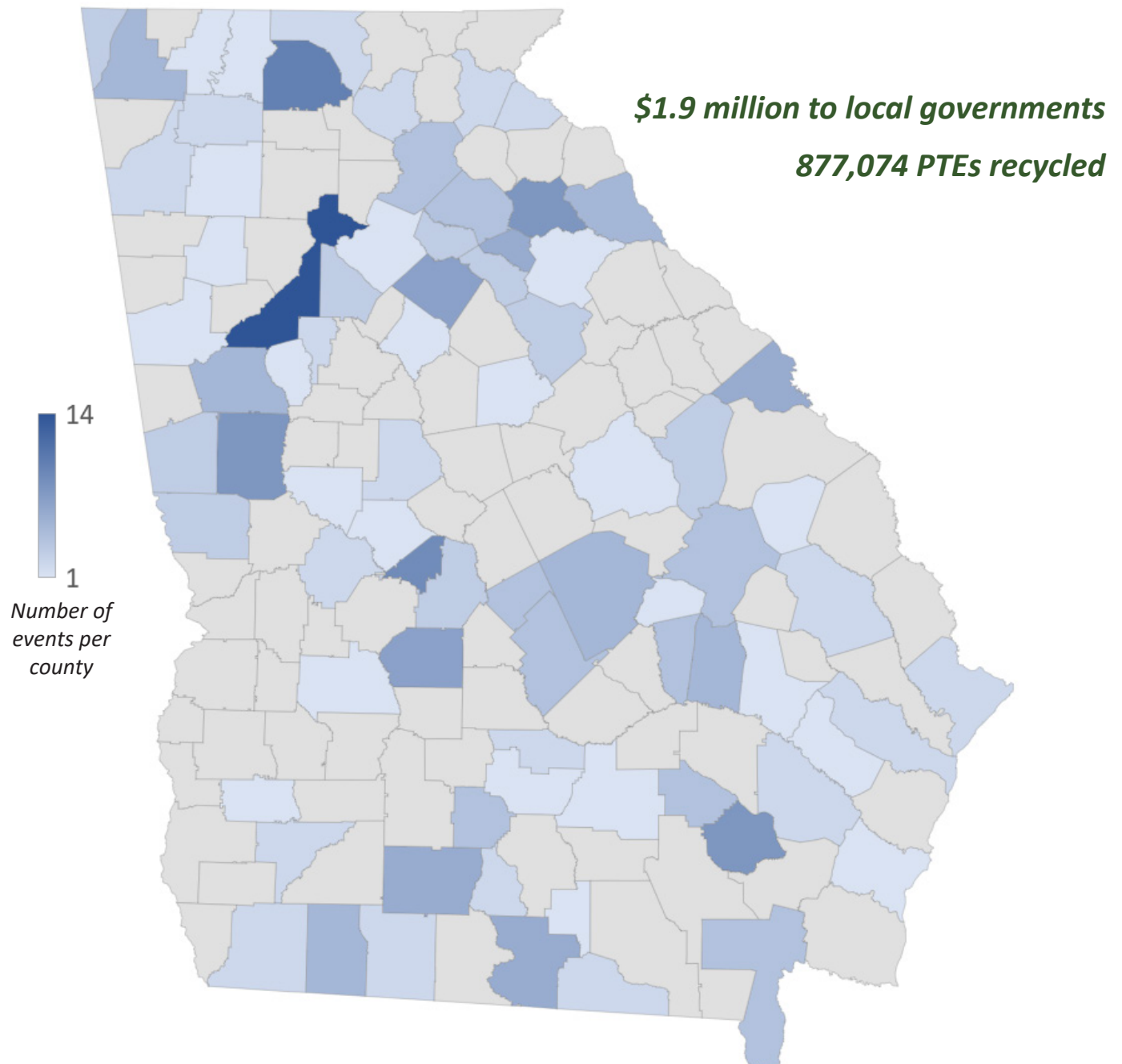


7,103 PTEs

7,103 PTEs were collected at the Newman abatement site in the North Georgia area.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Scrap Tire Abatement and Reimbursement Program Participation by County



Since the start of the program in 2016, local governments have been reimbursed **\$1.9 million** to remove and recycle **877,074** PTEs across the state.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Solid Waste Reduction and 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.

Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation (KGBF) received **\$175,000** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund in FY 2021 to carry out environmental conservation efforts. KGBF is a network, with more than **70** affiliates across the state, that engages with local communities to end litter, reduce waste, promote recycling, and beautify communities. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, KGBF, community affiliates, and volunteers collected nearly **2.7 million** pounds of litter and debris, reclaimed more than **103 million** pounds of recyclable material, and cleaned and improved **1,272** public spaces throughout Georgia in FY 2021.

Efforts continued to support the statewide litter awareness campaign even through the pandemic. The campaign **#reconsiderlitter** utilized social media to educate elected officials and the public about litter and its impact on the community. Community participation was engaged through a virtual TrashDash event, which called for participants to pick up litter in their community and share pictures online.

KGBF continued to promote state and national educational initiatives in FY 2021. Efforts included hosting **six** virtual professional development sessions featuring partner organizations and resources, including TerraCycle, #RecycleRightGA, Resource Recycling solutions, and GreenShortz videos.



*The Great American Cleanup (GAC) is the nation's largest community improvement program and takes place each spring. In FY 2021, **939** events were conducted statewide, impacting **343** public spaces and **2,532** miles of roadways. A total of **1.4 million** pounds of litter and debris were collected and over **one million** pounds of materials were recycled.*

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 clearinghouse, ensuring that the public has easy access to environmental education resources — a vital part of improving environmental literacy in Georgia.

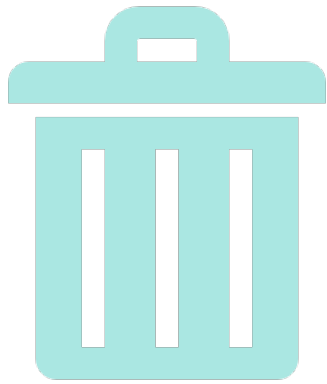
More than **480** state agencies, nonprofits, K-12 schools, and other organizations are members of the site and can submit resources, events, and other environmental-related information. The program's newsletter has more than **7,500** subscribers, most of whom are educators who rely on the site to find lesson plans, curriculum guides, grants, awards, outreach programs, field studies, conferences, and professional learning courses.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2021, the unit responded to requests for technical assistance from the general public, local governments, and private businesses, including questions about composting, household hazardous waste, solid waste management plans, green procurement policies, and business development.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

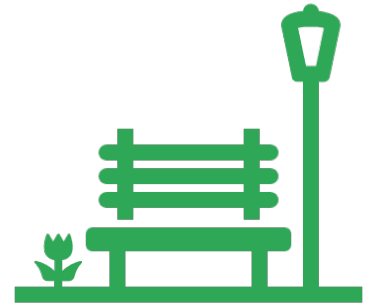
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling



**2.7 million lbs. of litter
cleaned**



**103 million lbs. of recyclable
materials recovered**



1,272 public places cleaned



Bring One for the Chipper is Georgia's annual Christmas tree recycling program. In FY 2021, **42** affiliates participated at **161** sites throughout the state. A total of **54,428** trees were recycled and diverted from landfills.



Solid Waste Trust Fund

Abandoned Landfill Care and Clean-Up

Sites in Closure

One of the authorized uses of the Solid Waste Trust Fund is to properly close and monitor abandoned landfills. Beginning in FY 2017, EPD has focused these efforts on the following 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

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. This monitoring continued in FY 2021, along with site mowing and methane and groundwater sampling. Quarterly reports were provided with the sampling results.

In FY 2020, Kemron prepared and filed landfill deed notices for all three sites.

EPD intended to issue requests for qualified contractors to properly close both the Eller Whitlock and Steele Brothers sites in FY 2021. Due to procurement issues, the bid will be issued in FY 2022.

Plans for closing the Fauconniere Buckeye Cellulose site will move forward when funding is available. No action was taken in FY 2021.

Post Closure Care

Scales Road Landfill in DeKalb County began accepting C&D materials in 1990. The landfill's owner declared bankruptcy and in 2005 notified the state of its intent to abandon 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.

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 2021 under this contract included road work repairs, pond maintenance, landfill cap maintenance, groundwater and methane monitoring, and sediment basin and drainage channel maintenance.

Scales Road Landfill



Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Land Protection Branch
4244 International Parkway, Suite 104
Atlanta, Georgia 30354



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

For additional information, please contact
EPD's Solid Waste Management Program at 404-362-2537 or visit
epd.georgia.gov/land-protection-branch/solid-waste