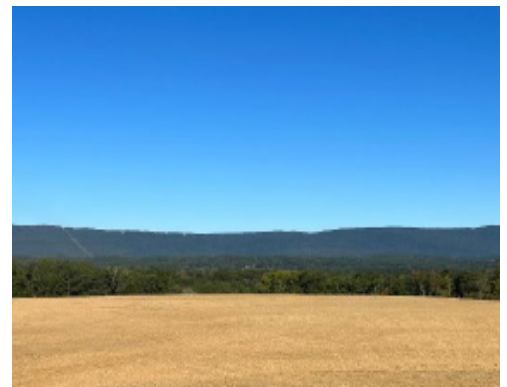


Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
Georgia Department of Natural Resources



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 Solid Waste Trust Fund in the form of a \$1.00 fee on every new tire sold in the state.

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.

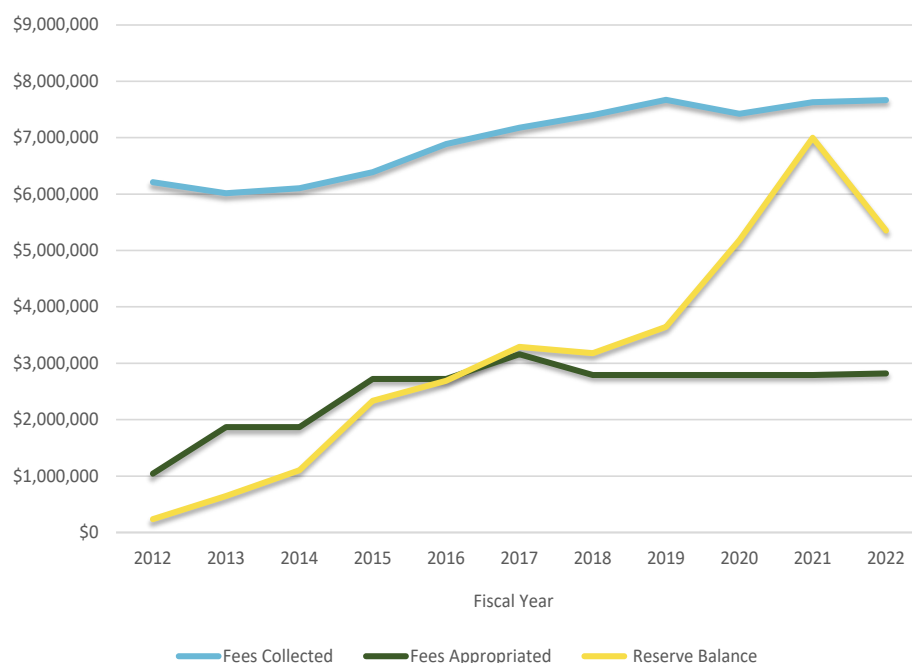
In November 2020, Georgia voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the Georgia Legislature to dedicate tax or fee revenue directly to the public purpose for which the taxes or fees were imposed.

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 went into effect July 1, 2022, and the fully dedicated fee amount will be available to EPD in FY 2023.

Appropriation for FY 2022

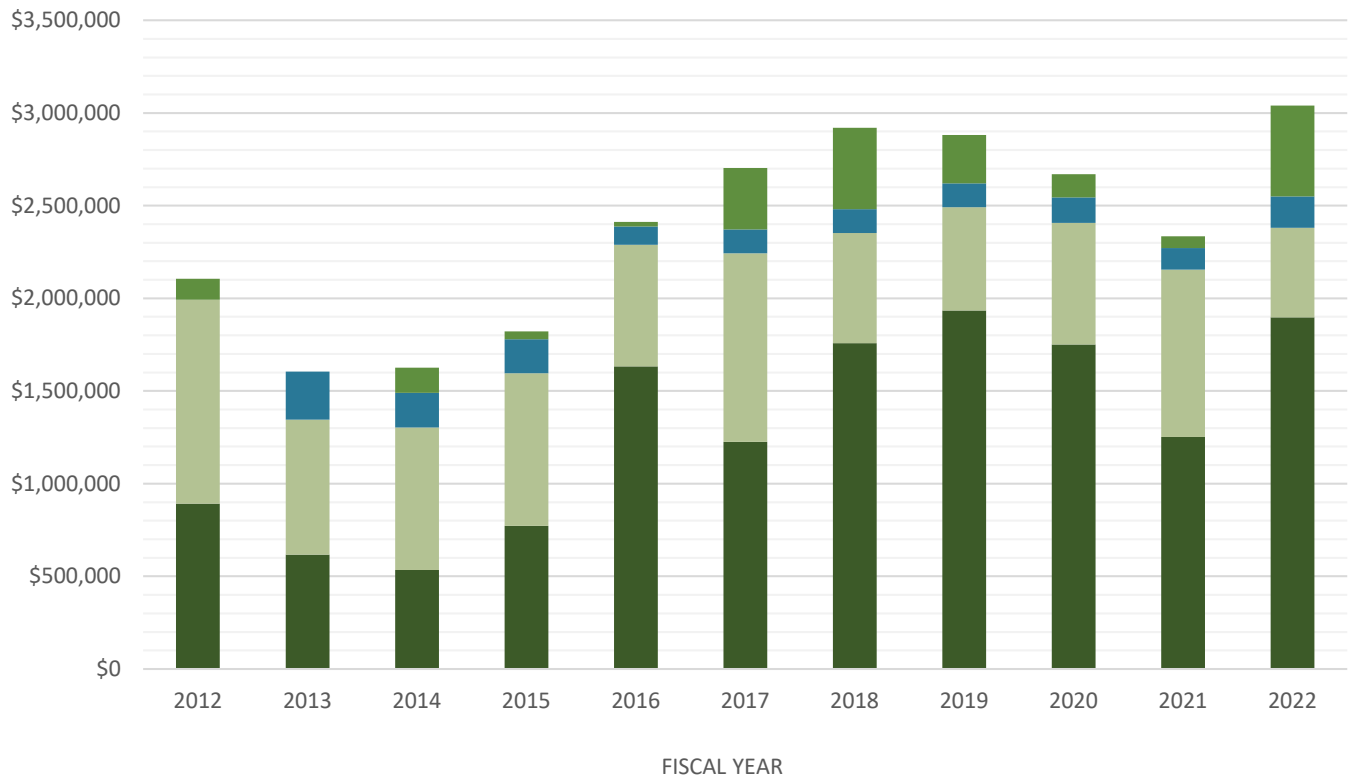
The General Assembly appropriated \$2,817,533 from the Solid Waste Trust Fund to clean up illegal scrap tire sites, properly close abandoned landfills, fund waste reduction and recycling programs, and fund administrative and operational costs for FY 2022. EPD is required by the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the Solid Waste Trust Fund; this report fulfills that requirement.

Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF FY 2012 to FY 2022



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

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 cost estimates for the removal of tires for abatement projects. In FY 2022, **303,358** PTEs were removed or cleaned up through investigations, local government partners, or state-sponsored abatement.

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 2022, **245,769** PTEs were cleaned up by **40** local governments who were reimbursed a total of **\$520,132**.

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 2022, **47,735** PTEs were removed for **\$154,421**.

Permits & Approvals

EPD issued **304** scrap tire generator identification numbers and **16** tire carrier permits in FY 2022.

Inspections

EPD staff conducted **1,521** site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2022.



Tire Fee Collection

Retailers who sell new tires are responsible for collecting the fee from consumers for each new tire sold. In FY 2022, **\$7.6 million** was collected.

Investigations

EPD staff led investigations in response to complaints from citizens about illegal tire sites and other tire issues. In FY 2022, **196** investigations were conducted, leading to **9,854** PTEs removed from **25** sites.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

FY 2022 Tire Clean-ups Across the State



17,233 PTEs

were collected at an abandoned tire shop site in Wayne County.



17,192 PTEs

were collected during an amnesty event in December 2021 by Macon-Bibb County.

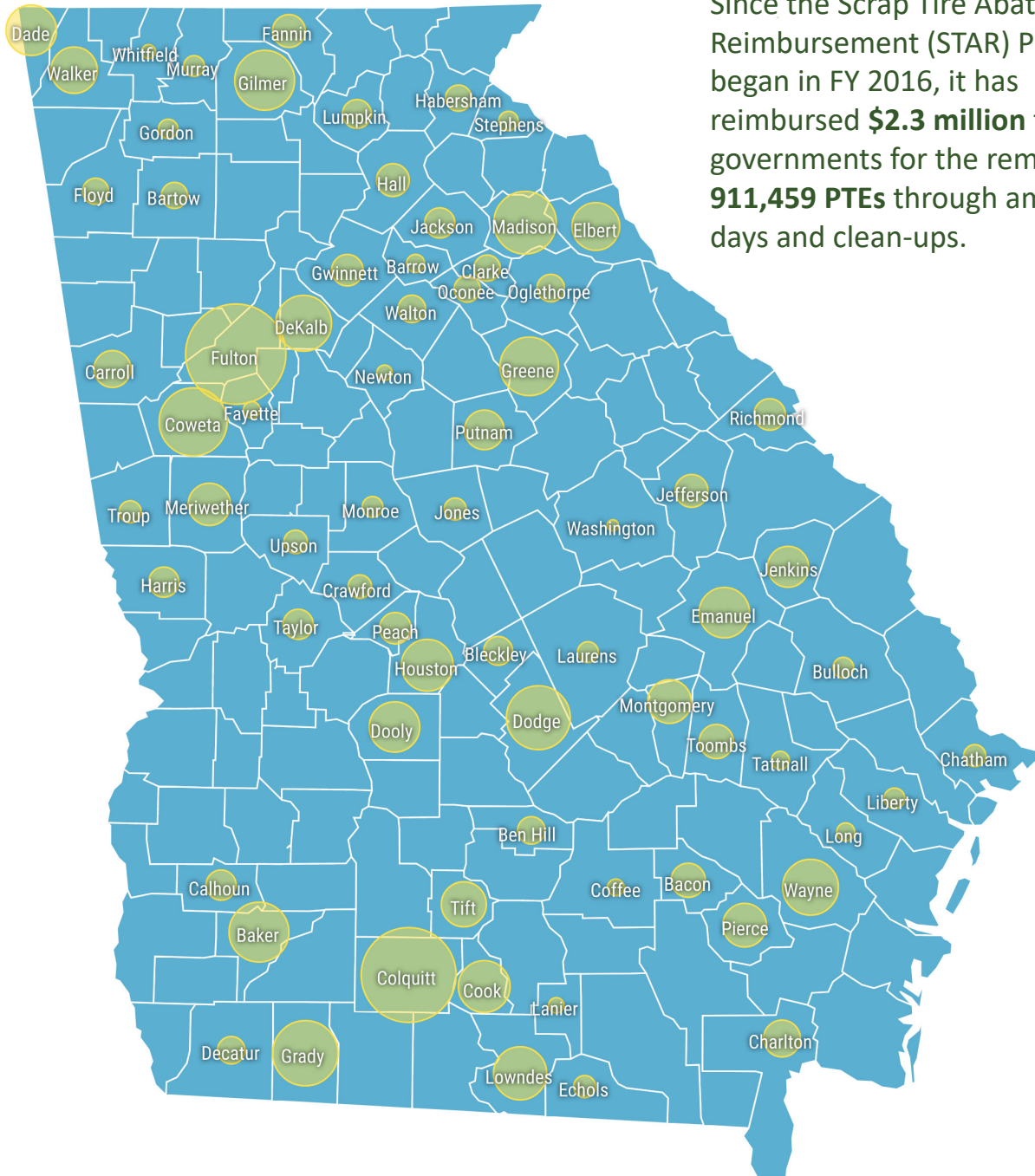


4,841 PTEs

were collected during an amnesty event in February 2022 by City of Newnan.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Local Government STAR Program Reimbursements per County



Since the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Program began in FY 2016, it has reimbursed **\$2.3 million** to local governments for the removal of **911,459 PTEs** through amnesty days and clean-ups.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Georgia Municipal Measurement Program

The Georgia Municipal Measurement Program (MMP) is a program administered by EPD that provides local governments a free online tool to track and measure waste and recycling program performance.

The following participants completed and submitted surveys for the the 2020 MMP: Athens Clarke County, Camden County, City of Albany, City of Atlanta, City of Chamblee, City of Milton, City of Monroe, City of Newnan, City of Norcross, City of Sandy Springs, Cobb County, Columbus Consolidated Government, Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, Dodge County, Floyd County, Forsyth County, Gwinnett County, Paulding County, and Walton County.

In 2020, MMP participants reported processing **552,697** tons of material. Of this, **110,347** tons were diverted from landfills, resulting in a **20%** diversion rate. This includes materials collected from residential curbside recycling programs and drop-off centers. A total of **442,350** tons of landfill waste were collected from residential curbside recycling programs and drop-off centers.

*This information was calculated based of the data reported in the MMP from participants.

Residential Materials Recycled in 2020



29,352 tons of residential recycling (paper, plastic, glass, and metals) collected



36,269 tons of residential yard trimmings collected

Public Space Materials Recycled in 2020



7.8 tons of recycling collected a public spaces

Drop-off Center Materials Recycled in 2020



4,568 tons of recycling (paper, plastic, glass, and metals)



179 tons of household hazardous waste



1,826 tons of scrap tires



191 tons of electronic waste



36,306 tons of construction and demolition materials



1,645 tons of scrap metal

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 2022 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.

In FY 2022, KGBF, community affiliates, and volunteers collected nearly **608 million** pounds of litter and debris, impacting **325** public spaces and **3,322** miles of roadway during the Great American Cleanup event. Approximately **1.3 million** pounds of materials were recycled.

Efforts continued to support the statewide litter awareness campaign. The campaign **#reconsiderlitter**, which utilized social media to educate elected officials and the public about litter and its impact on the community, was completed in December of FY 2022. KGBF awarded **six** grants totaling **\$15,000** in funding to educate local communities on the harmful impacts of litter and recycling contamination while providing customized information about proper recycling practices.

KGBF continued to promote state and national educational initiatives and provide technical assistance and training in FY 2022. Other efforts conducted in FY 2022 include the maintenance of the statewide Recycling Markets Directory and the development of an online resource for the Blight Reduction and Code Enforcement (BRACE) Program.



The Recovered Materials Unit presented at local elementary school to teach children on how to recycle in FY 2022. In this interactive session, students were shown a material, like a plastic bottle, and were asked whether it should go in the recycling or trash.

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 **7,700** 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 2022, the Recovered Materials 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. Many questions concerned how to recycle or properly dispose of various materials, such as electronics.



*KGBF hosts an annual tree recycling event for affiliates and participating communities every holiday season. KGBF collected and recycled **62,300** trees in FY 2022, and has collected and recycled over **6 million** trees since the start of the program.*

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. EPD is performing closure and post closure care activities at 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

Post Closure Care

Eller Whitlock landfill closure construction began in April of FY 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in September of FY 2023 at a total cost of \$1.75 million, including a separate contract for quality assurance and control. A contract for post closure care maintenance and environmental monitoring will also be awarded, upon certification of closure construction, at an estimated annual cost of \$23,000 for 30 years.

Steele Brothers Landfill closure construction began in June of FY 2022 and is also scheduled to be completed in September of FY 2023 at a total cost of \$500,000, including quality assurance and control. Post closure care of this facility will be accomplished by Department of Natural Resources Engineering and Construction (DNR E&C).

Fauconniere Landfill closure activities will begin in FY 2023.

DNR E&C and EPD have begun partnering to administer contracts to manage these sites, resulting in significant cost savings.

Eller Whitlock



Steele Brothers



Fauconniere



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Land Protection Branch
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GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

For additional information, please contact
EPD's Recovered Materials and Abatement Program at 404-362-2537 or visit
<https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement>