

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023



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.

Historically, a portion of the tire fees collected from the previous fiscal year were appropriated by the General Assembly to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD). House Bill 511, which passed May 2021, proposed an amendment that dedicated all funds collected through new tire fees (now referred to as the

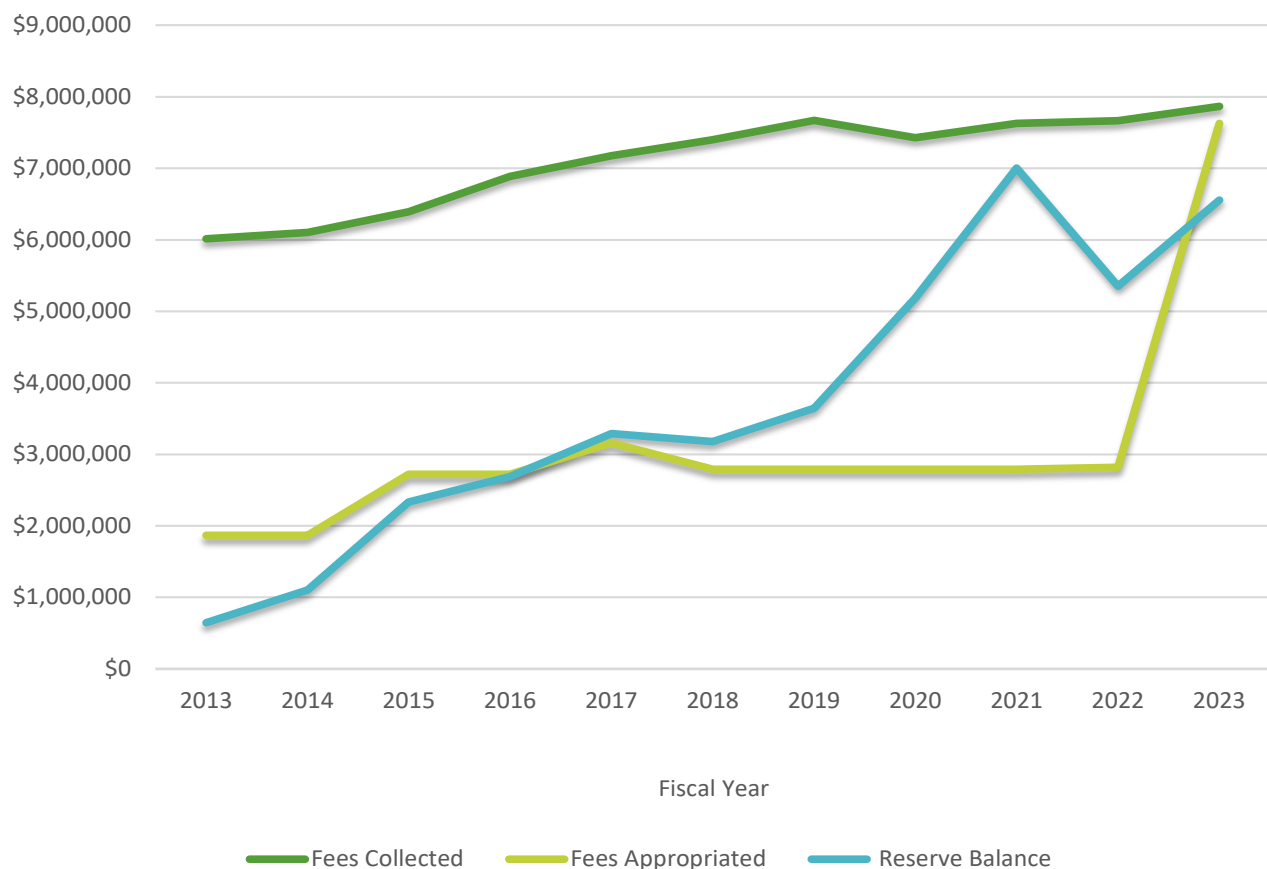
Tire Management Fee) to the Solid Waste Trust Fund. The amendment went into effect July 1, 2022, and the fully dedicated fee amount was available to EPD in FY 2023.

Funding for FY 2023

Tire Management Fees totaling \$7,628,938 from the Solid Waste Trust Fund were available for EPD to fund scrap tire abatement activities, close abandoned landfills, support material recovery and grant administration activities, and fund administrative and operational costs in FY 2023.

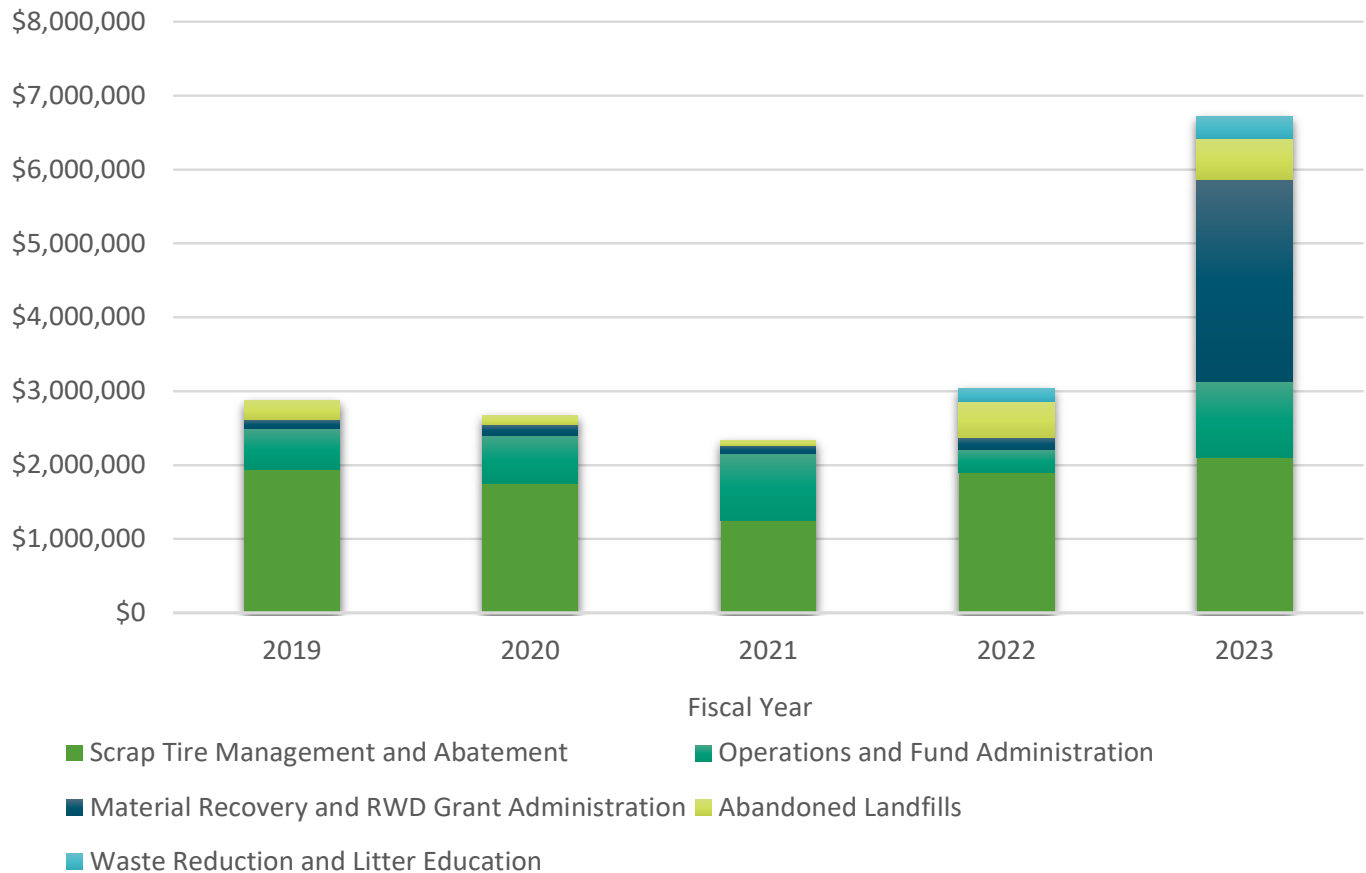
EPD is required by the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the Solid Waste Trust Fund; this report fulfills that requirement.

Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF FY 2013 to FY 2023



Solid Waste Trust Fund

Expenses by Authorized Use



Scrap Tire Management and Abatement numbers are actual project expenses, including Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant, from other fiscal years that were paid in FY 2023. Material Recovery and Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant Administration and Abandoned Landfill numbers are funds encumbered in FY2023.



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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 2023, **338,161** PTEs were removed or cleaned up through investigations, local government partners, or state-sponsored abatement.

Local Government Funding

The Local Government STAR Program funds illegal tire site and roadside cleanups and amnesty events where residents can bring in their scrap tires for free. In FY 2023, **246,664** PTEs were cleaned up by **49** local governments who were reimbursed a total of **\$786,471**. This includes projects from other fiscal years that were paid out in FY 2023.

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 2023, **57,355** PTEs were removed for **\$305,750**.

Permits & Approvals

EPD issued **240** scrap tire generator identification numbers and **23** tire carrier permits in FY 2023.

Inspections

EPD staff conducted **1,683** site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2023.



Tire Fee Collection

In FY 2023, retailers who sold new tires were responsible for collecting the fee from consumers for each new tire sold. A total of **\$7.8** million was collected in FY 2023. While outside the scope of this report period, state law was amended to shift the collection of the Tire Management Fee from tire retailers to distributors, effective July 1, 2023. This change will be fully reflected in the FY24 report.

Investigations

EPD staff led investigations in response to complaints from citizens about illegal tire sites and other tire issues. In FY 2023, **168** investigations were conducted, leading to **34,142** PTEs removed from **26** sites.

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Selected FY 2023 Tire Clean-ups Across the State



7,540 PTEs
were collected in Telfair
County from a state led
abatement contract.



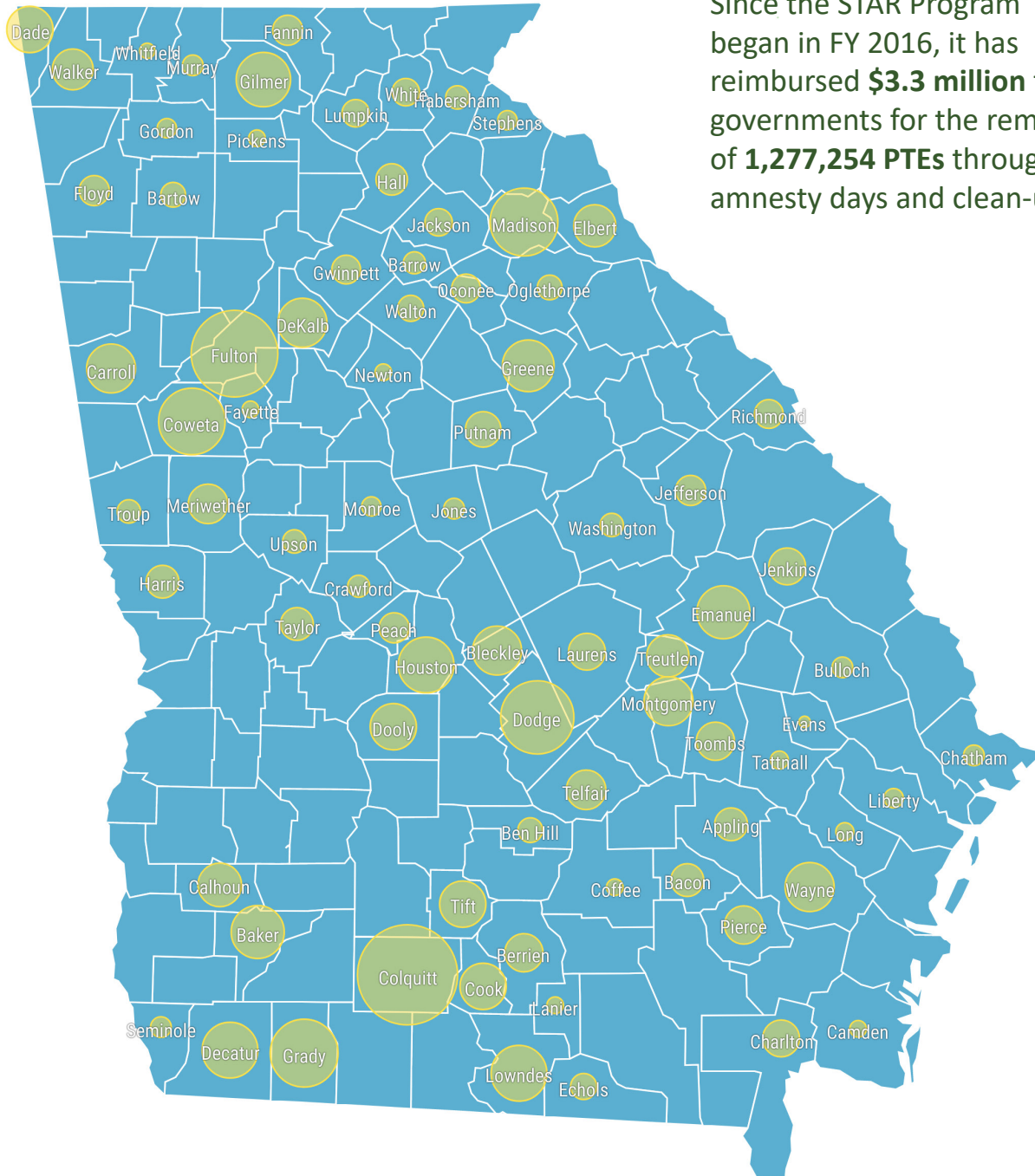
12,093 PTEs
were collected during
an amnesty event in
November 2022 by
Emanuel County.



4,320 PTEs
were collected during
an amnesty event in
December 2022 by
Montgomery County.

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Local Government STAR Program Reimbursements per County



Since the STAR Program began in FY 2016, it has reimbursed **\$3.3 million** to local governments for the removal of **1,277,254 PTEs** through amnesty days and clean-ups.

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Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant

The Georgia EPD announced the RWD Grant in July of 2022 as part of the Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program. The RWD Grant furthers the goals of the Solid Waste Trust Fund by providing financial support to projects in Georgia to reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation. **Twenty-one** projects were selected and awarded for a total of **\$2,738,799**. A few of these projects are described below. More details can be found on the RWD Grant website: <https://epd.georgia.gov/recycling-and-waste-diversion-grant-cycle-fy23>



Recycling Events



*City of Norcross conducted a waste audit of residential bins to assess their recycling stream. The results indicated high amounts of contamination of household hazardous waste (HHW). To mitigate this, the City facilitated a HHW event for residents. Volunteers served **115** vehicles while taking in HHW to be properly handled.*



*Carroll County hosted an Electronic Waste Recycling event. Volunteers helped **977** individuals. Volunteers collected over **4,105** lbs of e-waste, including **105** flat screen TVs.*



Recycling and Waste Diversion Infrastructure



The City of Powder Springs built a recycling facility for residents to drop off their household recycling. This center is a “first-of-its-kind” for the City, and collects cardboard, paper, plastics, glass, aluminum, and tin cans.



*Laurens County installed **16** collection containers to expand cardboard recycling capacity in their community.*



Forsyth County installed special bins to collect hard to recycle plastics, such as plastic film, and put up signage to educate residents on how to recycle.

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Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation (KGBF) received **\$300,000** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund in FY 2023 to carry out waste reduction and litter prevention activities. 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 2023, KGBF, community affiliates, and volunteers collected nearly **556,156** pounds of litter and debris, impacting **116** public spaces and **2,023.5** miles of roadway during the Great American Cleanup event. Approximately **1.5 million** pounds of materials were recycled.

KGBF facilitated regional workshops to educate the law enforcement community about Georgia's litter laws and the importance of proper enforcement. In FY 2023, KGBF awarded **4** grants totaling **\$5,000** and held **4** workshops with **51** attendees from **7** communities.

KGBF continued to promote state and national educational initiatives and provide technical assistance and training in FY 2023. Other efforts conducted in FY 2023 include the maintenance of the statewide Recycling Markets Directory.

BRACE Program

KGBF provided a total of **23** mini-grants ranging between **\$2,500** to **\$5,000** to communities to address prevention and abatement of illegal dumping. Projects included neighborhood cleanups and drop-off events for bulk waste and hard-to-recycle items. Grant awards totaled **\$100,000**, including **\$52,000** to small communities with populations up to **10,000** people.



*KGBF and community affiliates participated in the Great American Cleanup. **18,927** volunteers participated accruing over **53,803** volunteer hours.*



*KGBF hosts an annual tree recycling event for affiliates and participating communities every holiday season. KGBF collected and recycled **54,066** trees in FY 2023, and has collected and recycled over **6 million** trees since the start of the program.*



832,494 pounds of litter collected



\$25.18 ROI for every **\$1** of state funds invested



Over **5.5 million** pounds of materials recycled

Technical Assistance

In FY 2023, 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. EPD transferred management of the Environmental Education Program in Georgia to the Environmental Education Alliance in FY 2023. The Environmental Education Alliance is a coalition of organizations and educators who envision a world where people and nature thrive.

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 activities at the following sites:

- **Eller Whitlock 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 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

Eller Whitlock closure activities included the installation of a soil cap. The cap construction was verified as completed in February of FY 2023, signifying that the landfill had been properly closed.

Steele Brothers Landfill closure activities included the relocation of waste outside the waste limit boundary and installation of a soil cap over the entire landfill. Final grass cover was established in July of FY 2024, signifying that the landfill has been properly closed.

Fauconniere Landfill closure activities will commence in FY 2024, upon approval of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

Post Closure Care

Eller Whitlock Landfill moved into the post closure care phase upon construction certification of the soil cap. EPD will continue to maintain and monitor this site for the next five years, taking regular methane, groundwater, and surface water samples.

Scales Road Landfill is also in the post closure care phase. Scales Road Landfill, located in DeKalb County accepted C&D materials from 1990 to 2005. Like Eller Whitlock Landfill, this site will be maintained and monitored by EPD for the next five years.

Eller Whitlock



Steele Brothers



Fauconniere



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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>