

SOLID WASTE TRUST FUND

Fiscal Year 2025 Report



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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 was appropriated by the General Assembly to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD). House Bill 511, which passed in May 2021, proposed a constitutional 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 beginning in FY 2023.

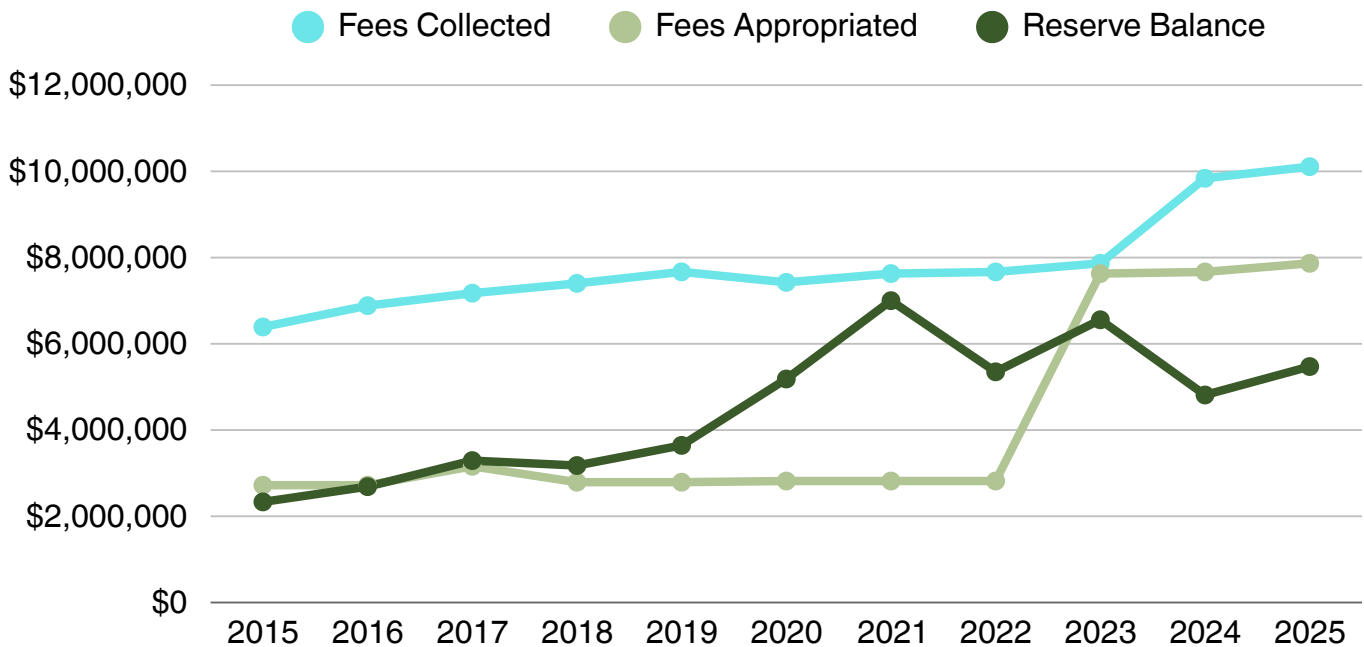
Funding for FY 2025



Tire Management Fees totaling \$7,867,152 from the Solid Waste Trust Fund were available to EPD to fund scrap tire abatement activities, close abandoned landfills, support recycling, waste diversion, and grant administration activities, and fund administrative and operational costs in FY 2025.

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 2015 to FY 2025



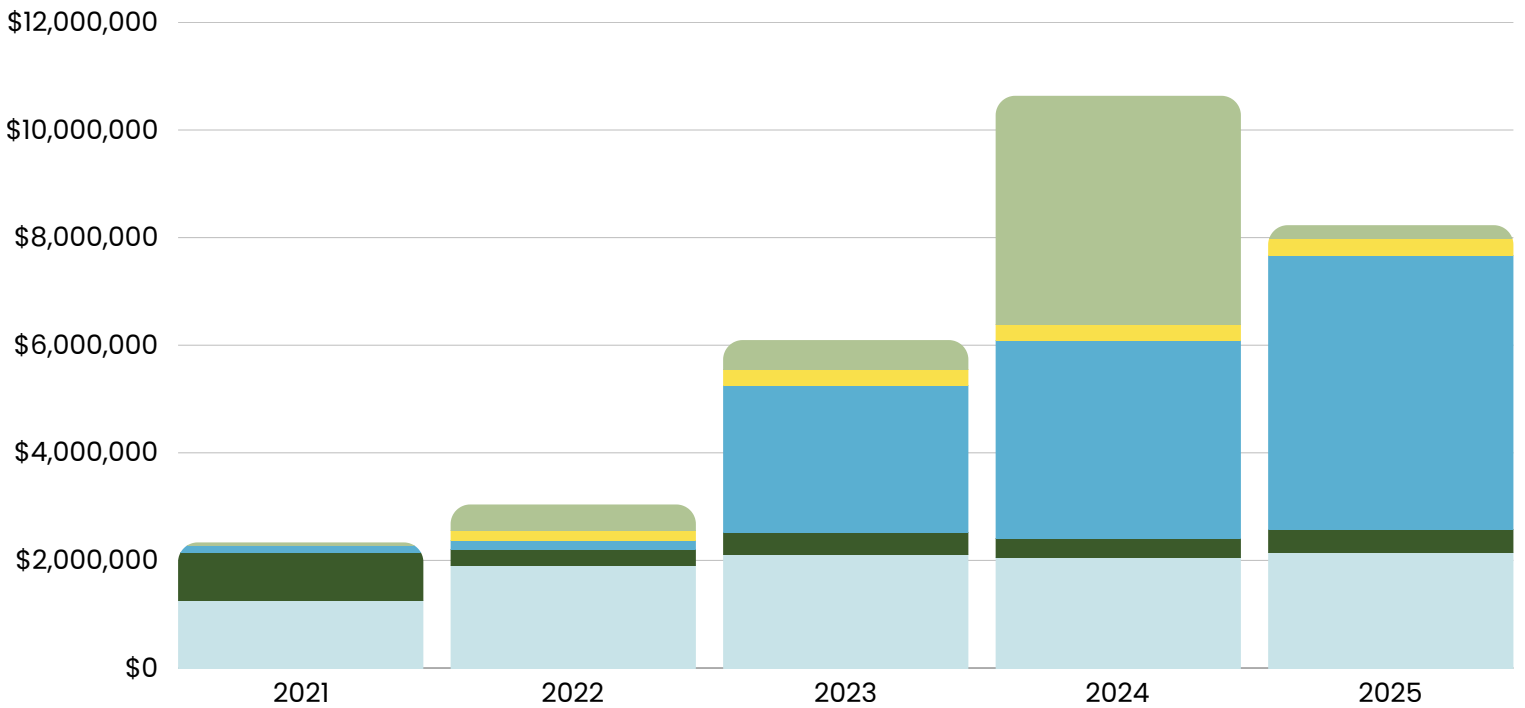
*Fees are collected through the Tire Management Fee each fiscal year. Fees appropriated are based on the most recently completed fiscal year when the annual Appropriations Bill is passed. Appropriations in FY 2025 are based on the total fees collected in FY 2023

Expenses by Authorized Use



SWTF Expenses by Authorized Use

- Scrap Tire Management and Abatement
- Operations and Fund Administration
- Recycling & Waste Diversion Activities and Grant Administration
- Waste Reduction and Litter Education
- Abandoned Landfills



Scrap Tire Management and Abatement numbers include encumbered funds in FY 2025 for contracted statewide tire abatement. It also includes actual project expenses for the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant from other fiscal years that were paid in FY 2025. Recycling & Waste Diversion Activities and Grant Administration (which includes the Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) and Tire Products (Tire) Grants) and Abandoned Landfill numbers are funds encumbered in FY 2025.



Tire Management & Regulation



Tire Fee Collection

In FY 2025, \$10.1 million was collected from tire distributors as part of the Tire Management Fee.

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.



Permits and Approvals

EPD issued 291 scrap tire generator identification numbers and 24 tire carrier permits in FY 2025.

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



Inspections

EPD staff conducted 1,821 site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2025.

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 2025, 330,930 PTEs were removed through investigations, local government partners, or state-sponsored abatement.



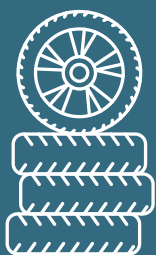
Investigations

EPD staff led investigations in response to complaints from citizens about illegal tire sites and other tire issues. In FY 2025, 128 investigations were conducted, leading to 2,834 PTEs removed from 3 sites.



Local Government Funding

The Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant funds illegal tire site and roadway cleanups, and scrap tire collection events where residents can bring in their scrap tires for free. In FY 2025, 308,380 PTEs were removed by 79 local governments who were reimbursed a total of \$965,715. This includes projects from other fiscal years that were paid out in FY 2025.



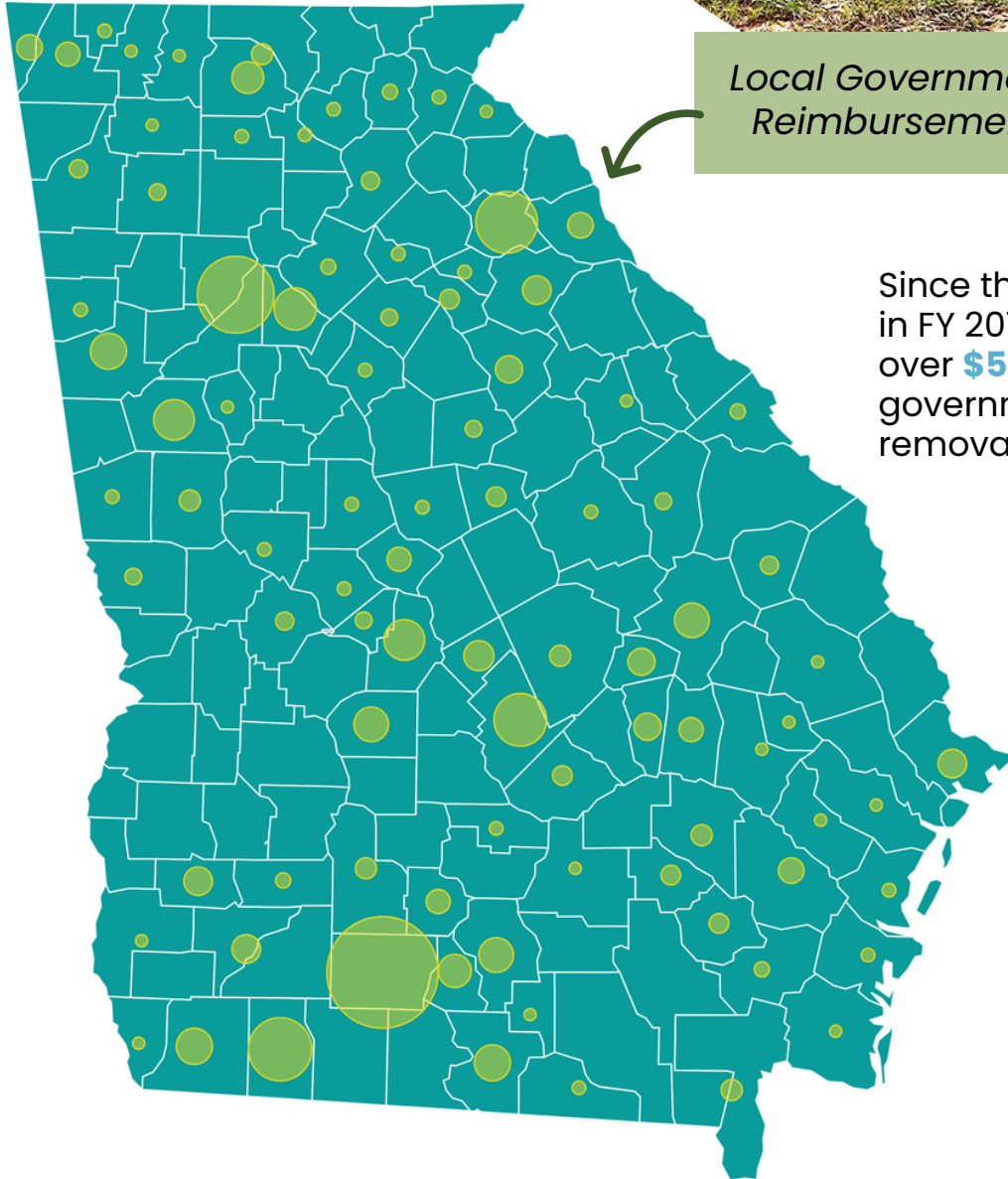
Tire Abatement Projects

The Solid Waste Trust Fund is used to hire contractors to remove illegal scrap tire sites around the state. In FY 2025, 19,716 PTEs were removed for \$102,237.

Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Grant



*Local Government STAR Grant
Reimbursement Per County*



Since the **STAR Grant** began in FY 2016, it has reimbursed over **\$5 million** to local governments for the removal of **1,748,662 PTEs**.



1,016 PTEs were collected during City of Cuthbert's tire event (Randolph County)



2,155 PTEs were collected during Dade County's tire event.

SWTF Grant Program



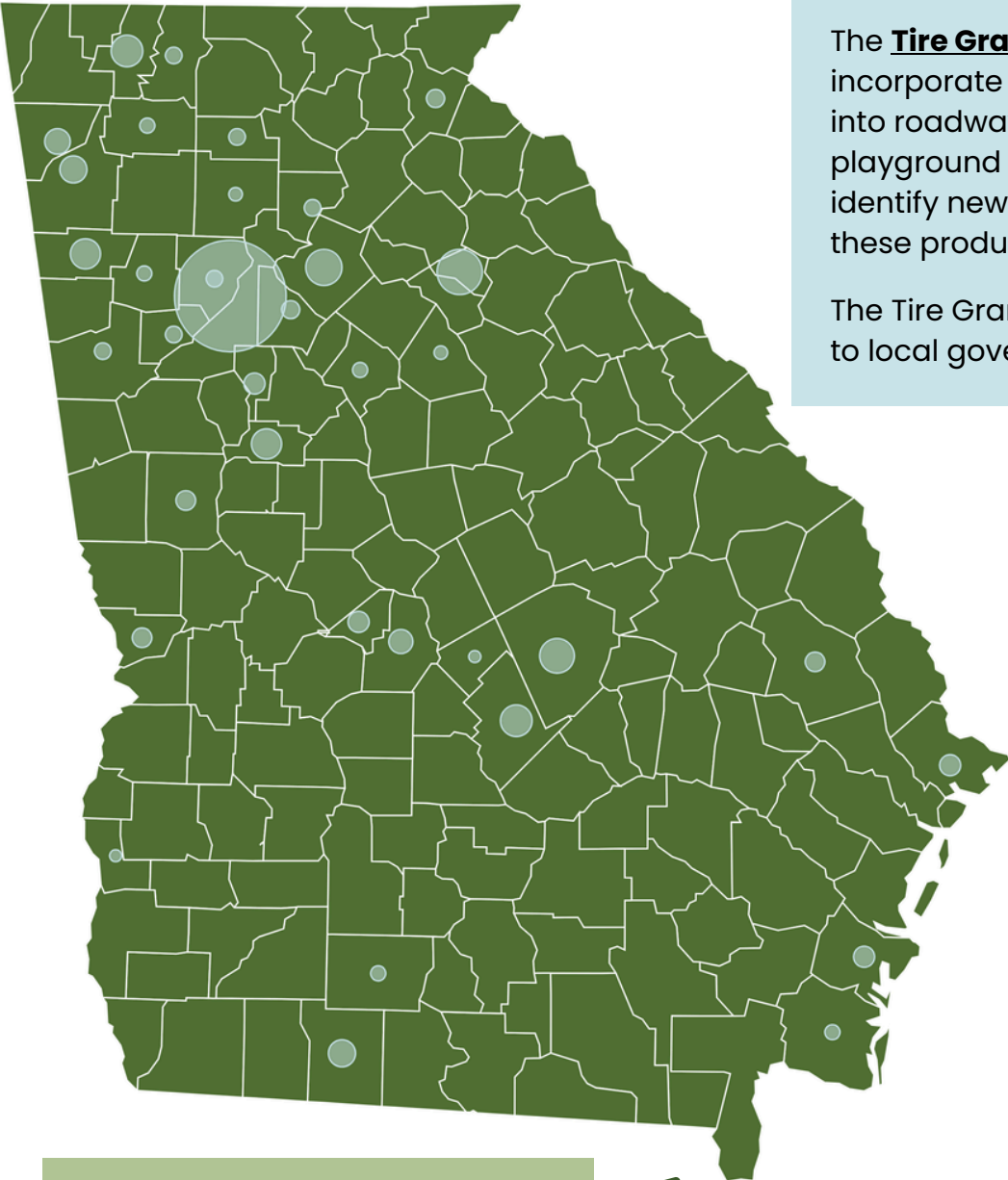
The SWTF Grant Program provides financial support to local governments in Georgia for projects that reduce waste, promote recycling and sustainability, and mitigate scrap tires.

The **Tire Grant** awards projects that incorporate scrap tire-derived products into roadway paving, trails, and playground surfaces, and projects that identify new and innovative uses for these products through research.

The Tire Grant has awarded \$3.1 million to local governments since FY 2024.

The **Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant** awards projects that reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation.

The RWD Grant has awarded \$7.8 million to local governments since FY 2023.



RWD & Tire Grant Awards by County

Recycling & Waste Diversion Grant Awardees



In FY 2025, a total of ten applications were received for the RWD Grant amounting to \$3.7 million in grant award requests. Each application was scored based on overall project purpose and need, implementation plan, metrics, and cost effectiveness. The following seven grantees were awarded a total of \$3,182,051:

Grantee	Award Amount	Brief Project Summary
Athens-Clarke County	\$500,000	Screeners for cardboard processing
Carroll County	\$54,903	Cardboard compactor
City of Tybee Island	\$227,940	Coastline recycling bins, Styrofoam densifier
Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority	\$395,146	Front-end loader truck and recycling bin repair
Gordon County	\$69,523	Roll-off containers for paper recycling
Laurens County	\$246,539	Truck and bins for organics collection
The Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta, Georgia	\$1,688,000	Construction of a Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) recycling facility

FY 2025 RWD Grant Project Spotlight

Carroll County received RWD grant funding in FY 2025 to improve their cardboard recycling program. With the growing prevalence of online shopping, the county had been receiving more cardboard drop-offs than their infrastructure could handle, forcing them to send the excess to a landfill.

With grant funding, the county purchased a cardboard compactor. In the first several weeks of operation, they collected 16 tons of cardboard, and they expect to recycle 384 tons during the upcoming fiscal year.



Tire Grant Awardees



In FY 2025, a total of twelve applications were received for the Tire Grant amounting to \$1.9 million in grant award requests. Each application was scored based on overall project purpose and need, metrics, and impact. The following eleven grantees were awarded a total of \$1,727,558:

Grantee	Award Amount	Brief Project Summary
Atlanta Independent School System	\$236,716	Pour-in-place playground at Everybody's Playground at Virginia-Highland Elementary School
Camden County	\$98,175	Pour-in-place playground at Cornelia Jackson Memorial Park
City of Acworth	\$11,456	Poured rubber walkway at Logan Farm Park Fitness Area
City of Cedartown	\$232,950	Pour-in-place sports field at City of Cedartown Miracle Field
City of Demorest	\$159,740	Rubberized playground surfacing at Demorest Springs Park Playground
Floyd County	\$204,055	Roadway repaving at Rush Chapel Road
Fulton County Schools	\$157,851	Rubberized playground surfacing at Campbell Elementary School
Jekyll Island Authority	\$250,000	Pour-in-place playground at Jekyll Island Public Playground
Meriwether County	\$200,000	Roadway repaving at Rocky Mountain and Panther Creek Roads
Paulding County	\$96,500	Roadway repaving at Angham Road and Arnold Lane
Spalding County	\$80,115	Walkway resurfacing at Historic Sunny Side Community Park Walking Track



FY 2025 Tire Grant Project Spotlight

Meriwether County was awarded \$200,000 to restore a section of gravel roadway using scrap tires as a base.

Waste Reduction & Litter Education



Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation (KGBF) received \$300,000 from the Solid Waste Trust Fund in FY 2025 to carry out waste reduction and litter prevention activities. With more than 70 affiliates across the state, KGBF's network engages with local communities to end litter, reduce waste, promote recycling, and beautify communities.



KGBF hosts an annual tree recycling event for affiliates and participating communities every holiday season. KGBF collected and recycled 37,342 trees in FY 2025 and has recycled over 6 million trees since the start of the program.



KGBF and community affiliates participated in the Great American Cleanup. A total of 18,056 volunteers participated accruing over 450,017 volunteer hours.

In FY 2025, KGBF, community affiliates, and volunteers collected nearly 510,000 pounds of litter and debris, impacting thousands of acres of parks, public spaces, shorelines, and roads during the Great American Cleanup event. Approximately 1.7 million pounds of materials were collected by volunteers and sent to recycling facilities.

KGBF also provided funding and educational materials to educate the law enforcement community about Georgia's litter laws and the importance of proper enforcement. In FY 2025, KGBF awarded grants to four communities to host educational workshops on litter prevention and enforcement.

KGBF continued to promote state and national education initiatives and provided technical assistance and training to Georgia communities. Other efforts conducted in FY 2025 included the maintenance of the statewide Recycling Markets Directory.

BRACE Program

KGBF provided a total of 20 mini-grants 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, \$40,000 of which went to small communities with populations of 10,000 or less.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2025, 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, business development, and the proper disposal and recycling of materials such as electronics.



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:

Fauconniere Landfill in Sumter County 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, dregs, and sludge from the pulping operations. Closure is anticipated during the fall of FY 2026 once final grass cover is established.

Post-Closure Care

Scales Road Landfill located in DeKalb County accepted construction and demolition (C&D) materials from 1990 to 2005. This landfill was closed in FY 2010 but the cap received corrective repairs in FY 2018. The landfill is currently in the post closure care phase.

Eller Whitlock Landfill in Glynn County accepted land clearing debris and C&D waste. The landfill moved into post closure care upon construction certification of the soil cap in FY 2023, signifying that the site had been properly closed.



EPD continues to maintain and monitor both the Scales Road and Eller Whitlock Landfills by collecting regular methane, groundwater, and surface water samples to ensure that the sites do not pose hazards to human health or the environment.

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Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Land Protection Branch
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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>