

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024



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.

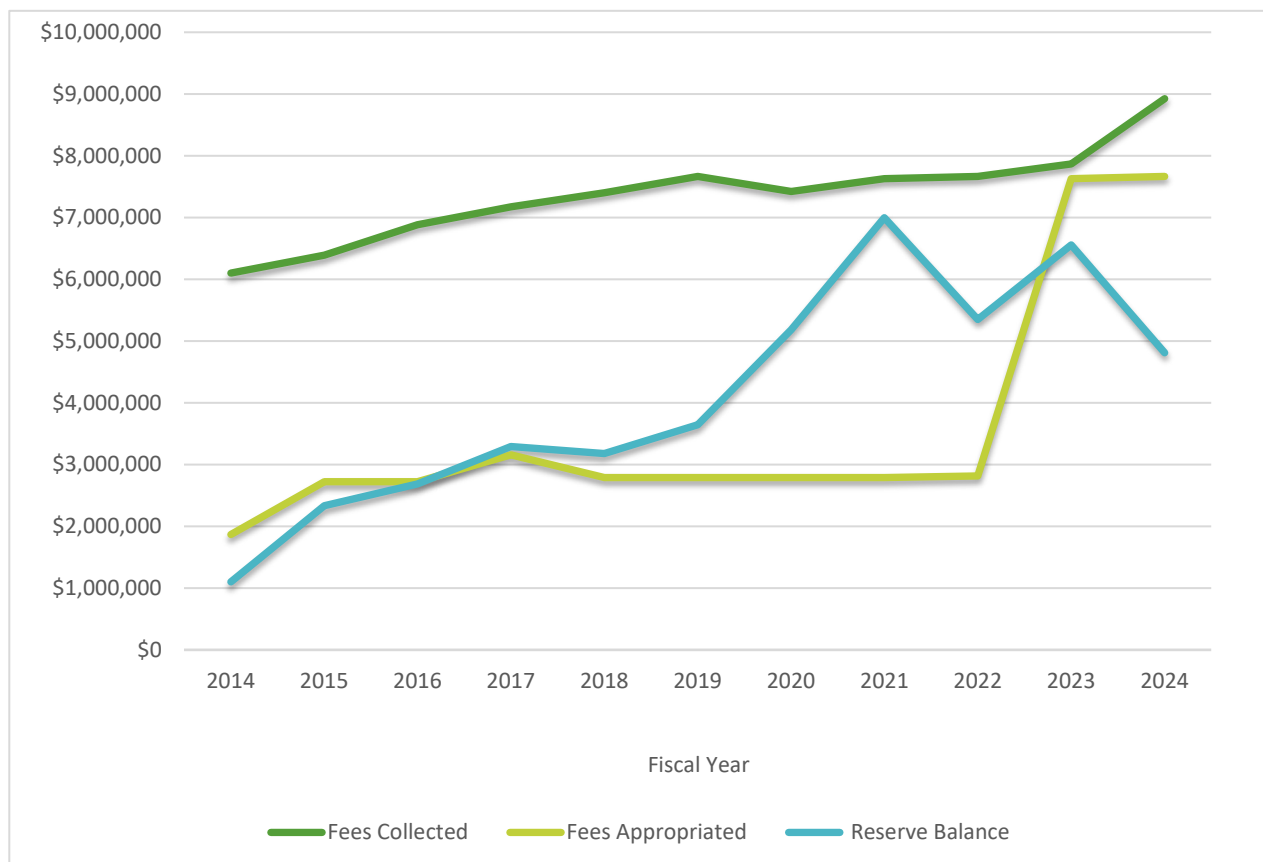
The amendment went into effect July 1, 2022, and the fully dedicated fee amount was available to EPD beginning in FY 2023.

Funding for FY 2024

Tire Management Fees totaling \$7,666,762 from the Solid Waste Trust Fund were available for 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 2024.

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.

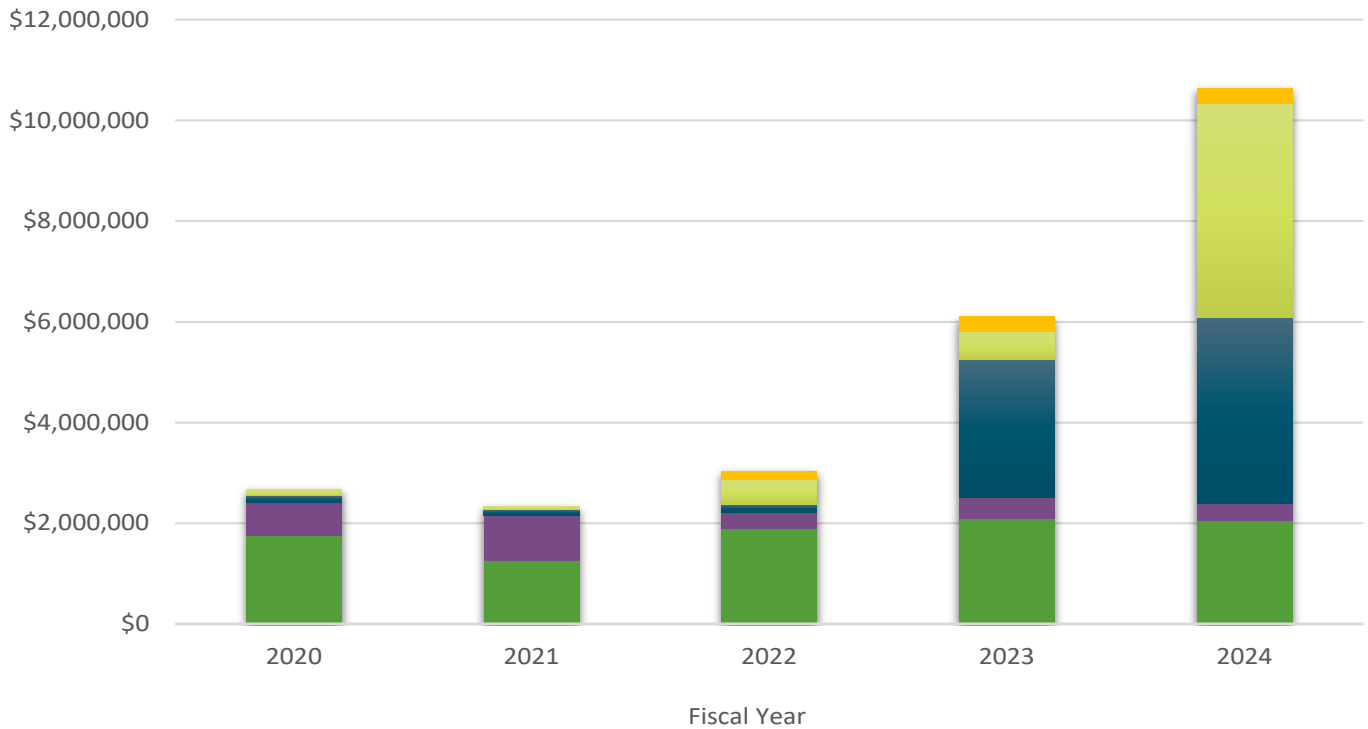
Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF FY 2014 to FY 2024



*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 2024 are based on the total fees collected in FY 2022.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Expenses by Authorized Use



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

Scrap Tire Management and Abatement numbers include encumbered funds in FY 2024 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 2024. Recycling and Waste Diversion 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 2024.



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 2024, **290,219** PTEs were removed through investigations, local government partners, or state-sponsored abatement.

Local Government Funding

The Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Program funds illegal tire site and roadside cleanups and amnesty events where residents can bring in their scrap tires for free. In FY 2024, **240,781** PTEs were removed by **44** local governments who were reimbursed a total of **\$883,105**. This includes projects from other fiscal years that were paid out in FY 2024.

Tire Abatement Projects

The Solid Waste Trust Fund is also used to hire contractors to remove illegal scrap tire sites around the state. In FY 2024, **42,201** PTEs were removed for **\$117,711**.

Permits & Approvals

EPD issued **242** scrap tire generator identification numbers and **24** tire carrier permits in FY 2024.

Inspections

EPD staff conducted **1,683** site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2024.



In FY 2024, 5,956 PTEs were removed from 5 different abatement sites in Fulton, Meriwether, Richmond, Franklin, and Columbia Counties. Above is the site from Meriwether County.

Tire Fee Collection

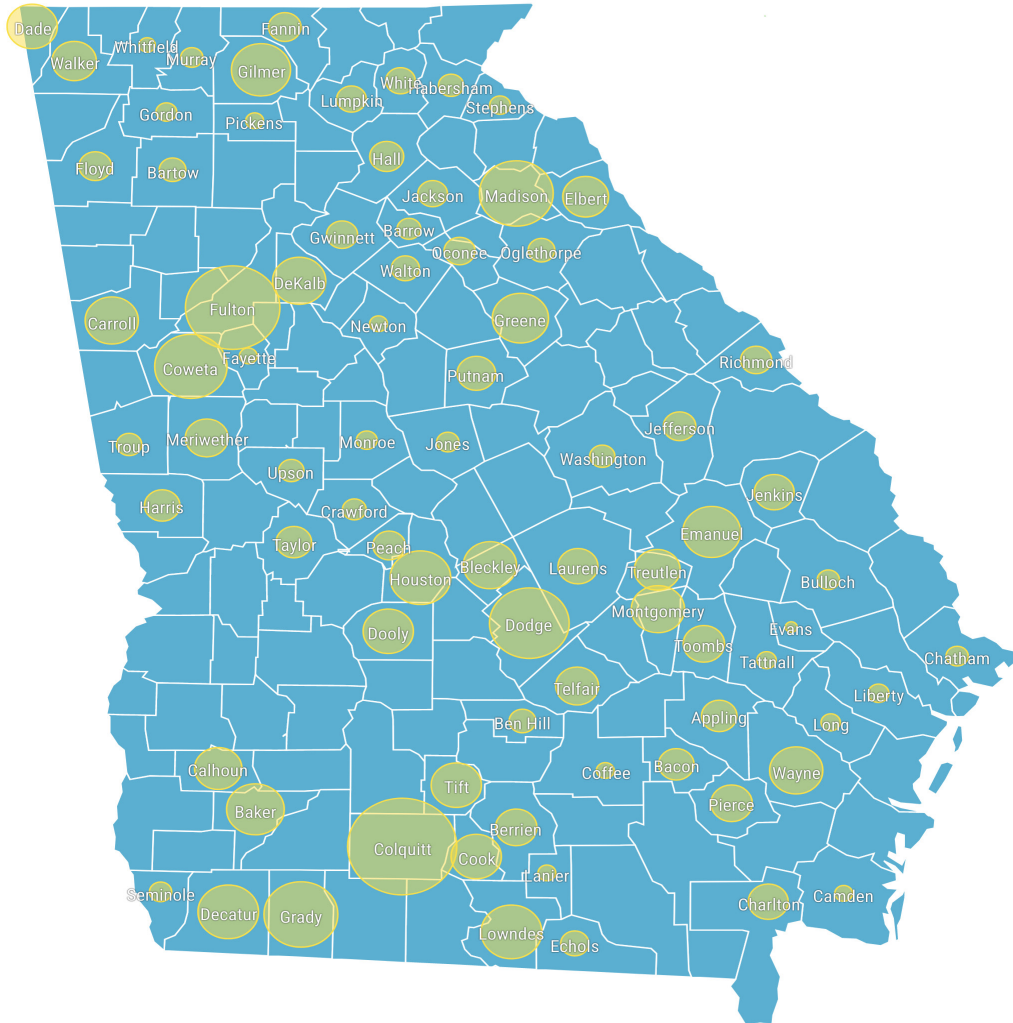
In FY 2024, **\$8.9** million was collected from tire distributors as part of the Tire Management Fee. This increase is attributed to changes in collection, timing, etc.

Investigations

EPD staff led investigations in response to complaints from citizens about illegal tire sites and other tire issues. In FY 2024, **139** investigations were conducted, leading to **7,237** PTEs removed from **26** sites.

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Local Government STAR Grant Reimbursements per County



Since the STAR Grant began in FY 2016, it has reimbursed **\$3.9 million** to local governments for the removal of **1,450,918 PTEs**

FY 2024 Tire Clean-ups Across the State



3,524 PTEs were collected during Bartow County's tire event.



1,316 PTEs were collected during Jackson County's tire event.

Solid Waste Trust Fund

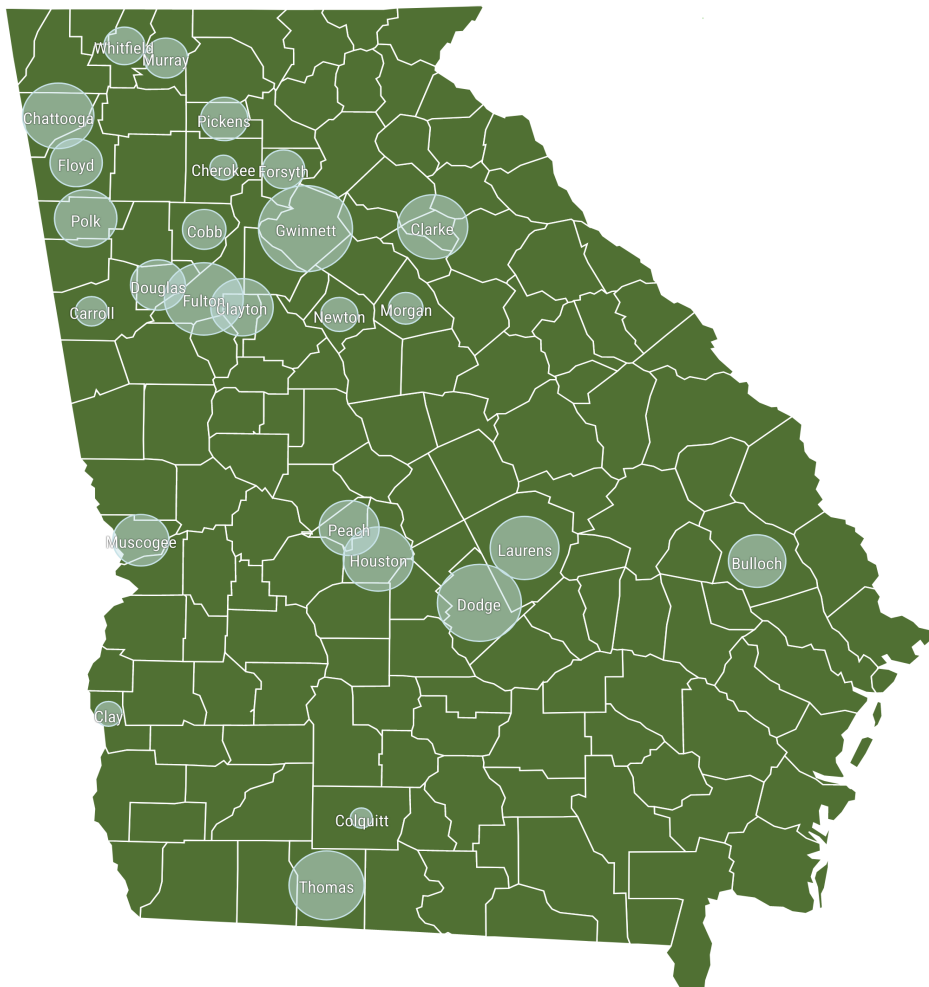
RWD and Tire Grants

The SWTF Grant Program provides financial support to local governments in Georgia that reduce waste and mitigate scrap tires.

The RWD Grant awards projects to reduce solid waste, recover valuable materials, support manufacturing, and encourage innovation.

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.

RWD & Tire Grants Awards Per County



The RWD Grant has awarded **\$4.6 million** to local governments since FY 2023.

Tire Grant awarded **\$1.4 million** to local governments in its first year.

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FY 2024 RWD Grant Awardees

A total of 15 applications were received amounting to \$3,625,045 in grant award requests. Each application was scored based on overall project purpose and need, implementation plan, metrics, and cost effectiveness. The following eight grantees were awarded a total of \$1,887,998:

Grantee	Award Amount	Brief Project Summary
Chattooga County	\$341,457	Equipment: Shredder
City of Centerville	\$324,315	Infrastructure: New Recycling Center
City of Griffin	\$328,500	Equipment: Baler
City of Johns Creek	\$65,000	Infrastructure: Glass Recycling Drop-off
City of Thomasville	\$390,000	Equipment: Forklifts, Balers, and Loading Dock
Floyd County	\$60,000	Equipment: Shredder
Georgia Institute of Technology - Office of Sustainability	\$270,000	Equipment: Composting Vessel
Newton County Solid Waste Management Authority	\$72,216	Equipment: Recycling Bins

FY 2023 RWD Grant Project Spotlight



Dodge County was awarded \$511,376 to construct a cardboard recycling facility. Dodge County estimates they will divert 1,440 tons of cardboard per year.



Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority was awarded \$90,000 to purchase an elevated sorting line to start accepting #5 plastics and increase plastics recovered.

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FY 2024 Tire Grant Awardees

A total of 16 applications were received amounting to \$2,262,265 in grant award requests. Each application was scored based on overall project purpose and need, metrics, and impact. The following eleven grantees were awarded for a total of \$1,418,664:

Grantee	Award Amount	Brief Project Summary
City of Cedartown	\$245,337	Product: Pour-in-Place Playground
City of Douglasville	\$18,495	Product: Pour-in-Place Walkway
City of Fort Gaines	\$28,322	Product: Parking Lot Paving
City of Snellville	\$174,993	Product: Pour-in-Place Playground
Clayton County Parks and Recreation	\$245,600	Product: Pour-in-Place Playground
Floyd County Government	\$106,100	Product: Roadway Paving
Fulton County Schools	\$24,620	Product: Pour-in-Place Playground
Georgia Southern University Research and Service Foundation	\$199,838	Research
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners	\$250,000	Product: Roadway Paving
Morgan County Board of Commissioners	\$58,187	Product: Pour-in-Place Playground
Moultrie-Colquitt County Parks and Recreation Authority	\$67,172	Product: Pour-in-Place Playground

FY 2024 Tire Grant Project Spotlight



City of Cedartown was awarded \$245,337 to install pour-in-place playground surfacing at Peek Park. A total of 12,692 lbs of TDP was used.



Floyd County was awarded \$106,100 to use TDP to pave a section of Terhune Rd. A total of 7,320 lbs of TDP was used.



Georgia Southern University was awarded \$199,838 for a research project. The project seeks to determine if a higher quantity of TDP can be used in asphalt mixes.

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Waste Reduction and Litter Education

Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation (KGBF) received **\$300,000** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund in FY 2024 to carry out waste reduction and litter education and 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 2024, KGBF, community affiliates, and volunteers collected nearly **662,464** pounds of litter and debris, impacting thousands of acres of parks, public spaces, shorelines, and roads during the Great American Cleanup event. Approximately **1 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 2024, KGBF awarded **3** grants totaling **\$5,000** and held **3** workshops with **77** attendees from **6** communities.

KGBF continued to promote state and national educational initiatives and provide technical assistance and training in FY 2024. Other efforts conducted in FY 2024 include the maintenance of the statewide Recycling Markets Directory.

BRACE Program

KGBF provided a total of **21** 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 **\$65,000** to small communities with populations up to **10,000** people.



*KGBF and community affiliates participated in the Great American Cleanup. A total of **18,114** volunteers participated accruing over **94,266** volunteer hours.*



*KGBF hosts an annual tree recycling event for affiliates and participating communities every holiday season. KGBF collected and recycled **37,274** trees in FY 2024, and has collected and recycled over **6 million** trees since the start of the program.*



Technical Assistance

In FY 2024, 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.

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. 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 in Walker County accepted municipal solid waste, industrial waste, and C&D materials (including asbestos) from 1976 to 1995. 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 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. Closure activities began in December of FY 2024 to stabilize erosion issues and establish a cap. Closure is anticipated during the fall of FY 2025 once final grass cover is established.

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 taking regular methane, groundwater, and surface water samples.

Additional activities conducted throughout FY 2024 at Eller Whitlock Landfill include the installation of two vent trenches to mitigate methane levels that were above compliance levels. Methane levels were also checked monthly instead of quarterly. As a result of these activities, methane testing yielded compliant levels in August of FY 2025, signifying a return to quarterly monitoring.

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.

Eller Whitlock



Scales Road



Fauconniere



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Land Protection Branch
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Atlanta, Georgia 30354



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>