

Georgia EPD's Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program



The Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program supports projects that reduce waste, abate and recycle scrap tires, and support statewide recycling initiatives.

Visit our website for detailed information on each grant track and instructions on how to apply using the SWTF Grant Administration Portal:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/solid-waste-0>



SWTF.Grant@dnr.ga.gov



(404) 362-2537

SWTF Grant Program Tracks

Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant

The Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant supports a wide range of projects, including recycling and waste diversion infrastructure, hub and spoke development, hard-to-recycle materials, recovery of additional materials, waste reduction, and innovation.

Tire Products (Tire) Grant

The Tire Products (Tire) Grant funds projects that incorporate scrap tire-derived products into paving, trail, and playground surfaces or that identify innovative uses for these products through research.

Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant

The Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant reimburses eligible applicants for the direct costs associated with recycling tires abated in their communities. Projects include right-of-way cleanups, scrap tire collection events, and illegal scrap tire site abatement projects.

Eligibility

Counties, municipalities, or any combination of the same, public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions are eligible to apply and receive funding.

Nonprofit or private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding; however, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects.

FY 2026 Grant Cycle

It is never too early to start planning! Reach out to EPD at swtf.grant@dnr.ga.gov anytime throughout the year to learn more about the SWTF Grant Program or to discuss project ideas.

Details on the FY 2026 grant cycle will become available Summer 2025.



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant

The RWD Grant was first announced in state fiscal year (FY) 2023. EPD conducted outreach efforts along with the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation, Georgia Recycling Coalition, Association of County Commissioners, Georgia Municipal Association, and the Georgia Chapter of Solid Waste Association of North America to reach eligible entities.

In FY 2023, 42 applications were received amounting to \$14.7 million in grant award requests. EPD awarded 21 grantees a total of \$2.7 million. Projects included infrastructure developments in Dodge County and recycling equipment in the City of Chatsworth.

In FY 2024, the RWD Grant awarded a total of \$1.8 million to eight grantees. These projects included a composting program at Georgia Tech and the construction of new recycling facilities in the Cities of Johns Creek and Centerville.

In FY 2025, EPD awarded seven projects a total of \$3.1 million. These projects included the development of a Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) in the City of Atlanta and a Styrofoam diversion campaign on Tybee Island to prevent contamination along Georgia's coastline.

Metrics – as of April 15, 2025

Awarded RWD Grant projects have diverted over 1,800 tons of materials from Georgia's landfills. This includes:

- 429 tons of plastic
- 256 tons of cardboard/paper
- 109 tons of glass
- 40 tons of household hazardous waste
- 41 tons of hard-to-recycle materials
- 759 tons of organics that were then composted

For assistance with the RWD Grant, contact swtf.grant@dnr.ga.gov.

Dodge County

Dodge County built a facility to store and bale cardboard. This was the first recycling program in the county. The county also placed collection containers and have diverted 80 tons of cardboard.



City of Chatsworth

The City of Chatsworth built a new facility to collect and bale recyclable materials, a project which is expected to divert 279 tons of recyclable materials over the next five years.



City of Norcross

The City of Norcross hosted a hazardous waste collection event that resulted in a 20% decrease in the contamination of recycling bins. A total of 115 vehicles participated, diverting 1.4 tons.



Athens-Clarke County

The Athens-Clarke County launched Georgia's first residential compost collection program. They purchased a truck and collection carts and have composted 430 tons of organics.



Floyd County

Floyd County installed a shredder to process plastics and paper. The shredder is unique in that it can process books, a hard-to-recycle material. Floyd County has increased plastic bale weight by 40% and recycled 216 tons of books.



University of Georgia

UGA studied the recycling habits of their students to identify strategies for waste reduction. Dining halls were identified as a target, and UGA is now participating in Athens-Clarke County's composting program.



Tire Products Grant

The overwhelming success of the RWD Grant led to the development of the Tire Products (Tire) Grant, and the expansion of the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant (described on the following page).

Scrap tires have long since been banned from entering Georgia's landfills, and diversion of scrap tires has been encouraged through the STAR Grant. However, EPD wanted to create a second scrap tire related grant with an emphasis on circular economy and promoting manufacturing of products made from scrap tires.

First announced in FY 2024, the Tire Grant received sixteen applications amounting to \$2.2 million in grant award requests from sixteen applicants. EPD awarded eleven projects a total of \$1.4 million. These projects included roadway paving projects in Floyd and Gwinnett Counties, a research project by Georgia Southern University, and playground renovations in the City of Cedartown.

In FY 2025, EPD awarded 11 projects a total of \$1.7 million. These projects included roadway paving projects in Meriwether and Paulding counties and accessible playground resurfacing projects in multiple counties and school districts.

Metrics – as of April 15, 2025

The Tire Grant has awarded:

- 12 pour-in-place playground or sports field projects
- 6 roadway/paving projects
- 3 pour-in-place walkway projects
- 1 research project

These projects have utilized 73 tons of tire-derived products, which is equivalent to 6,500 passenger tires.

For assistance with the Tire Grant, contact swtf.grant@dnr.ga.gov.

City of Douglasville

The City of Douglasville resurfaced an alleyway located in the city's historic downtown using 7 tons of tire-derived products, providing a sustainable solution to erosion problems.



Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southern University is researching options to increase the percentage of tire-derived materials used in asphalt. The results of their study will be shared with the tire industry.



Floyd County

Floyd County repaved a section of road using 3.6 tons of tire-derived products, making the road safer for residents. Floyd County is the only community to participate in all three SWTF Grants in the same year.



Moultrie Colquitt

Moultrie-Colquitt County installed surfacing and swing mats across the county using 13 tons of tire-derived products, creating an ADA accessible playground.



Gwinnett County

Gwinnett County resurfaced a section of a highly traveled road using 1 ton of tire-derived products, providing an efficient and sustainable solution for a road in disrepair.



Fulton County Schools

Fulton County Schools created an ADA-accessible playground using 5 tons of tire-derived products. EPD attended the ribbon cutting facilitated by Fulton County Schools.



City of Cedartown

The City of Cedartown installed pour-in-place surfacing using 6 tons of tire-derived products, creating an ADA-accessible playground.



Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Grant

The STAR Grant funds the removal, transportation, and processing of scrap tires cleaned up from right-of-way cleanups, scrap tire collection events, and illegal scrap tire site abatement projects.

Unlike the RWD and Tire Grants, the STAR Grant is noncompetitive and accepts applications all year round. Eligible applicants may receive up to the maximum cap of funding per state FY. The cap is currently set at \$75,000. EPD periodically reevaluates the cap and adjusts for inflation.

Metrics – As of April 15, 2025

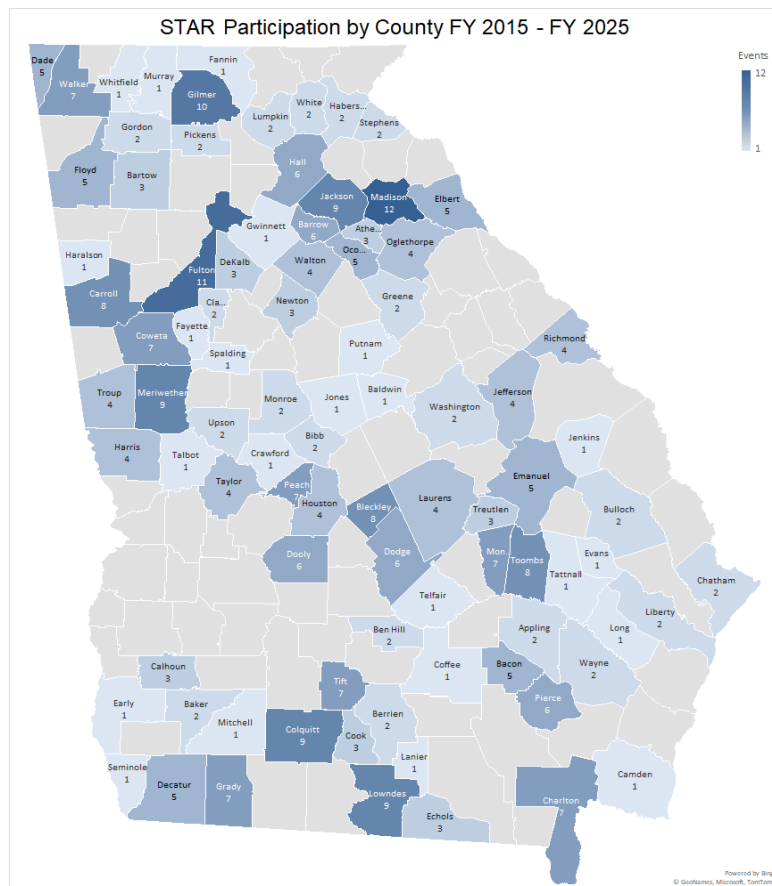
Reimbursements to local governments participating in the STAR Grant have more than doubled since FY 2021.

- FY 2021 - \$325,582 in reimbursements & 1,740 tons of scrap tires recycled
- FY 2022 - \$650,926 in reimbursements & 2,562 tons of scrap tires recycled
- FY 2023 - \$676,933 in reimbursements & 2,291 tons of scrap tires recycled
- FY 2024 - \$730,404 in reimbursements & 2,496 tons of scrap tires recycled

EPD estimates reimbursing \$1.5 million to recycle 5,900 tons of scrap passenger tires based on applications processed for FY 2025.

Another way EPD supports local governments with scrap tire abatement is through statewide abatement contracts. EPD procures contracts to clean up illegal scrap tire sites throughout the state. This saves entities from having to expend time, money, and other resources to clean up these sites in their communities. Between FY 2021 and FY 2025, EPD has abated and recycled 185,876 passenger tires at 53 sites throughout the state, saving entities \$829,979.

For assistance with the STAR Grant, contact epd.star@dnr.ga.gov.



Since its start in FY 2015, the STAR Grant has awarded \$4.3 million to entities for a total of 363 projects, resulting in the removal and recycling of 1,583,850 passenger tires statewide.

Grady County

Grady County held a scrap tire collection event in January 2025. This event was Grady County's ninth time participating in the STAR Grant, and they removed and recycled 195 tons of passenger tires.



City of Savannah

The City of Savannah conducted a right-of-way clean-up project throughout FY 2024 which removed and recycled 297 tons of passenger tires from along the city's roads.



Carroll County

Carroll County held a scrap tire collection event in November 2024. This event was Carroll County's tenth time participating in the STAR Grant. They removed and recycled 23 tons of passenger tires.

