

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

Report for Fiscal Year 2020



Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
February 2021

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 fund in the form of a \$1.00 fee on every new tire sold in the state.

With the passage of House Bill 220 in 2019, the Georgia General Assembly extended collection of the fee for three years.

Each year, the fees collected the previous year may be appropriated by the General Assembly to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), whose

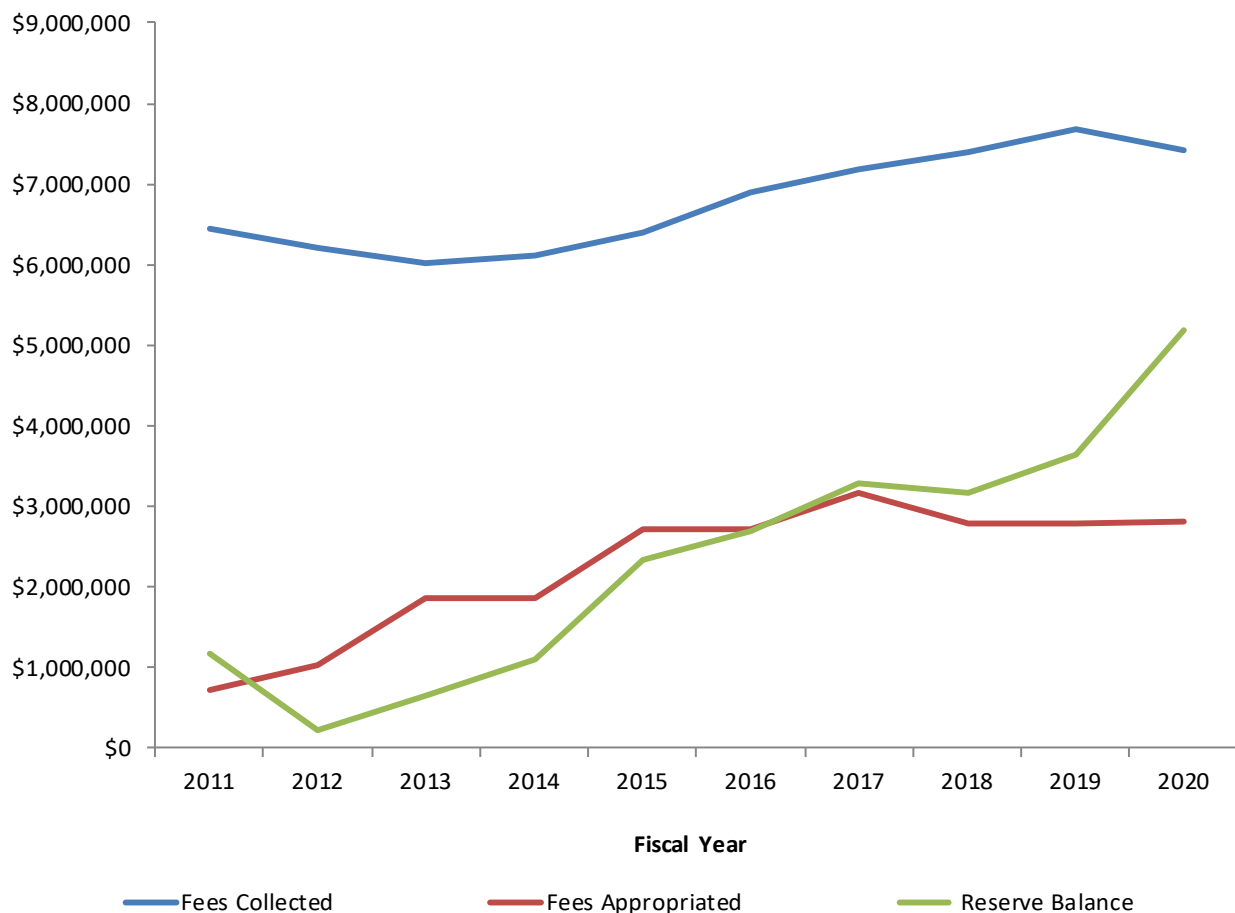
director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee.

Appropriation for FY 2020

The General Assembly appropriated **\$2,790,775** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund to clean up illegal scrap tire dumps, properly close abandoned landfills, fund waste reduction and recycling programs and administrative and operational costs for FY 2020.

EPD is required by the Act to produce an annual report on activities funded by the trust fund; this report fulfills that requirement.

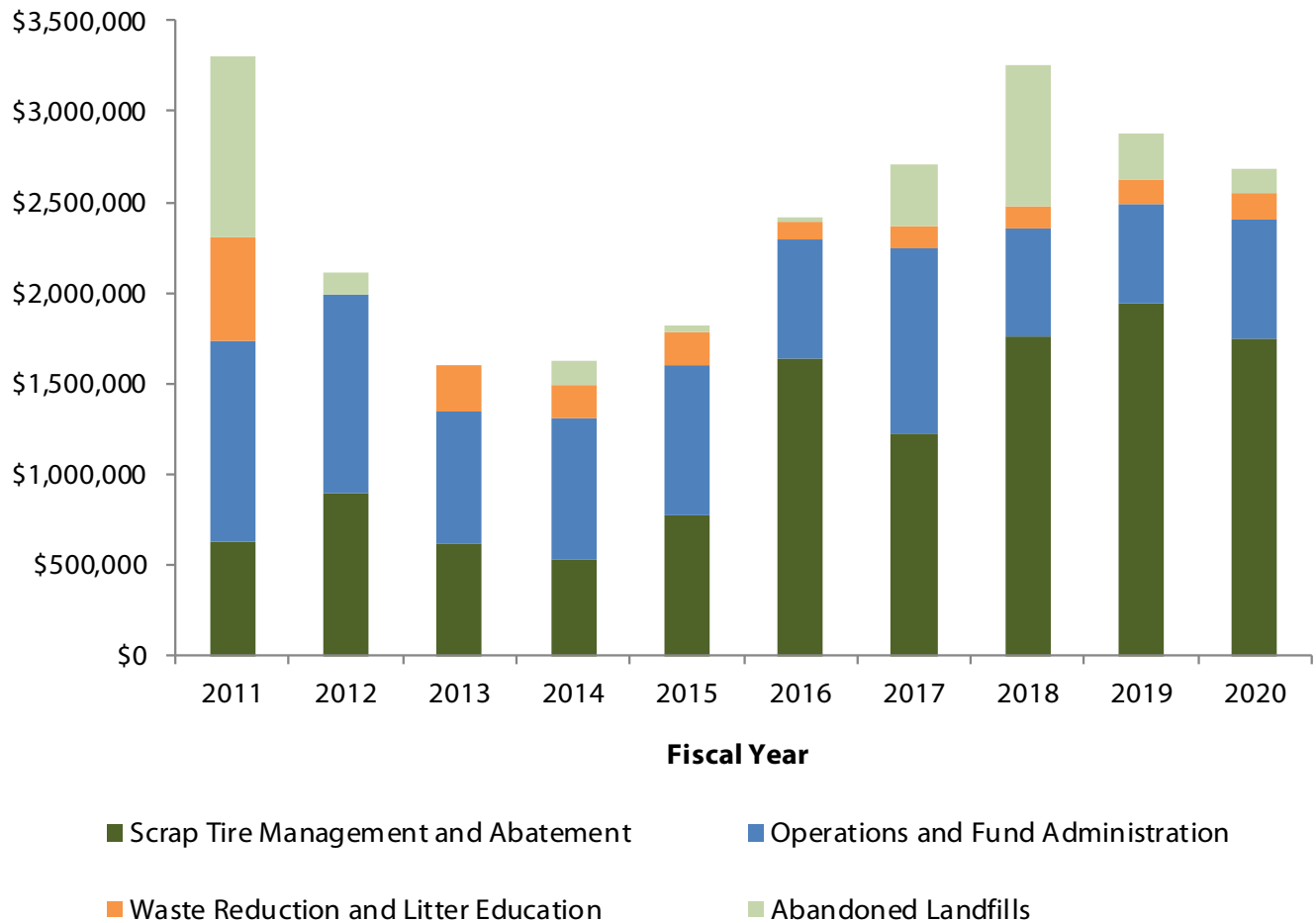
**Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF
FY 2011 to FY 2020**



Expenses

By Authorized Use

SWTF Expenses by Authorized Use
FY 2011 to FY 2020



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. In FY 2020, **383,875** scrap tires were removed from illegal tire dumps or cleaned up through investigations or by local government partners.

Permits & Approvals

EPD issued **375** scrap tire generator identification numbers, **17** tire carrier permits, **two** scrap tire sorter permits, **one** scrap tire processor permit, and **one** scrap tire baling permit in FY 2020.

Inspections

EPD staff conducted **1,148** site visits to tire carriers, scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors in FY 2020.

Tire Fee Collection

Retailers who sell new tires are responsible for collecting the fee from consumers for each new tire sold. In FY 2020, **\$7.4 million** was collected.

Investigations

EPD staff lead investigations in response to complaints from citizens about tire dumps and other tire issues. In FY 2020, **129** investigations were conducted, leading to **41,920** tires being removed from 15 sites.



Local Government Funding

The Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Program funds tire dump and roadside cleanups and amnesty events where residents can bring in their scrap tires for free. In FY 2020, **165,786** tires were cleaned up by 35 local governments who were reimbursed a total of **\$659,450**.

Tire Dump Cleanups

The SWTF is also used to hire contractors to clean up illegal scrap tire dumps around the state. In FY 2020, **13,784** tires were removed for a cost of **\$68,112**.

FY 2020 Scrap Tire Cleanups Around the State



*A tire carrier was illegally storing and then abandoned scrap tires in a warehouse in Cobb County. As a result of enforcement actions by EPD, they properly disposed of approximately **33,000** tires.*



*During a scrap tire amnesty event in January 2020, Newnan residents brought in **5,162** tires.*



*More than **300** tires were cleaned up after being illegally dumped on private property in Fannin County.*



DeKalb County began cleaning up tires illegally dumped on its right-of-ways under a contract executed in FY20.



*During their December 2019 amnesty event, Montgomery County residents brought in **5,408** tires.*

Solid Waste Reduction & 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.

Sustainable Materials Management & Wasted Food

The unit hosted the first Food Paths organics diversion workshop in partnership with EPA Region 4, City of Atlanta, U.S. Green Building Council, and other partners on August 20, 2019 at Atlanta City Hall. This was a collaborative effort to bring together stakeholders from across the public and private sectors dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources, and working together to help reduce wasted food in Georgia.

Attendees learned how to begin or expand their program to divert wasted food from landfills by exploring source reduction, prepared food donation, and composting; navigate legal issues surrounding food donation and composting and win the support of stakeholders; and locate resources at the local, state, and national levels for programmatic support.

The meeting was attended by 76 representatives from K-12 schools, local businesses, nonprofits, and local governments.

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 state clearinghouse, ensuring that the public has easy access to environmental education resources — a vital part of improving environmental literacy in Georgia.

More than **620** 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 **7,500** 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.



Members of the unit planned and hosted a one-day workshop focused on keeping food and other organics out of landfills. Above, food policy researcher with the University of Arkansas, Melissa Terry talks about her work on reducing food waste and food insecurity.



Technical Assistance

In FY 2020, the 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, peanut meal, wood waste, aerosol cans, tires, prescription medications, glass, construction and demolition debris, herbicide, asphalt shingles, child car seats, and carpet.

Staff from multiple units also helped people around the state with scrap tire regulations, scrap tire dumps, and the availability of funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund for the clean up and beneficial reuse of scrap tires.

Abandoned Landfill Care & Clean Up

One of the authorized uses of the Solid Waste Trust Fund is to properly close and monitor abandoned landfills. Beginning in FY 2017, EPD has focused these efforts on 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

Contractors hired by EPD began by evaluating each site. The results of the evaluations showed that the landfills required a variety of activities, including:

- Delineating waste
- Filing landfill deed notices
- Installing and improving existing site access controls and erosion and sedimentation controls
- Removing and disposing of surface waste
- Clearing, grubbing, and grading
- Installing final cover systems
- Assessing and/or redeveloping environmental monitoring wells
- Preparing post-closure care plans

In FY 2018, EPD contracted with Kemron Environmental Services, Inc. to provide closure and post-closure plans for each landfill that will be protective of human health and the environment.

Eller Whitlock's existing environmental monitoring networks were found to be functional, and in February 2018, EPD contracted with Advanced Environmental Management, Inc. to perform environmental monitoring at the site. This monitoring continued in FY20, along with site mowing.

Due to groundwater contamination and the discovery of abandoned drums at the Steele Brothers Landfill, EPD's Hazardous Waste Response and Remediation Program (RRP) was brought in to perform additional assessment.

In FY 2019, Kemron removed the drums and collected soil samples from below the drums. Testing showed that regulated constituents were not present in soils at levels exceeding their Hazardous Site Response Act notification concentrations and RRP did not recommend listing it on the state's Hazardous Site Inventory.

In FY20, Kemron prepared and filed landfill deed notices for all three sites.

EPD intends to issue requests for quotes to properly close both Eller Whitlock and Steele Brothers in spring 2021. Plans for closing the Fauconniere Buckeye site will move forward when funding is available.

SCALES ROAD LANDFILL

The **Scales Road Landfill** in DeKalb County began accepting construction and demolition materials in 1990. The landfill's owner declared bankruptcy and in 2005 notified the state of its intent to abandon the site. Because the landfill was not properly closed, conditions deteriorated. In 2007, the state hired a contractor to properly close the site.

For several years, EPD did not have the funding necessary to properly maintain the site and it fell into disrepair. By FY 2017, EPD was appropriated sufficient funds and contracted with Oasis Construction Services, Inc. to bring the site back into compliance with the closure requirements of the Solid Waste Management Rules. Work under this contract was completed in December 2017.

EPD continues to receive funding for post-closure care of the site and in April 2018, again contracted with Oasis to provide continued environmental monitoring and maintenance activities. Work completed in FY20 under this contract included:

- Landfill cap maintenance
- Groundwater and methane monitoring
- Removing and disposing of surface waste
- Maintaining site access controls to prevent dumping and trespassing
- Maintenance of sediment basin and drainage channel

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For additional information, please contact
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epd.georgia.gov/land-protection-branch/solid-waste.