

Solid Waste Trust Fund

Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2007

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Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Land Protection Branch

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On the cover and above: Scales Road Landfill in DeKalb County (left in photo). More than \$4.4 million from the Solid Waste Trust Fund is being spent to properly close and monitor this abandoned landfill. Photo: Mike Kemp, EPD.

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Introduction

The **Solid Waste Trust Fund** (SWTF) was established in 1990 as part of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. This Act, along with its amendments, provides a framework for guiding how solid waste is to be managed in the state. An amendment to the Act in 1992 established a primary source of funding for the SWTF in the form of a \$1 fee for every new tire sold in the state.

Each year, fees collected the previous year are available for appropriation by the Legislature to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the trustee for the fund. The moneys allocated to the trust fund are then used to carry out the solid waste management goals of the Act.

Authorized uses of the trust fund include: emergency, preventative and corrective action at solid waste facilities, scrap tire management and cleanup, closure of abandoned landfills, waste reduction and recycling, litter prevention and abatement, and administrative costs associated with managing the trust fund.

The Act also requires EPD to produce an annual report on the activities funded by the SWTF; this is the FY 07 annual report.



In addition to using funds proactively for waste reduction activities, other authorized uses of the SWTF include scrap tire clean-up (left: Upson County), closure of abandoned landfills (middle: DeKalb County), and litter law enforcement (right: Wayne County).

Appropriation and Major Initiatives

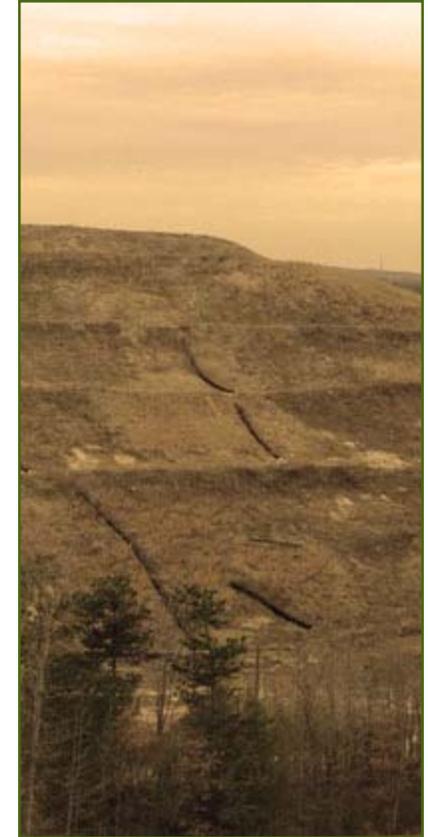
In FY 07, the Legislature appropriated **\$6,000,000** from the tire fees collected in 2006 to the Solid Waste Trust Fund. To carry out the intent of the SWTF, EPD undertakes certain activities and also disperses money from this fund to other state agencies and divisions within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with solid waste responsibilities and initiatives, including the Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, the Wildlife Resources Division, the Georgia Department of Corrections and the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.

The FY 07 budget was developed in cooperation with these state agencies and was guided by the Governor's Environmental Advisory Council's November 2005 "Report on the Solid Waste Trust Fund."

The FY 07 budget focused on three major initiatives:

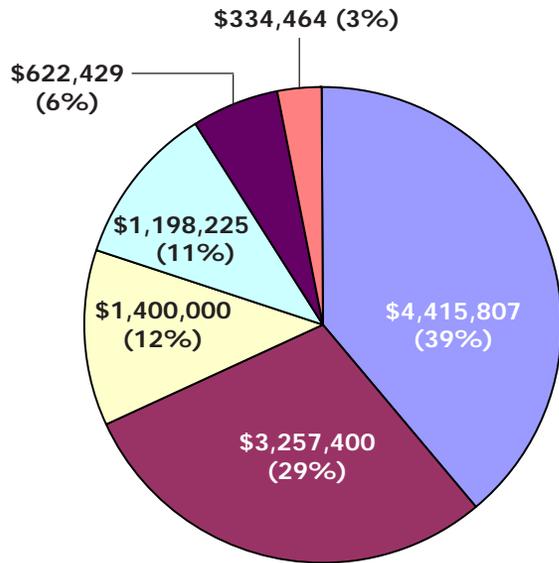
- Closure of the abandoned Scales Road Construction and Demolition landfill (see page 10)
- Implementation of three major statewide waste reduction and recycling initiatives (see page 14)
- Litter prevention and abatement (see page 16)

The FY 07 budget also maintained the FY 06 funding level for managing and cleaning up scrap tires. It also continued to invest in statewide comprehensive solid waste planning; set funds aside for solid waste emergencies; and provided funding to the state agencies to provide technical assistance and public education on waste reduction, recycling and other solid waste issues, and to assist local governments with solid waste planning.



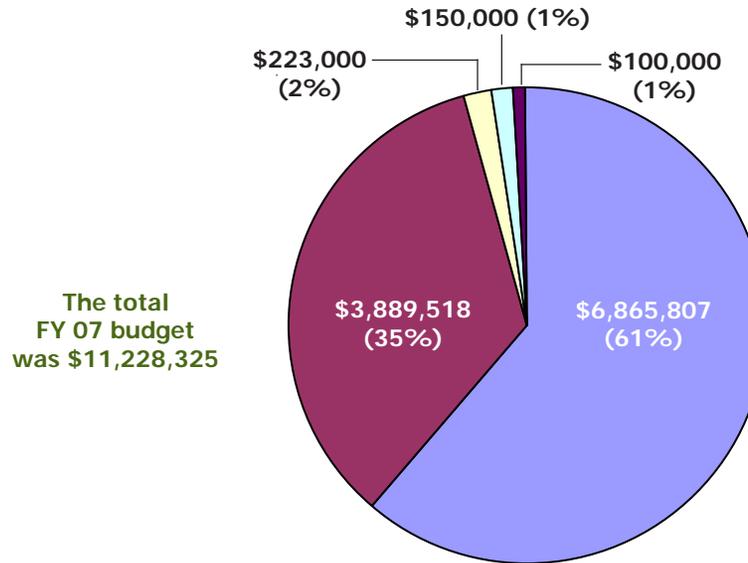
Solid Waste Trust Fund FY 07 Budget*

Breakdown by Authorized Use



- Abandoned Landfill Closure
- Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Litter Prevention and Abatement
- Scrap Tire Clean Up and Management
- Trust Fund Administration
- Solid Waste Emergencies and Preventative and Corrective Action

Breakdown by Agency / Division



- Environmental Protection Division
- Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
- Wildlife Resources Division
- Department of Corrections

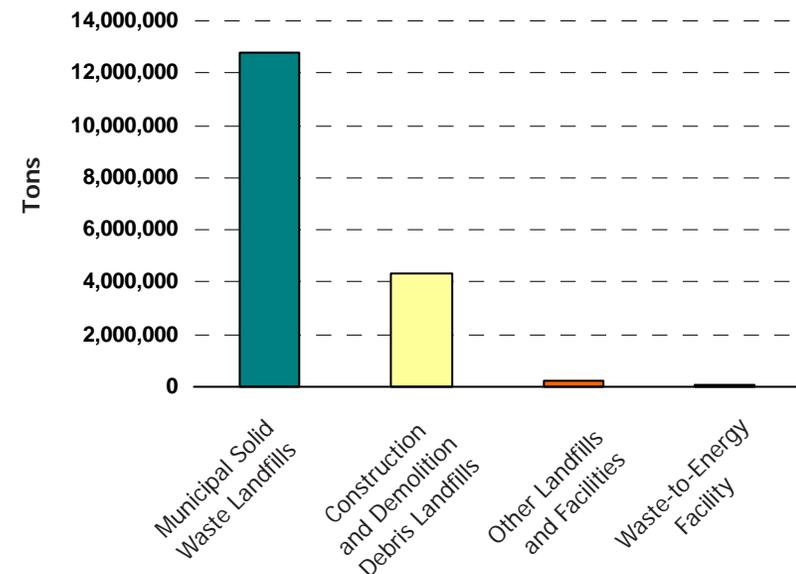
*The FY 07 operating budget included the \$6,000,000 appropriation plus reprogrammed and carryover funds from FY 06, for a total of \$11,228,325.

Solid Waste in Georgia

Approximately 17.4 million tons of solid waste was disposed of in Georgia in FY 07 (see table below for breakdown by type). This amount includes waste disposed in landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, and waste imported from other states. Out-of-state waste disposed in Georgia municipal solid waste landfills totaled 1.6 million tons in FY 07 (9.2% of the total). The per capita disposal rate for the Georgia-generated municipal solid waste segment is 6.42 pounds per day — more than twice the national average of 2.46 pounds. Reasons for Georgia's high per capita disposal rate may include the lack of recycling infrastructure throughout the state and the prolonged and consistent growth in the state's population.

The three major solid waste reduction and recycling initiatives funded in the FY 07 budget and led by the Department of Community Affairs are aimed at reversing this trend (see page 14, Regional Recycling Hubs, Recycling Education Campaign and Special Event Recycling).

Solid Waste Disposed in Georgia, FY 07*



*Includes waste imported from other states.

Summary of Accomplishments

Scrap Tire Clean Up and Management

- As part of EPD's Scrap Tire Management Program, **267,667** illegally dumped tires were cleaned up and recycled. EPD staff also performed **3,904** compliance monitoring inspections at tire retailers, scrap tire carriers, sorters and processors.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Led by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the state agency partners met with an external stakeholder group to set new solid waste reduction goals for the state. DCA also began grant and contract development for its three major initiatives: regional recycling hubs, special event recycling and a recycling education campaign.
- The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority awarded **\$223,000** in recycling and waste reduction grants to seven local governments to fund solid waste and recycling infrastructure improvements.
- Through its composting and recycling programs, the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) diverted **23,893** tons of material from the landfill, saving **\$955,240** in tipping fees. GDC also earned **\$75,068** through the sale of recyclable materials.

Abandoned Landfill Closure

- Following a competitive bidding process, EPD awarded a **\$4.9 million** contract for the clean up and post-closure care of the abandoned Scales Road landfill in DeKalb County.

Solid Waste Emergencies and Preventative and Corrective Action

- In Forsyth County, when methane levels from an abandoned landfill threatened to cause explosions at a new subdivision, emergency reserve SWTF funds were used to test the site and prepare a corrective action plan.

Litter Prevention and Abatement

- In August 2006, the Governor's Litter Summit kicked off a new statewide litter prevention program, *Litter. It Costs You.* DCA was awarded **\$1,250,000** from the SWTF to manage the program, which includes the Clean Community Challenge, a program designed to encourage local governments to take an active role in developing litter education, enforcement and eradication/clean-up activities. The Youth Clean Community Challenge targets youth organizations and schools with the same message/goals.
- The Wildlife Resources Division of DNR issued **950** violations for littering.

EPD'S MISSION

The Environmental Protection Division protects and restores Georgia's environment. EPD takes the lead in ensuring clean air, water and land. With its partners, EPD pursues a sustainable environment that provides a foundation for a vibrant economy and healthy communities.

SWTF Accomplishments

Environmental Protection Division

The FY 07 budget included **\$6.6 million** for the **Environmental Protection Division** (EPD) to manage and clean up scrap tires, close an abandoned landfill, and provide funding for solid waste emergencies, environmental education, technical assistance, and trust fund administration. EPD's accomplishments are outlined below.

Scrap Tire Clean Up and Management

Scrap Tire Clean Up

In addition to posing serious fire hazards, scrap tires are breeding grounds for snakes and disease-carrying rodents and mosquitoes. Mosquitoes, carriers of the West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, can breed up to 100 times faster in a water-filled scrap tire than in the natural environment. Thus, the elimination of scrap tire piles is a major goal of EPD's Scrap Tire Management Program. Since the program's inception in 1992, more than 13.7 million scrap tires have been removed from illegal tire piles and recycled into useful products or used as an alternative fuel source.

The SWTF is used to clean up tire piles where the responsible party is either unwilling to remove the tires, cannot afford to remove them, or is unknown. For example, if tires have been dumped on land without the property owner's knowledge, EPD will use funds from the SWTF to remove them. Depending on the circumstances, EPD will either hire a contractor to remove the tires or the local government will lead the cleanup and seek reimbursement from EPD. A local government may also use SWTF money to remove tires as part of a community-sponsored clean up event (e.g., Earth Day, America Recycles Day, or Rivers Alive). Large numbers of tires are usually discovered during these events, not only along roadsides, but also in waterways and ravines.

As FY 07 began, 10 projects were awaiting cleanup and 30 more projects were identified later in the fiscal year. The estimated cost to clean up the scrap tires at these 40 projects was \$673,742 or approximately \$1.49 per tire. Cleanup began at 23 of the local projects in FY 07; 203,667 tires were removed and recycled. An additional 64,000 tires were removed and recycled by private parties subsequent to EPD enforcement action.

Scrap Tire Clean Up Project Activity, FY 07

Projects Approved	40
Estimated Number of Tires	449,590
Estimated Total Project Cost	\$673,742

Scrap Tire Management

To ensure that the majority of the approximately nine million scrap tires generated in the state each year (plus the millions more imported from other states) are properly managed, EPD tracks scrap tires from their point of generation to their final disposition at a processor or recycler. To prevent new tire piles from forming and ensure the proper management of scrap tires, retailers and other generators (including public and private fleet owners) are required by EPD regulations to register and obtain a scrap tire generator number. Scrap tire carriers and processors must be permitted by EPD. Although the numbers may change slightly from year to year, in FY 07 there were 6,034 generators, 114 carriers, 42 sorters and eight processors in the state. To help with compliance monitoring and enforcement, EPD has seven staff members in six district offices who conduct compliance inspections and outreach and enforce the state's scrap tire laws. In FY 07, EPD conducted 3,904 inspections. EPD also partners with local governments and DNR's Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) to help prevent illegal dumping through compliance assistance and outreach.

"An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure"



EPD estimates that it costs \$0.05 per tire to properly manage and prevent illegal dumping of tires compared to \$1.49 per tire to clean up tire piles.

Abandoned Landfill Closure

Scales Road Construction and Demolition Landfill. Initially permitted in 1989, the Scales Road landfill in DeKalb County covers approximately 25 acres and contains approximately two million tons of decomposing construction and demolition (C&D) waste. In 2000, its owner declared bankruptcy. In 2005, the company notified EPD of its intent to abandon the site. Since the landfill was not properly closed, environmental conditions at the site deteriorated. Erosion exposed previously covered waste and two fires have been reported. Properly closing this landfill will minimize risks to the public (more than 10,000 people live within a two-mile radius of the site) and will mitigate environmental hazards to surface water, groundwater and air quality posed by the site. Georgia law requires that landfills like this be closed and maintained for at least 30 years after disposal operations cease.

The financial assurance mechanisms required as part of the landfill's permit included \$556,301 (held in bankruptcy trust for EPD) and an insurance bond of \$701,444. However, these funds were insufficient to close the site. The insurance bond carrier, Frontier Insurance, also is in bankruptcy in New York. The Georgia Attorney General's office filed claims in bankruptcy court to obtain the insurance bond. In addition to the funds in the trust, \$1.7 million was budgeted from the SWTF in FY 06 to close the landfill. However, due to the severity of the environmental conditions at the landfill, the cost of properly closing it was determined to be much higher, requiring the budget to be adjusted to reallocate funds from other projects. In March 2007, EPD awarded a \$4.9 million contract to close the landfill. Activity in FY 07 primarily consisted of preparing the final landfill configuration design plans, installing erosion and sedimentation controls, and stockpiling topsoil and low-permeability soils for the final cover. The closure project is scheduled to be completed in April 2008.

Solid Waste Emergencies and Preventative and Corrective Action

Since 1993, the SWTF has been used to respond to tires fires, control dangerous methane gas migration from landfills, and extinguish fires at landfills. The FY 07 budget reserved \$200,000 to respond to emergencies. In FY 07, two fires at scrap tire processing facilities were reported to EPD, however no SWTF dollars had to be expended as the owner/operators covered the cleanup costs.

Miller/Trammel Road Landfill. While grading the site of a new subdivision being built around the abandoned Miller/Trammel Road Landfill in Forsyth County, the contractor destroyed the methane monitoring wells. When new wells were installed, results showed that explosive levels of methane had migrated underground to some of the subdivision lots. After the subdivision's developer filed for bankruptcy in March 2007, EPD hired a contractor to add more monitoring wells, evaluate methane levels, test the groundwater and recommend corrective actions needed to protect nearby residents from the threat of methane gas explosions. An estimated \$34,000 of the funds reserved for emergencies will be used for this project.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

- EPD waste reduction staff responded to 90 requests for technical assistance in FY 07. Requests included recommendations on pharmaceutical management; sustainability resources for colleges; and markets for carpet, drywall and asphalt shingles. Staff also provided in-depth assistance to four industries interested in deconstruction, processing construction and demolition materials and recycling carpet.
- EPD received a \$45,000 EPA grant to further food waste diversion and composting in metro Atlanta. Staff also convened a meeting with stakeholders to discuss potential collaboration.
- EPD staff helped "green" a national conference at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) by enhancing recycling at the event and guiding MeadWestvaco in the purchase of renewable energy credits to offset the electricity that would be used.
- To help facilitate the development of markets for recovered materials in the state, EPD staff (in partnership with the Georgia Recycling Coalition) developed a compendium and map of Georgia manufacturers that use recovered materials in their products.
- EPD's Tradeport campus became the first state agency facility in Georgia to join as a Partner in EPA's WasteWise program. As part of its commitment to WasteWise, staff held several waste reduction events for the Tradeport campus in FY 07, including activities for America Recycles Day and Earth Day. Staff also completed a comprehensive study of the Tradeport's recycling program, which led to changes that will improve the program's efficiency and result in more materials being recycled.

Environmental Education and Outreach

EPD participates in and supports three major outreach efforts targeted at K-12 educators in both schools and nontraditional classroom environments, such as nature centers and parks.

Environmental Education (EE) in Georgia. EPD coordinates more than 250 state agencies, nonprofits and other partners to produce EEinGeorgia.org, the Online Guide to Environmental Education in Georgia. EE in Georgia provides a directory of Georgia's EE organizations; a statewide calendar of EE events; a searchable database of EE resources; EE lesson plans based on state curriculum standards; facts about Georgia's environment; and updates on EE grants, awards and news. Other sponsors of the site include DCA's Keep Georgia Beautiful program, the Department of Education, the Georgia Parent Teacher Association and the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. In FY 07, EE in Georgia:

- Logged 1,741,514 Web site page requests, a 45.5% increase from FY 06
- Managed a federal grant to enhance the Web site and create integrated web sites in seven other southeastern states for environmental education
- Received \$15,000 from the Georgia Department of Education to revise the EE lesson plans to meet new Georgia Performance Standards
- Published 10 electronic newsletters (subscriptions increased from 2,273 to 2,702)

Using the Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC) for Learning. Fourteen Georgia public schools participate in "Using the Environment as an Integrating Context (EIC) for Learning," a program designed to address the under-performance of students in grades K-12 on standardized science measures. The program is based on research by a national education organization showing students perform better on standardized tests when they take part in environment-based investigations in their communities. EPD provides teachers at the EIC schools with access to professionals, programs and resources. In FY 07, the EIC program provided on-site technical assistance to seven schools and coordinated training for 70 educators at events including the EIC Implementation Institute, EIC Reunion Conference, Outdoor Classroom Symposium, Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia Conference, and Monarchs Across Georgia Workshop. Program staff also began work with the University of Georgia Center for Assessment to evaluate the program's effect on student achievement, behavior and attendance.

Georgia Green & Healthy Schools. EPD collaborated with local governments, state and national agencies and nonprofit organizations to create Georgia Green & Healthy Schools, a program designed to reduce waste and conserve natural resources. In FY 07, the program coordinated the "Leaping Into Green & Healthy Learning" Outdoor Classroom Symposium and Workshops, a three-day training that introduced more than 200 teachers and non-traditional educators to the program's goals.



GEFA
 GEFA's mission is to provide financing and other support services for infrastructure improvements, energy programs and fuel storage systems that result in a cleaner environment for all Georgians.

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

The Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant program, administered by the **Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority**, provides funding to local governments to construct facilities and purchase equipment to reduce and recycle waste. Since FY 95, a total of \$10,734,826.29 in grants has been awarded. In FY 07, GEFA received **\$223,000** from the SWTF for subsequent pass-through grants to local governments for solid waste recycling.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

Past grant projects have included construction of solid waste sorting and processing facilities, purchase of recycling equipment (e.g., conveyors, balers, crushers, forklifts, transport vehicles), composting programs, technical assessments of existing facilities, public education campaigns, and one-time collection events for disposing of electronics and household hazardous waste. The table below shows the local governments that received grants and their projects for FY 07.



GEFA Recycling and Waste Reduction Grants, FY 07

City / County	Project	Grant
Alpharetta	One-day household hazardous waste collection	\$22,500
Atlanta	Electronic recycling data collection system	\$63,250
Camilla / Mitchell Co.	Purchasing a new forklift for recycling center	\$16,946
Dalton / Whitfield Co.	Purchasing five drop-off recycling containers	\$25,000
Hall Co.	Recycling program assessment	\$45,000
Oconee Co.	Purchasing compost bins for resale	\$10,000
Thomson	Expansion of recycling center to serve neighboring areas	\$40,000
Total		\$222,696

Past grants have gone to refurbish or replace aging recycling containers at community drop-off sites.

Department of Community Affairs

The **Department of Community Affairs** (DCA) received **\$3,889,518** from the Solid Waste Trust Fund in FY 07. DCA used the funds for solid waste management planning, local government technical assistance, support for the Keep Georgia Beautiful program, recycling, litter prevention and abatement, and public outreach and promotion programs.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

In FY 07, DCA initiated three major statewide initiatives focused on waste reduction and recycling.

Regional Recycling Hubs. DCA was awarded \$1.5 million from the SWTF in FY 07 to administer competitive grants to local governments to modify or construct a collection facility with the larger goal of establishing a network of regional collection hubs for commingled recyclables throughout the state. The collection of commingled recyclables will make it more viable for many rural communities to offer recycling and for industries that need the recyclables to get them. In FY 07, DCA developed grant criteria with input from the private recycling industry and local governments. Partnerships with the private sector will allow DCA to leverage its SWTF dollars. For example, new single-stream processing capacity was constructed in metro-Atlanta to meet the additional need that will be generated by this program. Curbside Value Partnership also began promoting recycling statewide and pledged to provide approximately \$90,000 in-kind match for a public relations campaign.

Recycling Education Campaign. For years the public has been told to separate recyclables. Today, with advances in mechanical separation equipment and the increased demand for recycled materials, recyclables can be collected commingled — resulting in significant collection savings. For this collection method to take hold, citizens must be confident their materials will be recycled and local officials must be informed of the new options available. To meet these challenges, DCA was awarded \$412,518 for the launch of a statewide recycling education campaign. In 2006, the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) announced its plans to conduct recycling market research and develop a national brand for recycling. To avoid duplicating efforts, and save resources for campaign development, DCA monitored NRC's efforts and is awaiting the release of their national brand in September 2007. In FY 07, DCA prepared a request for qualifications that required the successful contractor to build upon the efforts of NRC and anticipates selecting a contractor in October 2007. DCA also began the production of a video to showcase single stream recycling collection and the importance of recycling in the state. The video is anticipated to be completed in December 2007.

DCA
In addition to other functions, DCA operates state and federal grant programs; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's municipal solid waste reduction efforts.

Special Event Recycling. Part of instilling a recycling ethic is to provide easy, convenient recycling opportunities both at home and away from home. Using suggestions from the private recycling industry and local governments, DCA developed a set of grant criteria in FY 07 and an application for its new special event recycling program. DCA also formed partnerships with the private sector to leverage the \$350,000 it received from the SWTF for this activity. DCA also received a \$25,000 donation to expand the program and \$27,000 in-kind support from Curbside Value Partnership to develop public education materials. DCA will purchase reusable special event recycling containers and trailers to store and haul them. Local governments will apply for grants to receive the containers and trailers and will make them available to event organizers in their communities.

Other FY 07 waste reduction activities by DCA:

- DCA hired a contractor to bring a Web-based, solid waste data management and reporting tool to the state. The tool will help DCA monitor and measure the effectiveness of voluntary recycling activities by material processing facilities and community recycling and solid waste programs. DCA hopes to negotiate the use of the tool into the voluntary agreements with operators of materials recycling facilities (MRFs) to pay \$1.00/ton for every ton of recyclables they process.
- DCA established a system of regional representation and solid waste plan review to expedite customer service and enhance the quality of local solid waste management planning efforts.
- DCA responded to 625 requests for recycling, waste reduction and solid waste planning technical assistance. Typical questions included where and how to recycle unusual items such as computer equipment, how to start an office or school recycling program, and how local governments can more efficiently collect and dispose of solid waste and recyclable material. DCA staff also fielded about 20 calls per week about household hazardous waste management methods.
- DCA produces and distributes brochures as an ongoing effort to assist local public outreach efforts on solid waste and recycling. In FY 07, more than 46,000 brochures and fliers were distributed to 129 organizations.
- Since the implementation of the 1996 yard trimmings ban, more and more Georgia communities have developed on-going programs to dispose of yard waste, including Christmas trees. The Bring One for the Chipper program collected 241,589 trees from approximately 378 collection sites. The majority were mulched; however, 10,400 trees were sunk into lakes to provide fish habitat. More than 4,500 volunteers from 127 communities and organizations participated, working approximately 25,778 hours. Approximately 42,000 tree seedlings also were distributed.



Volunteers load trees at a collection site in Smyrna for the "Bring One for the Chipper" program.

Litter Prevention and Abatement

DCA received \$1.25 million in FY 07 to continue coordination of the statewide litter initiative. An initial statewide media campaign has been developed. This campaign, *Litter. It Costs You*, is designed to raise awareness of litter and littering in the state and the impact it has upon our quality of life. To maximize efficiencies, a request for qualifications (RFQ) was issued to hire a communications and research team at the same time as the recycling communications RFQ; it is anticipated that a public relations team will be assembled to help reduce costs and eliminate duplication between the two communication efforts. DCA anticipates selecting a contractor in the second quarter of FY 08.

Great American Cleanup. The Great American Cleanup is an annual event designed to assist local governments in revitalizing their communities and educating citizens. In FY 07, 50,853 volunteers representing more than 356 communities worked 228,963 hours picking up litter from Georgia's roadways and cleaning up illegal dumpsites. Nearly 2,000 tons of waste were removed and properly disposed. More Georgians and communities participated in the 2007 event than ever before with 86% of Georgia counties holding a litter reduction activity.

Clean Community Challenge. The Clean Community Challenge (CCC) is a new incentive-based program to recognize local governments that are holistically addressing litter prevention in their communities. Participants will have access to resources to conduct community-based litter assessments and be eligible to receive grant funding to implement local litter prevention strategies. Seventeen communities registered for the CCC and several began a visual survey of litter in their community. More than 50 other communities expressed an interest in participating. More than 70 school groups registered for the Youth Clean Community Challenge in FY 07. Keep America Beautiful affiliates promoted the challenge and distributed posters and children's activity books. DCA also distributed "Buster's Litter Blasting Activity Book" to 47 Keep America Beautiful affiliates.

Litter Enforcement Workshops. During spring 2007, litter enforcement workshops were held in Athens, Albany, Rome and Statesboro. More than 400 representatives from law enforcement, local governments and KAB affiliates, learned about the new litter law, how to establish environmental courts, and received DNR's "Crimes Against the Environment" training.

Keep Georgia Beautiful. DCA houses the Keep Georgia Beautiful (KGB) program whose mission is to build and sustain community environmental activities and behaviors resulting in a more beautiful Georgia. In addition to its role in the litter initiatives described above, KGB also held its 28th Annual Keep Georgia Beautiful Awards Luncheon and 15th Annual Board Development Institute. It also sponsored the KGB Executive Directors' Association Winter Meeting and Day at the Capitol; more than 40 affiliates attended.

Litter Summit

The Governor's Litter Summit was held in Atlanta on August 29 and 30. More than 250 people attended from all over Georgia representing statewide associations; environmental groups; state agencies including DOT, DNR and DCA; Keep America Beautiful Affiliates; and law enforcement organizations and departments.

Governor Sonny Perdue declared "war on litter" and announced his crackdown-on-litter initiative, *Litter. It Costs You*.

GDC
GDC protects and serves the public as a professional organization by effectively managing offenders while helping to provide a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Georgia.

Department of Corrections

The **Georgia Department of Corrections** (GDC) received **\$100,000** from the SWTF in FY 07 to help manage solid waste at its 37 state prisons. Funds were also used to support environmental management system (EMS) teams that are responsible for developing and implementing programs to reduce solid waste, fuel, electricity and water.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

As part of its efforts to manage and reduce solid waste, GDC operates nine composting operations that process food and other organic waste from 20 of its state prisons. In FY 07, GDC composted 4,974 tons of food waste and 17,807 tons of other organic material. Assuming a landfill tipping fee of \$40 per ton, the cost savings to GDC was \$911,240.

GDC also recycles solid waste from 30 of its state prisons and facilities. In FY 07, GDC recycled 815 tons of cardboard, 285 tons of steel and other metals and 11.8 tons of pallets. Assuming a landfill tipping fee of \$40 per ton, the cost savings to GDC was \$44,000. The revenue generated from the sale of the recycled material was \$75,068.



The Department of Corrections operates nine composting programs that compost food and other organic waste from 20 of its facilities. The photo above shows one of the windrows where the waste is turned into compost.

Cost Savings Through Composting and Recycling

In FY 07, the Georgia Department of Corrections saved **\$955,240** by composting and recycling material rather than paying for it to be buried in a landfill.

The agency also earned **\$75,068** through the sale of its recyclable materials.



Photo: USContainer.com

Pollution Prevention Assistance Division

The **Pollution Prevention Assistance Division** (P²AD) received no funding from the SWTF in FY 07. The division, part of the Department of Natural Resources, used money previously allocated from the SWTF to fund its solid waste activities. P²AD used these carryover funds to provide on-site assessments, team facilitation, technical assistance and workshops.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

Staff responded to 1,200 requests for solid waste assistance, including 76 related to household hazardous waste and mercury. The remaining requests dealt with a variety of topics including wood waste, food waste, electronics waste, packaging materials, construction and demolition debris, recycling, and a variety of other industrial solid waste, such as defective boat hulls.

Two projects were completed in FY 07 that will facilitate waste reduction by Georgia businesses and industries. The Sustainable Office Toolkit contains seven modules that any office-based organization can use to guide the planning, development and implementation of environmentally friendly practices. Three of the seven modules are related to solid waste: waste reduction, environmentally preferable purchasing and sustainable building.

A new on-line materials exchange, www.scrapmatchga.org, was completed in December 2006 and the site went live in January 2007. At the end of FY 07, there were 28 listings of materials wanted or available and 56 registered users. The site had 3,062 visitors in the month of June 2007 alone.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris

In the area of C&D debris management, P²AD staff:

- Continued work with the Board of Regents' Environmental Affairs Office to develop a logistical model for collecting and transporting C&D debris from University System of Georgia campuses.
- Worked with EPD to design a request-for-proposals for a statewide C&D waste characterization study. The study, projected to begin in FY 08, will provide a more accurate picture of the types and amounts of C&D waste



More than 4.2 million tons of C&D debris are disposed in Georgia every year.

P²AD
P²AD fosters
environmental
leadership in
Georgia by
working with
organizations to
reduce waste,
conserve natural
resources and
build a conserva-
tion ethic.

being disposed in the state. Current estimates put the figure at 4,271,827 tons per year. The results of the study will be used to help stimulate C&D recycling markets in the state.

- Designed and delivered training on C&D waste management at the City of Atlanta's "Developers Day" in May 2007.
- Worked on C&D waste diversion projects for City Hall East (approximately two million square feet) and the former Georgia Archives building.
- Worked with the Department of Administrative Services to clarify perceived barriers to recycling C&D debris from state properties by distinguishing it from "personal property."
- Provided technical assistance on C&D debris management to a hotel on Lake Lanier, DNR's State Parks and Historic Sites Division and a private contractor.
- Continued work on the "Waste Management Toolkit for Construction," a guide to help builders compare on-site vs. off-site recycling.

Sustainable Building

P²AD continued to work with Southface on a project promoting sustainable community development guidelines for coastal Georgia. Included in the new guidelines are Earthcraft House standards that result in significant waste reduction during new home construction. For this project, the estimated waste diversion for each 2,500-square-foot home is 1,372 pounds of wood and 540 pounds of drywall.

In FY 06, an 18-acre site for the project's first pilot development was selected. In FY 07, more than 30 people attended an Earthcraft House builder training in Savannah for the pilot project participants and other local builders and developers. The training covered residential green building practices, on-site demonstrations of insulation installation, and requirements of the Earthcraft House program. Pilot site visits (including two design reviews, six field trainings and six site visits) were also conducted. Sustainable Fellwood, a mixed use project incorporating low-income housing, became the second development to earn certification according to the new Coastal Community Guidelines.



Sustainable construction guidelines for coastal Georgia will reduce waste during the building process and help protect sensitive marshland. Two pilot developments are currently underway.

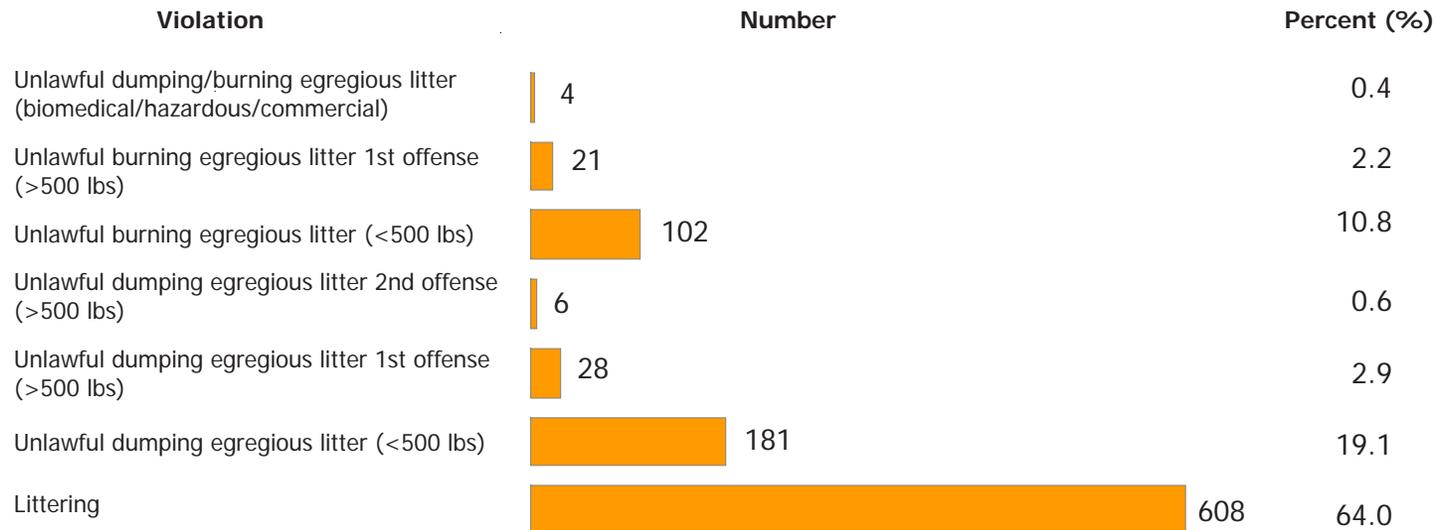
Wildlife Resources Division

The **Wildlife Resources Division** (WRD) received **\$150,000** from the SWTF in FY 07. This money was used to support the division's efforts to monitor compliance and conduct enforcement of the state's solid waste, scrap tire and littering laws. In addition to enforcing the state's litter laws, WRD's Law Enforcement Section is also responsible for protecting Georgia's wildlife by enforcing laws, rules and regulations pertaining to game and nongame animals, threatened and endangered plants and animals, exotic animals, boating safety, and other natural resource issues.

Litter Prevention and Abatement

In the course of their day-to-day activities, WRD's rangers come across litter and solid waste dumping violations that might have otherwise gone undiscovered (i.e., dump sites in remote areas of the state) and therefore play a crucial role in the state's anti-littering initiative. In FY 07, WRD rangers issued 950 litter-related violations.

Litter Violations Issued, FY 07



WRD
WRD protects, conserves, manages and improves Georgia's wildlife and freshwater fishery resources; manages and conserves protected and endangered wildlife and plants; conducts hunter safety programs; and enforces the state's Boat Safety Act.



In July 2007, DNR Law Enforcement received a complaint about illegal dumping in Wayne County. From magazines and letters found in the trash, officers were able to locate the person responsible for the litter and cite him for illegal dumping.



In March 2007, officers discovered this dump site in Chatham County. The suspect was charged with illegal dumping.



In October 2006, officers discovered an abandoned boat and trailer discarded in the woods in Camden County. The man responsible was charged with two counts of illegal dumping. He was found guilty and fined \$200. He also was ordered to clean up the waste.



In September 2006, officers received a call about an illegal dump site in Camden County. An officer found the persons responsible for the dumping and EPD issued a consent order for \$10,000.

Interagency Efforts

To ensure that efforts to reduce solid waste in the state are coordinated, EPD meets regularly with its state agency partners to review activities, develop budgets and set priorities to address solid waste issues. This interagency group also worked together to update the state's solid waste management plan and set new waste reduction goals for the state. In FY 07, with assistance from a group of stakeholders, DCA, in cooperation with the state agency partners, finalized the updating of goals for reducing municipal solid waste.

Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

During the 2005 session of the General Assembly, the 25% per capita municipal solid waste disposal reduction goal was replaced with a general goal stating that "every effort be undertaken to reduce, on a statewide per capita basis, the amount of municipal solid waste being received at disposal facilities." DCA invited public and private stakeholders to help determine a new waste reduction goal. The group determined that a 23% per capita daily disposal reduction goal from 2004 figures could be achieved by 2017. The details by material are shown below.

Per Capita MSW Disposal Rate/MSW Reduction Goal

Commodity	Actual 2004 (lbs/person)	Projected 2012 (lbs/person)	Projected 2012 (%)	Projected 2017 (lbs/person)	Projected 2017 (%)
Glass	0.153	0.140	8%	0.140	8%
Paper	1.181	1.000	15%	0.850	28%
Metal	0.228	0.198	13%	0.186	18%
Plastic	0.663	0.560	16%	0.530	20%
<i>Total</i>	<i>2.230</i>	<i>1.990</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>1.710</i>	<i>23%</i>

Technical Assistance. EPD and other state agency partners also provided technical support to Atlanta Recycles, a coalition of governmental, corporate, and environmental entities with a shared mission to promote recycling and improve the collection infrastructure for recyclable materials in metro Atlanta.

Looking Ahead

In July 2005, the Governor's Environmental Advisory Council was charged with examining the performance, issues and future uses of the SWTF. In its report to the Governor, the Council voiced its support for the solid waste successes in the state, such as the scrap tire, environmental education and pollution prevention programs, recommending their continuation. It also called for the continued collection of the tire fee and urged the Legislature to fully fund the SWTF.

While recognizing the value of the current programs funded by the SWTF, the council also strongly encouraged the creation of a comprehensive solid waste strategy to address critical solid waste issues facing the state — e.g., the rising per capita waste disposal rate, increases in the importation of out-of-state waste and management of abandoned landfills.

As part of this strategy, important new statewide initiatives which were launched in FY 07, including the litter and recycling campaigns, will continue in FY 08. With the Solid Waste Trust Fund set to expire in 2008, the fate of these new activities, as well as the current programs, is unknown unless the fund is reauthorized during the 2008 General Assembly.

To overcome the many challenges that must be addressed in order to create a comprehensive solid waste strategy and meet the state's solid waste management goals, the Solid Waste Trust Fund must be reauthorized and fully funded.



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