

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

Report for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016



Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
December 2018

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 908 in 2014, the Georgia General Assembly extended collection of the fee through FY 2019.

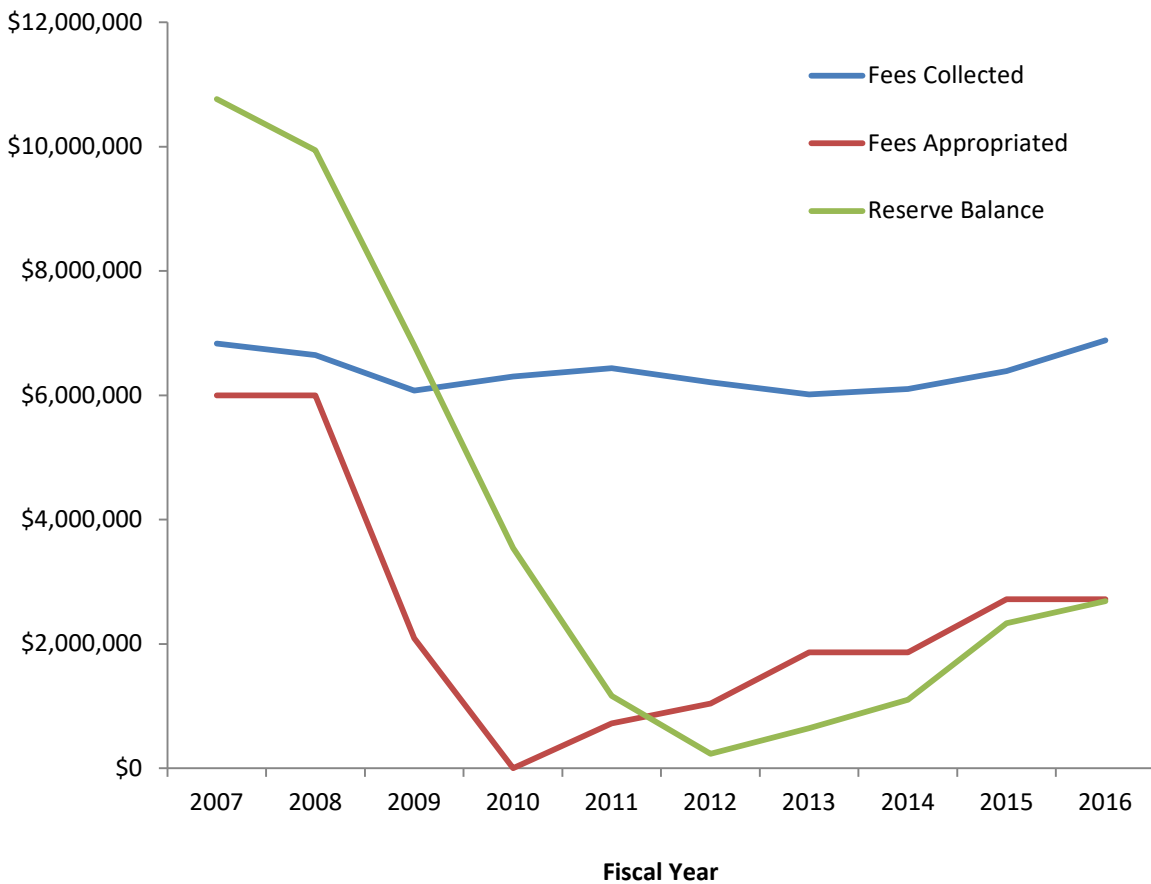
Each year, the fees collected the previous year may be appropriated by the General Assembly to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee.

Appropriations for FY 2015 and 2016

The General Assembly appropriated **\$2,720,775** in each of these fiscal years 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.

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

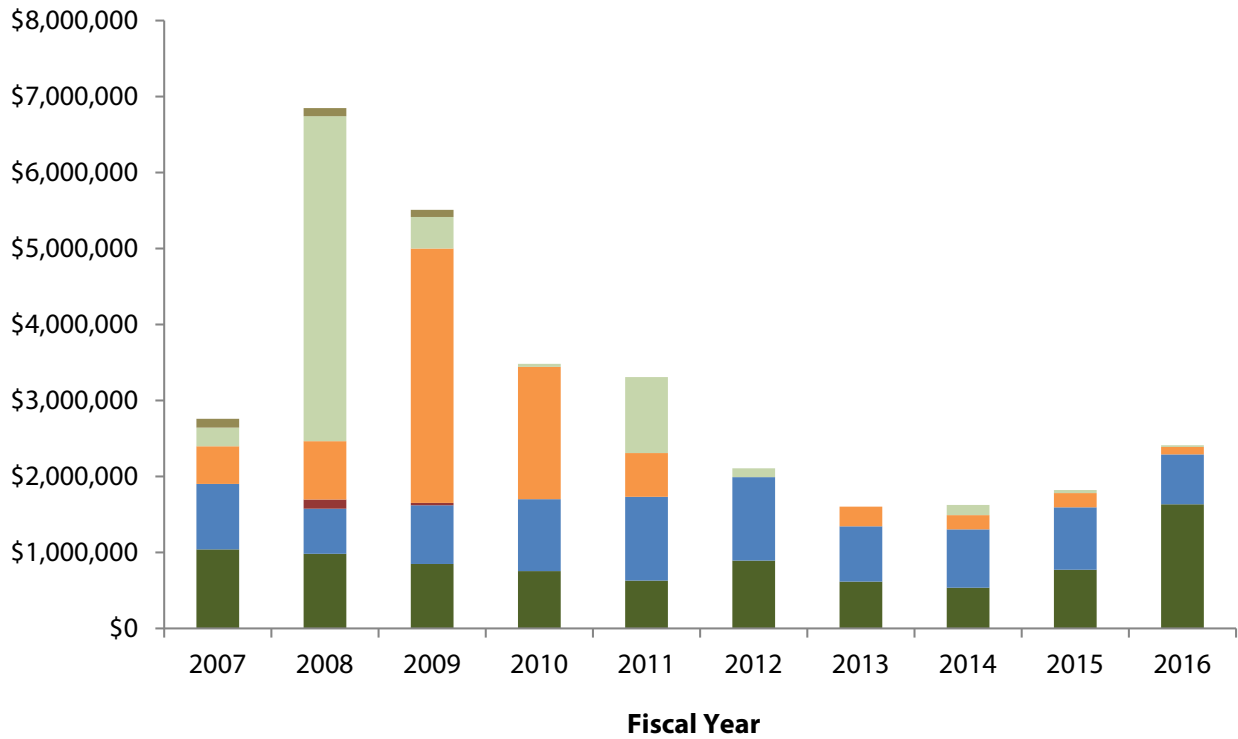
**Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF
FY 2007 to FY 2016**



Expenses

By Authorized Use

SWTF Expenses by Authorized Use
FY 2007 to FY 2016



- Scrap Tire Management and Abatement
- Emergency Response and Corrective Action
- Abandoned Landfills
- Operations and Fund Administration
- Waste Reduction and Litter Education
- Litter Enforcement

Tire Management

EPD has been active in the management and cleanup of tires in Georgia since 1992. In FY 2015 and FY 2016, more than **269,750** scrap tires were removed from illegal tire dumps or cleaned up through investigations or by local government partners. EPD uses a variety of programs and tools to help ensure scrap tires generated in Georgia are reused or recycled.

Permits & Approvals
EPD issued **844** scrap tire/retail tire dealer generator identification numbers and **26** tire carrier permits in FY 2015-16.

Inspections
EPD staff conducted **2,187** site visits to scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors and tire carriers in FY 2015-16.

Tire Fee Collection
Retailers who sell new tires are responsible for collecting the \$1.00 fee from consumers for each new tire sold. In FY 2015, **\$6.4 million** was collected and in FY 2016, **\$6.9 million** was collected.

Investigations
EPD staff lead investigations in response to complaints from citizens about tire dumps and other tire issues. In FY 2015-16, **166** investigations were conducted, leading to **73,536** tires being removed from 89 sites.



Local Government Funding
In FY 2015, EPD began a new Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program to fund tire dump cleanups. Coffee County was the first local government to receive reimbursement for a cleanup. The county was reimbursed **\$2,245** for the removal of **1,700** tires.

Tire Dump Cleanups
The SWTF is also used to hire contractors to clean up illegal scrap tire dumps around the state. In FY 2015-16, **194,525** tires were removed from 36 sites by contractors at a cost of **\$517,858**.

Scrap Tire Cleanup Initiatives

In FY 2016, EPD began accepting applications for its new Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program.

Under the program, funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund is used to remove, transport, and process scrap tires from areas where the property owner is either unknown, financially unable to clean up the tires, or a victim of illegal dumping.

EPD soon expanded the program to cover the removal and recycling of scrap tires dumped along city and county right-of-ways and to pay for scrap tire amnesty events.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from local governments and solid waste management authorities and awarded first come, first served, contingent on funding availability and demand. There currently is no limit on the amount of funding that may be awarded per application.

EPD also continued to fund cleanups of tire dumps using SWTF dollars through a competitive bidding process in FY 2015 and FY 2016.



*Coffee County was the first local government to be reimbursed for a tire dump cleanup in FY 2016 under the new Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement program. More than **1,700** tires were removed from the site at no cost to the county.*



*Contractors hired by EPD removed more than **30,600** tires from this site in Crawford County in FY 2015.*

Tire Management Unit

In FY 2015, EPD created the Tire Management Unit under the Solid Waste Management Program and brought together tire compliance staff members under one manager.

Previously, the compliance officers reported to managers in each of the seven EPD district offices. Having them report to one manager, contributed to a more cohesive

and efficient response to the tire management compliance and enforcement duties. In FY 2016, the unit became fully staffed, with a tire compliance officer responsible for covering counties in each region of the state.

The new unit is responsible for conducting compliance inspections and enforcing state regula-

tions for scrap tire generators, used tire dealers, tire carriers and scrap tire processors and sorters. It also issues scrap and used tire generator identification numbers, tire carrier permits, responds to citizen complaints regarding illegal scrap tire dumps and takes enforcement action to ensure the tires are removed.

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Staff members in EPD's Waste Reduction 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

In FY 2015 and FY 2016, staff members worked with EPA Headquarters and Region 4 on a lifecycle analysis prioritization tool designed to help businesses, institutions and others more sustainably manage material and natural resource use.

Staff also continued work on creating a GIS map of the waste and recycling infrastructure in the state (see image at right).

Composting

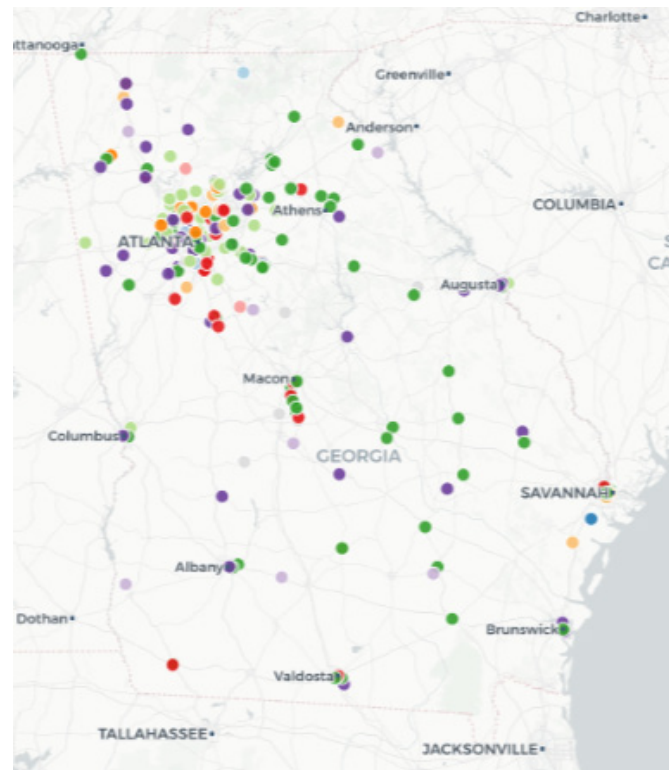
As part of work on food waste diversion and composting infrastructure development begun in previous fiscal years, members of the Solid Waste Management Program co-hosted a compost operator's training course along with the U.S. Composting Council, Georgia Recycling Coalition, and Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division in March 2015.

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 Web site, fills a critical need by ensuring the public has easy access to environmental education resources — a vital part of improving environmental literacy in Georgia.

More than 400 state agencies, nonprofits, and other organizations submit resources, events, and information to this Web site, which acts as a central clearinghouse. Educators rely on the site to find environmental education lesson plans, curriculum guides, grants, awards, outreach programs, field studies, conferences, and professional learning courses.



An online waste and recycling infrastructure map will be able to show the locations of recovered materials processors, solid waste landfills, composting operations, and more.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2015 and FY 2016, the unit responded to requests for technical assistance, including questions about waste reduction and recycling, landfill bans, compost facilities, tax credits, electronic scrap, household hazardous waste, recycling markets, school chemical clean-outs, composting, and more.

Staff members from multiple units spoke to more than **1,500** people from around the state about scrap tire regulations, scrap tire dumps, and the availability of funding from the Solid Waste Trust Fund for the clean up and recycling of scrap tires.

Abandoned Landfills

In FY 2015, EPD staff conducted investigative work and developed a scope of work for restoration and post-closure care activities at the abandoned Scales Road construction and demolition landfill in DeKalb County.

In FY 2016, a request for bids was announced and a contractor selected to perform the restoration and post-closure work needed to return the site to compliance.

History

The former landfill sits on nearly 58 acres, of which approximately 35 acres were used for waste disposal. In 2005, the operator notified EPD of its intent to abandon the landfill. In 2007, the state granted a contract to properly close the now abandoned landfill.

Activities performed under this contract included installing a vegetated low permeability soil cap and significant improvements to the stormwater conveyance systems. These activities were completed in July 2008.

The contract provided for post-closure maintenance of the final cover system and the stormwater conveyance and control systems until August 2009. Groundwater monitoring at the site was conducted under a subcontract until June 2009. After these contracts ended in 2009, the landfill's final cover system (cap) deteriorated and the entrance to the site became a dumping ground for trash.

Scope of Work Investigation

In FY 2015, EPD staff from multiple units in the Solid Waste Management Program began the process of evaluating and documenting the conditions at the site.



In the years since the landfill was closed, trees began to grow through the cap or cover damaging the cover system and uncontrolled access led to illegal dumping.

The Industrial and Municipal Landfill Unit completed a scope of work investigation to determine what actions are needed to bring the landfill back into compliance. Staff members also inspected drainage structures and documented erosion issues.

The Environmental Monitoring Compliance Unit assessed the condition of the network of monitoring wells and measured methane levels. The Scrap Tire Compliance and Waste Reduction units conducted a field assessment of the scrap tires illegally disposed at the site.

Based on the investigation, the following activities were included in the final scope of work:

- Mowing and clearing vegetation from the landfill cap and along the property line

- Restoring soil cover thickness on the landfill cap
- Clearing and repairing downdrains and adding topsoil to eroded areas
- Reconstructing a culvert and cleaning out sediment ponds
- Repairing the road around the perimeter of the landfill
- Establishing permanent vegetation
- Installing and repairing the fencing to limit access and illegal dumping
- Removing illegally dumped scrap tires, metal drums, and other solid waste
- Inspecting the methane and groundwater monitoring wells and repairing as needed
- Monitoring, maintenance, and site security activities for one year