

Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund

Report for Fiscal Year 2018



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.

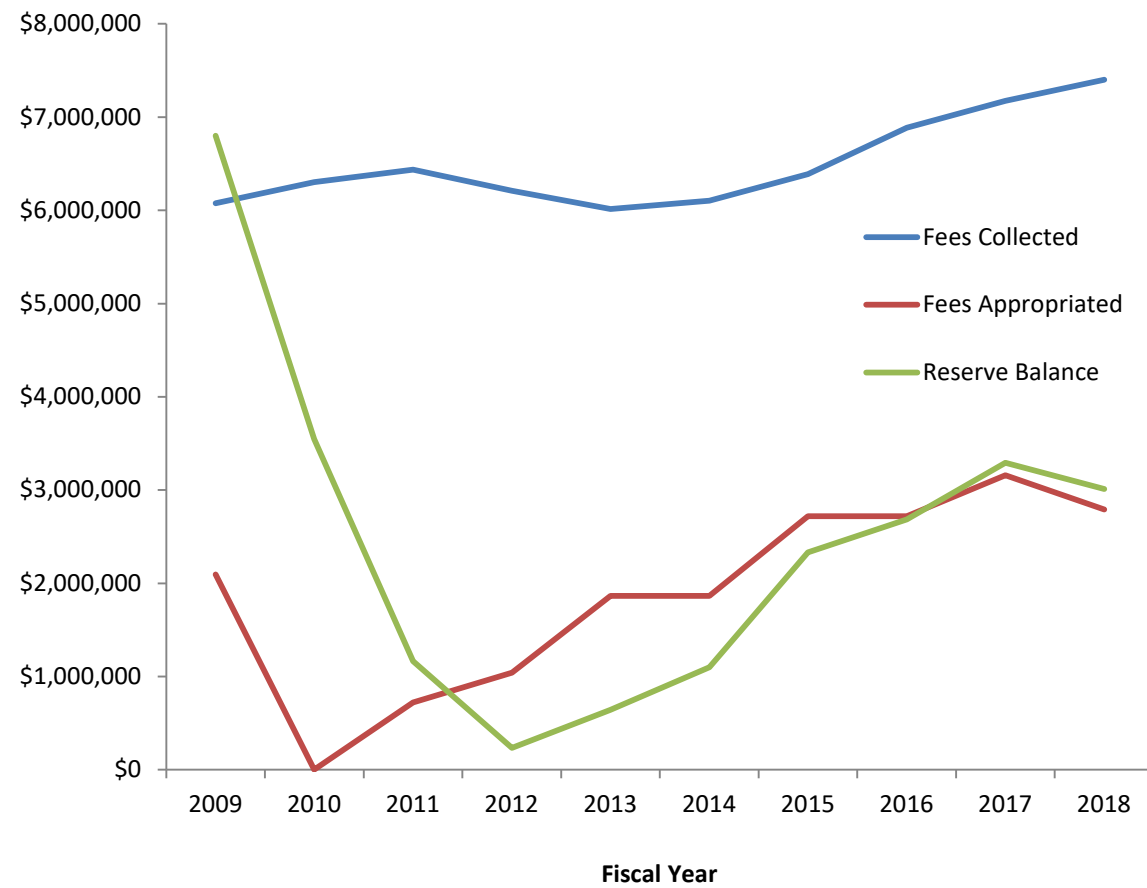
Each year, the fees collected the previous year may be appropriated by the General Assembly to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), whose director is authorized by the Act to serve as the fund's trustee.

Appropriation for FY 2018

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 2018.

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

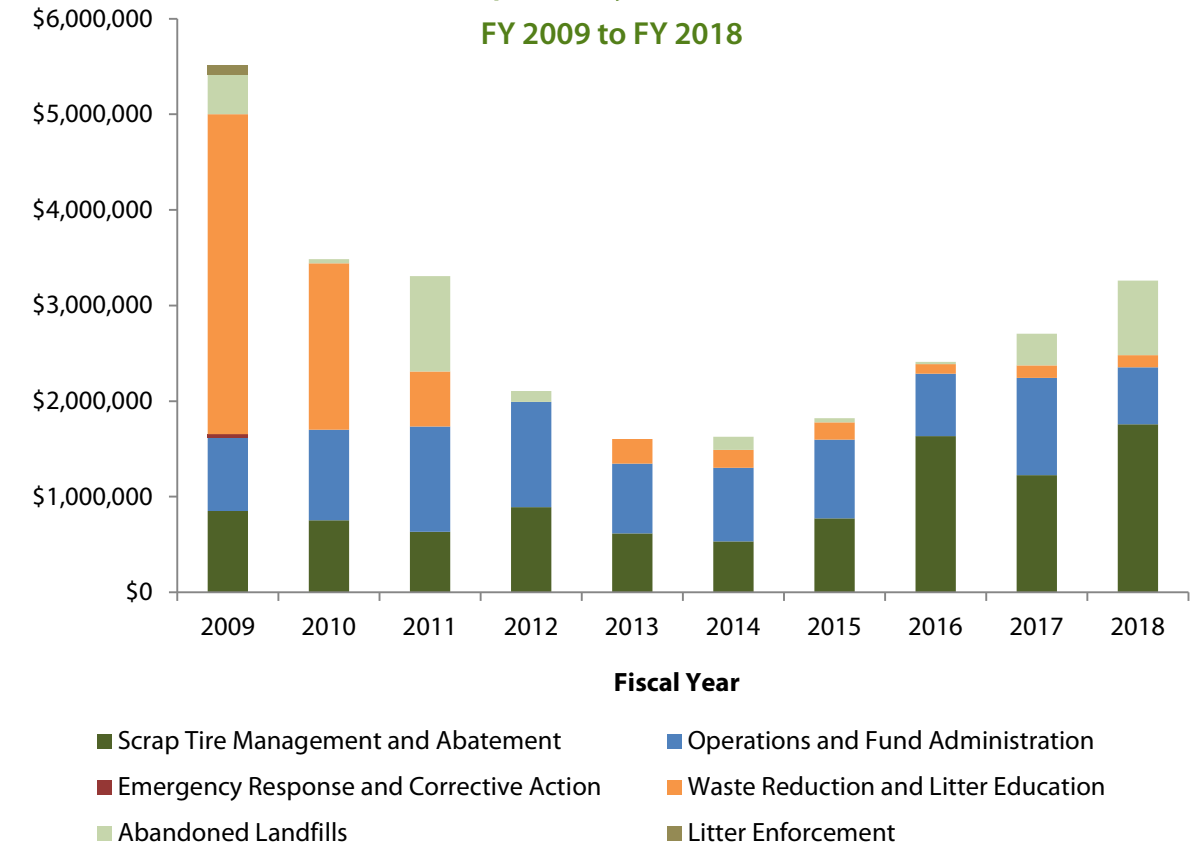
Fees Collected on New Tires Sold and Amount Appropriated to SWTF
FY 2009 to FY 2018



Expenses

By Authorized Use

SWTF Expenses by Authorized Use
FY 2009 to FY 2018



Tire Management

EPD has been active in the management and cleanup of tires in Georgia since 1992. In FY 2018, **418,096** 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 **367** scrap tire/retail tire dealer generator identification numbers, **152** used tire dealer numbers, **19** tire carrier permits, **3** scrap tire sorter permits, and **5** scrap tire processor approvals in FY 2018.

Inspections

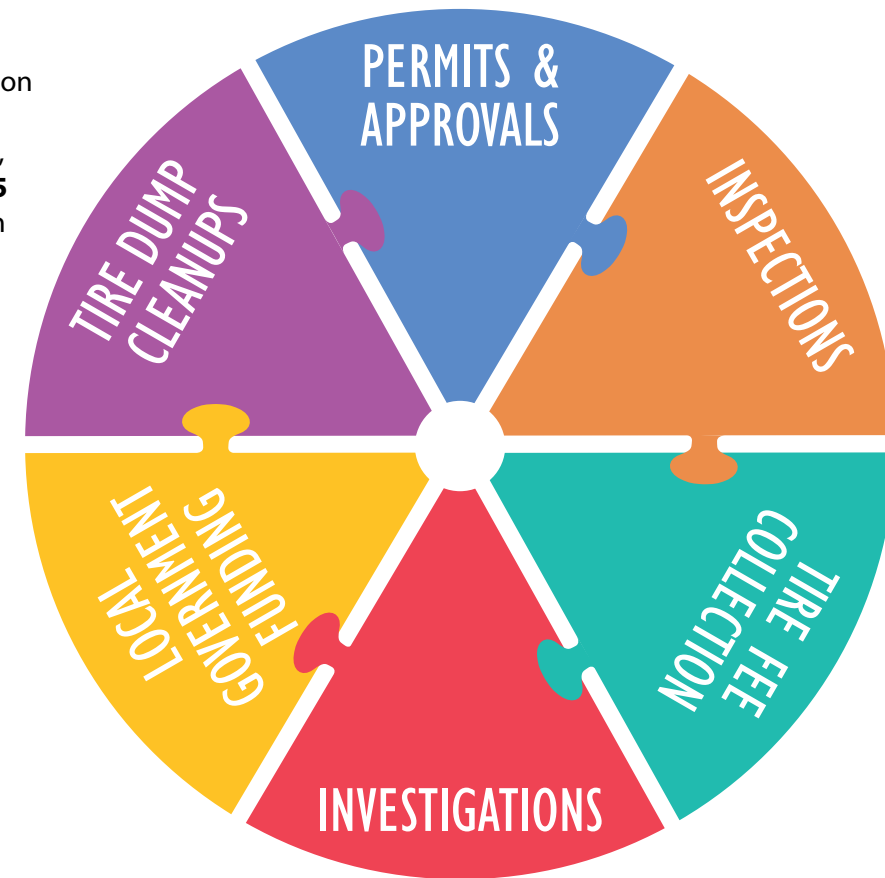
EPD staff conducted **1,684** site visits to scrap tire generators, sorters, and processors and tire carriers in FY 2018.

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 2018, **\$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 2018, **116** investigations were conducted, leading to **39,352** tires being removed from 50 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 2018, **239,082** tires were cleaned up by 38 local governments that were reimbursed a total of **\$533,077**.

Tire Dump Cleanups

The SWTF is also used to hire contractors to clean up illegal scrap tire dumps around the state. In FY 2018, **139,662** tires were removed from 42 sites by contractors at a cost of **\$437,056**.

Contractors hired by EPD removed more than **50,000** tires from site of a former trucking company in Jenkins County.



During this scrap tire amnesty event in Houston County, residents brought in **9,017** tires to be recycled.



More than **420** tires were removed from this site in Gwinnett County by contractors hired by EPD.

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

In FY 2018, 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.

This fiscal year also saw EPD host two stakeholder meetings with representatives from recycling industries, businesses, non-profits, state agencies, local governments, and others on their priorities and suggestions for using funds from the Solid Waste Trust Fund.

Composting

In FY 2018, EPD staff participated in initiatives designed to strengthen the infrastructure for mid-size and community-scale composting operations, including working with the Atlanta Community-based Composting Council. Of particular focus in FY18 was creating best management practices to align with a rule change to benefit this level of composters that was approved by the Board of the Department of Natural Resources in FY 2018.

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

More than 600 state agencies, nonprofits, K-12 schools, and other organizations have joined the site and can submit resources, events, and other environmental-related information. Each month, a newsletter is emailed to more than 7,000 subscribers, most of whom are educators who rely on the site to find environmental education lesson plans, curriculum guides, grants, awards, outreach programs, field studies, conferences, and professional learning courses.

Technical Assistance

In FY 2018, the unit responded to nearly 100 requests for technical assistance, including questions about recycling various materials, grant availability, household hazardous waste, business development, and more.

Staff members from multiple units reached hundreds of people from around the state — either in direct meetings or through tabling at conferences — 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.



EPD staff attended a workshop on windrow composting hosted by the Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department.

Abandoned Landfill Care & Clean Up

In FY 2017, EPD evaluated the condition of three abandoned landfills to identify activities needed to properly close the 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

The results of the evaluation showed that the landfills required a variety of activities, including:

- Delineating waste limits
- Filing landfill deed notice
- Installing and improving existing site access controls and erosion and sedimentation controls
- Removing and disposing of surface waste not appropriate for unlined solid waste disposal facilities (e.g., creosote railroad ties, machinery)
- Clearing, grubbing, and grading

- Installing final cover system
- Assessing and/or redeveloping environmental monitoring wells
- Preparing post-closure care plan

In FY 2018, EPD contracted with KEMRON Environmental Services, Inc. to provide detailed closure and post-closure plans for each landfill that would be protective of human health and the environment. Of the three landfills, the Eller-Whitlock site was deemed the highest priority because of its close proximity to residences that may be using groundwater for domestic water supply.

The site's existing environmental monitoring networks were found to be functional, and in February 2018, EPD contracted with Advanced Environmental Management, Inc. to perform environmental sampling and laboratory analysis. Closure and post-closure plans were developed and EPD intends to award a contract to complete work at the site in spring 2019.

Plan development for the Fauconniere Buckeye site was completed in November 2018.

Due to groundwater contamination and the discovery of drums at the Steele Brothers Landfill, the site is undergoing continued assessment and plan development in conjunction with EPD's Hazardous Waste Response and Remediation Program. Plan development is expected to be completed in summer 2019.



At the Fauconniere Buckeye Cellulose Industrial Landfill in Andersonville, the absence of an adequate final cover system led to trees and other vegetation becoming established and the formation of deep gullies due to erosion. Poor site access controls led to open dumping.



At the Scales Road Landfill in DeKalb County, the absence of an adequate final cover system led to the formation of gullies along some of the roads due to erosion (left). Contractors filled in the ditches as part of maintenance work at the site (right).

The **Scales Road Landfill** in DeKalb County began accepting C&D 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.

In September 2016, EPD contracted with Oasis Construction Services, Inc. to bring the site back into compliance, including:

- Removing and disposing of surface waste
- Installing and improving existing site access controls to prevent dumping/trespassing
- Restoring the landfill cap (e.g., mowing, tree removal, clearing and resetting pipe inlets, clay cap, topsoil), repairing road, cleaning sediment pond, and replacing damaged downdrain
- Assessing landfill gas venting trench and developing restoration plan
- Assessing and/or redeveloping environmental monitoring wells
- Maintaining landfill cap, road, monitoring systems, and other infrastructure, and monitoring groundwater and landfill gas for one year

Work under this contract was completed in December 2017.

In April 2018, EPD contracted with Oasis Construction Services, Inc. to provide continued environmental monitoring and post-closure maintenance. Work completed in FY 2018 under this contract included groundwater and methane sampling and analysis, monitoring network maintenance and redevelopment, and performing final cover maintenance and site security.



Maintenance activities at Scales Road also include maintaining the integrity of the landfill cap to ensure proper vegetation is established. In the photo above, EPD staff perform an inspection of the site along with a representative from the contractor company.