EPD Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement

Program Guidelines

EPD's Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Program reimburses local governments for the costs of transporting and processing scrap tires removed from tire dumps and city and county right-of-ways and collected during scrap tire amnesty events. Funding comes from Georgia's Solid Waste Trust Fund. Applications are accepted year-round and projects are funded first-come, first-served contingent on funding availability and demand. Submission of a completed application does not guarantee that a project will be selected for reimbursement.

Collection

Collection (amnesty) events are a popular and effective way to remove and recycle scrap tires that blight your community and pose a health hazard for residents. Many local governments host a scrap tire amnesty day in conjunction with other Earth Day events in April.

Right-of-Way

Scrap tires are a common item that litters roadsides throughout Georgia. Cleaning up right-of-ways is a constant battle for many local governments. Because of the ongoing nature of the issue, these agreements last up to 12 months to help keep your community clean.

Dumps

Tire dumps containing a few hundred to several thousand tires are still being found throughout Georgia. Because of the variation in size and complexity of these projects, applications to clean up scrap tire dumps will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Program Eligibility & Limits

- The applicant must be a local government (city, county, or solid waste authority).
- The applying local government must be in compliance with Georgia Department of Community Affairs' minimum standards under the Georgia Planning Act, legal requirements related to immigration, and the Service Delivery Strategy law.
- Reimbursements are limited to a maximum of $150,000 per local government per state fiscal year and up to $4.00 per passenger tire equivalent (PTE) for collection and right-of-way projects.
- Reimbursable costs are limited to the cost of transporting the scrap tires by a permitted tire carrier to a permitted or approved beneficial reuse scrap tire processor and the cost of processing the scrap tires at a permitted or approved beneficial reuse scrap tire processor.
- The scrap tires being cleaned up must be located in Georgia.
- Permitted tire carriers and permitted or approved beneficial reuse scrap tire processors must be used.
- Appropriate and necessary safety measures (e.g., personal protective equipment) must be used at all times.
- For collection events, the scrap tires must have been collected during the local government sponsored event.
- For right-of-ways, the scrap tires must be on a city or county right-of-way.
- For dump sites, the local government must have first reported the dump to the code enforcement department or a law enforcement official.

Costs Not Eligible for Reimbursement

- Overhead expenses including, but not limited to: costs for labor, accounting/budget/finance staff, rental/lease of space, utilities, copying, office supplies, advertising, fuel for government vehicles
- Purchase of equipment/supplies including, but not limited to: personal protective gear, drinks, food, sunblock, and insect spray
- Fines or penalties due to violation of federal, state or local laws, ordinances or regulations
- Purchase of items that would violate the gratuities clause of the state constitution
- Costs associated with the cleanup of items other than tires (e.g., solid waste, electronics, construction/demolition debris, white goods)
- **Scrap tires disposed of at an out-of-state landfill, sorter, or other vendor other than an EPD permitted or approved beneficial reuse scrap tire processor**

What is PTE?

PTE stands for passenger tire equivalent and is a unit of measurement used to convert numbers of truck and large, off-the-road (OTR) tires to passenger tire numbers.

EPD will reimburse up to $4.00 per PTE for collection events and right-of-way cleanup projects.

Application Tips

CONTACT INFO. Accurate contact information is vital. If EPD has questions about the application, we will contact the person listed on the application as the project manager. Please list a secondary contact for the project in case the project manager is unavailable. If either contact changes at any time during the contract period, you must notify EPD in writing.

TIRE NUMBERS. All tire estimates must be given in passenger tire equivalents (PTE). The application contains formulas to calculate PTE.

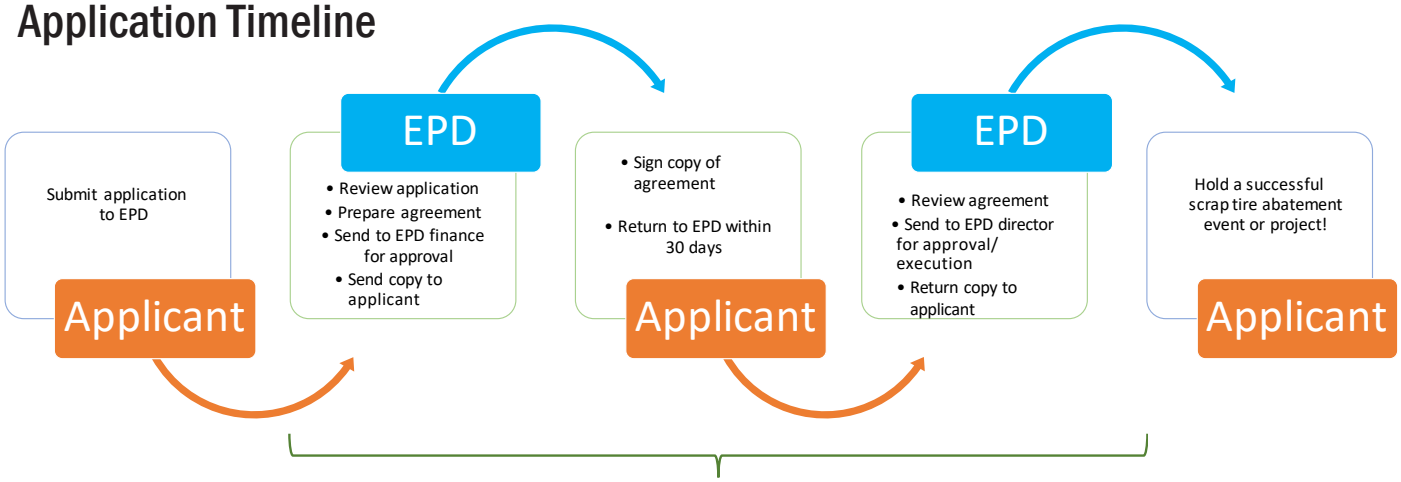
PROJECT PLANNING. EPD requires 90 days to process the applications and fully execute the agreements. This includes EPD's review and processing time, as well as time for the applicant to sign the agreement and return it to EPD. Please factor this time into your project's overall timeline. See "Application Timeline" below.

TURNAROUND TIME. Applications may be expired if the signed agreement is not returned to EPD within 30 days.

PROJECT START. When your project is approved by EPD, the local government will receive a fully executed copy of the agreement signed by the EPD director. When you receive it, you can begin your project or activity.

Work related to the scrap tire abatement project performed prior to the execution of the agreement and prior to the applicant receiving written notice from EPD to proceed may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Application Timeline



Please allow up to 90 days for EPD to review and process your application and factor this time into your project's overall timeline.

Reasons for Denial of Applications

COMPLIANCE STATUS. Applicant is not in compliance with Georgia Department of Community Affairs' minimum standards under the Georgia Planning Act, legal requirements related to immigration, and the Service Delivery Strategy law.

FALSE INFO. Applicant deliberately provided false information in order to obtain the scrap tire abatement reimbursement funds.

FUNDING. Insufficient funding available from the Solid Waste Trust Fund.

PERMIT / LEGAL STATUS. Temporary storage of scrap tires removed from right-of-ways or collected during amnesty events is proposed to occur at a location not permitted/approved by EPD to store scrap tires or the number of scrap tires proposed for storage exceeds the permitted/approved limit (storage sites are subject to inspection by EPD).

Applicant does not possess the required local, state, or federal permits necessary to conduct the proposed activity.

Applicant is in violation of environmental laws, regulations, or permits (including those governing scrap tire storage).

ELIGIBILITY. The scrap tire abatement reimbursement application does not meet the eligibility criteria.

Applicant includes indirect and/or administrative costs not eligible for reimbursement.

Cleanup of scrap tire dumps is proposed to occur where enforcement action has not been taken by the local government to compel those responsible to clean up the site (does not apply to right-of-way cleanups or amnesty events).

Cleanup is proposed to occur at businesses operating in the community (e.g., tire retailers, commercial trucking companies, fleet operators), unless it is determined through an enforcement action that the property owner is unable to clean up the tires.

Reporting & Reimbursement Tips

CONTACT INFO. As with the application, it is crucial that EPD be able to contact someone with knowledge of the agreement in case there are any questions. Please ensure a primary and secondary contact are listed.

DOCUMENTATION. The local government is responsible for maintaining and providing documentation of all costs incurred.

All transportation manifests and weight tickets must list the tonnage and be signed. This is a requirement in the Georgia tire carrier rules and is designed to verify that the tires reached their intended destination.

TIRE NUMBERS. All tire numbers must be reported in passenger tire equivalents (PTE). The Microsoft Excel version of the application will help you calculate PTE.

ITEMIZED COSTS. Your reimbursement request must include a detailed cost itemization that shows how the reimbursment amount was calculated. There is a section for this on the report form.

JUSTIFICATION. If you are well under either your estimated cost or amount of tires, briefly explain why either figure is less than the estimate on the approved agreement. If you are over your estimated PTE amount, please explain the difference.

PHOTOS. EPD requires digital photos be submitted with the report to provide verification of the event. EPD may use the photos in publications or on our website.

DEADLINE. The report must include all the required information and be received by EPD by the reporting deadline in order for the local government to receive reimbursement. Submitting a complete and accurate report is one of the most important factors in receiving your complete reimbursement in a timely manner.

ACTUAL COSTS. All funding provided is based on the reimbursement of actual costs.

Event Changes & Notifications

EPD understands that things can happen during the course of your project that are beyond your control. If you decide to make changes to your project, you must notify EPD.

This include changes to the:

- Event dates(s)
- Event cost
- Project manager
- Secondary contact
- Tire storage location
- Tire carrier
- Scrap tire processor

You also need to notify EPD if you will need extra time to submit your interim or final reports.

If any of this information changes from your original application, email EPD at epd.star@dnr.ga.gov with the new information and briefly explain why the changes were needed. Please include the name of your government/authority and agreement # in the subject line.

Ready to Apply?

To apply for the STAR program, please visit epd.georgia.gov/star-program. If you have any questions, please email epd.star@dnr.ga.gov.

