

Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program, Success Stories, and SWIFR Updates

Georgia EPD | Recovered Materials Unit

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Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program

- The Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program supports projects that reduce waste, abate and recycle scrap tires, and support statewide recycling initiatives.
- Eligible applicants include counties, municipalities, authorities, agencies, commissions, and institutions (“local governments”)

SWTF Grant Program Tracks and Goals

Tire Products (Tire) Grant

- Use Tire-Derived Products (TDP)
- Support innovation and market development for scrap tires

Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) Grant

- Reduce solid waste
- Recover valuable materials
- Support manufacturing
- Encourage innovation

Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grant

- Clean up scrap tires through collection (amnesty) events, rights-of-way, and local government led abatement (tire dumps)

It's never too early to start planning!

- Annual grant cycles open at beginning of state fiscal year
- Begin planning projects six months to a year out
- We are always happy to discuss project ideas with prospective applicants in advance!



Application Considerations

- ✓ Does my project and organization have the support of the authorized official who will sign off on each step?
- ✓ Who in my organization is going to administer the project?
- ✓ Does my organization understand the amount of work it will take to complete the project before beginning?
- ✓ Is my organization able to see this project through to a successful and timely completion?



The background image shows a recycling facility. On the left, there is a large, rectangular bale of compressed hay or straw. To the right and in the foreground, there are large piles of flattened cardboard boxes and other paper waste. The floor is dark and appears to be made of dirt or gravel. The ceiling of the facility is visible, showing metal beams and skylights.

Recycling & Waste Diversion Grant

Past Projects & Success Stories

Collection Events

Carroll County hosted a series of E-recycling and household hazardous waste events, diverting 119 tons of hard-to-recycle materials.



City of Norcross diverted 2,820 lbs. of household hazardous waste (paint, electronics, household chemicals, batteries, light bulbs)

Infrastructure Improvement



Pickens County purchased a glass pulverizer system capable of processing between 2,000 and 4,000 lbs. of glass per hour. In 2024, the county recycled 45,000 lbs. of glass.

Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority installed an elevated sort line for #5 plastics. In the first quarter of 2024, they recycled 64 tons of plastic, doubling the amount from the same period in 2023.

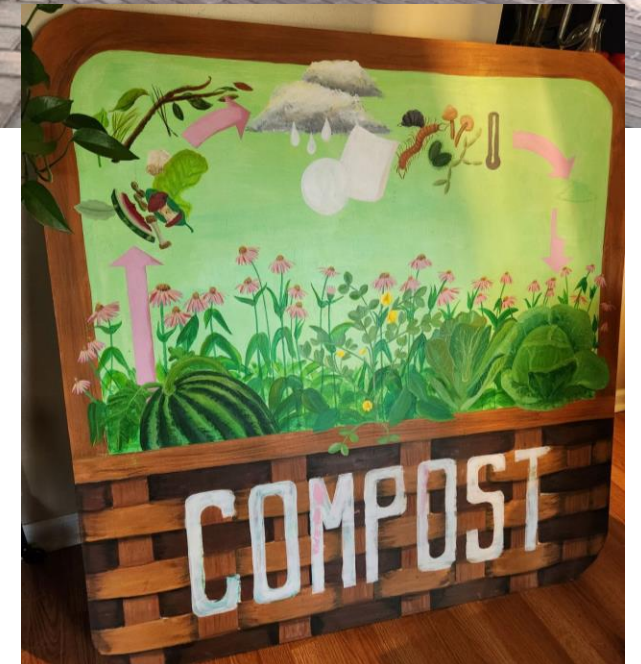


Organics Diversion

Athens-Clarke County expanded on a compost pilot program, diverting 430 tons of organic materials in the first 18 months of operation.



Laurens County purchased a compost screener to increase compost sales by 200%.



New diversion of a targeted material

City of Roswell purchased a polystyrene densifier to address large volumes of Styrofoam entering the solid waste stream in their community. In 2024, the city recycled 9 tons of polystyrene.



Floyd County purchased a particle cut shredder to process plastic and books that were consistently being sent to the landfill. Since 2024, the county increased plastic bale weight by 40% and recycled 216 tons of books.

A photograph of a playground with a slide and climbing equipment, overlaid with a green text box. The playground is covered in brown mulch, and there are trees in the background. A construction area with orange and white barrels is visible on the right side.

Tire Products Grant

Past Projects & Success Stories

Products Track: Roadway Repaving

Meriwether County created a road base for two gravel roads using scrap tire cylinders. This project used 195 tons of tire-derived products.



Floyd County repaved 0.6 miles of road using tire-derived asphalt. This project used 3.6 tons of TDP.

Products Track: Playgrounds and Parks

City of Cedartown installed pour-in-place surfacing at Peek Park playground, making it more accessible for people of all abilities. This project used 6.3 tons of tire-derived products.



Moultrie-Colquitt County installed pour-in-place surfacing at one park and all slide and swing mats in the county. This project made the county's parks safer and more accessible and used 13 tons of tire-derived products.

Research Track

Georgia Southern University

is conducting research on the durability of asphalt made from tire-derived products. Their goal is to find ways to increase the percentage of tire-derived products that can be mixed with asphalt without compromising the road's structural integrity.





Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling

State Update

SWIFR Update



- GA EPD is conducting a statewide waste characterization study to identify local/regional post-consumer materials consumption.
- The goal is to develop a plan with strategies to advance the recovery of post-consumer materials in Georgia.
- Three landfills and two MRFs were identified as host facilities for the characterization study.
- The physical waste sort commenced in October 2025.
- The results of the study will be made publicly available by Fall 2026.



Questions?

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<https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials>

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