



HABERSHAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE OVERVIEW

JOHNNIE VICKERS, DIRECTOR
HABERSHAM COUNTY SOLID WASTE
FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction and Purpose
- ▶ Landfill Operations Overview
- ▶ Recycling Program Overview
- ▶ Clarkesville Recycling Center Upgrades
- ▶ Cornelia Recycling Center Upgrades
- ▶ Waste & Recycling Tonnage Data
- ▶ Future Goals & Opportunities
- ▶ Conclusion & Call To Action

History of the Landfill

- ▶ Habersham County has managed waste disposal through various methods over the years.
- ▶ This 1953 photograph depicts an open garbage dump in Clarkesville indicating the use of open dumps during that time-period.



History Continued...

- ▶ The Pea Ridge Landfill closed October 8, 1993, making way for the new Habersham County Landfill located in Mt. Airy to begin service to Habersham County's citizens.
- ▶ The Habersham County Landfill began operating in 1993. The lined landfill is environmentally sound, cost-effective, and complies with all federal, state, and local ordinances.
- ▶ The landfill is currently operating on a budget of \$2.78 million for the FY25 fiscal year and operates as an enterprise fund which does not directly include any general tax revenues.

HABERSHAM COUNTY LANDFILL TODAY



Life of the Landfill

- ▶ On a yearly average, based on the date from May 2023 – May 2024 the Scale House Attendant will average processing as many as 103 customers daily and will receive approximately 129 tons MSW daily.
- ▶ This results in **32,089** customers and **40,033.58** tons of MSW/Recycling coming into the Landfill on a yearly average.
- ▶ As of July 26, 2024, we are looking at approximately **19.0** years of life left in the Landfill.

Remaining MSW Capacity Report

August 23, 2023

- ▶ The Remaining Capacity Report for August 28, 2023, estimated the remaining capacity of the landfill was 16.7 years.
- ▶ The estimated date of completion is May 2040.
- ▶ This is the official certified report from the engineering firm of Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble (HHNT).

RETURN TO:
REMAINING CAPACITY REPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
LAND PROTECTION BRANCH
4244 INTERNATIONAL PARKWAY, SUITE 104
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30354
FOR ASSISTANCE CALL: (404) 362-2692

Data Entry _____

REMAINING MSW CAPACITY REPORT

PERMIT HOLDER: Habersham County
 ADDRESS: 4900 Dicks Hill Pkwy, Mount Airy GA 30563
 TELEPHONE NO.: (706) 778-0926
 SITE NAME: Habersham County - SR-13 Minicipal Solid Waste Landfill
 EPD PERMIT NUMBER: 068-020D (SL)

		CALCULATED	
I. SURVEY DATA			
A	Date of topographic survey	August 28, 2023	
B	Remaining Volume (Available Fill Volume Based on Survey)	1,162,035	cy
C	Estimated Percent by Volume of Total Used by Cover Soil	15	%
D	Net Remaining Waste Volume (Line B Reduced by Line C)	→ 987,730	cy
II. AMOUNT OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSED			
E	Tons Per Day Received for Disposal	127	ton/day
F	Total Operational Days Per Year	281	days
G	Total Estimated Annual Tons Disposed	→ 35,560	tons
III. WASTE PLACEMENT			
H	Estimated Waste Compaction Density	1,200	lbs/cy
I	Estimated Waste Compaction Density	0.60	tons/cy
J	Net Volume Used Per Day (Line E Divided by Line I)	→ 212	cy/day
K	Net Volume Used Per Year (Line G Divided by Line I)	59,267	cy/yr
IV. REMAINING CAPACITY (SITE LIFE)			
L	Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line J)	4,659	days
M	Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line K)	16.7	years
N	Estimated Date of Completion for Facility	→ May, 2040	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
I. B. Includes the remaining capacity of 198,710 cy from Cells 1 and 2.			
II. E. Based on the MSW & C&D tonnage received by site from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023			
II. F. Represents 5.5 days per week minus 5 holidays.			
III. H. Is the estimated density that is expected over the life of the site.			

I hereby certify the above determinations were performed under my direct supervision.

R. Brant Lane, P.E.
 Registered Professional Engineer
 Georgia Registration No. 27185



 Permit Holder

 Date

 Date

Remaining MSW Capacity Report

July 26, 2024

- ▶ The Remaining Capacity Report for July 26, 2024, shows the remaining capacity of the landfill was estimated at 19.0 years.
- ▶ This is a gain of 2.7 years of landfill life. The estimated date of completion is July 2043.
- ▶ This is the official certified report from the engineering firm of Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble (HHNT).

Data Entry _____

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4244 INTERNATIONAL PARKWAY, SUITE 104
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FOR ASSISTANCE CALL: (404) 362-2692

REMAINING MSW CAPACITY REPORT

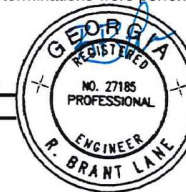
PERMIT HOLDER: Habersham County
 ADDRESS: 4900 Dicks Hill Pkwy, Mount Airy GA 30563
 TELEPHONE NO.: (706) 778-0926
 SITE NAME: Habersham County - SR-13 Minicipal Solid Waste Landfill
 EPD PERMIT NUMBER: 068-020D (SL)

		CALCULATED	
I. SURVEY DATA			
A	Date of topographic survey	July 26, 2024	
B	Remaining Volume (Available Fill Volume Based on Survey)	1,152,219	cy
C	Estimated Percent by Volume of Total Used by Cover Soil	15	%
D	Net Remaining Waste Volume (Line B Reduced by Line C)	→ 979,387	cy
II. AMOUNT OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSED			
E	Tons Per Day Received for Disposal	110	ton/day
F	Total Operational Days Per Year	281	days
G	Total Estimated Annual Tons Disposed	→ 30,940	tons
III. WASTE PLACEMENT			
H	Estimated Waste Compaction Density	1,200	lbs/cy
I	Estimated Waste Compaction Density	0.60	tons/cy
J	Net Volume Used Per Day (Line E Divided by Line I)	→ 183	cy/day
K	Net Volume Used Per Year (Line G Divided by Line I)	51,567	cy/yr
IV. REMAINING CAPACITY (SITE LIFE)			
L	Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line J)	5,352	days
M	Remaining Capacity (Line D Divided by Line K)	19.0	years
N	Estimated Date of Completion for Facility	→ July, 2043	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
I. B. Includes the remaining capacity of 198,710 cy from Cells 1 and 2.			
II. E. Based on the MSW & C&D tonnage received by site from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024			
II. F. Represents 5.5 days per week minus 5 holidays.			
III. H. Is the estimated density that is expected over the life of the site.			

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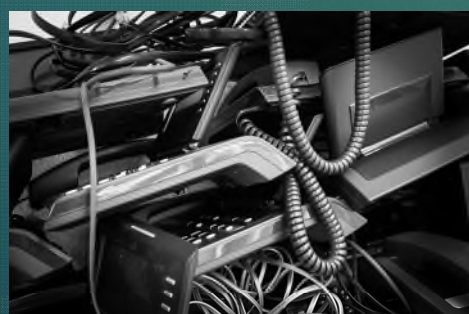
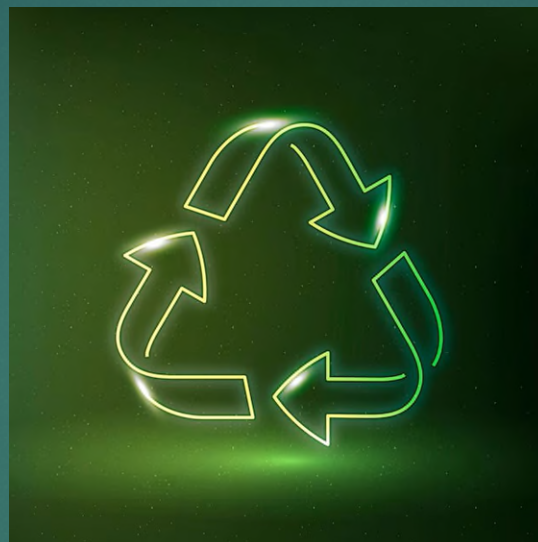
Permit Holder _____
 Date 8/30/24



Landfill Operations

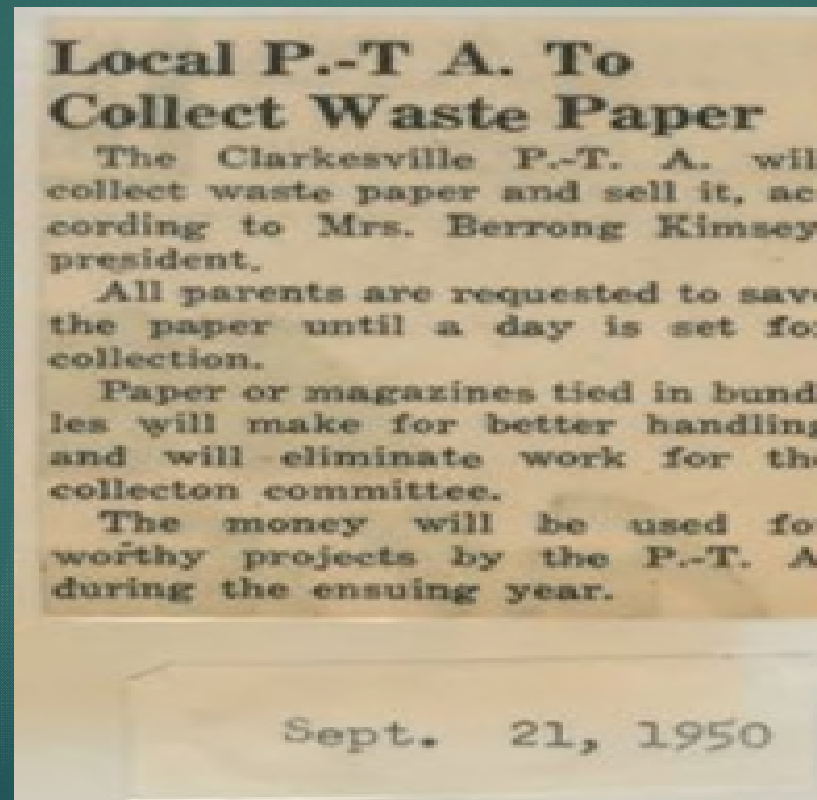
- ▶ The facility serves as the primary site for waste disposal, including household garbage and recyclables. As of February 29, 2024, the landfill ceased accepting construction and demolition (C&D) debris due to capacity concerns.
- ▶ To support recycling efforts at the Landfill and to lessen the traffic in the working face, a convenience center for residents with 6 bags or less of household garbage and receptacles for recyclables is provided.
- ▶ Overall, Habersham County's approach to waste management has evolved from open dumps to a more structured landfill operation and recycling program reflecting a commitment to public health and environmental stewardship.

HABERSHAM COUNTY RECYCLING



Habersham Recycling History

- ▶ Recycling in Habersham County started many years ago. In 1950, the Clarkesville PTA started a drive to collect and sell waste paper with the revenue going to the PTA to use for worthy projects.



Habersham Recycling Tonnages

- ▶ Data from May 2023 to May of 2024 Habersham County Recycling received the 446.61 tons (893,220 lbs.) of recyclable materials which were diverted from the Landfill.
- ▶ OCC 176.13 Tons
- ▶ Paper No Data Available
- ▶ Plastics 48.97 Tons
- ▶ Metals 96.34 Tons
- ▶ Electronics Not Collecting
- ▶ Clothing 0.80 Tons
- ▶ Aluminum 10.16 Tons
- ▶ Glass 107.47 Tons
- ▶ Tires 6.74 Tons

Habersham Recycling Tonnages

▶ Data from June 2024 to January of 2025 Habersham County Recycling received the 318.68 tons (637,360 lbs.) of recyclable materials which was diverted from the Landfill.

▶ OCC 114.88 Tons

▶ Paper 18.76 Tons

▶ Plastics 26.40 Tons

▶ Metals 59.79 Tons

▶ Electronics No Data Collection Start Date – 01/2025

▶ Clothing 2.59 Tons

▶ Aluminum 7.06 Tons

▶ Glass 76.89 Tons

▶ Tires 12.31 Tons

Clarkesville Recycling Center: Then and Now

- ▶ The Clarkesville Recycling Center, located at 4142 Toccoa Highway in Clarkesville, Georgia, is a key facility in Habersham County's waste management strategy. In early 2024, the county expanded the center's operating days to address concerns about the landfill's capacity.
- ▶ Previously open only three days a week, the center extended its hours to Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to encourage and provide the opportunity for more residents to recycle and thereby reduce the strain on the landfill.
- ▶ This initiative was part of a broader effort by the County to promote recycling and extend the landfill's lifespan. By increasing accessibility to recycling facilities, this will divert more materials from the landfill, contributing to environmental sustainability and cost savings for the community.

Clarkesville Recycling Center Up-Grades

▶ NEW ATTENDANT'S BUILDING

Up-grades to Clarkesville include a New Attendant Building which provides a safe and sanitary work area for the Attendants. The portable restroom was replaced with an operational restroom complete with hot running water so that Attendants will now be able to wash their hands after working the recycling collection bins and cleaning the grounds.



Clarkesville Recycling Center: 2024 Up-Grades

- ▶ Self-Contained Compactors
- ▶ Installation of 2 self-contained compactors has eliminated the use of metal steps which posed a safety risk especially for the elderly and handicapped citizens who visit the Recycling Center. These cans set on cement pads and allow citizens to walk up to the cans to recycle cardboard and paper. Once these cans reach capacity, our Roll Off driver transports the cans to Hall County Recycling.



Clarkesville Recycling Center: Clothing, Textiles, & Electronics

- ▶ Habersham County partnered with ATS (Americas Thrift Store) and CHOA (Childrens Healthcare of Atlanta) in providing collection sites and bins for collecting clothing/textiles for recycling.
- ▶ This effort not only provides revenue to Habersham County, but a percentage of sales donation is also made to CHOA on behalf of Habersham County.
- ▶ Electronics Recycling collection bin will be coming Summer 2025.



Cornelia Recycling Center: Up-Grades

- ▶ The Cornelia Recycling Center, located at 507 Nicolon Dr. Cornelia, Georgia, is another key facility in Habersham County's waste management strategy. In early 2024, the county expanded the center's operating days to address concerns about the landfill's capacity.
- ▶ Previously open only three days a week, the center extended its hours to Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to encourage and provide the opportunity for more residents to recycle and thereby reduce the strain on the landfill.
- ▶ This initiative was part of a broader effort by the County to promote recycling and extend the landfill's lifespan. By increasing accessibility to recycling facilities, this will divert more materials from the landfill, contributing to environmental sustainability and cost savings for the community.

Cornelia Recycling Center: Up-Grades Coming Soon!!

- ▶ Self Contained Compactors
- ▶ The installation of 2 self-contained compactors will eliminate the use of metal steps which pose a safety risk especially for the elderly and handicapped citizens who visit the Recycling Center. These cans set on cement pads and allow citizens to walk up to the cans to recycle cardboard and paper. Once these cans reach capacity, our Roll Off driver transports the cans to Hall County Recycling.



**Coming
soon!!**

Cornelia Recycling Center: Clothing, Textiles, & Electronics

- ▶ Habersham County partnered with ATS (Americas Thrift Store) and CHOA (Childrens Healthcare of Atlanta) in providing collection sites and bins for collecting clothing/textiles for recycling.
- ▶ This effort not only provides revenue to Habersham County, but a percentage of sales donation is also made to CHOA on behalf of Habersham County.
- ▶ Electronics Recycling collection bin will be coming Summer 2025.



Recycling

May 2023 – May 2024

▶ Commodity	Tonnage	Avg. Price/Ton	Potential Revenue
▶ Aluminum	10.16	1,100.00	11,176.00
▶ Cardboard	176.13	50.00	8,806.50
▶ Mixed Paper	0	20.00	0
▶ Glass	107.47	25.00	2,687.00
▶ Plastic	48.97	0	0
▶ Metal	96.34	120.00	11,561.00
▶ Clothing	0.80	300.00	240.00
▶ Electronics	0	0	0
▶ Tires	6.74	0	0
▶ Totals	439.87		34,470.00

Recycling Fees

May 2023 – May 2024

- ▶ POTENTIAL REVENUE – FEES* = PROFIT
- ▶ \$34,470.00– \$37,200.00 = -\$2,730.00
- ▶ These numbers are exactly why we have taken the initiative to revamp our recycling program.
- ▶ We have purchased a roll off truck which now allows us to be able to haul the paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, and aluminum with 0 hauling/rental fees paid to outside vendors.
- ▶ We have purchased 4 SCC to place at Clarkesville and Cornelia recycling centers. Clarkesville's SCC cans are now installed and operational. Cornelia's SCC cans will be operational by early March.

*(Fees = Hauling and Trailer Rental Fees)

Recycling

June 2024 – January 2025

▶ Commodity	Tonnage	Avg. Price/Ton	Potential Revenue
▶ Aluminum	7.06	1,100.00	7,766.00
▶ Cardboard	114.88	50.00	5,744.00
▶ Mixed Paper	18.76	20.00	375.00
▶ Glass	76.89	25.00	2,687.00
▶ Plastic	26.40	480.00	0
▶ Metal	59.79	120.00	7,175.00
▶ Clothing	2.59	300.00	777.00
▶ Electronics	0	0	0
▶ Tires	12.31	0	0
▶ Totals	439.87		24,524.00

Recycling Fees

June 2024 – January 2025

- ▶ REVENUE – FEES = PROFIT
- ▶ \$24,524.00 – \$12,500.00 = \$12,024.00
- ▶ The hauling fees of \$12,500.00 resulted from paper trailer rental fees and hauling fees from Paper Recovery of Georgia.
- ▶ Paper recovery notified us that they would no longer service Habersham County for paper recycling in July 2024. However, they did agree that they would hold off on picking up their paper trailers until the trailers reached full capacity. PPG picked up their last rental trailer from Cornelia in January 2025.
- ▶ Habersham County now hauls **ALL** of the recycling collected at the recycling sites.

HABERSHAM COUNTY RECYCLING FUTURE GOALS

TIRES!! TIRES!!...What to do with the tires??

TIRE AMNESTY

- ▶ STAR GRANT – Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement – Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- ▶ Habersham County Solid Waste is applying for the STAR Grant this year.

This grant assist local governments with the safe removal and recycling of scrap tires. The grant covers the costs of removing, transporting and processing scrap tires. This grant will afford Habersham County the ability to allow citizens to bring scrap tires to the Tire Amnesty site free of charge for select dates. We would like to hold Tire Amnesty Day for 2 consecutive days this year, We are setting our goal to hold this in April.



HABERSHAM COUNTY RECYCLING FUTURE GOALS

- ▶ Baled Commodities Holding Facility

This will allow for baling and holding plastics and aluminum cans to sale on the commodities market to the highest bidder. Thus, generating an increase in revenue.

- ▶ Establish a new Recycling Center

This recycling center would, by design, better serve the citizens of Habersham County in their recycling efforts by offering a paved and covered drive thru area where citizens could drive up to the strategically placed recycling bins without concern of weather.

- ▶ Apply for grants that will aid in the recycling endeavors.

Conclusion and Call To Action

- ▶ Recycling plays a crucial role in extending the life of our landfill, reducing waste, and creating a more sustainable future for Habersham County.
- ▶ By expanding our recycling initiatives, strengthening partnerships, and increasing community involvement, we can significantly reduce the volume of waste entering the landfill and extend its usability.
- ▶ With the current projections showing that the landfill will reach full capacity by July of 2043, it is imperative that we take action now to develop future plans for the landfill whether that will be purchasing new land to develop a new landfill or building a transfer station for the citizens to be able to dispose of their MSW properly. Either of these projects is extremely time consuming and heavily regulated by the EPD.
- ▶ I urge you, Habersham County Commissioners, to continue supporting and improving our recycling efforts. Investing in sustainable waste management practices will ensure that we have long-term solutions for tomorrow. Let's work together to make the landfill and recycling a priority, protect our environment, and secure a cleaner, more efficient waste management system for future generations.

Questions or Concerns

- ▶ As always, I am available to answer any questions, concerns, or issues that you may have.
- ▶ My contact information is:
 - Johnnie Vickers, Solid Waste Director
 - 4900 Dicks Hill Parkway
 - Mt. Airy, Georgia 30563
 - Office # 706-839-0246
 - jvickers@habershamga.com