

Solid Waste

Department Summary

		FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Adopted Budget	FY 2004 Current Budget	FY 2005 Adopted Budget
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$	612,299	600,000	620,000	790,000
Fees & Other Revenues		18,938,127	18,664,430	24,892,379	16,667,400
Revenue Totals	\$	19,550,426	19,264,430	25,512,379	17,457,400
Personal Services	\$	554,613	667,333	669,436	978,552
Operating Expenses		17,847,472	18,597,097	24,842,943	16,478,848
Capital Outlay		0	0	0	0
Expenditure Totals	\$	18,402,085	19,264,430	25,512,379	17,457,400
Number of FTEs		9.00	10.00	10.00	15.00

Program Description

The Solid Waste Management division implements directives from local, state and federal authorities. The Wake County Environmental Services Strategic Plan and the 10-Year Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan provide local operational direction for the division's activities. Federal and State statutes regulate the division's operations.

The County's solid waste management services are provided through the operations of twenty staffed long-term facilities, fifty-one drop-off sites that are open year-round, and thirty to forty seasonally-operated drop off sites each year. The activities are supported through an enterprise fund, generating revenue through tipping fees at the landfills for municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition debris (C&D) disposal, tipping fees at the MSW transfer station, the annual

residential waste reduction fee, the sale of recycled material, and state, federal and private grants that are periodically obtained for various services and equipment. Through utilization of competitive bidding with the public and private sectors, Wake County continues to provide the highest level of solid waste management services available at the greatest value to our community.

The Solid Waste Management division (the SWMD) is organized in several service areas that include landfill and transfer station operations, enforcement, convenience centers, land clearing and inert debris (LCID), waste collectors licensing, multi-material collection, recycling programs, household hazardous waste collection, commercial waste reduction, and public education and marketing.

Landfill Operations

Solid Waste Management operates, through contractors, three disposal

Solid Waste

facilities: 1) North Wake Sanitary Landfill, a lined, Subtitle D landfill facility for the disposal of municipal solid waste, 2) North Wake Construction & Demolition (C&D) landfill, an unlined landfill that accepts only C&D waste; 3) Feltonville C&D landfill, also an unlined facility that accepts only C&D waste. Post-closure care is required for construction and demolition landfills and other closed municipal solid waste facilities.

Transfer Station

The SWMD operates, through a contractor, the South Wake Transfer Station at the South Wake Solid Waste Management facility for the efficient and convenient collection and transportation of municipal solid waste for disposal. The Transfer Station accepts solid waste generated in the southern part of the county and transfers that waste to the North Wake Sanitary Landfill. Part of the waste is transported to a privately owned landfill in Sampson County as part of the operations contract renewal.

Enforcement

The SWMD is responsible for administering and enforcing the Wake County Solid Waste Ordinance and the Wake County Junked and Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance and the State litter law within Wake County. In addition, the SWMD ensures that all contractors comply with facility permit requirements and state & federal environmental regulations.

Convenience Centers

The SWMD provides disposal and recycling services to residential customers without charging a tipping fee through eleven (11) convenience centers located throughout the county. A unique aspect of these facilities is that they are open 12 hours per day, 364 days per year. A contractor provides full-time staff, equipment, collection and transportation services, and recycled material marketing for each location.

Land Clearing and Inert Debris (LCID)

The division administers permitting, licensing and inspection of LCID landfills as part of the Solid Waste Management Ordinance, with authority and responsibility to regulate and control “demolition-landscape landfills” in Wake County delegated by the State of North Carolina General Statutes.

Waste Collectors Licensing

Administration of the annual privilege licensing of all commercial Solid Waste Collectors operating in Wake County is also part of the division's services as required in the Solid Waste Management Ordinance. Services include annual license renewal for Commercial and Municipal Solid Waste Collectors operating in Wake County.

Multi-Material Collection

The Solid Waste Management division provides two recycling centers for handling materials that are prohibited from disposal in the landfills. One facility is located at the North Wake Solid Waste Management facility and one is at the South Wake Solid Waste Management facility. Services include receiving and handling scrap tires; lead acid batteries, used oil, corrugated cardboard, and white goods. These materials are processed and sent to recycling centers. Residents and businesses utilize these facilities to recycle material that is not accepted by municipal recycling programs.

Recycling

The Division pursues recycling initiatives through a number of programs including: school recycling facilities, Christmas wrap-up program, and telephone book recycling.

Household Hazardous Waste

The SWMD also provides residential households with a permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) management facility located at the North Wake Municipal Solid Waste Management facility off Durant

Solid Waste

Road. The permanent HHW facility opened in June 1996, and holds two collection events per month.

Commercial Waste Reduction

As much as 70 percent of the waste stream in Wake County is characterized as material from the business sector. Implementing recycling and waste reduction techniques in business environments help to preserve our natural resources, extend the life of landfills, and promote recycling markets.

Public Education & Marketing

The division also provides public education services with a focus on educating the citizens of Wake County about programs, services and issues and the importance of environmental protection. One of the primary goals of the education efforts is to implement marketing and public relations campaigns that support the success of new recycling, waste reduction programs and services. The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, starting in FY 2005, has appropriated \$155,000 to operate the Keep America Beautiful program in Wake County. This program had previously been budgeted in the general fund. The move is in line with the organizational plans of the Solid Waste division.

List of Major Services

- Facilities and Operations
- Recycling Program Planning and Development
- Education and Outreach
- Administration
- Strategic Planning and Policy Development
- Developing collaborations with municipalities.

Business Plan Priorities

The departmental business plan is available in detail on the Wake County web site at the following address: <http://www.wakegov.com/general/businessplans/>. The full business plan provides additional infor-

mation on the multi-year goals, strategic areas of focus, performance measures and key initiatives.

- Determine the best long-term waste disposal strategy for the County as a whole, by collaborating with all municipalities to evaluate and implement the best possible solutions.
- Develop and implement Wake County Government Model Environmental Program as the champion of sustainable business principles in the Triangle region. Areas of focus include waste reduction and recycling, product stewardship, procurement, progressive supply chain management, high performance facilities, and a comprehensive education/awareness program.
- Amend the County Solid Waste Ordinance - Private Hauler Licensing section to increase education and enforcement of the rules and regulations resulting in significantly reduced illegal dumping and roadside litter throughout Wake County.
- Facilitate countywide collaboration with schools, state agencies and municipalities regarding waste and recycling services, product stewardship, procurement and other environmental programs.
- Integrate waste and recycling collection services throughout the unincorporated areas with similar services that are provided by municipalities resulting in improved efficiencies, reduced costs, unified services and control of materials collected.
- Develop and implement comprehensive Marketing/Communications Plan to educate and inform all residents, businesses and schools in Wake County.

Highlights of FY 2003-04

Planning for Disposal Requirements:

- Long-Term Disposal. Inter-local Agreement signed by all thirteen jurisdictions to evaluate and decide on the best long-term disposal option for the County and municipal partners. Developing a Request for Expressions of Interest and selecting six qualified firms that have received the Request for Proposals to provide long-term

Solid Waste

disposal services.

- C&D Waste Management. Developed new policy for Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris management. Brought stakeholders together to draft new ordinance requirements for C&D management. Partnered with private sector service providers, City of Raleigh, and other County agencies to provide information to builders about the waste they generate and how they should manage it. Developed informational flyer for building permit applicants that provides details on how to reduce waste and recycle usable material. Closed out both County-run C&D landfills, leaving local C&D disposal services to private companies. Successfully fostered new local businesses that recycle C&D material generated throughout the Triangle region.
- Implementing the Ten-Year Solid Waste Plan. Established six (6) committees to implement specific activities of the 10-Year Plan. Committees focus on the areas of the Plan as outlined by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources' requirements. Three committees (Debris Management, Collections/Transfer/ Disposal, and Communications/Education) are coordinating with existing sub-committees under the Managers' Committee through the Inter-Local Agreement for collaborating about long-term disposal.

Evaluating and Improving Ongoing Operations:

- Scrap Tires and White Goods. Analyze rules of the state programs and structure County programs to receive the maximum amount of funds possible. Assess current costs of programs and reduce costs while achieving improved services.
- Transfer Station. Re-negotiate transfer station service contract to improve service and achieve substantial savings
- School Recycling. Revamping the school igloo-recycling program. Partnered with WCPSS personnel, Certified Environmental Educators on County staff and private consultants to develop a new recycling system that will be the foundation of an environmental stewardship curriculum throughout the school system. Evaluated schools in the current recycling program, developed a pilot program

to evaluate new system options for implementation in FY2004-05.

- Operating Electronics Recycling. Initiated product stewardship approach to electronics recycling by partnering with private recyclers and manufacturers of electronic equipment. Offer expanded services for recycling all electronic equipment from partnering manufacturers.
- Established a North Wake Landfill Citizens Committee. Developed the concept for, and established a citizens committee to assist in defining the best post-closure use of the landfill property and to address ongoing operational issues impacting the landfill neighbors. Promoted citizen involvement, providing technical resources from a variety of county, municipal and state agencies, supporting citizen input into helping make decisions that have long-term affect on the community surrounding the landfill.

Developing New Environmental Initiatives:

- Environmental Education. Developed and initiated implementation of Communications and Marketing Plan. Coordinating with municipalities re their education/information programs. Established event planning and tracking system to anticipate media requirements and pro-actively coordinate with other county agencies and municipalities.
- Environmental Stewardship Network (ESN) and Environmental Education/Environmental Instruction (EE/EI) Providers. Instrumental in EE/EI Business Plan development. Provide Chairpersons for two committees of the ESN and one for the EE/EI Providers. Those committees have been the most active and have met their goals.
- Electronics Recycling. Established and promoted electronic products stewardship and recycling through public-private collaboration. Operate full-time electronics recycling program.

Key Issues for FY 2004-05

Planning for Disposal Requirements:

- Long-Term Disposal. Recommendations to elected officials from the joint municipal-county long-term disposal committee regarding

Solid Waste

the best long-term disposal option for those who want to partner. Initial implementation of the final decision by the elected officials, that may include development of a new transfer station, new collection systems in unincorporated areas, and a new landfill or disposal contract.

- C&D Waste Management. Draft and adopt with the City of Raleigh a C&D Recycling Ordinance. Establish new program that fosters private-sector development of reduction and recycling efforts. Assist new businesses that recycle C&D materials.

Evaluating and Improving Ongoing Operations:

- School Recycling. Roll out first phase of school's new recycling program. Initiate an environmental education program in schools that is tied to recycling and current Departmental issues.
- Operations at County Facilities. Obtain control over the operating issues at the North Wake MSW landfill by solving odor emissions through better landfill gas management and partial capping of side slopes. Maintain positive relationship with North Wake citizen's landfill committee. Clarify operating procedures at all County solid waste facilities.
- Convenience Centers. Evaluate Convenience Center demographics and operations data to develop long-term operations plan for a collection system in the unincorporated areas. Collaborate with municipalities regarding future collection systems in extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) districts.

Developing New Environmental Initiatives.

- Municipal Partnering. Continuing with collaboration and partnerships with municipal counterparts. Continue moving toward county-wide solid waste management system that provides effective, efficient service that is sustainable through sound funding mechanisms.
- Enterprise Fund. Develop policies for establishing and maintaining health of the Fund. Develop a plan for establishing a rate structure that will allow long-term stability.

- Organization-wide Environmental Stewardship. Facilitating activities within the County government through ESN and EE/EI Providers. Developing innovative communication tools such as web-based portals, comprehensive events calendar; single-point source of information for County employees and officials.

Horizon Issues in FY 2006 and FY 2007

Bring various municipal and county waste management services together into a coordinated set of services that will be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner, and that will be sustained by a true-cost long-term funding mechanism.

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