

LOCAL FINANCING OPTIONS

Enterprise Fund

Hall County converted a number of years ago to enterprise funding for all of its solid waste management activities, as was recommended in the 1993 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund covers the County's three solid waste functions of collection, disposal and reduction. These functions are housed in the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Divisions.

Funds are generated within the enterprise fund three ways: via an annual Solid Waste Assessment, landfill tipping fees, and revenues from sale of recycled materials.

Solid Waste Assessment

Again, as part of implementing recommendations of the 1993 plan, Hall County began instituting a charge to cover the actual cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste. The fee is charged to those property owners having residences on them capable of generating solid waste. They are not charged, for example, to a property owner who has only forested acreage with no improvements on it. For the last few years, the assessment has been \$50 per year per household. The fee covers the costs of operating the county's compactor sites (convenience centers) and the disposal of waste collected from them.

Landfill Tipping Fees

Hall County charges a tipping fee of \$34.50 per ton for all acceptable solid waste delivered to the facility. There is a minimum fee of \$5 for use of the landfill. The tip fees cover the daily operational costs of the landfill and the portion of the Resource Recovery Division budget not recovered by sale of recycled materials. Over the lifetime of the Candler Road Landfill, the tip fees collected are projected to be sufficient to cover the closure costs of the facility.

Implementation Schedule

Recyclable Materials Revenues

All recyclable materials generated by Hall County's recycling efforts are sold at prevailing market prices. Revenues vary according to each commodity and market pricing at time of sale. Market pricing is influenced by numerous and increasingly global market influences.

Grants

State grants from agencies such as Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, Environmental Protection Division, and Department of Community Affairs have been used to good advantage in Hall County to finance purchases of equipment and services related to reduction and proper management of solid wastes. Over the past decade, over \$300,000 in grants have been received.

SPLOST

Hall County has historically used Special Local Option Sales Tax on several occasions, as a funding source for large capital expenditures for solid waste management. The county has used SPLOST to fund closure costs of Allen Creek Landfill as well as development of cells at the county's Candler Road Landfill, which became operational in 1997. Voters passed the latest SPLOST, known as SPLOST V, in March 2004. The SPLOST V is expected to generate \$8.5 million to be used for the Candler Road Landfill as follows:

- Cell 4 design and construction: \$ 2,000,000
- Cell 5 design and construction: \$ 4,500,000
- Cell 1 closure of 26-acre phase: \$ 1,000,000
- Replacement of capital equipment: \$ 1,000,000

PAYT

Pay as you throw (PAYT) is a key recommendation of this plan in order to provide an economic incentive to spur further waste reduction. It should be computed so as to cover the actual cost of solid waste management. PAYT should be implemented countywide. At least one year lead time should be allotted to implement such changes.

Implementation Schedule

Franchise Fees

In keeping with the current enterprise funding for solid waste management, such funds should be required to go to dedicated solid waste management uses such as education, litter control, administration and enforcement, as well as capital funding for equipment and buildings for recycling.

Implementation Schedule

Sources Consulted:

Sims, Tim. personal interview. May 13, 2004

McInturff, Kevin. personal interview. May 7, 2004

Hall County Government. (2003). *2003 Hall County management survey & full cost report*. Gainesville, GA: Author.