

Fact Sheet

Gwinnett County Solid Waste Program Assessment Project

What is the Gwinnett County Solid Waste Program Assessment Project?

Gwinnett County has commissioned the consulting firm of R. W. Beck, Inc. to review and assess the County's current Solid Waste Management Plan, the current solid waste ordinance and associated state policies, the County's solid waste goals and objectives, and results of prior studies. This team is also tasked with conducting public forums and telephone and internet surveys to obtain public input on what's most important to Gwinnett County citizens regarding solid waste services.

A Brief History of Solid Waste Collection in Gwinnett County

In 1991, as required by a new State law, Gwinnett County adopted a Solid Waste Management Plan. The Plan and a subsequent ordinance established non-exclusive franchised collection of solid waste throughout the County.

In April 2008, the County updated its Solid Waste Management Plan and passed a new ordinance that established new solid waste management districts for weekly collection of solid waste and recyclables from residents. Only one hauler was to operate in each District and those haulers were to be selected by the County. According to this Plan, every resident would be required to have collection and pay the County for this service. The County, in turn, would pay the selected haulers. These exclusive franchises were developed, in part, in response to citizen concerns about the number of collection vehicles operating in their neighborhoods, concerns about litter and illegal dumping, and an effort to standardize collection service County-wide.

The Solid Waste Management Program: Where are we now?

In December 2008, a Gwinnett County Superior Court issued an injunction to stop implementation of this system. The County had entered into a service agreement with Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful to operate the new collection system, and the Court determined this organization was not authorized to do so. Thus, for now, the collection system has reverted to the former system of non-exclusive franchises and the County is reevaluating its options. Part of this process involves gathering additional public input.

How can citizens provide input on solid waste services in Gwinnett County?

In June and July 2009, citizens will have an opportunity to attend a new round of public forums. Eight forums will be held to give citizens many opportunities to provide feedback on what's most important to them regarding solid waste services. Also, in June 2009, a web/phone based citizen survey will be administered to a statistical sampling of the Gwinnett County population to capture feedback. All citizen feedback will be reviewed by County staff and the Board of Commissioners.

How can citizens stay informed and get additional information on solid waste services in Gwinnett County?

Citizens should visit www.gwinnettcountry.com for more information on the upcoming public forums, as well as look for notices in the Gwinnett Daily Post and community newsletters. Forums will be held during morning and evening hours on weekdays and weekends to encourage attendance. For additional information, please call 770-822-7141.