

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

ETOWAH COUNTY, ALABAMA

Prepared on Behalf of:



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Act, Code of Alabama 1975, 22-27-047 (revised in 2008 and referred to as the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act -SWRMMA), requires local governments to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for the management of solid waste generated within the local governing authority boundaries. Each County plan is required to include the municipal jurisdictions within its boundaries except for those municipalities that choose to develop their own SWMP for implementation within their municipal limits. Municipalities that choose to develop their own SWMP may be excluded from the host county's plan.

The SWMP is required to address how solid waste facilities and services are managed in the local jurisdiction by addressing all items required by the Alabama Solid Wastes Disposal Act. This requirement also calls for each county to periodically re-submit a ten-year Plan Update for the management of all solid waste generated in the county.

1.1 Background

Etowah County completed its first Solid Waste Management Plan in 1990, *Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan for Etowah County Commission, December 12, 1990*. This plan was updated in 2008, *Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan Update, September 2008*. TTL, Inc. (TTL) was retained by the Etowah County Commission in 2023 to review the 2008 Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan Update and prepare the required update.

1.2 Purpose of the Solid Waste Management Plan

The purpose of Etowah County's Solid Waste Management Plan is to develop a plan for the management of solid waste within Etowah County (County) by addressing various aspects of solid waste management such as generation, collection, transportation, disposal, recycling, and composting.

1.3 Goal of the Solid Waste Management Plan

The goal of the Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan is to achieve the following:

- To allow the citizens and local government to realize their responsibility in effective solid waste management.
- To ensure local governments are properly planning for future needs by assessing long term solid waste disposal capacity and ensuring its adequacy to serve the public needs.
- To educate the County and local governments about requirements that pertain to solid waste management.
- To ensure that solid waste management policies are enacted in order to satisfy regulatory requirements and to ensure the efficient use of economic and land resources.

2.0 SWMP JURISDICTION, PLANNING PERIOD, AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 SWMP Jurisdiction

The Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan applies to the area located within the boundary of Etowah County. Etowah County encompasses 535.1 square miles and is bordered to the east by Cherokee County, to the south by Calhoun and St. Clair Counties, to the west by Blount County, and to the north by Marshall and DeKalb Counties. Municipalities and jurisdictions located within Etowah County and subject to this SWMP include the Town of Altoona, the City of Attalla, the City of Boaz, the City of Gadsden, the City of Glencoe, City of Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, Town of Reece City, Town of Ridgeville, Town of Sardis City, City of Southside, Town of Walnut Grove, and Etowah County itself.

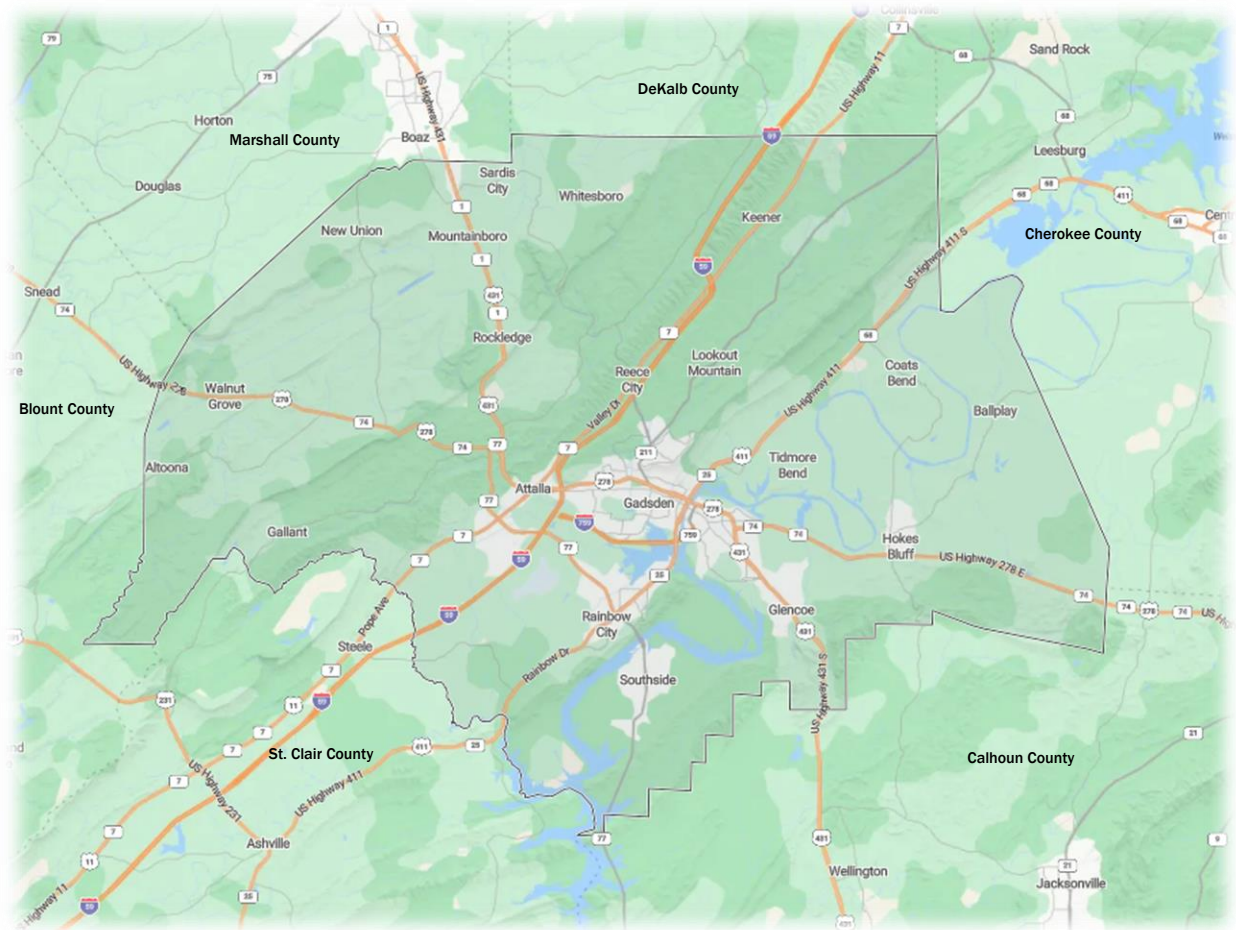


Figure 1 – Etowah County Map

2.2 Planning Period

The governing body of a county or municipality has the responsibility to assure the proper management of solid waste generated within its jurisdiction in accordance with its SWMP. The solid waste projections and recommendations contained herein are valid for the period from 2024 through 2034.

2.3 Methodology

Preparation of this update of the Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan included:

- Review of the 2008 Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan

- Identification of cities and incorporated areas to be included in the SWMP
- Location and identification of existing solid waste facilities including landfills, transfer stations, recycling centers, etc.
- Evaluation of growth patterns and development potential within the study area
- Review of Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Administrative Code 335-13 and Alabama Code 22-27-47
- Review of 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 census population data
- Formal data collection and personal interviews with Etowah County personnel, contract haulers, private solid waste facility owners and operators, and local municipality personnel.

2.4 Data Collection Surveys

To collect the information needed to update the Etowah County SWMP, surveys were sent to each municipality or jurisdiction within Etowah County, solid waste collectors/haulers, recycling centers and permitted landfills located in or serving Etowah County. Follow-up phone calls were made to those individuals that did not respond to the initial survey or to obtain additional information for incomplete responses.

2.5 Implementation

Implementation of the SWMP will include a 30-day period of public comment and a public hearing for comments and discussion. Notice of the time and place of the hearing will be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area and in the official gazette, if any, of the jurisdiction. The notice will be given at least 30 days in advance but not more than 45 days in advance of the proposed date of the hearing. The notice will contain a description of the SWMP, its relevancy and compliance with the Laws of Alabama and the general goals of the plan. All pertinent documents will be available for inspection during normal business hours at a location readily accessible to the public.

2.6 County Commission Resolution

This Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan will be adopted through a resolution by the Etowah County Commission prior to submittal to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management as required by Alabama Law. A copy of the Resolution will be included in Appendix A.

3.0 DEFINITIONS OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

A list of terms commonly used in the field of solid waste management is included for general information:

Buffer Zone - An area that minimizes the impact of pollutants on the environment or public welfare. For example, a buffer zone is established between a composting facility and neighboring residents to minimize odor problems.

Buy-Back Center - A facility to which individuals bring recyclables in exchange for payment.

Commercial Waste - Waste materials originating in wholesale, retail, institutional, or service establishments, such as office buildings, stores, markets, theaters, hotels and warehouses.

Commingled Recyclables - Two or more recyclable materials collected together (i.e. not separated). In some types of collection programs, recyclable materials may be commingled, as long as they do not contaminate each other. For example, glass and plastic can be commingled, but glass and oil cannot.

Composting - The controlled biological decomposition of organic solid materials under aerobic conditions.

Construction/Demolition (C/D) or Inert Landfill – An area of land or an excavation that received construction/demolition waste and or rubbish and/or water treatment sludge and foundry waste meeting ADEM Rule 335-13-4-26(3), and that is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, or injection well as defined in this ADEM Rule.

Construction and Demolition Waste - Materials resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition of buildings, bridges, pavements, and other structures.

Corrugated Paper - Paper or cardboard having either a series of wrinkles or folds, or alternating ridges and grooves.

Cover Material - Material, either natural soil or geosynthetic material, used in a landfill to impede water infiltration, landfill gas emissions, and bird and rodent congregation. It is also used to control odors and make the site more visually attractive. Landfills have three forms of cover: daily cover, intermediate cover, and final cover.

Drop-Off Collection - A method of collecting recyclable or compostable materials in which the materials are taken by individuals to collection sites, where they deposit the materials into designated containers.

Ferrous Metals - Metals derived from iron. They can be removed from commingled materials using large magnets at separation facilities.

Garbage – Putrescible animal and vegetable waste resulting from handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food, including but not limited to, waste from markets, storage facilities, handling and sale of produce and other food products, and excepting such materials that may be services by garbage grinders and handled as household sewage.

Groundwater Monitoring Well - A well placed at an appropriate location and depth for taking water samples to determine groundwater quality in the area surrounding a landfill or other site.

Hazardous Waste - Waste material that exhibits a characteristic of hazardous waste as defined in RCRA (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity), is listed specifically in RCRA 261.3 Subpart D, is a mixture of either, or is designated locally or by the state as hazardous or undesirable for handling as part of the municipal solid waste and would have to be treated as regulated hazardous waste if not from a household.

Household Waste – Any solid waste, including but not limited to, garbage, trash, and sanitary waste in septic tanks derived from households, including single and multiple-family residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and day use recreation areas. Sanitary waste in septic tanks shall be considered as household waste only when it is disposed of in a landfill or unauthorized dump.

Incinerator - A facility in which solid waste is combusted.

Industrial Landfill – An area of land or an excavation that received industrial waste and may receive construction/demolition waste and/or rubbish.

Industrial Waste - Materials discarded from industrial operations or derived from manufacturing processes.

Illegal or Unauthorized Dump – Any collection of solid wastes either dumped or caused to be dumped or placed on any public or private property, whether or not regularly used, and not having a permit from ADEM. Abandoned vehicles, large appliances or similar large items of solid waste shall be considered

as forming an unauthorized dump as recognized in ADEM Code 335-13. The littering of smaller individual items such as tires, bottles, cans, and the like shall not be considered an unauthorized dump unless the accumulation of the solid waste poses a threat to human health or the environment. An unauthorized dump shall also mean any solid waste disposal site which does not meet the regulatory provisions of this Plan.

Leachate - Liquid that has percolated through solid waste or another medium and has extracted, dissolved, or suspended materials from it. Because Leachate may include potentially harmful materials, leachate collection and treatment are crucial at municipal waste landfills.

Leachate Collection System - A network of pipes or geotextiles/geonets placed at low areas of the landfill liner to collect leachate from a landfill for storage or treatment. Flow of leachate along the liner is facilitated by the use of a soil drainage blanket or geonet.

Liner - A system of low-permeability soil and/or geosynthetic membranes used to collect leachate and minimize contaminant flow to groundwater. Liners may also absorb or attenuate pollutants to further reduce contamination.

Medical Waste - Healthcare waste that may be contaminated by blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials.

Methane - An odorless, colorless, flammable, explosive gas produced by municipal solid waste undergoing anaerobic decomposition. Methane is emitted from municipal solid waste landfills.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) - MSW means household waste, commercial solid waste, nonhazardous sludge, conditionally exempt small quantity hazardous waste, and industrial solid waste.

Recycling - The process by which materials otherwise destined for disposal are collected, reprocessed, or remanufactured, and are reused.

Residential Waste - Waste generated in single- and multiple-family homes.

Roll-Off Container - A large waste container that fits onto a tractor trailer that can be dropped off and picked up hydraulically.

Rubbish - Nonputrescible solid wastes consisting of both combustible and noncombustible wastes. Combustible rubbish includes paper, rags, cartons, wood, furniture, rubber, plastics, and similar materials. Noncombustible rubbish includes glass, crockery, metal cans, metal furniture, and the like which will not burn at temperatures less than 1600 degree Fahrenheit. Uncontaminated concrete, soil, brick, waste asphalt paving, and ash resulting from the combustion of untreated wood, rock, yard trimmings, leaves, stumps, limbs, and similar materials are excluded from this definition.

Solid Waste - Any garbage, or refuse, sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources subject to permit under 33 U.S.C. 1342, or source, special nuclear, or by-product materials as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Stat. 923).

Solid Waste Management - The systematic control of solid waste including its storage, processing, treatment, disposal, or recovery of materials from solid waste.

Source Reduction - The design, manufacture, acquisition, and reuse of materials so as to minimize the quantity and/or toxicity of waste produced. Source reduction prevents waste either by redesigning products or by otherwise changing societal patterns of consumption, use, and waste generation.

Special Waste – Those wastes requiring specific processing, handling, or disposal techniques that differ from the techniques normally utilized for disposal as determined by the ADEM.

Subtitle D - The solid, nonhazardous waste section of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976.

Tipping Fee - A fee charged for the unloading or dumping of material at a landfill, transfer station, recycling center, or waste-to-energy facility, usually stated in dollars per ton. (Sometimes called a disposal or service fee.)

Transfer Station - A permanent facility where waste materials are taken from smaller collection vehicles and placed in larger vehicles for transport, including truck trailers, railroad cars, or barges. Recycling and some processing may also take place at transfer stations.

White Goods - Large household appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, air conditioners, and washing machines.

Yard Trimmings – Leaves, grass clippings, prunings, and other natural organic matter discarded from yards and gardens. Yard trimmings may also include stumps and brushes, but these materials are not normally handled at composting facilities.

4.0 PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES

The governing body of a county or municipality (local government) has the responsibility to ensure the proper management of solid waste generated within its jurisdiction. The Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Act, Code of Alabama 1975, 22-27-047, requires local governments to develop solid waste management plans for the management of solid waste generated within the local governing authority boundaries. Each County plan is required to include the municipal jurisdictions within its boundaries (Participating Municipalities) except for those municipalities that elect to opt out of their County's SWMP and develop their own SWMP for implementation within the municipal limits. Municipalities that choose to develop their own SWMP may be excluded from the host county's plan.

Please note that for the purposes of this SWMP, the term municipality applies to cities, towns, and unincorporated Etowah County.

4.1 Participating Municipalities

In addition to unincorporated areas, twelve municipalities are located within Etowah County. These municipalities encompass a total of 145.5 square miles, representing approximately 26% of the County's total land area. Eleven of the twelve municipalities have elected to participate in Etowah County's SWMP. The participating municipalities are:

Town of Altoona	Town of Reece City
City of Attalla	Town of Ridgeville
City of Gadsden	Town of Sardis City
City of Glencoe	City of Southside
City of Hokes Bluff	Town of Walnut Grove
Rainbow City	

Letters of agreement for continued participation in the Etowah County SWMP were solicited from each municipality. Copies of the Letters of Agreement confirming each municipalities participation in the SWMP and their agreement to the requirements of the SWMP are included in Appendix B.

4.2 Non-Participating Municipalities

One municipality within Etowah County, the Town of Boaz, has elected to “opt out” of the County’s SWMP, The Town of Boaz participates in the Marshall County SWMP and provided a letter indicating their decision to "opt out" of the Etowah County SWMP. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix C.

4.3 Local and Municipal Approval of Solid Waste Facilities and Services

In order to provide local approval of solid waste facilities and services within a jurisdiction, the local government must be subject to or covered by an approved SWMP. Unless a municipal government specifically elects to opt out of their County’s SWMP, they are considered a participant in the County’s Plan. As mentioned in the preceding section, the Town of Boaz has elected to opt out of the Etowah County SWMP and is responsible for preparing their own SWMP and submitting it to the ADEM.

Participating municipal governments may grant local approval of solid waste management facilities and services within their municipal limits provided the municipality follows the requirements outlined in this SWMP that address local approval. If a participating municipality grants local approval for solid waste management facilities or services, the applying entity is not required to obtain approval from the Etowah County Commission.

4.4 Population Estimates

The current and future populations for Etowah County and participating municipalities were estimated by using the 2022 population estimate, obtained from the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Alabama, as a basis. The CBER data is based on the 2020 U.S. Census and reflects changes to the April 1, 2020 U.S. Census population due to the Count Question Resolution program, geographic program revisions, and the application of disclosure avoidance to protect confidentiality.

Population trends were estimated by calculating a factor based on changes in population as established by the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census data. These factors were applied to the CBER 2022 populations for each municipality to calculate the estimated 2023, 2024, and 2034 populations. This population data is used for per capita references throughout this SWMP.

Table 4-1 summarizes Etowah County population information available through the CBER.

Table 4-1 Etowah County Population Estimates

Municipality	2010 Census	2020 Census	Net Change	2022 Estimated Population ¹	2024 Estimated Population
Altoona	937	944	0.7%	941	942
Attalla	6,121	5,833	-4.9%	5,836	5,778
Gadsden	36,908	33,932	-8.8%	33,335	32,750
Glencoe	5,143	5,375	4.3%	5,370	5,416
Hokes Bluff	4,266	4,438	3.9%	4,537	4,572
Rainbow City	9,610	10,197	5.8%	10,271	10,389
Reece City	654	616	-6.2%	609	601

Municipality	2010 Census	2020 Census	Net Change	2022 Estimated Population ¹	2024 Estimated Population
Ridgeville	114	85	-34.1%	84	78
Sardis City	1,713	1,816	5.7%	1,794	1,814
Southside	8,453	9,441	10.5%	9,554	9,754
Walnut Grove	691	775	10.8%	775	792
Unincorporated Etowah County	29,820	29,984	0.5%	30,135	30,168
Etowah County (Total)	104,430	103,436	-1.0%	103,241	103,043

¹ Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places in Alabama: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022 (SUB-IP-EST2022-POP-01). Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division and the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama. Release Date: May 2023

5.0 ORIGIN AND VOLUME OF SOLID WASTE GENERATION

5.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Describe and explain the general origin and weight or volume of solid waste currently generated within the jurisdiction's boundaries. For the purpose of this estimate, the jurisdiction may use such information as is reasonably available, or may use accepted methods of estimation recommended by the department;

5.2 Basis for Generation Estimates

To assist in determining solid waste generation rates, information was requested from each participating municipality on the type and volume of waste being collected within their jurisdiction, along with the population of those areas being served. Several of the participating municipalities did not respond to the initial request or follow-up inquiries and several provided only limited information.

Table 5-1 Population-Based Waste Generation Summary

Municipality	2023 Estimated Population	Collection Method/Agency	Waste Generation		
			TPY	TPD	PCD
Altoona	942	Waste Management	416	1.1	2.4
Attalla	5,807	Arrow Disposal	3,328 ²	9.1	3.1
Gadsden	33,049	City of Gadsden	29,708 ¹	81.4	4.9
Glencoe	5,393	Waste Management	1,755 ²	4.8	1.8
Hokes Bluff	4,555	Arrow Disposal	1,419	4.0	1.7
Rainbow City	10,330	Republic Services	3,044 ²	8.3	1.6
Reece City	605	Arrow Disposal	NP	-	-

Municipality	2023 Estimated Population	Collection Method/Agency	Waste Generation		
			TPY	TPD	PCD
Ridgeville	81	Waste Management	NP	-	-
Sardis City	1,804	Republic Services	NP	-	-
Southside	9,654	Southside	3,400 ¹	9.31	1.9
Walnut Grove	783	Walnut Grove	416 ²	1.1	2.9
Unincorporated Etowah County	30,145	Arrow Disposal	5,844	16	1.1
Etowah County (Total)	103,142		49,330	135	

NP – Response did not include waste collection/generation information

¹ Residential and commercial waste with within their jurisdiction

² Household waste only

Of the participating municipalities that responded to the request for information, only the City of Gadsden (Gadsden), Town of Walnut Grove (Walnut Grove), and City of Southside provide residential collection services with their own fleet of vehicles. As noted in Table 5-1, the other participating municipalities contract with private solid waste haulers for the collection, transport, and disposal of solid waste generated within their jurisdiction. These contractors typically collect solid waste in a large geographical area regardless of municipal boundaries and the waste from several municipalities may be commingled before being taken to a landfill for disposal. Additionally, household waste may be commingled with commercial solid waste. For this reason, it is difficult to readily determine what portion of solid waste was generated in a specific municipality or from a specific waste stream (household or commercial).

5.3 Municipal Solid Waste Generation

Eight of the twelve participating municipalities provided volume data for waste generation within their jurisdiction. The City of Gadsden (Gadsden) and City of Southside (Southside) were two of the eight participating municipalities that responded to the request for information. Gadsden provides residential and commercial collection services with their own fleet of vehicles and all waste collected is off-loaded at Gadsden’s transfer station. The City of Southside collects mostly residential waste with a small amount of commercial waste with their own fleet of vehicles. Household and commercial waste from Southside is disposed at the Gadsden transfer station. Gadsden reported an annual volume of 33,108 tons of household and commercial waste collected for 2023 which includes the 3,400 tons of residential waste collected by Southside. The net volume of municipal solid waste (MSW) attributed to Gadsden is 29,708 tons per year (TPY).

All waste disposed at the Gadsden transfer station is weighed prior to offloading at the tipping floor. Therefore, the Gadsden volume data is considered an accurate estimate of actual MSW generation. The per capita MSW generation rate of 4.9 pounds per capita per day (PCD) was calculated using the estimated 2023 Gadsden population and reported 29,708 tons of MSW off-loaded at the Gadsden transfer station in 2023. **The per capita MSW generation rate of 4.9 PCD from Gadsden is considered an accurate estimation of per capita MSW generation for the County and will be used in this SWMP for estimating future generation volumes.**

A broad “check” of this approach was performed using data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s *National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling*. The EPA estimates a gross MSW generation rate at 4.4 pounds per person per day in 2018.

5.4 Commercial Waste Generation

Commercial solid waste in the County is typically collected from area businesses by private collection services. In most cases, individual businesses contract directly with private haulers for solid waste collection and disposal services. According to the private waste haulers who responded to the request for information, solid waste is commonly collected from several municipalities and commercial establishments in a single vehicle. For this reason, it is difficult to readily determine individual volumes of household and commercial waste or determine what portion of the solid waste was generated in a specific municipality.

The most widely used reference for allocating percentages of household and commercial waste in combined waste streams is the EPA document "Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2001 Facts and Figures". According to the EPA, when household and commercial wastes are commingled, it is estimated that household waste constitutes 55% to 65% of total MSW generation, with commercial waste constituting 35% to 45% of the total. For the purposes of this SWMP, household solid waste will be estimated at 60 %percent of the total MSW generation and commercial solid waste will be calculated at 40% of the total solid waste generation.

Using the estimated MSW generation volume of 4.9 PCD, the estimated commercial waste generation volume is 1.96 PCD and the estimated household waste generation volume is 2.94 PCD. These per capita MSW generation rates are considered an accurate estimation of per capita MSW generation for the County and will be used in this SWMP for estimating future generation volumes.

5.5 Construction/Demolition Waste Generation

Construction and demolition (C/D) wastes are typically generated by the construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of structures, roads, sidewalks, utilities, etc. Other inert material such as yard waste and storm debris (i.e. leaves, limbs, grass clippings) is also considered as C/D waste.

The City of Gadsden operates the only permitted C/D landfill in Etowah County and accepts waste from contractors and other municipalities. In 2023, approximately 34,881 tons of C/D waste was reported as being disposed at the Gadsden C/D facility. This tonnage represents the amount of solid waste actually disposed.

Noble Hill Landfill is permitted to accept C/D waste along with municipal solid waste and industrial waste. However, they do not segregate C/D waste from other waste types and cannot distinguish the volume of waste they receive from Etowah County. According to information obtained from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, C/D waste accounted for approximately 23% of municipal solid waste disposed in the United States. Disposal volume data for the Noble Hill Landfill, obtained from the ADEM web-based efile system, indicates that the total volume of in-state waste disposed at the Noble Hill Landfill in 2023 was 191,015 tons. Using the Bureau of Transportation Statistics estimate of 23%, approximately 43,933 tons of C/D waste was disposed at the Noble Hill Landfill.

All waste disposed at the Gadsden C/D landfill is weighed prior to disposal therefore, the Gadsden C/D volume data is considered an accurate estimate of C/D generation. Because Gadsden accepts C/D waste from contractors and other municipalities, the per capita C/D waste generation rate of 3.09 PCD was calculated using the reported C/D waste volume of 34,881 tons and 60% or the 2023

estimated Etowah County population. **This per capita C/D generation rate is considered to be an accurate estimation of per capita MSW generation for the County.**

5.6 Industrial Waste Generation

Industrial waste refers to solid waste that is generated from discarded materials from industrial operations or derived from manufacturing processes. Solid waste generated by an industry may be collected by a private company and taken to an approved industrial landfill, or it may be collected by that industry and disposed of in their own landfill. The now closed Gadsden Steam Plant landfill was the only industry-owned landfill permitted in Etowah County.

Private collection companies have no obligation to report collection numbers to the County. The collection frequency and billing rates vary with each customer and private contractor. Only one solid waste collection company responded to the request for information. Arrow Disposal indicated in their response that residential, commercial, and industrial waste is collected at the same time and not segregated. Therefore, there are no sufficient records readily available to calculate industrial waste generation rates for the County.

5.7 Special Waste

Special waste primarily consists of waste which is not regulated as hazardous waste and has physical and/or chemical characteristics that differ from all other household and commercial waste. Examples of Special Waste include asbestos, foundry waste, MSW ash, non-hazardous contaminated soil, sludges, and non-hazardous industrial waste. Special Waste may potentially require pre-treatment, special handling, and/or disposal authorization from the ADEM. Any special waste produced within Etowah County is to be managed and disposed of according to ADEM Regulation 335-13-4-.26.

Special wastes can be collected and transported to a MSW landfill by a municipality, county, business, or contract hauler. Various methods are used for the transport of Special Wastes but may involve dump trucks or appropriate containerization (i.e. drums) and transport in trucks or tractor trailers. Roll-off containers may also be used in the collection and transport of special waste.

5.8 Medical Waste

Examples of Medical Waste include medical sharps, disposable masks, used bandages or dressings, test samples (blood, urine, etc.), contaminated medical devices, empty IV bags, etc. These wastes are typically collected from medical and veterinary facilities, nursing homes, research laboratories and clinical laboratories. The storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of medical waste produced within Etowah County must be in accordance with the ADEM Land Division – Medical Waste Program, Division 17.

If this waste is to be disposed of in a Subtitle D MSW landfill, it must first be incinerated or autoclaved prior to disposal. In Etowah County, most facilities that produce these special wastes do not have the means to pre-treat them and contract instead with specialized companies that collect and dispose of this waste. Medical waste companies are required to submit detailed information to ADEM each year reporting the volume of special waste handling and the disposition of medical wastes. However, county specific information regarding medical waste generation was not readily available from the ADEM.

According to information obtained from the ADEM, Etowah County has one permitted Medical Waste treatment facility. MWT AL OPS, LLC is located at 4618 Airport Road in Rainbow City, Alabama. This facility reportedly uses Pyrolysis to treat medical waste and is permitted to accept all medical wastes defined in ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-17-1-02 that are recommended by the equipment manufacturer.

5.9 Disaster Debris

Debris from natural disasters may contain regulated and non-regulated solid wastes and special wastes. Regulated solid waste debris resulting from a natural disaster may include household wastes and construction/demolition waste as defined in Admin. Code r. 335-13-1-.03 (129). Special Wastes are defined in Admin. Code r. 335-13-1-.03 (134). Special Wastes resulting from a natural disaster may include, but are not limited to friable asbestos, industrial waste, large dead animals or large quantities of dead animals and residue, medical waste, or contaminated soil from the cleanup of a spill. Vegetative debris, including but not limited to stumps, logs, limbs, brush, and leaves are not considered regulated solid wastes. However, vegetative debris that contain regulated solid wastes or other Special Waste is considered regulated solid waste.

Regulated solid waste debris from a natural disaster should be removed from impacted areas and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency requires that all storm debris staging areas be pre-approved prior to placing storm debris at a staging location. County representatives should contact FEMA for approval well in advance of staging storm debris. In addition, ADEM is to be made aware of these locations as they are approved by FEMA.

Vegetative debris that do not contain regulated solid waste, do not require a permit by ADEM for staging or processing. However, vegetative debris disposal locations will be tracked by Etowah County officials and ADEM will be notified of all changes or additions to these sites as they occur.

Natural Disaster Debris Management Information is provided in Appendix H.

6.0 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND TRANSPORTATION

6.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Identify current methods of collection and haulage of solid waste within the jurisdiction;

6.2 Waste Collection by Jurisdiction

Town of Altoona

The Town of Altoona consists of approximately 4.49 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 942. The Town provides residential and commercial solid waste collection service to its citizens through a contract with Waste Management. Waste Management provides 90-gallon curbside carts for weekly residential and commercial collection. We understand that waste collected from the Town is disposed at Waste Management's Three Corners Regional Landfill in Cherokee County, Alabama. The Town also conducts twice yearly bulky waste collection. The Town of Altoona does not have a recycling program.

City of Attalla

The City of Atalla consists of approximately 7.0 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 5,834. The City provides residential and commercial solid waste collection service to its citizens through a contract with Arrow Disposal Services, Inc. (Arrow Disposal) who provides 95-gallon curbside carts for weekly residential collection. Residential solid waste collected from the City is disposed at Noble Hill Landfill, in Etowah County, Alabama. The City also conducts weekly bulky waste collection

and as-needed yard waste collection. Bulky and yard waste are disposed at Noble Hill Landfill. The City of Atalla does not have a recycling program.

City of Gadsden

The City of Gadsden consists of approximately 38.7 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 32,763. The City of Gadsden's Sanitation Division of the Public Works Department provides curbside solid waste collection service for residential customers and small business accounts once each week. Gadsden also provides once per week collection of yard waste. MSW is taken to the Gadsden Transfer Station then to Noble Hill Landfill. Yard and wood waste is taken to the Gadsden C&D Landfill for disposal. Waste Management reportedly provides commercial, industrial and special waste collection services for Gadsden. This waste is taken to Waste Management's Three Corners Regional Landfill in Cherokee County, Alabama. The City of Gadsden operates a recycling center at 306 Henry Street and provides 35 recycling trailers throughout the county for collection of cardboard.

Glencoe

The City of Glencoe consists of approximately 17.0 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 5,416. The City provides residential solid waste collection service to its citizens through a contract with Waste Management. Waste Management provides 95-gallon curbside carts for weekly residential collection. We understand that residential waste generated by Glencoe is disposed at Waste Management's Three Corners Regional Landfill Cherokee County, Alabama. C/D waste generated by City operations is disposed at the Gadsden C/D Landfill. The City of Glencoe does not have a recycling program.

Hokes Bluff

The City of Hokes Bluff consists of approximately 12.09 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 4,572. The City provides residential solid waste collection to its citizens through a contract with Arrow Disposal. The City currently participates in a cardboard recycling program with the City of Gadsden.

Rainbow City

The City of Rainbow City consists of approximately 29.9 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 10,389. The City provides residential solid waste collection to its citizens through a contract with Republic Services who provides 90-gallon curbside carts for weekly residential collection. Residential solid waste collected from the City is disposed at Republic Services Sand Valley Landfill in Dekalb County, Alabama. The City also conducts weekly bulky waste collection and as-needed yard waste collection. Bulky and yard waste are disposed at the Gadsden C/D Landfill. The City maintains a drop-off recycling program.

Reece City

Reece City consists of approximately 3.56 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 601. The City provides residential solid waste collection service to its citizens through a contract with Arrow Disposal. The City does not have a recycling program.

Ridgeville

The Town of Ridgeville consists of approximately 0.82 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 78. The Town provides residential solid waste collection service to its citizens through a contract with Waste Management. We understand that waste collected from the Town is disposed at

Waste Management's Three Corners Regional Landfill in Cherokee County, Alabama. The Town does not provide bulky or yard waste collection and does not have a recycling program.

Sardis City

Sardis City consists of approximately 7.88 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 1,814. Sardis City did not respond to the initial request for information and during a follow-up interview only provided that Republic Services provides residential solid waste collection. Although not reported, we understand that residential waste is disposed at Republic Services Sand Valley Landfill in Dekalb County, Alabama.

City of Southside

The City of Southside consists of approximately 19.27 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 9,754. The City of Southside provides a curbside solid waste collection service for residential customers once each week. Southside also provides solid waste collection services for the Southside Softball Complex and Southside Landing. MSW is taken to the Gadsden Transfer Station then to Noble Hill Landfill. Southside also collects a small amount of C&D waste that is mixed with the large item pickup service that is offered to residents only. This waste is disposed of at the Noble Hill Landfill. Southside is currently active in cardboard recycling involving a partnership with Rainbow City.

Walnut Grove

The Town of Walnut Grove consists of approximately 5.04 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 792. The Town of Walnut Grove Sanitation Department provides voluntary curbside solid waste collection service to residential customers once each week. Residential solid waste collected is disposed at Noble Hill Landfill, in Etowah County, Alabama. Walnut Grove does not provide commercial waste collection and does not have a yard waste or recycling program.

Unincorporated Etowah County

Unincorporated Etowah County consists of approximately 403.5 square miles and has an estimated 2024 population of 30,155. Arrow Disposal Services, Inc. (Arrow Disposal) provides residential, commercial, governmental, and industrial waste collection services to the unincorporated areas of Etowah County. This waste is taken to the Noble Hill Landfill facility. Etowah County provides bulky waste collection four-times each year at four sites around the County. The waste is collected in roll-off dumpsters and disposed at Noble Hill Landfill. No recycling programs were reported.

6.3 Bulky/Yard Waste

The Town of Altoona, City of Attalla, City of Gadsden, City of Glencoe, Rainbow City, and Etowah County Commission provide bulky/yard waste collection. Bulky and yard waste collected from Altoona is collected in dumpsters and reportedly disposed at Waste Management's Three Corners Regional Landfill. Bulky and yard waste collected from the City of Attalla is reportedly disposed at Noble Hill Landfill. Gadsden, Glencoe, and Rainbow City dispose bulky and yard waste at the Gadsden C/D Landfill. Etowah County provides bulky waste collection four-times each year at four sites around the County. The waste is collected in roll-off dumpsters and disposed at Noble Hill Landfill.

6.4 Construction/Demolition Solid Waste

Three municipalities including City of Gadsden, City of Glencoe, and Rainbow City provided information on C/D waste generation and disposal. All three municipalities reported that C/D waste is collected by the municipality and disposed at Gadsden's C/D Landfill.

Outside of municipal collection, C/D wastes are typically collected and transported to a C/D landfill by residents, businesses, or contract haulers.

6.5 Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste

The Town of Altoona, City of Attalla, and City of Gadsden provide limited curbside commercial solid waste collection. Commercial collection by these municipalities is generally limited to those generating volumes that can be contained and collected weekly in 90-gallon curbside carts. Large commercial generators contract directly with private waste handlers that can provide dumpster services. The private waste handlers identified as operating in Etowah County include Waste Management, Republic Services, Arrow Disposal, and Allied Waste (Republic Services).

6.6 Special Waste

Special wastes can be collected and transported to a MSW landfill by a municipality, county, business, or contract hauler. Various methods are used for the transport of Special Wastes but may involve dump trucks or appropriate containerization (i.e. drums) and transport in trucks or tractor trailers. Roll-off containers may also be used in the collection and transport of special wastes.

6.7 Medical Waste

The collection, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of medical waste produced within Etowah County must be in accordance with the ADEM Land Division – Medical Waste Program, Division 17.

7.0 EXISTING DISPOSAL FACILITIES

7.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Identify and describe the facilities where solid waste is currently being disposed or processed and the remaining available permitted capacity of such facilities and the capacity which could be made available through the reasonable expansion of such facilities;

7.2 Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

Fifteen municipal solid waste landfills in Alabama are permitted to service Etowah County. All fifteen MSW landfills were surveyed for information pertaining to permitted capacity, estimated remaining capacity/lifespan, planned expansions, etc. Of the fifteen MSW landfills contacted, only one returned survey information, Noble Hill Landfill operating in Etowah County by Evergreen Environmental Partners, LLC. Those not returning survey information were: Star Ridge Landfill, Sand Valley Landfill, Perry County Associates Landfill, Three Corners Regional Landfill, Black Warrior Solid Waste Facility, Flat Top Solid Waste Facility, Coffee County Sanitary Landfill, Choctaw Regional Landfill, and Stone's Throw Landfill. Three landfills reported that they will not accept waste from Etowah County even though they are permitted to service Etowah County. Those landfills include: North Montgomery Landfill, Shelby County Landfill, and Turkey Trot Landfill. Multiple attempts were made to contact Noble Hill Landfill, Sand Valley Landfill, and Three Corners Regional Landfill for information pertaining to estimated remaining waste capacity. Noble Hill Landfill was the only landfill to provide information regarding remaining disposal capacity.

Based on reported information provided participating municipalities, of the fifteen MSW landfills permitted to serve Etowah County, three are currently being used for the disposal of municipal solid waste generated in Etowah County:

- Noble Hill Landfill, Etowah County, Alabama
- Sand Valley Landfill, Dekalb County, Alabama
- Three Corners Regional Landfill, Cherokee County, Alabama

Noble Hill Landfill (Permit No. 28-08)

The Noble Hill Landfill is a Subtitle D municipal solid waste landfill that is owned and operated by Evergreen Environmental Partners, LLC. This landfill is located at 300 Noble Hill Road in Attalla, Etowah County and is permitted to accept waste from the contiguous United States.

Noble hill is permitted to accept nonhazardous solid wastes, noninfectious putrescible and nonputrescible wastes including but not limited to household garbage, commercial waste, industrial waste, construction and demolition debris, tires, appliances, trees, limbs, stumps, dried sludge, paper, and other similar type materials including Special Waste approved by the ADEM.

According to the facility permit, issued March 21, 2019, the total permitted area for Noble Hill is approximately 208.38 acres of which 121.06 acres were permitted for disposal. The approved waste volume for Noble Hill is 3,000 tons per day. The estimated remaining capacity at the landfill is 25 million cubic yards as of the date of this plan.

The Noble Hill Landfill is permitted to accept C/D waste along with municipal solid waste and industrial waste. However, they do not segregate C/D waste from other waste types and cannot distinguish the volume of waste they receive from Etowah County.

A copy of the Noble Hill Permit is included in Appendix D.

Sand Valley Landfill (Permit No.25-04)

The Sand Valley Landfill is a Subtitle D municipal solid waste landfill that is owned and operated by GEK, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of BFI Waste Systems of North America, Inc. This landfill is located at 3345 County Road 209, Collinsville, Dekalb County and is permitted to accept waste from the following counties in Alabama: Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Marshall, Randolph, St. Clair, and Talladega.

Sand Valley is permitted to accept nonhazardous solid wastes, noninfectious putrescible and nonputrescible wastes including but not limited to household garbage, commercial waste, industrial waste, construction and demolition debris, ash, treated medical waste, sludge, drilling fluids and cuttings, asbestos, foundry sand, tires, trees, limbs, stumps, and other similar type materials including Special Waste approved by the ADEM.

According to the facility permit, issued January 26, 2018, the total permitted area for Sand Valley is approximately 318.87 acres of which 235 acres were permitted for disposal, including a 2 acre closed C/D disposal area. The approved waste volume for Sand Valley is 1,500 tons per day.

A copy of the Sand Valley Permit is included in Appendix E

Three Corners Regional Landfill (Permit No. 10-02)

Three Corners Landfill is a Subtitle D municipal solid waste landfill that is owned and operated by Alabama Waste Disposal Solutions, LLC. This landfill is located at 2205 County Road 6, Piedmont, Cherokee County and is permitted to accept waste from the following counties in Alabama: Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston.

Three Corners is permitted to accept nonhazardous solid wastes, noninfectious putrescible and nonputrescible wastes including but not limited to household garbage, commercial waste, industrial waste, construction and demolition debris, tires, limbs, stumps, sludge, paper, rubbish, and similar type materials including Special Waste approved by the ADEM.

According to the facility permit, issued June 5, 2019, the total permitted area for Three Corners is approximately 466.81 acres of which 195.57 acres were permitted for disposal. The approved waste volume for Three Corners is 1,500 tons per day.

A copy of the Three Corners Permit is included in Appendix F

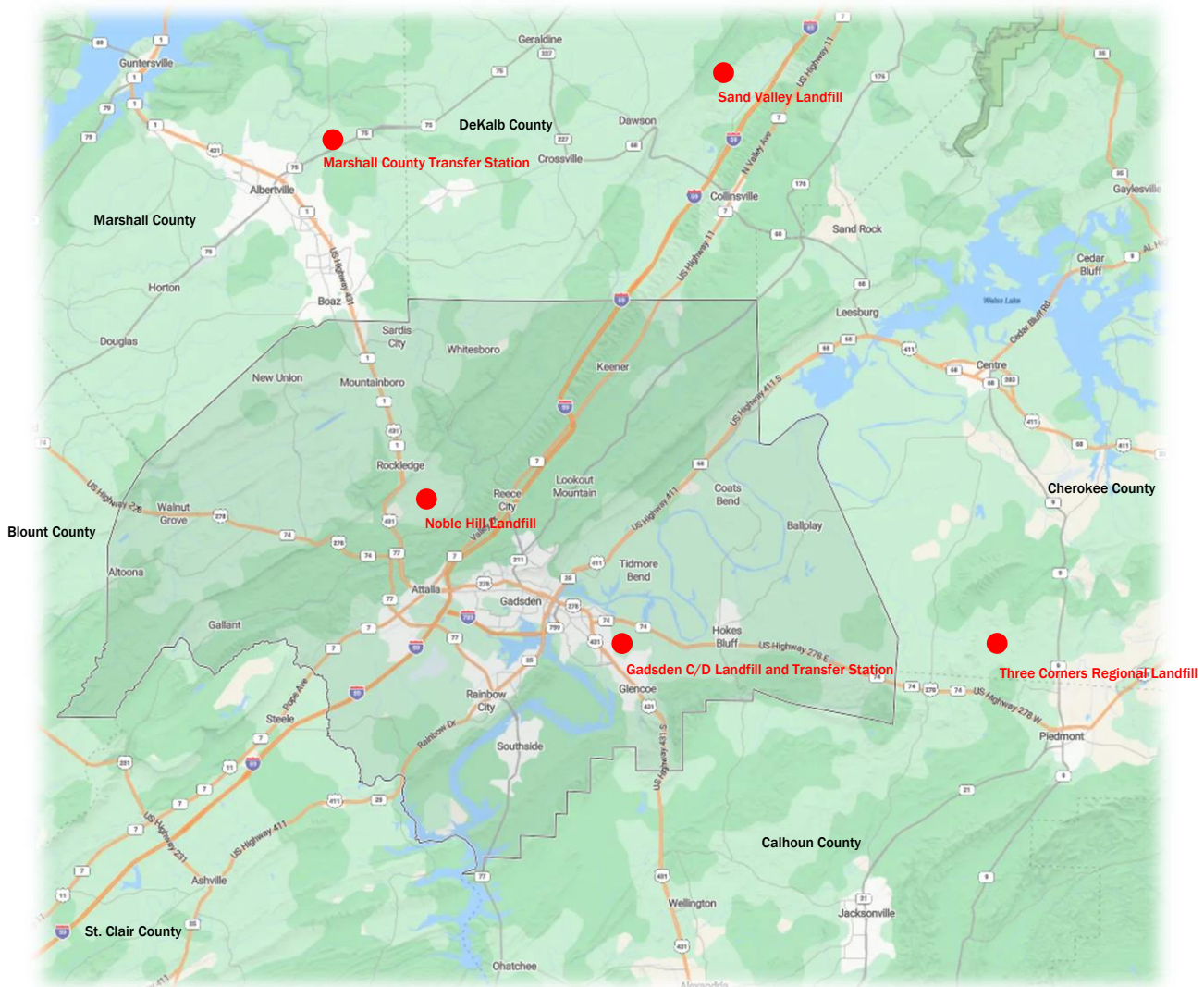


Figure 2 – Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Serving Etowah County

7.3 Solid Waste Transfer Stations

Two transfer stations are currently being used by participating municipalities and solid waste contractors, the City of Gadsden Transfer Station and Marshall County Transfer Station. Both transfer stations reportedly receive MSW generated in Etowah County. The Marshall County Transfer Station is reportedly operated by Republic Services and located in adjacent Marshall County.

City of Gadsden Transfer Station

The City of Gadsden Transfer Station is located at 110 Burnsway Drive in Gadsden, Alabama. The solid waste collected at this transfer station is transported by A&D of Alabama, LLC to the Noble Hill Landfill. This transfer station has a reported design capacity of 750 tons per day, with approximately 150 tons of solid waste currently being processed each operating day.

Republic Services, Inc. - Marshall County Transfer Station

The Marshall County Transfer Station, operated by Republic Services, Inc., is located at 224 Rives Road in Albertville, Alabama. Solid waste from some areas of Etowah County is disposed at this transfer station where it is then transported to the Sand Valley Landfill.

7.4 Industrial Landfills

According to the ADEM, there is currently one Industrial Landfill permitted to service Etowah County. WCA of Alabama, LLC (WCA) is located in Talladega County, Alabama and is permitted to accept waste from the following counties in Alabama: Bibb, Calhoun, Clay, Chilton, Cleburne, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega, and Tallapoosa.

WCA is permitted to accept nonhazardous industrial wastes, construction and demolition wastes, asbestos, automobile shredder dirt and fluff, and tires.

According to the facility permit, issued August 6, 2019, the total permitted area for WCA is approximately 104.88 acres of which 57.95 acres were permitted for disposal. The approved waste volume for WCA is 750 tons per day.

WCA did not return survey information and did not respond to follow-up requests for information therefore we were unable to evaluate its remaining capacity.

The Alabama Power Company Gadsden Steam Plant is also listed as having an industrial landfill. We understand this landfill was used exclusively by the Gadsden Steam plant for disposal of coal combustion residuals. This facility was not permitted to accept waste from the public.

7.5 Construction and Demolition Landfills

According to ADEM, there are currently ten C/D landfills in Alabama which are permitted to service the Etowah County area. These include:

- Gadsden C/D Landfill
- Pace Industries, Inc. Lynn Landfill
- Fultondale Waste Complex
- Chambers County Landfill
- Rose Hill Landfill
- Blount Recycling Center
- B & B Tire Landfill
- Little's Tire Reclamation and Disposal Center
- Think Pink, Inc. Coalburg Road Landfill

- Ashberry C/D Landfill and Tire Recycling Facility.

In addition to these C/D landfills, Noble Hill Landfill, Sand Valley Landfill, and Three Corners Regional Landfill are permitted to accept C/D waste from Etowah County.

Based on information obtained from the participating municipalities that responded to the request for information, Only the City of Gadsden C/D Landfill and Noble Hill Landfill are routinely used for the disposal of C/D material generated in Etowah County.

Gadsden C/D Landfill (Permit No. 28-07)

The Gadsden C/D Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Gadsden, Alabama. This landfill is located at 110 Burnsway Drive in Gadsden.

The Gadsden C/D Landfill is permitted to accept nonhazardous and nonputrescible construction and demolition waste and rubbish defined by Rule 335-13-1-.03. According to the facility permit, issued July 21, 2017, the total permitted area is approximately 133.37 acres of which 26.13 acres are permitted for disposal. The approved waste volume for the landfill is 1,200 tons per day. The estimated remaining capacity at the landfill is 420,000 cubic yards as of the date of this plan.

The Gadsden C/D Landfill is in the process of permitting a 132-acre expansion that would include construction of five new waste cells. The combined volume of the proposed cells is expected to provide sufficient capacity to accept their permitted daily volume for a minimum of the next 30 years.

A copy of the City of Gadsden Permit is included in Appendix G

7.6 Composting Facilities

The City of Gadsden formerly operated a composting facility at the Gadsden C/D Landfill. Due to space limitations, Gadsden no longer provides this service to the public. Yard, tree, and brush waste is stockpiled and periodically ground and disposed in the C/D landfill.

7.7 Incinerators

No solid waste incinerators are located in Etowah County and at the present time and none of the municipal solid waste generated within Etowah County is being disposed of by incineration. The decision to construct an incinerator in the jurisdiction remains a valid solid waste management option; however, the County has no plans to implement an incineration program during the planning period of this Update.

7.8 Medical Waste

According to information obtained from the ADEM, Etowah County has one permitted Medical Waste treatment facility. MWT AL OPS, LLC is located at 4618 Airport Road in Rainbow City, Alabama. This facility reportedly uses Pyrolysis to treat medical waste and is permitted to accept all medical wastes defined in ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-17-1-02 that are recommended by the equipment manufacturer.

Medical facilities in Etowah County have the option to operate ADEM permitted autoclaves and other medical waste treatment devices at their respective facilities as part of this SWMP. Autoclaving is a steam sterilization process that medical facilities can use to sterilize small equipment, tools, or waste. An autoclave does this by using high-temperature and high-pressure steam to kill microorganisms in the waste.

7.9 Recycling Centers

Recycling Centers are discussed in detail in the following Section 8.0.

8.0 CURRENT AND PLANNED RECYCLING PROGRAMS

8.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Provide a description of current or planned recycling programs and an analysis of their impact on waste generated within the jurisdiction. Particularly regarding recycling, the plan shall describe and evaluate:

- Potential benefits of recycling, including the potential solid waste reduction and the avoided cost of municipal waste processing or disposal.
- Existing materials recovery operations and the kind and weight or volume of materials recycled by the operations, whether public or private.
- The compatibility of recycling with other waste processing or disposal methods used in the jurisdiction including methods of collecting recyclables.
- Options for cooperation or agreement with other jurisdictions for the collection, processing and sale of recyclable materials.

8.2 General

Waste minimization and recycling efforts are important aspects of solid waste management because it ultimately decreases the amount of solid waste deposited into landfills. In areas with adequate recyclable markets, typical recyclable materials include:

- Plastics - plastic containers and other plastics (toys, plastic hangers, baskets, rain ponchos, trash cans, etc.)
- Glass - unbroken glass, bottles
- Metals - ferrous (steel and tin food containers, scrap metal); non-ferrous (aluminum, brass, copper)
- Paper - white office paper, corrugated cardboard, newspapers, phone books, mixed paper (dry magazines and packing, junk mail)
- White Goods - large household appliances (washing machines, refrigerators, heat pumps, air conditioners)
- Batteries - dry cell, rechargeable, automotive, button, lead-acid
- Motor oil
- Tires
- Computers, printer cartridges, floppy disks and Video tapes
- Household toxins - poisons, paints, oil, solvents, cleaners, herbicides, antifreeze, aerosols, etc.
- Building Materials
- Cell Phones

8.3 Current Municipal Recycling Programs

Etowah County does not currently have a county-wide recycling program. Of the participating municipalities only Gadsden and Rainbow City have municipal recycling programs.

Gadsden

The City of Gadsden operates a recycling center at 306 Henry Street and provides 35 recycling trailers throughout the county for collection of cardboard. During 2023, the City of Gadsden collected and recycled 158 tons of the following:

Material	Amount Recycled (tons)
Paper/Cardboard	60
Ferris Metal	75
Aluminum	23

Rainbow City

Rainbow City provides a recycling trailer behind City Hall and at select business throughout the city for public drop off of recyclable materials. The City of Southside is currently active in cardboard recycling involving a partnership with Rainbow City. In 2023, Rainbow City reportedly recycled 191 tons of the following:

Material	Amount Recycled (tons)
Paper	3
Plastic	39
Glass/Ceramic	0.5
Cardboard	148.5

Each municipality in Etowah County recognizes the benefits and need for recycling efforts in their jurisdiction and the option to start or change a recycling program shall remain available to the jurisdictions throughout the planning period of this SWMP.

8.4 Private Industry Recycling Programs

Recycling Brokers

Only one private recycling broker, Pacific Trading & Recycling, LLC, responded to our request for information. An additional metals recycler was identified, but it specializes in automobiles and large machinery. This is not applicable to the solid waste management plan. The following table provides a summary of data from Pacific Trading & Recycling:

Material	Amount Recycled (tons)
Paper	2
Plastic	2
Glass/Ceramic	40
Ferris Metal	100
Aluminum	150
Wood	50

Grocery Industry

Many supermarkets/grocery stores in Etowah County currently recycle plastic bags and corrugated cardboard, with some stores having their own cardboard baling machines. The material is typically picked up at each store location by various recycling brokers. Since records of recycled amounts are not typically kept at each store, no attempt was made to quantify the amount of plastic or cardboard recycled by the grocery industry in Etowah County.

Rechargeable Batteries

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) is a national non-profit public service organization that recycles portable rechargeable batteries commonly found in cordless power tools,

cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote-control toys. RBRC offers recycling plans for retailers, businesses, communities, and public agencies, and although businesses pay for shipping charges to the reclamation facility, this service is provided free of charge to consumers and communities. There are many cellular, hardware, retail and home improvement stores in Etowah County that currently serve as rechargeable battery collection centers.

Electronics

A national program to recycle computers and other electronic devices has been underway for over three years in some places. This program attempts to remove from the waste stream often hazardous material used in the manufacture of computers, computer monitors, TV sets, and other home and office electronics. For a nominal fee, office supply stores, such as Staples and others, will collect and transport these devices to specialized recyclers who will safely disassemble and recover many hazardous materials for reuse.

8.5 Planned Recycling Programs

As of the date of this SWMP, there are currently no other recycling programs planned for Etowah County or participating municipalities. The Alabama Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act of 2008 established a 25% recycling goal for the State.

In 2018, China enacted a ban on imported recyclable materials which caused the U.S. market for recyclables to plummet. The recyclables market has remained low and without the revenue to offset the cost of recycling programs, many municipalities have been forced to scale back or eliminate their recycling programs.

The option to start an additional recycling program or make changes to an existing recycling program(s), shall remain available to each jurisdiction throughout the planning period of this SWMP.

8.6 Joint Ventures

There are currently no known recycling joint venture programs planned for Etowah County or its covered municipalities. However, the option to start a joint venture recycling program shall remain available to each covered jurisdiction throughout the planning period of this SWMP.

8.7 Benefits of Recycling

According to information provided in the survey results, at least 349 tons of materials were removed from the waste stream through municipal recycling efforts in Etowah County in 2023. By recycling these materials, the overall tonnage of solid waste disposed of in area landfills was reduced.

9.0 RCRA SUBTITLE D REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Address the requirements proposed under Subtitle D of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 6941 as amended and identify and explain those actions the jurisdiction should take to assure proper management of its wastes under these requirements.

9.2 General

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is a federal law governing the disposal of solid and hazardous waste. RCRA, an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act, was enacted in 1976 to achieve the following:

- Protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal;
- Conserve energy and natural resources;
- Reduce the amount of waste generated; and
- Ensure that waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner.

Enacted in 1984, the Subtitle D amendment to RCRA addresses the nonhazardous solid waste management and designates the state and local governments as the primary planning, permitting, regulating, implementing, and enforcement agencies for the management and disposal of nonhazardous solid wastes. The nationwide standards developed under Subtitle D include location restrictions, facility design and operating criteria, groundwater and landfill gas monitoring requirements, corrective action requirements, financial assurance requirements, and closure and post-closure care requirements. In addition to the minimum federal criteria, states may impose requirements that are more stringent than the federal requirements. Most states, including Alabama, have adopted these federal requirements into their solid waste management programs.

9.3 Jurisdictional Actions

Several of the County's municipalities require mandatory residential solid waste collection. Regulations state that all municipal solid waste must be disposed of in an MSW landfill that has been designed in accordance with Subtitle D regulations. The MSW landfills receiving waste generated in Etowah County have been designed to meet these Subtitle D regulations. Compliance with these regulations is assured through state-issued permits and periodic inspections by regulatory agencies. These facilities also adhere to the operating criteria, groundwater and landfill gas monitoring requirements, corrective action requirements, financial assurance requirements, and closure/post-closure care requirements of Subtitle D, as well as applicable air permitting requirements.

10.0 ILLEGAL DUMPS

10.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Propose procedures for the identification and elimination of unauthorized dumps in the jurisdiction;

10.2 Identification of Illegal Dumps

The composition of material found at illegal dumps is inconsistent and varies from site to site. However, the materials can generally be grouped into four categories: Tires, construction debris, yard waste, and household waste.

Unauthorized or illegal dumps in Etowah County are typically reported by citizens, County employees, or law enforcement personnel. Etowah County actively investigates illegal dump sites that have been reported for unincorporated areas and prosecutes those responsible in accordance with Alabama's Criminal Littering statute, 13A-7-29 if ownership can be established. Responsible parties are also encouraged to clean up their illegal dump site within 24 hours in return for non-prosecution.

Most of the participating municipalities actively investigate illegal dump sites within their jurisdictions and prosecute those responsible in accordance with either local ordinances or Alabama's Criminal Littering statute, 13A-7-29 if ownership can be established. The City of Gadsden has two Public Works employees dedicated to investigating illegal dumping within the City Limits. Gadsden also recently increased the maximum allowable fine for individuals found guilty of littering.

10.3 Elimination of Illegal Dumps

If ownership of the illegal dump site cannot be established, then the participating municipality may opt to clean up the illegal dump site with municipal employees. Alternatively, the "Keep Etowah Beautiful" organization may be contacted. The Etowah County Sheriff's Department Influence Program may also be contacted to request a cleanup of the site. Once a problematic area has been cleaned, fencing or other barriers and/or "No Dumping" signs can be installed.

Qualifying unauthorized dump sites can also utilize ADEM's Solid Waste Fund (SWF) Site Remediation Program to clean up and properly dispose of illegally dumped material.

10.4 Prevention of Illegal Dumps

General methods for the prevention of illegal dumping include:

- Mandatory subscription to available waste collection services
- Enforcement of fines and sentencing for illegal dumping
- Education of citizens concerning the penalties and magnitude of illegal dumping

11.0 SOLID WASTE GROWTH PROJECTIONS

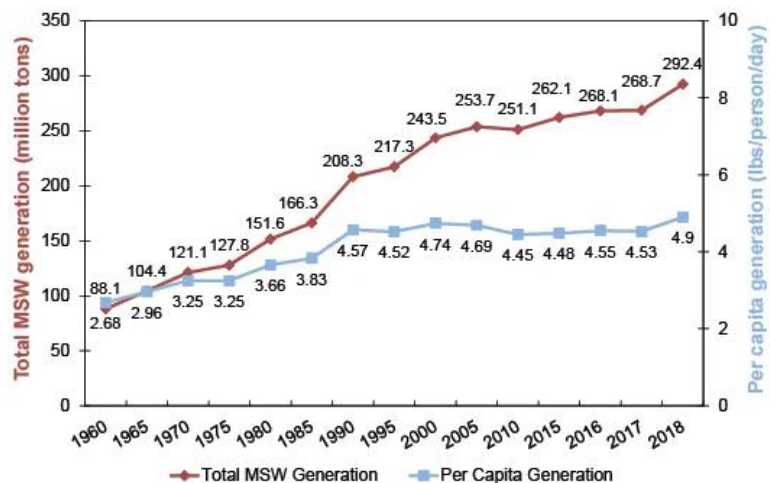
11.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Describe and explain the general origin and weight or volume of solid waste reasonably expected to be generated within the jurisdiction annually during the next 10 years;

11.2 Historic Perspective

Municipal solid waste generation rates have increased steadily from 2.68 PCD in 1960 to 4.9 PCD in 2018. It can be anticipated that the downturn in market value of recyclables, prompted by China's 2018 ban on imported recyclable materials, will increase the per capita generation rate from 2018 forward. Note: According to the U.S.EPA website, per capita MSW generation data is currently only available through 2018



11.3 Estimation Methodology

Population estimates, together with the per capita solid waste generation rate, can be used to determine future solid waste quantities. However, the trend in the per capita generation rate is unclear and current per capita generation estimates may not fully account for the impact of the 2018 downturn in the recycling market.

According to the EPA document, The Decision Makers' Guide to Solid Waste Management, Vol. II, when estimating future solid waste generation quantities, "unless there is information to the contrary, it is best to assume no change in the generation rate and to develop future projections based on population projections alone".

MSW Generation Estimate

All waste disposed at the Gadsden transfer station is weighed prior to offloading at the tipping floor. Therefore, the Gadsden volume data is considered to be an accurate estimate of actual "local" MSW generation. The per capita MSW generation rate of 4.9 PCD was calculated using the estimated 2023 Gadsden population and reported tonnage of MSW off-loaded at the Gadsden transfer station in 2023. The per capita MSW generation rate of 4.9 PCD from Gadsden is considered to be an accurate estimation of per capita MSW generation for the County and will be used for estimating projected generation volumes.

Population Estimates

The current and future populations for Etowah County and participating municipalities were estimated by using the 2022 population estimate, obtained from the CBER at the University of Alabama, as a basis. Population trends were estimated by calculating a growth/decline factor based on changes in population as established by the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census data. These factors were applied to the CBER 2022 populations for each municipality to calculate the estimated 2024 and 2034 populations. This population data is used for per capita references throughout this SWMP.

The following Table 11-1 summarizes U.S. Census based growth/decline and estimated 2024 population for the participating municipalities.

Table 11-1 Population Estimate Summary

Municipality	2010 Census	2020 Census	Net Change (2010-2020)	2024 Estimated Population
Altoona	937	944	0.7%	942
Attalla	6,121	5,833	-4.9%	5,778
Gadsden	36,908	33,932	-8.8%	32,750
Glencoe	5,143	5,375	4.3%	5,416
Hokes Bluff	4,266	4,438	3.9%	4,572
Rainbow City	9,610	10,197	5.8%	10,389
Reece City	654	616	-6.2%	601
Ridgeville	114	85	-34.1%	78
Sardis City	1,713	1,816	5.7%	1,814
Southside	8,453	9,441	10.5%	9,754
Walnut Grove	691	775	10.8%	792
Unincorporated Etowah County	29,820	29,984	0.5%	30,168
Etowah County (Total)	104,430	103,436	-1.0%	103,043

The U.S. Census based population estimate provided in Table 11-1 shows a 1.33% decrease in Etowah County’s population between 2010 and 2024. However, according to projected population data obtained from the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama, the population for Etowah County is projected to increase 0.3% through 2040. For planning purposes and estimating future MSW generation, the population of Etowah County is assumed to increase 0.02% annually over the next 10 years. The following Table 11-2 summarizes the projected population of Etowah County over the next 10 years.

11.4 Waste Generation Projections

MSW Generation

Projected Etowah County population estimates and corresponding MSW generation beginning in calendar year 2024 and continuing through 2034 are summarized in Table 11-2.

Table 11-2 Population-Based MSW Generation summary

Year	Population	Waste Generation (tons)		
		Household	Commercial	MSW
2024	103,043	55,288	36,858	92,146
2025	103,059	55,297	36,864	92,161
2026	103,076	55,305	36,870	92,176
2027	103,092	55,314	36,876	92,190
2028	103,109	55,323	36,882	92,205
2029	103,125	55,332	36,888	92,220
2030	103,142	55,341	36,894	92,235
2031	103,158	55,350	36,900	92,249
2032	103,175	55,359	36,906	92,264
2033	103,191	55,367	36,912	92,279
2034	103,208	55,376	36,917	92,294

C/D Generation

Projected Etowah County population estimates and corresponding C/D generation beginning in calendar year 2024 and continuing through 2034 are summarized in Table 11-3.

Table 11-2 Population-Based C/D Generation summary

Year	Population	C/D Waste (tons)
2024	103,043	58,109
2025	103,059	58,118
2026	103,076	58,127
2027	103,092	58,136
2028	103,109	58,146
2029	103,125	58,155
2030	103,142	58,164
2031	103,158	58,174
2032	103,175	58,183
2033	103,191	58,192
2034	103,208	58,202

Industrial Waste Generation

As discussed in Section 5.5, only one solid waste collection company responded to the request for information pertaining to industrial waste generation and stated that residential, commercial, and industrial waste is collected at the same time and not segregated. Additionally, Etowah County does not have any dedicated industrial landfills that would report waste generation volume. Therefore, there are no sufficient records readily available to calculate industrial waste generation rates.

Special Waste

Special waste primarily consists of waste which is not regulated as hazardous waste and has physical and/or chemical characteristics that differ from all other household and commercial waste. Examples of Special Waste include asbestos, foundry waste, MSW ash, non-hazardous contaminated soil, sludges, and non-hazardous industrial waste. This waste is typically accounted for in overall volume reports for a particular landfill and is not accounted for separately.

Medical Waste

Medical wastes are typically collected from medical and veterinary facilities, nursing homes, research laboratories and clinical laboratories by permitted medical waste transportation companies. Generation volume data was not readily available for inclusion in this SWMP. The storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of medical waste produced within Etowah County must be in accordance with the ADEM Land Division – Medical Waste Program, Division 17.

11.5 Variables That May Affect Generation Rate Estimates

Several variables exist that may affect the future solid waste quantities predicted in the above sections.

Population Trends

Since solid waste projections are based on population estimates, population changes have a significant potential to influence waste generation estimates. Etowah County experienced an overall population growth between 1990 and 2010 but has experienced a 1.33% decline in population since 2010. Despite the recent decline, projected population data obtained from the CBER indicates a 0.3% increase through 2040. This wide variability in population estimates can significantly affect solid waste generation projections. Economic growth can also affect an area's population in a short period of time and thus impact the solid waste generation projections.

Municipal Waste Generation Rates

The best correlation to project future MSW generation is accurate estimations of the current generation volume. For Etowah County, although most of the participating municipalities provided some MSW collection data, only one participating municipality was able to provide collection data representing MSW collection from a single population center and considered reliable for generation estimation. Had more of the participating municipalities been able to provide accurate waste collection data, the per capita generation rate could have been better refined.

Other variables that can impact future waste generation estimates include economic growth and recycling programs.

Industrial Waste Generation Rates

As with the MSW generation projections, the lack of actual and accurate industrial disposal data significantly affects the ability to accurately project future generation trends.

Construction/Demolition Waste Generation Rates

Projected generation rates for C/D waste can be greatly influenced by economy and weather. Fluctuations in construction have a large effect on the C/D waste generation rate. Additionally, severe weather can cause considerable damage to trees and buildings resulting in short-term spikes in C/D waste generation for several months.

A large contributor to the volume at the Gadsden C/D Landfill is demolition of vacant and abandoned properties. These abandoned properties demolition programs are episodic and difficult to predict for future generation estimation.

Special Waste Generation Rates (Including Medical Waste)

Due to the random nature of special wastes generation, these types of waste are difficult to estimate. Volumes of special waste that would be disposed of in an MSW landfill tend to be small in comparison to the tonnages of municipal solid waste received at these landfills. The landfills that do receive a larger percentage of Special Waste as compared to the total waste received tend to plan and prepare for those larger quantities. Therefore, changes in future amounts of special waste are not expected to significantly affect the total amounts or management of special waste generated in Etowah County in the future.

12.0 EXPANSION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

12.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Provide for the development or expansion of solid waste management systems in a manner that is consistent with the needs of the area, taking into account planning, zoning, population and development estimate, and economics of the jurisdiction and the protection of air, water, land, and other natural resources;

The current SWMP provides for a 10-year period during which new methods and technologies may be developed that can impact current solid waste processing and disposal practices. The SWMP is designed to retain all options available to the County and participating municipalities for managing solid waste streams.

There are no reported changes for current collection, transportation, and disposal of MSW within the County or the addition of new MSW landfills. The Gadsden C/D Landfill is in the process of permitting a 132-acre expansion that would include construction of five new waste cells. Etowah County and the participating municipalities will periodically re-evaluate the solid waste needs for their respective jurisdictions in order to provide for orderly transfer, development, and/or expansion of the solid waste management systems within the County.

12.2 Capacity Assurance

Municipal Solid Waste Capacity

Of the fifteen municipal solid waste landfills in Alabama permitted to service Etowah County, only three are currently being used by participating municipalities or their contracted collection and disposal companies. When contacted about remaining capacity, all three landfills responded that they had sufficient capacity to accept their permitted daily volume for a minimum of the next ten years.

Additionally, there is one MSW landfill located in adjacent St. Clair County, Star Ridge Landfill, that is permitted to accept waste from Etowah County.

Construction/Demolition Capacity

The City of Gadsden operates the only permitted C/D landfill in Etowah County and accepts waste from contractors and other municipalities. In addition to the Gadsden C/D Landfill, Noble Hill Landfill, Sand Valley Landfill, and Three Corners Regional Landfill are permitted to accept C/D waste from Etowah County.

The Gadsden C/D Landfill is in the process of permitting a 132-acre expansion that would include construction of five new waste cells. The combined volume of the proposed cells is expected to provide sufficient capacity to accept their permitted daily volume for a minimum of the next 30 years.

Industrial Solid Waste Capacity

WCA of Alabama, LLC (WCA) is located at 25480 Highway 20 in Warrior, Alabama and permitted to accept industrial waste from Etowah County. Additionally, Noble Hill Landfill, Sand Valley Landfill, and Three Corners Regional Landfill are permitted to accept non-hazardous industrial waste. WCA did not respond to our request for information regarding remaining capacity.

Noble Hill Landfill, Sand Valley Landfill, and Three Corners Regional Landfill are also permitted to accept industrial waste from Etowah County. With the combined capacity of these three landfills, there appears to be sufficient available volume to accept industrial waste from the County in the future.

12.3 Future Solid Waste Disposal Options

Even though there currently appears to be adequate MSW, C/D, and Industrial solid waste disposal capacity available to Etowah County, a jurisdiction within the County may decide it would be advantageous to site a landfill or transfer station in their respective jurisdiction. The option to site a future landfill (either MSW, Industrial or C/D), solid waste processing facility (transfer station), or specialty waste management service (medical waste processing), shall remain available to the participating municipalities throughout the planning period of this SWMP. If the jurisdiction decides to pursue this option, the guidelines and procedures of this Solid Waste Management Plan shall be followed.

12.4 Total Cost for Solid Waste Handling and Facilities

Other than the Town of Walnut Grove, each municipality and the County have individual contracts for collection, transportation, and disposal for household and MSW. Private haulers collect, transport, and dispose of commercial MSW, industrial and C/D waste for commercial establishments, manufacturers, and construction contractors. Costs are then passed on to the residents or customers for collection, transportation, and disposal, except for associated costs and revenue for recycling programs.

Average fees for the landfills accepting MSW from Etowah County are approximately \$32.00/ton. Tipping fees at the Gadsden transfer station are \$40.00/ton and \$50.00/ton at the C/D landfill. At the current MSW and C/D generation volume, the residents of Etowah County currently spend approximately \$5,854,122 on disposal services annually.

The costs of industrial and special waste disposal are not well-defined. The cost of collection, transportation and disposal depends on the length of the haul, number of pickups, and type of waste.

12.5 Zoning Considerations

Planning and zoning are the principal mechanisms for jurisdictions to control and guide future growth and achieve a logical pattern of land use and development. A Planning and Zoning Department or Commission works to ensure that new developments meet specific guidelines and requirements related to the adequacy of roads, parking, traffic flow, drainage, utilities, etc. Some of the generally accepted, specific objectives of zoning are:

- To conserve the taxable value of land and buildings
- To prevent overcrowding of land and buildings
- To lessen or avoid traffic congestion
- To promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public and the community.

Provided a participating municipalities have planning and zoning regulations in place, or a review process for new developments, then any proposed solid waste transfer, disposal, or processing facility will be located in areas that are appropriate for each type of facility.

12.6 Local Economic and Population / Development Estimates

Population estimates discussed in Section 11.3 indicate the growth rate for the County will be approximately 0.02% annually for the next ten years; however, population projections can be difficult to estimate due to economic considerations and unsteady growth.

According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2022 there were 47,643 housing units in Etowah County with a median household income of \$46,984. The total population was 103, 241 people and each household had an average occupancy of 2.67 people. Persons in poverty consist of approximately 17.4% of the population. An example of the economic benefits of expanding the solid waste management system would be lower construction costs in high growth areas to facilitate ease of access to the facility and to help eliminate the effort spent on the clean-up of unpermitted illegal dumps in Etowah County.

12.7 Protection of Air, Water and Natural Resources

All expansions of solid waste management systems are required to comply with applicable State, Federal, and Local Regulations governing the protection of the environment and solid waste disposal, where applicable. These Regulations which safeguard against health, safety and environmental concerns involve:

- Buffer zones
- Minimum separation from groundwater
- Storm water run-on/run-off
- Liners, if applicable
- Leachate collection systems, if applicable
- Gas monitoring or ventilation systems, if applicable
- Intermediate cover of solid waste

Etowah County and the participating municipalities are not specifically required to make technical or scientific determinations whether a facility achieves compliance with applicable laws and regulations. These jurisdictions defer the technical and scientific analysis to the agencies charged with approving, permitting, and monitoring solid waste management facilities.

13.0 CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS FOR JOINT VENTURES

13.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Identify any current agreements between the jurisdiction and other units of local government or public authorities for the joint use of solid waste processing or disposal facilities and evaluate the need for and feasibility of entering joints agreements in the future;

13.2 Current Agreements

Currently, there are no contracts between the Etowah County Commission and other participating municipalities for the joint use and operation of solid waste facilities.

13.3 Future Agreements

The current SWMP provides for a 10-year period during which new methods and technologies may be developed that can impact current solid waste processing and disposal practices. This impact may lead to the need for contractual agreements with other units of local government or authorities for the joint use and operation of solid waste facilities. Any proposed contractual agreements for joint ventures shall be made available in public meetings only after public notice of issuance and opportunity for public comment is provided.

14.0 PRIVATE COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND/OR DISPOSAL CONTRACTS

14.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Identify any current contractual agreements with private entities for the collection, processing, or disposal of solid waste and evaluate the need for and feasibility of entering into such agreements in the future;

14.2 Contracts With Private Contractors

Other than the Town of Walnut Grove, each participating municipality and the County have individual contracts for collection, transportation, and disposal for MSW and C/D waste.

Medical wastes are typically collected and transported by permitted medical waste transportation companies.

Each municipality can choose their own solid waste contractor. Based on the information provided by participating municipalities, contracts with private haulers in Etowah County include Arrow Disposal, Waste Management, Republic Services, and Allied Waste.

14.3 Evaluation of Need for Future Joint Agreements

Currently, each municipality in Etowah County either provides its own solid waste collection services or contracts with a commercial/private waste company for these services. Based on the current and future MSW and C/D needs of Etowah County and its participating municipalities, these contracts will continue to be an integral part of collection, transportation, and disposal of MSW and C/D waste.

Etowah County and the participating municipalities will follow their individual procurement processes when pursuing new contracts.

15.0 LOCATION POTENTIAL FOR DISPOSAL FACILITIES AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS

15.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

Identify the general location within a County where solid waste processing or disposal facilities and recycling programs may be located, and identify the site of each facility if a site has already been chosen;

15.2 General

The governing body of a County or participating municipality has the responsibility to assure proper management of solid waste generated within its jurisdiction. When evaluating potential locations for additional solid waste facilities or recycling programs, a balance must be obtained between the need for such a facility and the concerns of local citizens and municipalities. Factors to consider when evaluating future expansion of solid waste management systems in the County include public health and safety, accessibility, drainage, proximity to groundwater and surface water, hauling distance and adjacent land use.

15.3 Specific Requirements and Considerations

Other than the City of Gadsden's proposed C/D expansion, there are no reported plans for the addition of new solid waste processing centers or disposal facilities in Etowah County. However, the County and participating municipalities reserve the right to consider development of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities in the future.

Future development and/or expansion of solid waste management systems in the County must consider the following factors prior to approval by the local governing authority. The jurisdiction shall determine if these items have been addressed in a logical and complete manner. Deficiencies in the proposed facility plan will need to be addressed before approval.

1. Is the proposed expansion of the solid waste facilities consistent with the SWMP?

In considering future facilities, the County or participating municipality will review all proposed facilities and determine if the scope and purpose of a proposed facility is consistent with the current SWMP. If the proposed facility is not consistent with the SWMP, then the proposal can be denied.

2. The relationship of the proposed facility to local planned or existing development (or the absence thereof), to major transportation arteries, and to existing state primary and secondary roads?

The State, County, and participating municipality should be consulted as to the relationship of the proposed solid waste management facility to existing or proposed developments and/or roads leading to a proposed facility.

The type of facility also dictates the required proximity to certain infrastructure. Transfer stations should be located near major arteries as the haul trucks operate best on highways. Recycling centers should be located for ease of access by the public, bearing in mind that material haul trucks need access as well. Landfills are generally

best located in rural or industrial areas, in relatively close proximity to major arteries so haul and collector trucks can have adequate access.

The safety of the motoring public should be a major consideration in siting planned facilities.

- 3. The location of the proposed facility in proximity to existing industries in the state that generate large volumes of solid waste, or in proximity to the areas projected for development of industries that will generate solid waste?**

The County or participating municipality should consider the locations of proposed solid waste management facilities in proximity to existing or proposed industrial facilities that generate solid waste. Ideally, a facility intended to service an industry should be located as close as possible to the industry.

- 4. Availability of public services, facilities and improvements required to support a proposed facility and protect public health, safety, and the environment?**

The County or participating municipality should be consulted concerning the availability of utilities and public services required for protection of health, safety, and the environment.

- 5. The impacts, if any, the proposed facility will have on public safety and what provisions are made to minimize the impact on public health and safety?**

The proposed facility must be designed to minimize the impacts to public health and safety. The proposed facility plan should address transportation safety by evaluating existing roads and traffic controls with proposed upgrades. Stormwater and erosion control systems must be adequately designed and detailed to protect surface and groundwater resources. Provisions to minimize or prevent the public from contact with solid waste must be provided as part of the proposed plan.

- 6. What are the social and economic impacts, if any, the proposed facility will have on the affected community, including changes in property values, and social or community perception?**

The County or participating municipality should take into consideration the effects, positive or negative, of the proposed solid waste management facility on the community. These effects shall be weighed against the advantages the proposed facility will bring to the community. Also, future use of the proposed facility shall also be considered such as what can the property be used for after the solid waste facility has ceased to operate. The jurisdiction should solicit the opinions and concerns of community representatives and the general public.

15.4 Siting for Future Facilities

There are currently two active landfills in Etowah County, Noble Hill Landfill (MSW) and the Gadsden C/D landfill. The Noble Hill Landfill indicated that it should have sufficient capacity to accept their permitted daily volume for a minimum of the next ten years. The Gadsden C/D Landfill is in the process of permitting a 132-acre expansion that would include construction of five new waste cells. The combined volume of the proposed cells is expected to provide sufficient capacity to accept their permitted daily volume for a minimum of the next 30 years.

Other than the pending Gadsden C/D Landfill expansion and the potential to expand recycling in the County, there are no new landfills anticipated for the County.

Etowah County and participating municipalities will periodically re-evaluate the solid waste needs for their respective jurisdictions to provide for orderly development and/or expansion of the solid waste management systems if needed.

16.0 UTILIZING SOLID WASTE FACILITIES OUTSIDE ETOWAH COUNTY

16.1 Statute Requirement

Code of Alabama, Section 22-27-47(b) each plan shall at a minimum:

For any facility expected to serve the jurisdiction's future needs that is located or is proposed to be located outside the jurisdiction, the plan shall explain in detail the reasons for selecting such a facility;

16.2 Facility Use Outside of County

Two of the three MSW landfills currently serving the County are in the adjacent counties of DeKalb and Cherokee. In addition, the Marshall County Transfer Station, operated by Allied Waste, also receives a limited volume of MSW from Etowah County. The decision on which solid waste facility to use is typically made by the participating municipal government and or private waste contractors and is generally based on economics, as well as the location of and ease of transportation to a facility.

17.0 APPROVAL PROTOCOL FOR SOLID WASTE FACILITIES

The Etowah County Commission will consider approval of proposed solid waste facilities in unincorporated Etowah County. Participating municipalities will consider approval of proposed facilities to be located within their jurisdictional limits. A municipal government which is subject to and covered by the County's SWMP may grant local approval of solid waste management facilities and services within their municipal limits if the municipality follows all requirements, instructions or activities in the Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan that address local approval. If the municipality grants local approval of solid waste management facilities or services, the applying entity is not required to obtain local approval from the Etowah County Commission.

18.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Any proposal for the expansion of solid waste management systems in unincorporated Etowah County must be submitted to the County Commission and include the following: Letter with description of the proposed facility Site Location Map Reporting addressing the six items listed in Section 15.3

After a satisfactory proposal is presented to the County Commission and prior to any action by the commission, the proposal shall be made in a public meeting only after public notice of issuance and an opportunity for public comment is provided. The Etowah County Commission will not consider, vote, or propose for public hearing any proposal that does not comply with the requirements outlined in this SWMP.

In providing public notice regarding any expansion of solid waste management systems described in the SWMP, the County Commission shall at a minimum hold at least one public hearing.

- Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area.
- The notice will be given at least 30 days in advance but not more than 45 days in advance of the proposed date of the hearing.
- The notice will contain at a minimum a description of the proposed action, its relevancy and consistency with the SWMP and will identify a contact person to obtain information.
- All pertinent documents should be available for inspection during normal business hours at a location readily accessible to the public.

Participating municipalities may follow a similar process for public participation in solid waste management systems approval.

18.1 Public Participation for the Proposal of Collection, Transportation, and Disposal Contracts

Etowah County and the participating municipalities will follow their individual procurement processes when pursuing new contracts.

REFERENCES

- (1) *Etowah County Solid Waste Management Plan Update*, September 2008:
- (2) Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Land Division- Solid Waste Program, Division 13, Revised August 15, 2022:
- (3) Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Land Division- Solid Waste Program, Division 17, Effective January 16, 2012:
- (4) 2017 Code of Alabama Title 22 – Health, Mental Health, Health and Environmental Control. Title 1 - Health and Environmental Control Generally, Chapter 27 - SOLID WASTE. Article 1 - Solid Wastes Disposal Act
- (5) Alabama Solid Waste Disposal Act, 2017 Code of Alabama 1975, 22-27-047, revised in 2008:
- (6) USEPA – *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Fact Sheet*, December 2020:
- (7) USEPA – *Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: 2018 Tables and Figures*, December 2020:
- (8) USEPA – *MSW Characterization Methodology*, undated:
- (9) USEPA - *Construction and Demolition Debris Generation in the United States*, 2015 USEPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, dated September 2018:
- (10) USEPA – *Estimating 2003 Building-Related Construction and Demolition Materials Amount*, Undated:
- (11) USEPA - *Volume-to-Weight Conversion Factors*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, dated April 2016:
- (12) USEPA - *National Overview: Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes and Recycling*:
- (13) USEPA - "Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2001 Facts and Figures:
- (14) Website: The University of Alabama, March 2024. The Center for Business and Economic Research: <http://cber.cba.ua.edu/>:
- (15) ADEM – Permitted Construction/Demolition and Industrial Landfills in the State of Alabama, dated July 31, 2020:
- (16) ADEM – Permitted Municipal Solid Waste Landfills in the State of Alabama, dated November 24, 2021:
- (17) ADEM – Alabama Public Recycling Locations by County, undated:
- (18) Information maintained in the ADEM web-based efile system:
- (19) *Administrative & Technical Support in Evaluating Public Input on Potential Enhancements to the State Solid Waste Program Phase I - Potential Enhancements to the Alabama Solid Waste Landfill Permitting Process*, Prepared by Joel S. Hayworth, Prabhakar Clement, J. Brian Anderson, and Charlene LeBleu Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Civil Engineering Department College of Architecture, Design, and Construction Auburn University, dated May 30, 2013.

APPENDIX A

Etowah County Commission Resolution Adopting the SWMP

APPENDIX B

**Letters of Agreement for Continued Participation
in the Etowah County SWMP**

APPENDIX C

City of Boaz “Opt Out” Letter

APPENDIX D

Noble Hill Landfill Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit

APPENDIX E

Sand Valley Landfill Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit

APPENDIX F

Three Corners Regional Landfill Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit

APPENDIX G

Gadsden C/D Landfill Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit

APPENDIX H

Natural Disaster Debris Management Information