

10.1 Description of the County

10.1.1 Background

Oconee County is located in the middle of the ten-county planning region. The county has four municipalities. The largest is Watkinsville, the county seat. The others are Bishop, Bogart and North High Shoals. Oconee County's 186 square miles are predominantly rural, especially in the southern and western part of the County.

10.1.2 Population

The most recent population figures from the 2000 U.S. Census show the County population to be 26,225. Table 10-1 shows the 2000 population, by census zone. The County's 2004 population is estimated to be 30,292.

Table 10-1
Oconee County and Census Zone Population

City	Population
Bogart CCD, Oconee County, Georgia	7,150
Elder CCD, Oconee County, Georgia	1,841
Watkinsville CCD, Oconee County, Georgia	17,234
TOTAL	26,225

Source: 2000, U.S. Census

10.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes

The County does not experience any significant seasonal changes in population.

10.1.2.2 Number of Households

The total number of households in the County planning area in 2000 was 9,528. Table 10-2 shows the number of single and multi-family households in the planning area from the 2000 U.S. Census.

**Table 10-2
Housing Units in Oconee County**

Type	Amount
Single Family Housing	7,813
Multi-Family Housing	1,715
Total	9,528

Source: 2000, U.S. Census

10.1.3 Economic Activity

As identified by the Georgia Department of Labor (2002), Table 10-3 indicates for the County the number of businesses and number of employees for each sector identified by NAISC code.

**Table 10-3
Oconee County Employment by NAICS Category**

OCONEE COUNTY		
Industry	Number of Firms	Number of Employees
Goods Producing	185	1,324
Agriculture, forestry, & fishing	12	72
Mining	0	0
Construction	143	632
Manufacturing	30	621
Food Manufacturing	0	0
Beverage & tobacco mfg	0	0
Textile mills	0	0
Textile product mills	0	0
Apparel Manufacturing	0	0
Leather & allied product mfg	0	0
Wood product Manufacturing	1	*
Paper Manufacturing	0	0
Printing and related activities	*	*
Petroleum and coal products mfg	0	0
Chemical Manufacturing	*	*
Plastics & rubber products mfg	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	3	55
Primary metal Manufacturing	0	0

OCONEE COUNTY		
Industry	Number of Firms	Number of Employees
Fabricated metal product mfg	3	29
Machinery Manufacturing	4	53
Computer & electronic product mfg	*	*
Electrical equipment/appliance	*	*
Transportation equipment	0	0
Furniture and related product mfg	6	122
Miscellaneous mfg industries	*	*
Service Producing	493	4,250
Wholesale trade	46	362
Retail trade	66	904
Transportation and warehousing	16	82
Utilities	*	*
Information	12	64
Finance and insurance	48	324
Real estate and rental and leasing	28	125
Professional, scientific/tech svcs	68	394
Management: companies/enterprises	*	*
Administrative and waste svcs	45	361
Educational services	13	215
Health care and social services	47	513
Arts, entertainment and recreation	9	138
Accommodation and food services	22	276
Other services (except government)	68	320
Unclassified - industry not assigned	13	43
Total - Private Sector	690	5,618
Total - Government	34	1,289
Federal government	9	100
State government	11	68
Local government	15	1,122

Source: 2002, Georgia Department of Labor

10.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

10.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed

The Georgia Division of Environmental Protection reports that 11,789 tons of waste was disposed in municipal solid waste landfills and 5,660 tons was disposed in construction and demolition landfills from Oconee County from the fourth quarter 2002 through the third quarter of 2003, the last four quarters for which data was reported. The resulting 2.37 pounds per person per day is low compared to the State average. This can be attributed to successful waste reduction programs and a Pay As You Throw fee system that discourages disposal. In addition, it is likely that private haulers and individuals deliver waste from Oconee County to the Athens-Clarke County landfill and report that it is from Athens-Clarke County either because a portion of the load is indeed from Athens-Clarke County or because they are aware of the restrictions on accepting waste from outside Athens-Clarke and Oglethorpe County at this landfill.

Table 10-4 shows the results of an analysis that breaks down the waste disposed from Oconee County in MSW and C and D landfills by sector. A telephone survey of landfills in the State of Georgia, conducted by R.W. Beck, Inc., suggests that of the waste delivered to MSW landfills, 66.6 percent is MSW (generated by the commercial or residential sector), 12.3 percent is construction and demolition debris, 14 percent is industrial, and 7.1 percent is sludge or biosolids. These percentages were applied to the amount of waste disposed of in MSW landfills from Oconee County and its municipalities.

Table 10-4
Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003)
Oconee County

Sector	Tons to MSW Landfill	Tons to C&D Landfill	Total Tons
Residential	4,630.3		4,630.3
Commercial	3,221.0		3,221
Industrial	1,650.4		1,650.41
C&D	1,449.9	5,660	7,109.9
Sludge/Biosolids	837		837
TOTAL	11,788.6	5,660	17,448.6

To break down the MSW portion of the waste disposed in MSW landfills by residential and commercial generators, preliminary results from the first season of sampling for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) waste composition study were used. Results from 120 samples taken from three landfills in the State indicated that approximately 32 percent of the waste stream comes from commercial generators and 46 percent comes from residential generators. The

remaining 22 percent was in transfer trailers and thus the source was not identifiable. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the waste in the transfer trailers has the same residential/commercial split as the rest of the MSW delivered to the MSW landfills.

10.2.1.1 Waste Characterization

Preliminary analysis of waste characterization data from the DCA sampling study shows the percentage of each type of material in the commercial and residential waste disposed of in an MSW landfill, shown in Table 10-5. These results suggest that 63 percent of the residential and commercial waste disposed of in Georgia landfills is paper or organic material. It is assumed that the waste disposed from Oconee County is of similar composition. Once the waste characterization study is complete, these percentages can be revised to be more specific to the northeast Georgia region.

**Table 10-5
Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Oconee County¹**

Material	Average
Newspaper	4.9%
Corrugated Cardboard	9.6%
Office	2.5%
Magazine/Glossy	3.0%
Paperboard	3.9%
Mixed (Other Recyclable)	3.3%
Other (Non-recyclable)	10.0%
Total Paper	37.2%
#1 PET Bottles	1.7%
#2 HDPE Bottles	1.2%
#3-#7 Bottles	0.3%
Expanded Polystyrene	1.6%
Film Plastic	8.1%
Other Rigid Plastic	3.9%
Total Plastic	16.9%
Clear	2.0%
Green	0.5%
Amber	1.6%
Other	0.5%
Total Glass	4.6%

Material	Average
Steel Cans	1.9%
Aluminum Cans	1.0%
Other Ferrous	2.9%
Other Non-Ferrous	0.8%
Total Metal	6.6%
Yard Waste	1.5%
Wood (non-C&D)	2.1%
Food Waste	11.9%
Textiles	3.8%
Diapers	2.7%
Fines	3.3%
Other Organics	0.8%
Total Organics	26.0%
Drywall	0.2%
Wood	3.1%
Inerts	0.2%
Carpet	1.4%
Other C&D	1.0%
Total C&D	5.9%
Televisions	0.1%
Computers	0.1%
Other Electronics	1.3%
Tires	0.3%
HHW	0.2%
Other Inorganics	0.9%
Total Inorganics	2.8%
Total	100.0%

¹ Based on sampling data from Georgia Waste Characterization, Fall 2003

10.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations

Oconee County knows of no unique conditions or seasonal variations that will dramatically change the amount of waste projected.

10.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters

Without knowing the type and degree of an unanticipated disaster, Oconee County can not project the amount or type of waste that would need to be managed from such an event. However, the County would first asses the damage. A logging company could be used to transport any additional trees and yard trimmings that would need to be managed to the Oglethorpe inert landfill. Any additional MSW would be delivered by County equipment and licensed haulers to the BFI landfill in Barrow County.

10.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed

Table 10-6 shows waste projections based on the estimated per capita waste disposed in the most recent year for which data are available. In Oconee County, approximately .64 tons were disposed of per capita per year, .43 tons per capita per year in the MSW landfills alone. If this per capita disposal rate were to remain the same, it is estimated that 30,377 tons per year would be disposed by the end of the planning period, 20,524 to MSW landfills.

Table 10-6
Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
Oconee County

Estimated Per Capita Disposed	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Population	28,738	30,292	31,929	33,656	35,475	37,393	39,415	40,530	42,72	45,031
Tons	19,386	20,434	21,539	22,704	23,931	25,225	25,939	27,341	28,819	30,377

10.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal

In 1991, the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan estimated that .54 tons per capita per year were being disposed from Oconee County in MSW landfills. Thus, the tons per capita per year have increased based on 1991 numbers. However, it is important to recognize that the 1991 tonnage data may not be accurate since few landfills had scales at the time. In any case, .64 tons per capita per year in 2002/2003 translates to 2.37 pounds per capita per day, significantly below the statewide waste reduction goal.

10.3 Waste Reduction Element

10.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs

This section provides detailed information on Oconee County’s existing waste reduction programs that target the residential, commercial/institutional, industrial, construction and demolition, and yard trimming sectors and waste streams.

10.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs

Oconee County promotes source reduction through a number of programs promoting the use of yard sales, charitable donations, a PAYT program, and green shopping.

The Oconee County Clean and Beautiful Commission and 4-H collect used clothing for the needy. The Clean and Beautiful Commission also sponsors presentations for classrooms on Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. A local woodworking company also donates scrap wood for home fireplaces.

10.3.1.2 Recycling

Oconee County currently operates six staffed drop-off sites where citizens can leave blue bag household waste and recyclable items for collection by a county licensed contract hauler. In addition, all 14 county licensed haulers are required to offer curbside recycling. Items collected for recycling include corrugated cardboard, newspapers, magazines, glass, catalogs, telephone books, aluminum cans, #1 and #2 plastics, tin cans, aerosol cans, mercury thermometers & small switches, cell phones, and white office paper from government offices. Motor oil and scrap metal/white goods are collected at the old landfill on US-441S and at the Rankin Road collection center.

The City of Bogart offers curbside recyclables collection using City owned and operated equipment and personnel. The County public schools have an annual telephone phone book collection and recycling program. Eight County schools participate in the program that offers up to \$200 for each school based on the volume collected. Various community groups collect and recycle aluminum cans. The County also offers a Tire Amnesty month for residential customers only. Tires are collected at three locations: the old landfill on US-441S, and the collection centers on GA-15S and US-53. Table 10-7 describes the recycling programs operating in the County. Table 10-8 indicates the businesses that accept recyclables from Oconee County, according to the Georgia Recycling Markets Directory.

Table 10-7
Recycling Programs in Oconee County (1994-1999)

Type of Program	Jurisdictions	Population Served	Operated by:	Materials Accepted	Tons Diverted (94-99)
Drop-Off Centers	Oconee County	26,225	Oconee County	Newspaper	1236
				Aluminum Cans	31
				Glass Bottles	195
				Magazines/Catalogs	182
				#1 And #2 Plastics	49
				Motor Oil	N/A
				Tires	767
				Scrap Metal/White	397

Type of Program	Jurisdictions	Population Served	Operated by:	Materials Accepted	Tons Diverted (94-99)
				Goods	
				Tin Cans	N/A
				Aerosol Cans	N/A
				Mercury Thermometers & Small Switches	N/A
				Cell Phones	N/A
				White Office Paper From Government Offices	49
				Corrugated	842
Curbside Recycling	Various County Locations		Private Haulers	N/A	N/A
Curbside Recycling	City of Bogart		City of Bogart	N/A	N/A
Telephone Book Recycling Program	Oconee County		Oconee County Public Schools and Oconee County Clean and Beautiful	Telephone Books	9-11
Tire Amnesty Month	Oconee County		Oconee County and Oconee County Clean and Beautiful	Tires	20-25 per event
Aluminum Can Recycling	Oconee County		Community Groups	Aluminum Cans	N/A
Clothing Reuse	Oconee County		4-H and Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Used Clothing	2-3 every 2 yrs

Source: Oconee County Solid Waste Department

**Table 10-8
Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area**

Name	Location	Accepts Material from:		Materials Accepted
		Geographic Area	Sector	
Exclusive Pallet Service	Bogart, GA	Oconee County	Commercial	Wooden Pallets

Source: Georgia Recycling Markets Directory

Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities

Oconee encourages home composting of yard waste by making low cost bins available to homeowners for personal use. There is also an annual Christmas tree recycling and mulching program, sponsored by the Clean and Beautiful Program, available to all citizens. More than 2000 citizens recycle 12,000-16,000 Christmas trees annually at the Watkinsville Home Depot. The resulting mulch is left on site for free pick up by residents.

The City of Bogart provides once per month curbside collection of leaves and limbs. The County Road Department provides once a month leaf and limb mulching for the City of Bogart. Mulch is stored at the Road Department and sold to the public or used for maintaining government property.

The City of Watkinsville Sanitation Department offers once a month leaf and limb mulching for City residents. Residents place materials at the curb for collection. The City mulches the material which is then stockpiled at the County Road Department and is free for the taking. Table 10-9 lists the yard trimmings diversion programs operating in the County.

Table 10-9
Yard Trimmings Programs (2003)

Program	Owner/Operator	Jurisdictions Served	Sector Served	Materials Accepted	Quantity	Final Disposition
Home composting	County offers \$20 bins through the Clean & Beautiful Program	Oconee County	Residential	Vegetative food, yard trimmings	Distributed 650 bins in 2003	Residents make and use compost
Municipal curbside yard trimmings	City of Bogart	City of Bogart	Residential	Leaf & limb	Approximately one 2-wheel truckload per month	Mulched and sold to public or used for municipal projects
Municipal curbside yard trimmings	City of Watkinsville	City of Watkinsville	Residential	Leaf & limb	N/A	Mulched/given to the public for free and used for City projects
Christmas Tree Recycling	Oconee County Clean and Beautiful and Georgia Power Company	Oconee County	Residential	Christmas trees	+2000	Mulched and given to residents

10.3.2.1 Items Requiring Special Handling

Used motor oil is collected at the old landfill and the Rankin Road collection center. White goods are collected at the old landfill. Special events are held to collect items such as mercury thermometers and switches, and cell phones. White goods and scrap metal are sold to a scrap metal company for reprocessing. Tires are collected at three locations: the old landfill on US-441S, and the collection centers on GA-15S and US-53. Passenger tires without rims and white goods can be left at the old county landfill for recycling. Tractor tires and large truck tires are not accepted. Old tires are hauled to a processing facility in Butts County, Town of Jackson. Oconee County receives no remuneration for tires. Table 10-10 lists the programs operating in the County to divert materials requiring special handling.

**Table 10-10
Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003)**

Material	Targeted Sector(s) ¹	Management Strategy	Final Disposition of Material(s)
Motor Oil	R	Collected at 2 County drop-off sites	500 gal tanks at each location serviced by a certified processor
Tires ²	R	Collected at the old landfill	Hauled to a processing facility in Butts County
White Goods	R	Collected at the old landfill	Sold along with scrap metal to a firm for reprocessing in Athens
Mercury Thermometers and Switches	R	Clean & Beautiful special collection event	Collected by a reprocessor
Cell Phones	R	Collected at County drop-off sites	Recycled

¹ R= Residential, I=Industrial, C=Commercial, CD= C&D

² Tire Amnesty Month is a special project of the Oconee County Clean and Beautiful Commission.

Source: Oconee Solid Waste Department

10.3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs

The County's waste reduction program is available to all citizens. Curbside recycling is offered in the more densely populated areas while the County collection centers accept recyclables from all County residents. The Pay As You Throw program operating all the convenience centers encourages residents to recycle. Since preliminary results indicate that approximately 63 percent of the waste disposed in landfills sampled in Georgia is paper or organic waste, the County's future waste reduction efforts will emphasize the opportunities in the County to divert these materials.

10.3.4 Needs and Goals

Based on the inventory and assessment, adequacy of current programs and other programmatic options, including costs, Oconee County has developed the following waste reduction needs and goals:

- Ensure that the County continues to pursue the State's 25% reduction in the amount of solid waste received at disposal facilities;
- Increase education and awareness of recycling programs and opportunities for paper and organic waste materials; and
- Sustain waste reduction programs for the next 10 years.

10.4 Collection Element

10.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs

At the source private residential and commercial collection and disposal of MSW is determined by customer agreement with a private hauler of the customer's choice. Residential collection is from curbside containers furnished to customers by the hauler. Commercial collection is by use of dumpsters furnished to customers. Container size is determined by the customer.

The County provides six staffed collection centers on a PAYT system where citizens can discard household waste if it is in a 32 gallon blue bag with the Oconee County logo. These special bags can be purchased at most local food outlets and all collection sites for \$1.50 each. Blue bags are placed in specially marked dumpsters at the collection centers. The dumpsters are serviced by a County licensed hauler.

Recyclable items are placed in other specially marked containers at the site. These dumpsters are serviced by the licensed hauler as well. A list of the haulers operating in the County and a description of the collection programs are described in Tables 10-11 and 10-12.

**Table 10-11
Haulers Operating in Planning Area**

Hauler Name	Hauler Address	Sector Served ¹	Jurisdiction(s) Served	Arrangement ²
Alewine Waste	P.O. Box 698-Hull, GA-30646	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
United Waste Service/Robertson Sanitation	P.O. Box 1108-Auburn, GA-30011-1108	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Waste Pro of Georgia	P.O. Box 7172-Athens, GA-30606	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Curbside Services	P.O. Box 395-Bogart, GA-30622	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
AAA Sanitation	4695 Barnett Shoals Road-Athens, GA-30605	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
BFI Waste Systems	158 Fullenwider Road-Gainesville, GA-30503	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
F-4 Sanitation, Inc.	P.O. Box 82204-Athens, GA-30608-2204	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Bulldog Waste Service	P.O. Box 5548-Athens, GA-30604	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.

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Hauler Name	Hauler Address	Sector Served ¹	Jurisdiction(s) Served	Arrangement ²
B&W Waste	P.O. Box 1092- Madison, GA-30650	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Roll-off Systems	100 Garrett Drive- Statham, GA-30666	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers. Svcs County collection sites.
Oconee Waste Transport	1183 Experiment Station-Watkinsville, GA-30677	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Mike Harris Trucking, Inc.	P.O. Box 80165- Athens, GA-30608	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
LB Recycling & Waste Services	8194 Washington Street-Covington, GA-30014	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Sterling Sanitation	50 Gaines School Road-Athens, GA- 30605	R	Oconee County	Contracts directly with residential customers.

¹ R= Residential, I=Institutional, C= Commercial, CD= C&D

² i.e., contract with local government, franchise agreement with local government, independent contract with generators, etc.

Source: Oconee County Solid Waste Department

**Table 10-12
Inventory of Collection Programs**

Type	Collector	Program Description	Jurisdictions Served	Sectors Served ¹	Number of Households/Businesses served, if available ²	Contractual Arrangements
Curbside Collection	Private Hauler permitted by County	Curbside collection of garbage and recyclables.	Oconee County	R	N/A	Residents arrange for collection with hauler of choice.
Commercial Collection	Private Hauler permitted by County	Dumpster service for businesses	Oconee County	C	N/A	Entities arrange for collection with hauler of choice.
Staffed Drop-off	Oconee County	Open 5 days a week for PAYT residential garbage and recyclables.	Oconee County	R	N/A	PAYT system open to all county residents. Hauled to landfill/markets by County contractor.

¹ R= Residential, I=Institutional, C= Commercial, CD= C&D

² Private haulers may not be willing to provide this information.

Source: Oconee County Solid Waste Department

10.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy

The County's first step in an emergency contingency plan is determining the possible duration of the potential emergency or disaster. The county would then poll other haulers operating in within the County to determine their interest in substituting for the County's current contract hauler. After determining interest and availability, the County would then select a hauler or haulers and describe their interim duties, collection areas, landfills used, the servicing of County Collection Centers, handling of recyclables, and customer billing. The County estimates that this temporary replacement program could be up and running in two to three days.

The City of Bogart would contract with another hauler to provide interim recycling collection. This option could take two to three days to put into effect. In the interim, citizens could utilize a county maintained and staffed collection center for handling MSW and recyclables.

North High Shoals citizens can contact another hauler if primary service is interrupted. They also have the option of using or converting to the County blue bag PAYT disposal system. Citizens can haul filled bags to any of six staffed County maintained collection centers. Recyclable materials would also be accepted at the centers at no charge. These alternatives could be enacted within one to two days. The main delay might be in informing citizens of their new options during an interruption in normal service.

The City of Watkinsville would contract with another hauler to provide interim service. There are 14 licensed haulers operating with the jurisdiction so this option should only take two to three days to implement. Citizens would also have the option of using County staffed and maintained collection centers for blue bag household MSW and recyclables.

10.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs

Collection programs for solid waste are sufficient to meet existing community needs. The more populated areas have at the source collection and the staffed convenience centers are available for solid waste and recyclables for all citizens.

10.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering

Oconee County has very little illegal dumping due to aggressive enforcement of littering/dumping ordinances by the Sheriff's Department Code Enforcement Office and interested citizens.

10.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal

Oconee County's current enforcement program seems to be effective in addressing illegal dumping since it is not a significant problem for the County.

10.4.5 Needs and Goals

Oconee County’s goal for collection is to ensure efficient and effective collection of solid waste in the region over the next ten years.

10.5 Disposal Element

10.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Oconee County does not own or operate a landfill and there are no MSW or C&D landfills located in the County. There is one inert landfill issued a permit-by-rule in the County. This landfill (Permit No.108-021L) is located at the intersection of Flat Rock Road and Oliver Bridge Road.

Solid waste in Oconee County is collected by private haulers and taken to the landfill or transfer station of their choice. Waste collected from the County’s staffed collection centers is taken to the Oak Grove landfill in Barrow County or a transfer station in Monroe. Most of the solid waste in the County is disposed of at the Oak Grove landfill. Some was also disposed of at the Richland Creek landfill in 2003. Construction and demolition debris in the County is delivered to US-78 C&D landfill in Walton County or, to a lesser degree, to the Oglethorpe County landfill. It is assumed that private haulers will continue to dispose of waste from Oconee County at the landfills listed in Table 10-13.

**Table 10-13
Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment Technologies to be Used During
the Planning Period (2004 – 2013)**

Facility Name	Jurisdiction(s) Using Facility	Physical Address	Owner/ Operator	Facility Type	Types of Waste Accepted	Year Expected to Reach Capacity
BFI Richland Creek Rd Landfill Gwinnett County	Oconee County	Off Richland Crk Rd NW of Buford	BFI	MSWL	MSW	1/29/2021
BFI Hickory Ridge Landfill DeKalb County	Oconee County	I-285 & Moreland Ave Atlanta, GA	BFI	MSWL	MSW	6/29/2005
Clarke County-Athens Dunlap Road	Oconee County	US 78 4.5 MI E Athens	Athens-Clarke County	MSWL	MSW	7/29/2016

Facility Name	Jurisdiction(s) Using Facility	Physical Address	Owner/ Operator	Facility Type	Types of Waste Accepted	Year Expected to Reach Capacity
Cherokee County Pine Bluff Landfill	Oconee County	E Cherokee Dr Between SRRr5 & SRr20 Canton, GA	USA Waste, Inc.	MSWL	MSW	6/29/2049
Oak Grove Landfill	Oconee County	Off SR 324 3 mi SW of Winder	Republic Waste	MSWL	MSW	11/1/2008
Banks County R&B Chambers Landfill	Oconee County	705 Frank Bennett Road Homer, GA	Waste Management	MSWL	MSW	5/21/2040
BFI – East Dekalb Landfill	Oconee County	Off Scales Rd Lithonia	BFI	C&D	C&D	2/28/2005
Oglethorpe Co-US 78 C/D Landfill	Oconee County	US 78 One Mile Crawford	Oglethorpe County	C&D	C&D	2014

10.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity

Table 10-14 shows the anticipated destination of the waste that is collected in Oconee County. Landfills in the region have sufficient capacity to accept all the solid waste expected to be disposed from Oconee County. The County has obtained a letter from Roll off Systems, included at the end of this Section, assuring sufficient capacity to handle Oconee County’s waste for the next 20 years. However, private haulers are free to contract directly with residents and to transport municipal solid waste to the landfill and transfer station of their choice. This makes it difficult to monitor the amounts of waste being disposed or to obtain any capacity assurance.

**Table 10-14
Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013)**

Oconee County	Year 1 (2004)	Year 2 (2005)	Year 3 (2006)	Year 4 (2007)	Year 5 (2008)	Year 6 (2009)	Year 7 (2010)	Year 8 (2011)	Year 9 (2012)	Year 10 (2013)
Amount of Waste	8,386	8,839	9,317	9,821	10,352	10,912	11,502	11,827	12,466	13,140
Amount Oak Grove Landfill ¹	2,550	2,688	2,833	2,987	3,148					
Amount to Chambers R&B, Richland Creek, etc.						3,318	3,412	3,597	3,791	3,996
Amount to Oglethorpe Co. o US-78 C&D landfill	6,289	6,629	6,988	7,365	7,764	8,183	8,415	8,870	9,349	9,855

¹ Assumes that all waste from the County is delivered to Oak Grove landfill until it closes. Private haulers contracting directly with generators may deliver this waste to other landfills.

10.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy

If Oconee County’s contract hauler’s primary disposal option is interrupted, another hauler with landfill access will be acquired in an interim basis. This option could be operating within one week. There are currently 14 hauler licensed to operate within the County so the County should not have a difficult time finding another interim hauler.

10.5.2 Assessment of Disposal

Aside from the waste delivered to County convenience centers, the County has no control over where waste is disposed. However, the letter from Roll Off systems indicates its intention to assure disposal for the County’s waste.

10.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals

Oconee County’s goal is to ensure that disposal facilities in the region meet regulatory requirements and can continue to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs for the next ten years.

10.6 Education and Public Involvement Element

10.6.1 Inventory of Public Education and Involvement

Oconee County has a number of environmental programs and opportunities that are readily available in all eight schools due primarily to the active presence of the Keep Oconee County Beautiful Program, an affiliate of the State Keep Georgia Beautiful program, which in turn, is affiliated with the National Keep America Beautiful Program.

Many other participatory programs are available for citizens such as

- Christmas Tree Recycling;
- Adopt-a-Mile;
- Adopt-a-Stream;
- Adopt-a-Spot,
- Scrap Tire Amnesty;
- Old Clothes Roundup;
- Home Composting Program;
- Free Tree Seeding Distribution; and
- Other Earth Day and Great American Cleanup programs.

These programs encompass all municipalities within the County. Table 10-15 describes the public involvement and education programs currently operating in the County.

**Table 10-15
Existing Environmental Education Initiatives**

Program/Activity	Jurisdictions Covered	Operated by	Target Audience	Description of Impact
Clean & Beautiful Program	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Residents	Promotes awareness and involvement in recycling and waste reduction
Christmas Tree Recycling	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Residents	Reduces waste disposed at inert landfill
Adopt-a-Mile	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Businesses and Civic Groups	Keeps roadways clean
Adopt-a-Stream	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Businesses and Civic Groups	Keeps streams clean
Adopt-a-Spot	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Businesses and Civic Groups	Keeps selected locations clean
Scrap Tire Amnesty	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Businesses and Residents	Reduces illegal dumping
Old Clothes Roundup	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Residents	Promotes reuse of clothing
Home Composting Program	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Residents	Reduced waste disposed at inert landfill
Free Tree Seeding Distribution	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Residents	Beautification of the County
Other Earth Day and Great American Cleanup programs	Oconee County	Oconee County Clean & Beautiful	Businesses, Residents and Civic Groups	Raises awareness of environmental issues

10.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement

Public education and involvement is an integral part of the solid waste management program in Oconee County. The relationship with the schools in the County provides an avenue for encouraging waste reduction and to target paper for recycling. Although Oconee Clean and Beautiful focuses on many environmental and beautification issues, the resources are in place to focus on emerging solid waste management issues as needed.

10.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals

Oconee County's goal with regard to public education and involvement is to ensure that residents and businesses in the County understand the issues, needs, and goals of the solid waste management system.

10.7 Land Limitation Element

10.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas

In 1997, the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority conducted a regional landfill site suitability study. As part of this study, the ten counties developed siting criteria and screened all land within the ten-county area to determine the suitability of all sites for landfill development.

Figure 10-1 shows a map of the ten-county region with areas shaded that are considered unsuitable and of limited suitability for a solid waste disposal facility. These determinations were made based on water protection and land use criteria and host community concerns established by the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. Table 10-16 identifies the criteria and whether the presence of these factors excluded a site altogether or lowered the ranking of the site for landfill suitability.

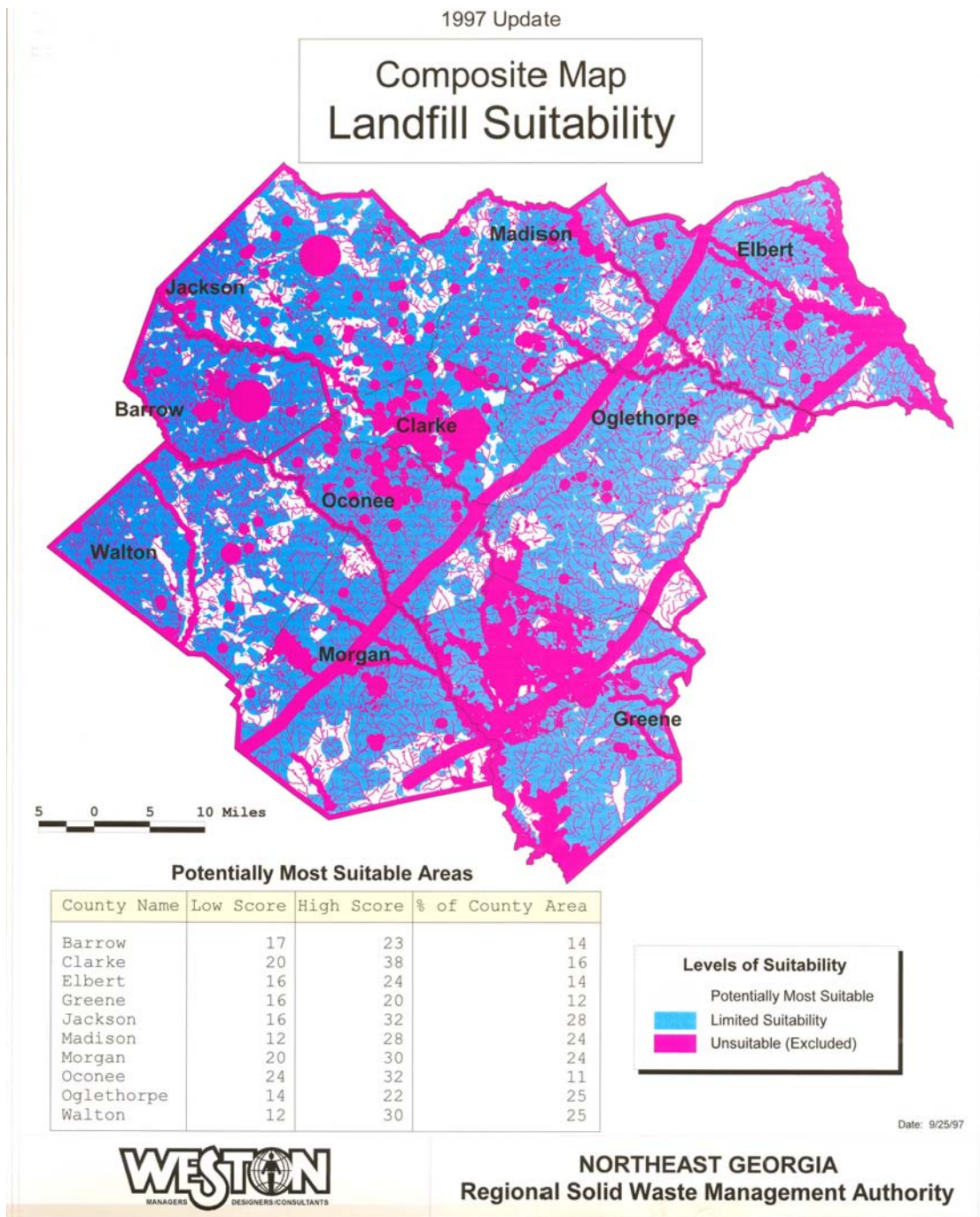


Figure 10-1

**Table 10-16
Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria**

	Criteria	Type
Water Protection (Geotechnical)	Major Fault Zone	Exclusionary
	Public Drinking Water Sources	Exclusionary
	Hydrologically Sensitive Area	Ranked
	Private Drinking Water Wells	Ranked
	Lakes, Rivers, and Creeks	Exclusionary
	Floodplains	Exclusionary
	Wetlands	Exclusionary and Ranked
Land Use	Steep Areas	Exclusionary
	Airports	Exclusionary
	Nonparticipating County Borders	Exclusionary
	Public Lands and Parks	Exclusionary
	Population Density	Exclusionary and Ranked
	Historic and Key Archaeological Sites	Ranked
Host Community Concerns	Biological/Rare Element Sites	Ranked
	Existing Pollution Sources	Ranked

Oconee County also has a zoning ordinance that would limit where solid waste handling facilities could be sited in the County. The County ordinance states that a Municipal Solid Waste landfill and C&D waste landfill may be permitted only in the I (industrial) zoning districts of Oconee County, and only upon approval of a conditional use permit by the Oconee County Board of Commissioners after a public hearing if the following conditions are met. The Board of Commissioners of Oconee County may establish a Municipal Solid Waste landfill or C&D landfill for the county upon land owned by the County without a public hearing.

- A Municipal Solid Waste landfill or C&D landfill may be located only on soils having slight or moderate limitations for use for this purpose, as listed in the “Soil Survey, Oconee County, Georgia”, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.
- No Municipal Solid Waste landfill or C&D landfill shall be allowed to operate in Oconee County without first obtaining a “Solid Waste Handling-Disposal Operation Permit” from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) nor shall a sanitary landfill be operated in violation of DNR rules and regulations. The DNR permit shall be kept at the site and shown to the Code Enforcement Officer upon demand.

- The location, boundaries and the proposed method of operation shall have been approved by the Oconee County Health Department, Board of Commissioners, and the County's Attorney.
- The Municipal Solid Waste landfill shall be accessible directly from a State or U.S. Highway or arterial County Road without travel over residential streets.
- The Municipal Solid Waste landfill shall be suitably fenced to prevent the spread of paper and other material and shall be screened and planted so that it is not visible from any residential, commercial or industrial structure or from any street.
- The completion of the Municipal Solid Waste landfill shall result in the improvement of the property upon which it is located.

10.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

Any entity requesting a renewal or issuance of a solid waste handling permit from EPD must demonstrate that the facility or facility expansion is consistent with the local government's solid waste management plan. The County will use the following criteria to determine whether the issuance of the requested permit is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in an area deemed unsuitable according to one of the criteria list above (in groundwater recharge area; located within two miles of a municipal water supply; on soils poorly suited for development; on slopes of greater than 25 percent; presence of major highways, roads, and airports; on urban or built up lands; water bodies or wetlands; or on federal, state, or public lands).
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion is sited in a location that is consistent with local zoning ordinances (described above).
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts other natural or cultural resources of the County.
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts the current solid waste management infrastructure of the County;
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts collection capability and disposal capacity identified in the Plan.
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts the County's ability to contribute to the State's 25 percent waste reduction goal.
- Determine whether the proposed facility or facility expansion negatively impacts the financial viability of the County's solid waste management system.

No proposed facility or facility expansion will be sited in the County without a letter from the County Commission stating that the facility is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan. The County Commission will hold at least one public hearing to gather input to make this determination.

10.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation

Approximately 89 percent of the land area in Oconee County is considered unsuitable or of limited suitability for siting a landfill.

The procedure described above, once put into place, will help ensure that facilities sited in the County are consistent with this Plan.

10.7.4 Needs and Goals

The County's goal with regard to land limitation is to ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are compatible with surrounding areas and is placed in areas suitable for such developments and that all facilities are consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

10.8 Implementation Strategies

10.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals

Oconee County has established the following needs and goals as part of its Solid Waste Management Plan:

- To ensure efficient and effective collection of solid waste in the County over the next ten years.
- To contribute to the statewide goal of 25 percent per capita reduction in the amount of solid waste disposed.
- To ensure that disposal facilities in the region meet regulatory requirements and can continue to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs for the next ten years.
- To ensure that residents and businesses in the region understand the issues, needs, and goals of the solid waste
- To ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are compatible with surrounding areas and are placed in areas suitable for such developments and that all facilities are consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- To achieve a balanced and affordable solid waste management plan implementation strategy, while also meeting the goals and requirements of state law and all County laws.

10.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability

Collection programs for solid waste are sufficient to meet existing community needs. The more populated areas have at the source collection and the staffed convenience

centers are available for solid waste and recyclables for all citizens. The Pay As You Throw fee structure results in a financially sustainable collection system.

10.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity

Oconee County has obtained a letter from Roll off Systems ensuring disposal capacity for 20 years which is well beyond the 10 year planning period.

10.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities)

Table 10-17 indicates the five year implementation strategy to meet the County's needs and goals, by element.

**Table 10-17
Northeast Georgia
Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
2004 – 2008
Oconee County**

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
AMOUNT OF WASTE ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To determine the amount and composition of solid waste generated in the region in order to establish a sound information base upon which to make management decisions and determine if state and local goals are met.</i>								
1. The County will use EPD's disposal capacity reports and DCA's waste characterization data to quantify the amount and type of waste disposed in the County.	x	x				County		
COLLECTION ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure efficient and effective collection of solid waste in the region over the next ten years.</i>								
1. If private haulers continue to contract directly with generators, Oconee County will continue licensing these haulers to maintain some control over waste collection.	x	x	x	x	x	County	\$10K/year	License Fees \$500 yr
2. Oconee County will continue to staff 6 PAYT drop-off centers for residential solid waste.	x	x	x	x	x	County	\$/household	User Fees Blue bag License fees (\$500 yr)

**Table 10-17
Northeast Georgia
Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
2004 – 2008
Oconee County**

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
3. City of Bogart will continue to provide residential collection service.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Bogart	\$/household	User Fees
4. City of Watkinsville will provide residential curbside collection service for solid waste through private contract or public service.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Watkinsville	\$160,633/yr	N/A
WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure a 25 percent reduction by 1996 in the amount of solid waste disposed of in the region Landfill and to sustain waste reduction programs for the next 10 years.</i>								
1. County will continue to operate 6 staffed drop-off sites for recyclables.	x	x	x	x	x	County	\$10K/yr/site (estimated)	Solid Waste Fund
2. County and municipalities will encourage commercial recycling programs.	x	x	x	x	x	County/ Municipalities	\$5K/year (estimated)	Solid Waste Fund
3. Keep Oconee Beautiful Program will continue to promote recycling and waste reduction activities in the county.	x	x	x	x	x	Keep Oconee Beautiful	N/A	N/A
4. The City of Bogart will continue to provide curbside collection of recyclables.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Bogart	N/A	N/A
5. The County will continue to sell composting bins to citizens at low cost.	x	x	x	x	x	County	N/A	N/A

**Table 10-17
Northeast Georgia
Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
2004 – 2008
Oconee County**

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
6. The cities of Bogart and Watkinsville will continue to collect leaves and limbs weekly and mulch.	x	x	x	x	x	City of Bogart and Watkinsville	N/A	N/A
DISPOSAL ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure that disposal facilities in the region meet regulatory requirements and can continue to support and facilitate effective solid waste handling programs for the next ten years.</i>								
1. County will promote education and enforcement programs concerning illegal dumping.	x	x				County	\$10K/year	Solid Waste Fund
2. The County will continue to contract with a private hauler for disposal of waste from the staffed collection centers.	x	x	x	x	x	County	N/A	N/A
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure that residents and businesses in the region understand the issues, needs, and goals of the solid waste management system.</i>								
1. Oconee County will continue to fund Keep Oconee Beautiful Program for public education and involvement activities.	x	x	x	x	x	Keep Oconee Beautiful	\$12K/year	Solid Waste Fund
2. County will help develop and participate in a regional clearinghouse for public education information.	x	x	x	x	x	County/RDC	Part of \$20K, per capita basis	Solid Waste Fund

Table 10-17
 Northeast Georgia
 Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program
 2004 – 2008
 Oconee County

Action	04	05	06	07	08	Responsible Party	\$\$	Possible Funding
3. All municipalities will work with the county for coordination of public education activities.	x	x	x	x	x	Cities/County	---	---
LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT								
<i>Goal: To ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are compatible with surrounding areas and are placed in areas suitable for such developments and consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan..</i>								
1. County will ensure sufficient land use controls are in place.	x	x	x	x	x	County	---	---
2. County will review all permits requests for new solid waste handling facilities or expansions to determine consistency with SWMP.	x	x	x	x	x	County, NEGRSWMA	---	---

* These costs are counted in Greene and Morgan counties as well.



OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

G. MELVIN DAVIS, CHAIRMAN

January 20, 2004

Mr. Joe Tichy
Special Projects Coordinator
Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center
305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605-2795

RE: Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Dear Joe:

This letter serves as confirmation of Oconee County's commitment to participate in the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

The county understands that the update will be a multi-jurisdictional plan covering the ten counties that comprise the Northeast Regional Solid Waste Management Planning Authority and address the following five core planning elements:

- Waste Reduction
- Collection
- Disposal
- Land Limitation
- Education and Public Investment

The plan will also include a waste stream analysis and implementation schedule.

The County understands that all jurisdictions that agree to plan together will maintain the planning relationships established in the approved and adopted plan throughout the planning period, including the five-year Short-Term Work Program Update.

The County further understands that all participating local governments must adopt the Solid Waste Plan, the Short-Term Work Program, Plan Amendments,

Mr. Joe Tichy
January 20, 2004
Page 2

and/or Plan Updates before the DCA will make an eligibility determination for any of the local governments participating in the plan. If the County decides to break from the planning arrangement, we understand that we will be responsible for preparing our own individual solid waste management plan.

The County agrees to participate in two public hearings held on behalf of all participating jurisdictions at a central location in the area served by the plan, following all County specific public hearing notice procedures for due notification of the hearings.

Sincerely yours,



Melvin Davis

GMD/kdh

Cc: Kathy Botticello
John McNally
Board of Commissioners





Waste Services, LLC

Recycled paper 

September 30, 2004

Chairman Melvin Davis
Oconee County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 145
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Dear Chairman Davis:

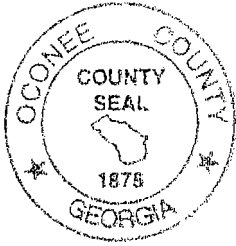
This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by Oconee County from 2004 to 2014. The waste from Oconee County will be going to Richland Creek Landfill, 5691 South Richland Creek Road, Buford, GA 30518, permit no. 067-032D(SL).

This assurance is based upon Oconee County and the municipalities of Watkinsville, Bishop, Bogart and North High Shoals disposing of approximately 12,000 tons of waste at these facilities on an annual basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Moseley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monica Moseley
BFI Atlanta Landfill Division



OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

G. MELVIN DAVIS, CHAIRMAN

February 4, 2004

Mayor Harry Knight
City of Monroe
Post Office Box 1249
Monroe, GA 30655

Dear Mayor Knight:

According to requirements from the Environmental Protection Division regulating municipal solid waste disposal in the State of Georgia, we need a commitment from your governing agency that solid waste from Oconee County will be accepted by BFI in your jurisdiction. Roll-Off Systems transports Oconee County's solid waste from our recycling centers to BFI. EPD requires Oconee County to have a minimum of a 10-year commitment that space is available to accept our solid waste.

We have enclosed a draft of an agreement between the City of Monroe and Oconee County. If this meets with your approval, please sign and return to my attention. We will then sign and send a copy to your office.

Thank you for assisting us in the disposal of our municipal solid waste and Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 706-769-5120.

Sincerely yours,

Melvin Davis

GMD/kdh
Enclosure

cc: Board of Commissioners
Bob Whitehead
John McNally

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CITY OF MONROE, GEORGIA
AND
OCONEE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

This is to confirm that the transfer station owned and operated by the City of Monroe, Georgia, will accept solid waste at their transfer station from Oconee County for subsequent transfer to a Subtitle D landfill which is owned and operated by BFI Corporation. BFI assures the City of Monroe that they have sufficient capacity at their Subtitle D Landfill to accept Oconee County's solid waste for a period of 20 years.

CITY OF MONROE, GOERGIA

BY: _____

NAME: Harry Knight

TITLE: Mayor

DATE: _____

OCONEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____

NAME: Melvin Davis

TITLE: Chairman
Board of Commissioners

DATE : _____