



Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority

Northeast Georgia  
Regional Solid Waste Management Plan  
2004-2013

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# Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2004-2013

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This report has been prepared for the use of the client for the specific purposes identified in the report. The conclusions, observations and recommendations contained herein attributed to R. W. Beck, Inc. (R. W. Beck) constitute the opinions of R. W. Beck. To the extent that statements, information and opinions provided by the client or others have been used in the preparation of this report, R. W. Beck has relied upon the same to be accurate, and for which no assurances are intended and no representations or warranties are made. R. W. Beck makes no certification and gives no assurances except as explicitly set forth in this report.

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# Section 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background

This Solid Waste Management Plan has been developed for the ten counties and 47 municipalities that are part of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. Letters from each of the participating counties in the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority indicating their participation in the Solid Waste Management Plan Update, are included in their respective plan sections.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs Chapter 110-4-3, Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, defines a “multi-jurisdictional plan” as a plan adopted pursuant to O.C.G.A. §12-8-31.1 covering one or more counties, municipality or municipalities, or solid waste authority or solid waste authorities. Although the counties have established a few regional activities as outlined in Section 2, planning elements are addressed on a county by county basis in separate sections of this plan. Thus, based on the definitions detailed in the DCA’s Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures, this updated Solid Waste Management Plan for the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority is defined as a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The multi-jurisdictional plan is intended to meet the revised Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. As such, for each county it addresses the five core planning elements specified by the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures, including:

- Waste Reduction;
- Collection;
- Disposal;
- Land Limitation; and
- Education and Public Involvement.

In addition, the Plan includes a waste disposal stream analysis and implementation strategies for each county.

The Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority Board has had a major role in development of this draft plan. As appointees of the participating counties, Board members assisted in gathering data, defining County goals and needs as they related to the five core planning elements, and identifying implementation strategies. Board members have also undertaken extensive review and revision during

development of the written document reflecting their work. The Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority Board was assisted in their efforts by staff at the Northeast Georgia RDC and R. W. Beck, Inc.

## 1.2 Planning Area Defined

The local governments included in this Plan are the member counties of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority and the municipalities within these counties, including the local governments listed in Table 1-1.

**Table 1-1  
Local Governments Included in the  
Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Update**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Athens-Clarke County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Winterville</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Barrow County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Auburn</li> <li>■ Bethlehem</li> <li>■ Carl</li> <li>■ Russell</li> <li>■ Statham</li> <li>■ Winder</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Elbert County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bowman</li> <li>■ Elberton</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Greene County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Greensboro</li> <li>■ Siloam</li> <li>■ Union Point</li> <li>■ White Plains</li> <li>■ Woodville</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Jackson County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Arcade</li> <li>■ Braselton</li> <li>■ Commerce</li> <li>■ Hoschton</li> <li>■ Jefferson</li> <li>■ Nicholson</li> <li>■ Pendergrass</li> <li>■ Talmo</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Madison County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Carlton</li> <li>■ Colbert</li> <li>■ Comer</li> <li>■ Danielsville</li> <li>■ Hull</li> <li>■ Ila</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Morgan County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bostwick</li> <li>■ Buckhead</li> <li>■ Madison</li> <li>■ Rutledge</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Oconee County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bishop</li> <li>■ Bogart</li> <li>■ North High Shoals</li> <li>■ Watkinsville</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Oglethorpe County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Arnoldsville</li> <li>■ Crawford</li> <li>■ Lexington</li> <li>■ Maxeys</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Walton County               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Between</li> <li>■ Good Hope</li> <li>■ Jersey</li> <li>■ Loganville</li> <li>■ Monroe</li> <li>■ Social Circle</li> <li>■ Walnut Grove</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	--

The location of these counties is shown in Figure 1-1.



Figure 1-1: Planning Area

## 1.2.1 Topography/Unique Natural Features

The physical environment in the Northeast Georgia region is composed of many different features. Several lakes, including Lake Oconee, Lake Russell, and a portion of Clark Hill Lake (Strom Thurmond), are found in the area. Of Georgia's several major rivers, two flow through the Northeast Georgia area; the Savannah River separates Georgia's Elbert County from South Carolina, and the Oconee flows from Clarke County through Greene County on its trip to the Atlantic Ocean.

The total area of the ten counties in the region is 3,006 square miles. Of the total, 31.2 square miles of water can be found. The location also includes many square miles of the Oconee National Forest in parts of Greene and Oglethorpe counties.

Within the Northeast Georgia region, two physiographic districts comprise the ten counties in the area: the Winder slope and the Washington slope, as shown in Figure 1-2. The Winder slope, which includes the northern counties of the region, is made up of gently rolling hills which are dissected by headwaters of major streams flowing to

## Section 1

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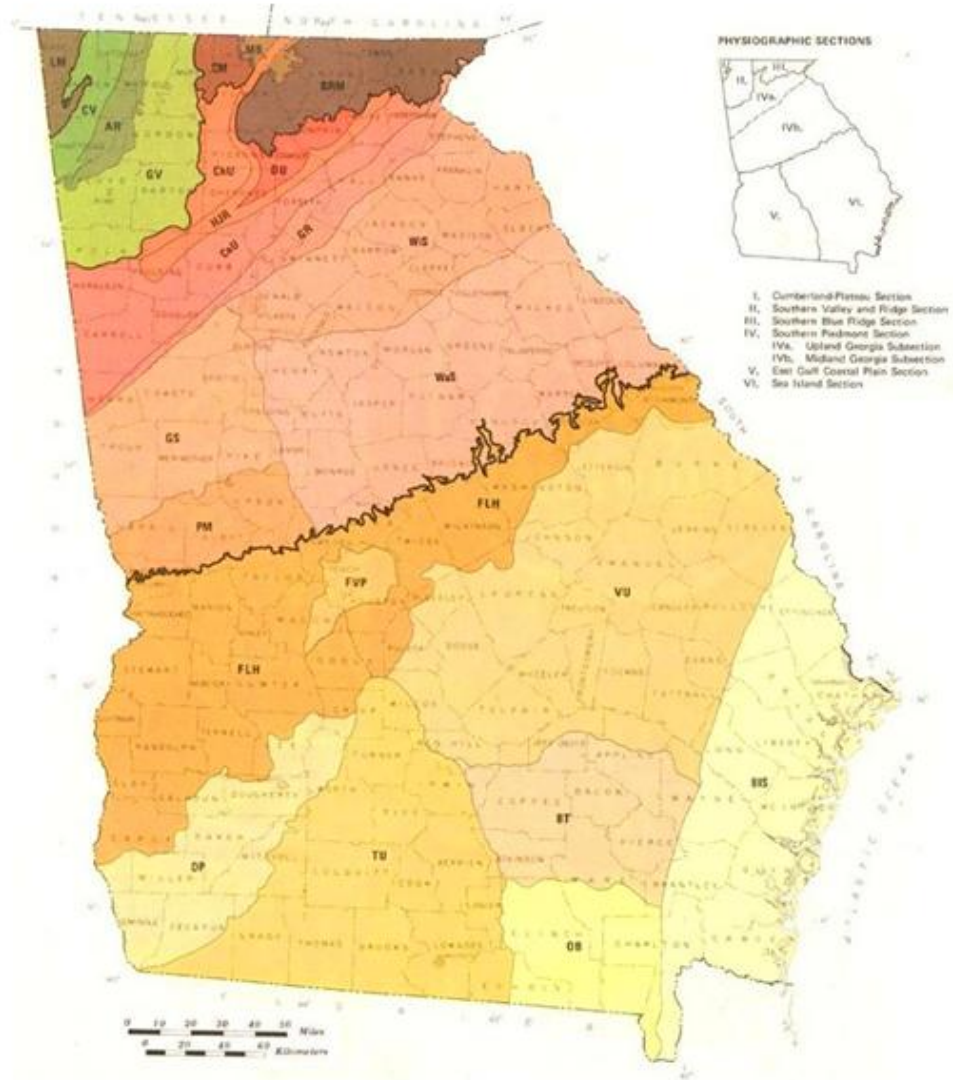
the Atlantic Ocean. Fairly deep and narrow stream valleys lie 100° to 200° below rounded stream divides.

The Washington slope, which includes the southern counties of the Northeast Georgia area, is made up of a gently undulated surface, marked by broad, shallow valleys. Long, gentle slopes separate broad, rounded stream divides. Relief is 50° to 100°.

Northeast Georgia encompasses numerous soil series and associations, collected into six groups. The Cecil - Madison - Appling - Gwinnett associations are considered good for crop production. They are also, conversely, the soil associations in the area best suited for building foundations. Alluvial soils on flood plains are ill-suited for development, as are the steep slopes adjacent to water courses in some areas. However, there is significant undeveloped land outside these areas suitable for development.



## Physiographic Districts of Georgia



Source: Physiographic Map of Georgia by William Z. Clark, Jr. and Arnold C. Zisa, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1976.

Figure 1-2: Physiographic Districts of Georgia

### 1.2.2 Population

The most recent population figures from the 2000 U.S. Census show the planning area population to be 364,873. Table 1-2 shows the projected 2004 population, by county, along with the annual population projections for the ten-year planning period. The subsequent sections describe the demographics of each County in more detail.

**Table 1-2  
Population and Projections for Counties in the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority**

Jurisdiction	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013
Barrow County	54,236	57,660	61,300	65,170	69,284	73,657	78,307	80,000	85,050	90,419	96,127
Athens-Clarke County	106,016	108,196	110,420	112,690	115,006	117,370	119,783	123,100	125,631	128,213	130,849
Elbert County	21,020	21,378	21,743	22,114	22,491	22,875	23,265	23,840	24,247	24,660	25,081
Greene County	15,395	15,695	16,001	16,313	16,631	16,955	17,286	17,750	18,096	18,449	18,808
Jackson County	47,688	50,120	52,676	55,362	58,186	61,153	64,272	66,200	69,576	73,124	76,854
Madison County	27,572	28,454	29,364	30,304	31,273	32,274	33,306	34,410	35,511	36,647	37,820
Morgan County	16,811	17,337	17,879	18,438	19,015	19,610	20,223	20,890	21,543	22,217	22,912
Oconee County	28,738	30,292	31,929	33,656	35,475	37,393	39,415	40,530	42,721	45,031	47,465
Oglethorpe County	13,494	13,820	14,154	14,496	14,846	15,204	15,572	16,040	16,427	16,824	17,230
Walton County	70,762	74,659	78,771	83,109	87,685	92,514	97,609	100,310	105,834	111,662	117,811
<b>Total Planning Region</b>	<b>401,733</b>	<b>417,611</b>	<b>434,237</b>	<b>451,651</b>	<b>469,892</b>	<b>489,006</b>	<b>509,037</b>	<b>523,070</b>	<b>544,636</b>	<b>567,247</b>	<b>590,957</b>

## 1.3 Person Responsible for Plan

The contact person for the updated Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority Solid Waste Management Plan is:

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Any questions regarding the plan or requests for additional information can be directed to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission.