

**MINUTES OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MARCH 11, 2025
8:00 AM**

The Meeting of the Cobb County Solid Waste Management Authority was held at 8:00 a.m., on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the David Hankerson Building, 100 Cherokee Street, Marietta, Georgia, in the second-floor public meeting room. Present and comprising a quorum of the Board were:

Chairwoman Lisa Cupid
Commissioner JoAnn Birrell
Commissioner Keli Gambrill
Commissioner Monique Sheffield

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Cupid called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

County Clerk

1. To approve the minutes of March 12, 2024.

Motion by Birrell, second by Sheffield, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024.

VOTE: **ADOPTED 4-0**

PRESENTATIONS

2. To provide an update on the operation of the County's privatized solid waste facilities and the status of ongoing sustainability and environmental initiatives to guide strategic decision-making and advance future sustainability initiatives.

Jonathan Jenkins, Sustainability, Waste, and Beautification Director, introduced the following, who provided an annual update to the Board:

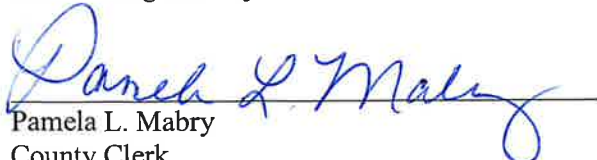
- Vegetative Waste - Mike Ellis, Operations Manager, TAG Grinding Services, Inc.
- Transfer Station – Brandie Edwards, General Manager, GFL Environmental Inc.
- Recycling Center– Will Howard, General Manager, Smurfit WestRock Recycling
- Keep Cobb Beautiful - Kimberly White, Chief Substantiality Officer, Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc.

A copy of the presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

No official action was taken by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.


Pamela L. Mabry
County Clerk
Cobb County Board of Commissioners

Cobb County
March 11, 2025



Solid Waste Management Authority



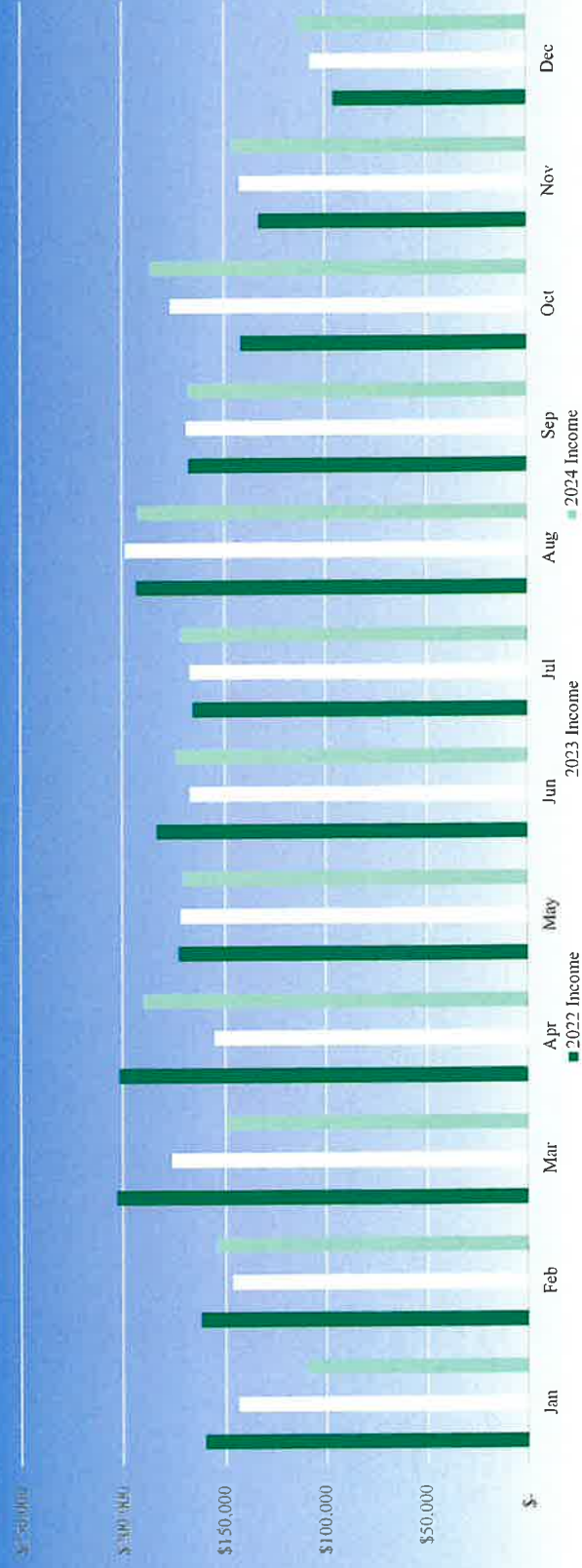
TAG Grinding Services, Inc.

Owners – Dennis Carey and Garland "Buster" Byrd Jr.
Operational Manager – Mike Ellis



TAG Grinding Income by Month & Past Three Years

Chart Title



Changes in Income ,Customers and Revenue to Cobb County at the TAG Grinding Vegetative Waste Site

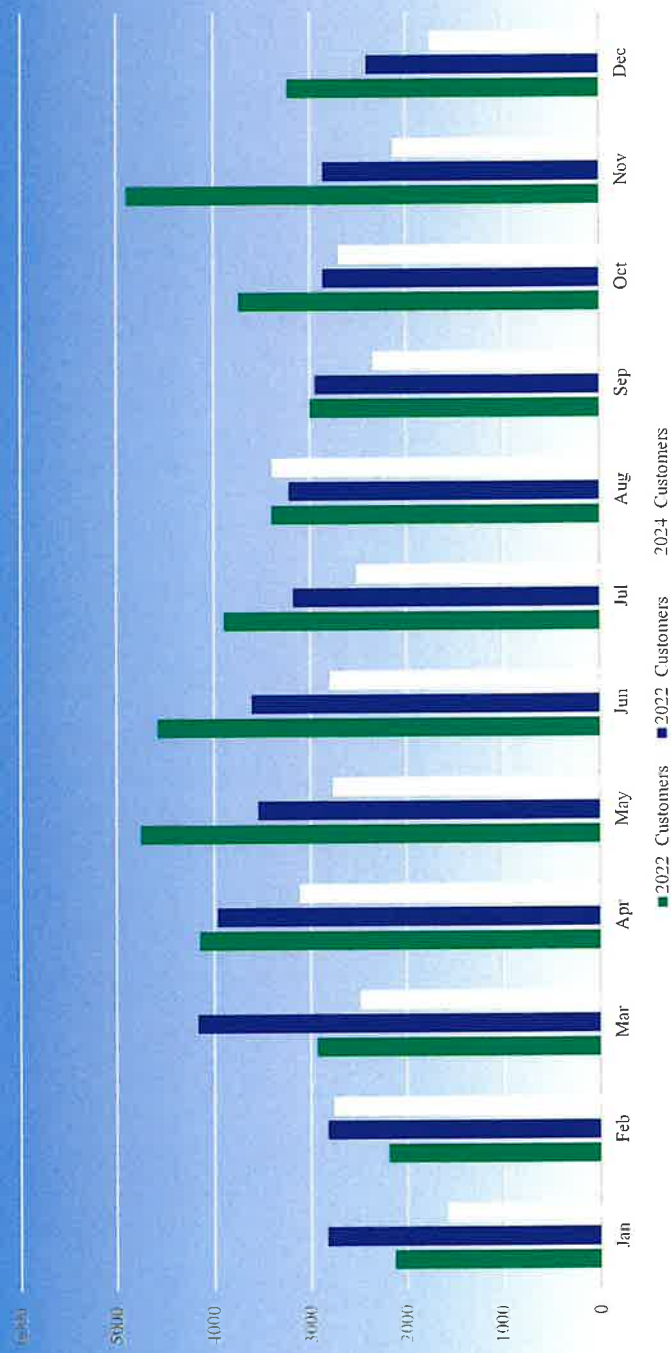
TAG GRINDING VEGATIVE WASTE SIDE			
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TAG Income			
2022	2023	% Change 2022 to 2023	2024
1975806	1918165	-3%	1923950
			3%

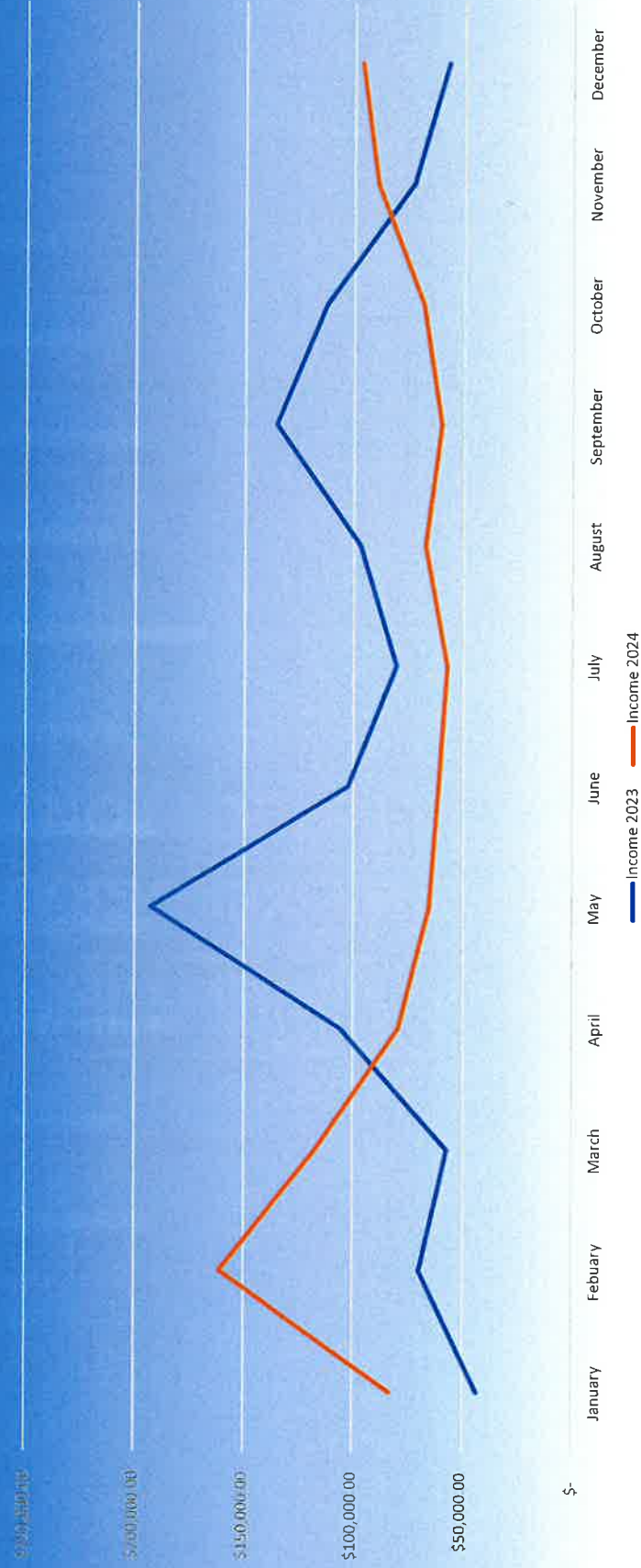
TAG Customer Count			
2022	2023	% Change 2022 to 2023	2024
34107	31496	-8%	30251
			-4%

REVENUE TO COBB COUNTY			
2022	2023	% Change 2022 to 2023	2024
148404	145671	-2%	183361
			26%

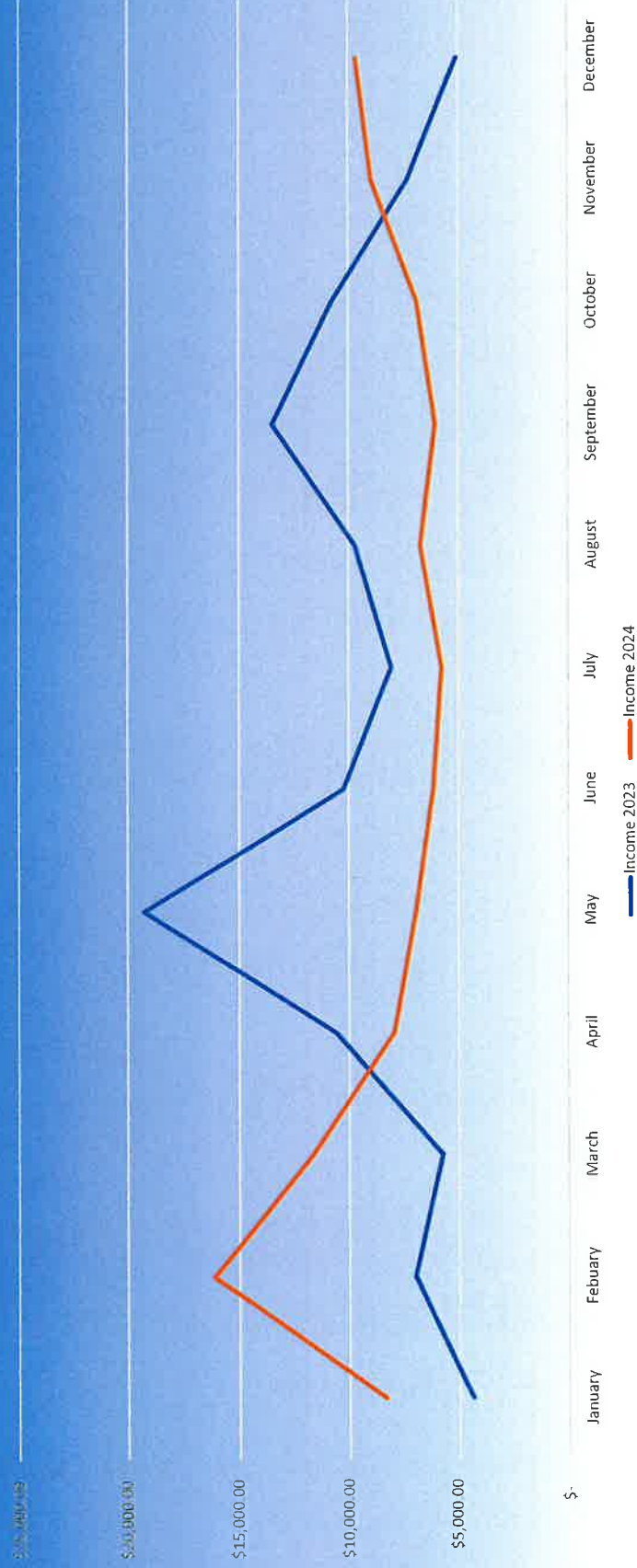
TAG Customer Count By The Month & Past Three Years



Income to TAG for Dirt PIT 2023-2024



Income to Cobb County for Dirt Pit 2023-2024



Total Revenue to Cobb County from
TAG 2023-2024

2023	2024
\$ 257,775.00	\$ 283,900.00

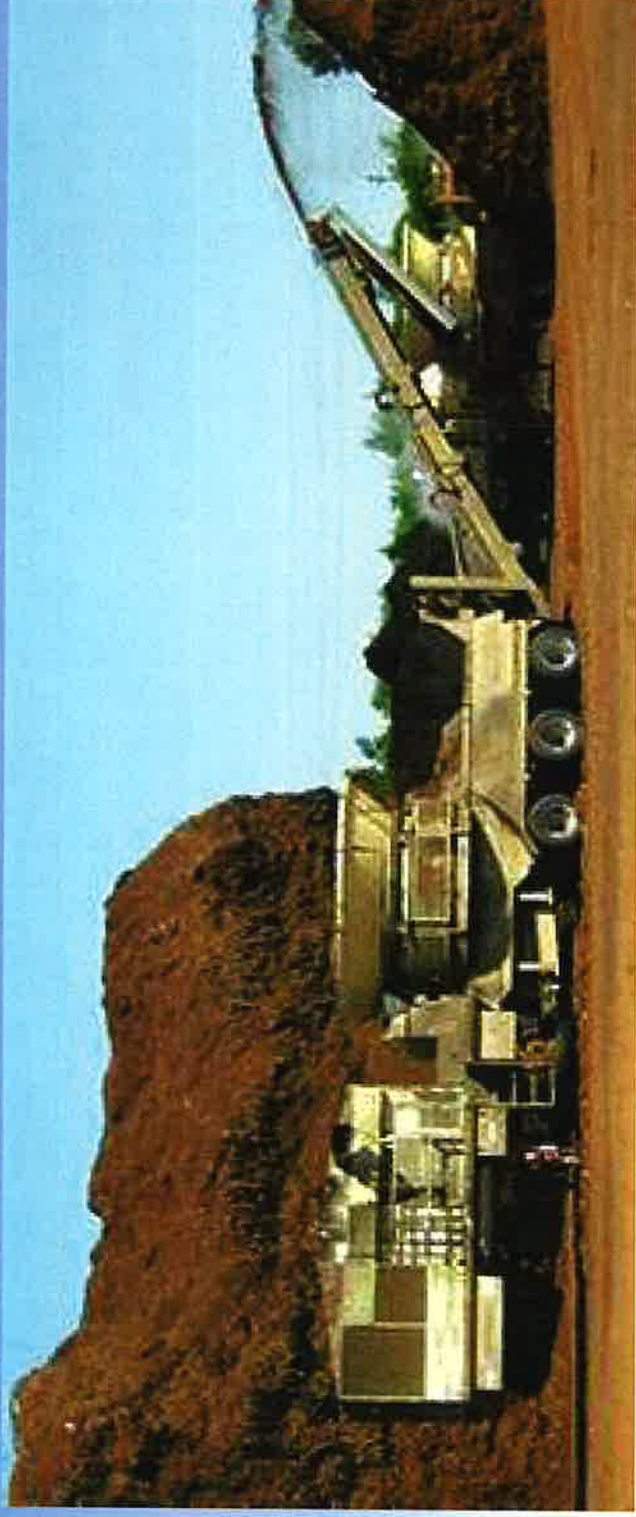
TAG Grinding Services, Inc.

Markets we serve:

TAG Grinding Services, Inc. Markets			
Market	Location	Mileage	End Use
Piedmont Green Power	Barnesville, GA	88	Stand Alone Power Plant
Georgia renewable Power	Carnesville, GA	92	Stand Alone Power Plant
Georgia Renewable Power	Colbert, GA	92	Stand Alone Power Plant
International Paper	Rome, GA	60	Paper Mill Electricity Co Generation
Westrock Paper	Stevenson, AL	146	Paper Mill Electricity Co Generation

TAG Grinding Services, Inc. is committed to 100% recycling of all products hauled out by either making green renewable electricity or mulch. The market at Old Castle in Shady Dale, GA makes colored mulch and sends it to Home Depot for resale.

TAG Grinding Services, Inc. Questions & Comments



Cobb County Transfer Station 2024



Area Vice President: Eric McAden
General Manager: Brandie Edwards
Facility Manager: Cristen Gore
Government Contract Manager: Luke Ewing

Operational Comparison

	2023	2024	Variance YOY
Days open to citizens	307	307	0
Tons received	192,305 tons	205,067 tons	12,762 tons
Tons hauled to landfill	188,895 tons	202,700 tons	13,805 tons
Total transactions	224,844	229,587	4,743 transactions
Average tons per day	626 tons	668 tons	67 tons
Average transactions per day	732	748	16 transactions
Total GFL payments to Cobb County	\$87,630.52	\$121,859.06	\$34,228.54

Recycling Comparison

	2023	2024	Variance YOY
Electronics	17.96 tons	28.10 tons	10.14 tons
Anti-Freeze	941 gallons	1,352 gallons	411 gallons
Batteries	4.01 tons	5.48 tons	1.47 tons
Metal	1011 tons	1100 tons	89 tons
Used Oil	6347 gallons	5997 gallons	-350 gallons
Tires	114.79 tons	83.68 tons	-31.11 tons
Paint	9489 gallons	10,437 gallons	948 gallons



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Green Today. Green For Life.

gflenv.com



Cobb County Solid Waste Management Authority

March 11, 2025



Paper | Packaging | Solutions



Smurfit Westrock Overview

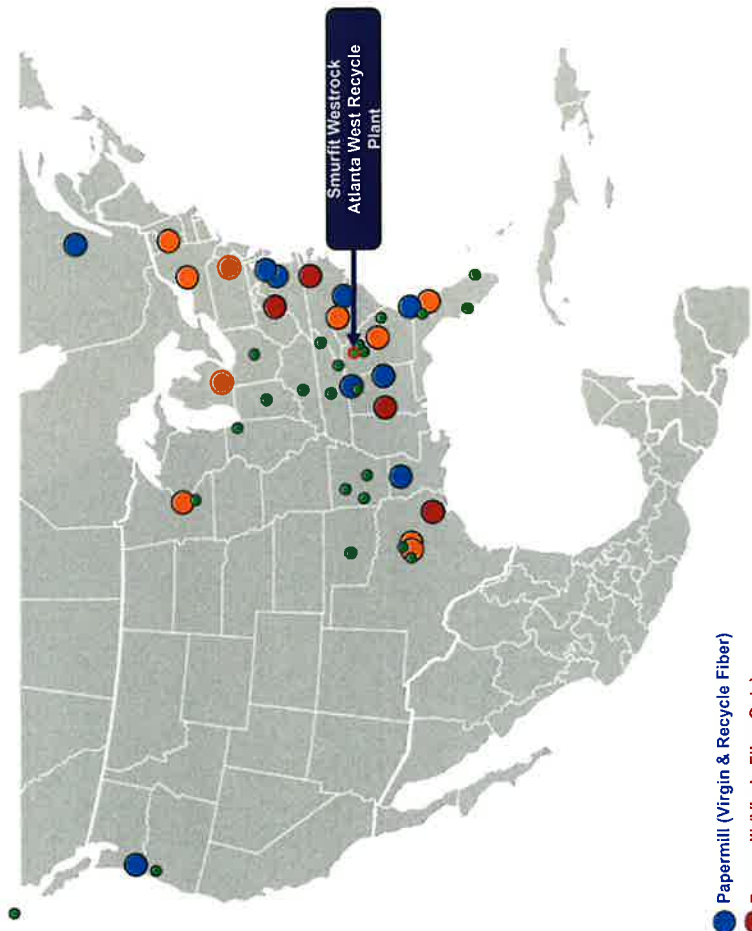
Will Howard – General Manager

Paper | Packaging | Solutions



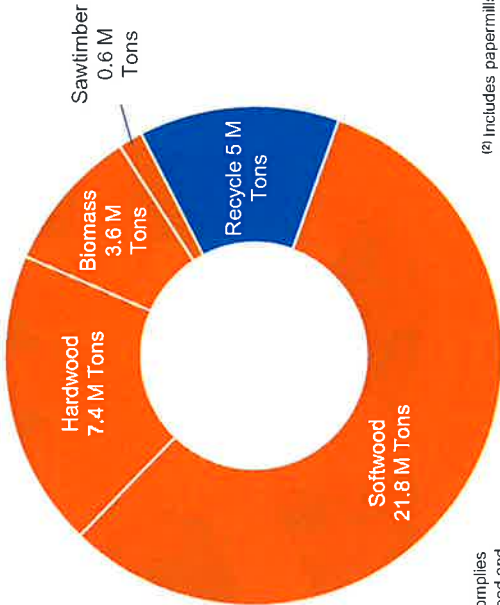
U.S. | Canada papermill system consumes 38.4M tons of fiber annually

33.4 M tons virgin | 5M tons recycle



- Papermill (Virgin & Recycle Fiber)
- Papermill (Virgin Fiber Only)
- Papermill (Recycle Fiber Only)
- Recycle Plant

NA FIBER SUPPLY



⁽¹⁾ All virgin fiber in NA complies with FSC® Controlled Wood and SFI® Fiber Sourcing standards

⁽²⁾ Includes papermills & the Cottonport sawmill

Examples of Smurfit Westrock products

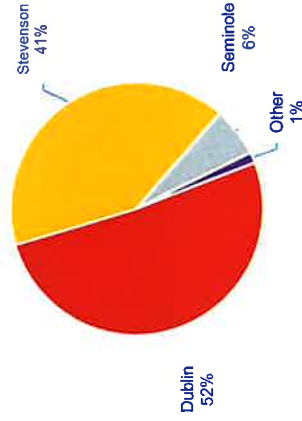


Fiber Supply

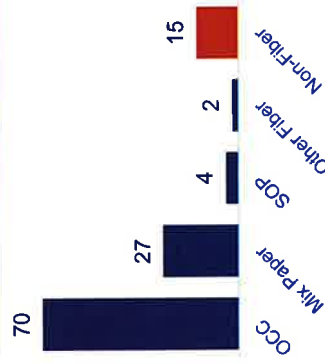
Atlanta West Recycle Plant Overview

- Residential Single Stream Operation
- Manages approximately 120k tons of recycle materials annually
- Began operations in 2009 as a basic dump and bale operation
- 2012 investment converting to residential single stream operation
- Modernization investments in 2019 (cost reduction, quality, revenue)
- OCC & Mix Paper supplied primarily to Dublin and Stevenson papermills
- Operating lease extended 5-years & shifted to direct operator

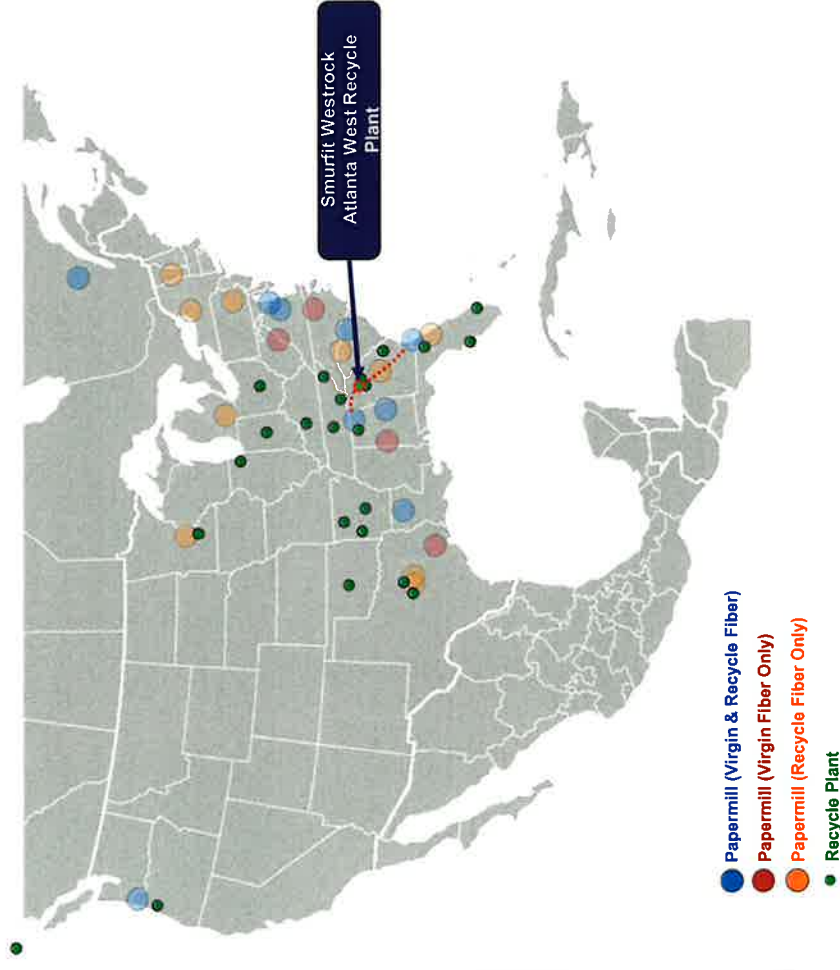
Internal Fiber Delivery
Percent of Internal Shipments



Atlanta West Recycle Plant Tons
Annual Production Tons (000's)



Papermills & Recycle Plants



© 2025 Smurfit Westrock. All Rights Reserved.

Atlanta West Recycle | Layout



Atlanta West Recycle | Layout



Atlanta West Recycle | Equipment Overview

Balers



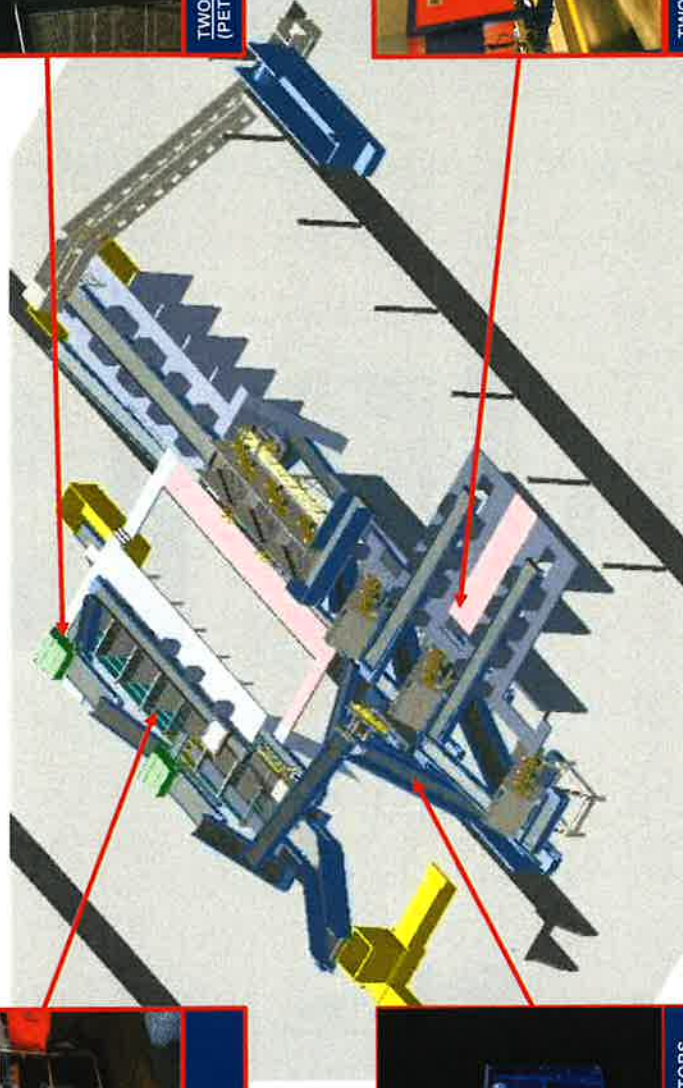
	HARRIS CENTURION (Commercial Baler)
General Machine Specs.	▪ 200HP ▪ Primary Fiber baler for facility ▪ Bale weights: 1,500 lbs. ▪ 2009



	IPS – 1388 (Single Stream Baler)
General Machine Specs.	▪ 200HP ▪ Primary Non-Fiber baler for facility ▪ Bale weights: 1,400 lbs. ▪ 2012

Atlanta West Recycle | Equipment Overview

Residential Single Stream Sort System



Atlanta West Recycle | Fiber Products Processed

OCC



- 60% of total tons
- 5,325 tons / month



MXP



- 25% of total tons
- 2,230 tons / month



SOP



- 4% of total tons
- 350 tons / month



Atlanta West Recycle | Non-Fiber Products Processed

PET



- 4% of total tons
- 375 tons / month



HDPE



- 2% of total tons
- 135 tons / month



Steel



- 1% of total tons
- 105 tons / month



Aluminum



- 1% of total tons
- 85 tons / month

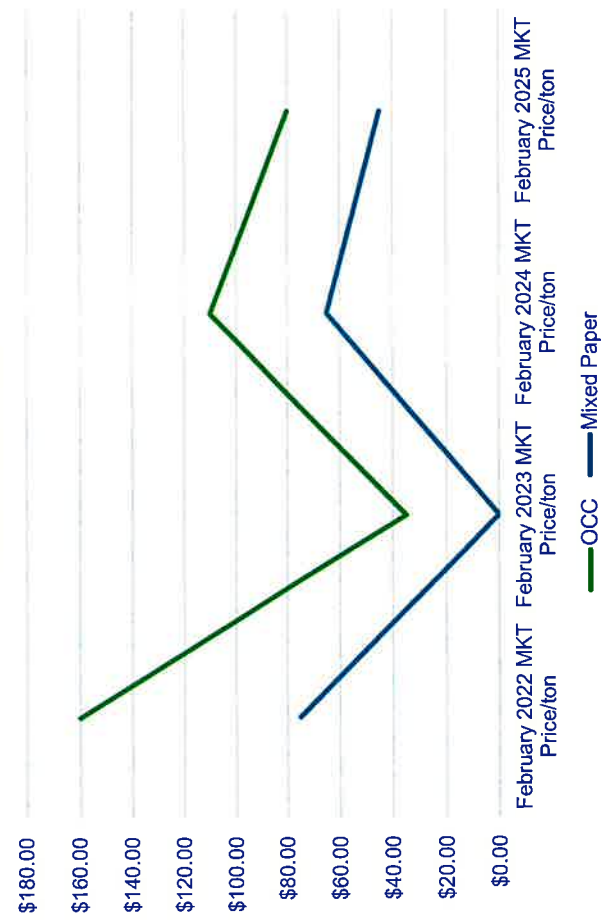


Atlanta West Recycle | Recycling Market Changes

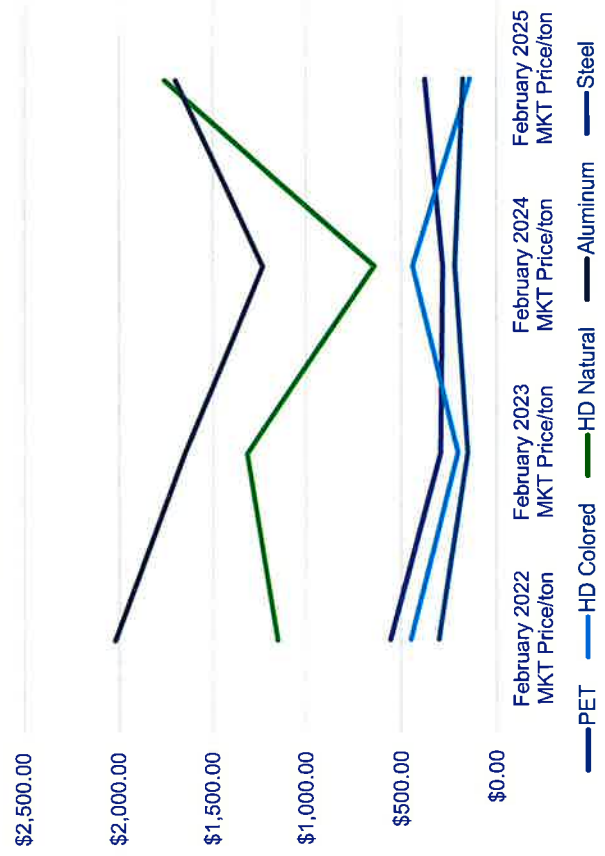
Commodity	February 2022 MKT Price/ton	February 2023 MKT Price/ton	February 2024 MKT Price/ton	February 2025 MKT Price/ton
OCC	\$160.00	\$35.00	\$110.00	\$80.00
Mixed Paper	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$45.00
PET	\$555.00	\$295.00	\$282.60	\$375.00
HD Colored	\$450.00	\$205.00	\$440.00	\$140.00
HD Natural	\$1,150.00	\$1,315.00	\$640.00	\$1,760.00
Plastics 3-7	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Aluminum	\$2,020.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,230.00	\$1,700.00
Steel	\$305.00	\$152.50	\$220.00	\$175.00
Glass	-\$29.50	-\$35.00	-\$32.50	-32.50

Atlanta West Recycle | Recycling Market Changes

Fiber Markets



Non-Fiber Markets



Cobb County Resident Drop-Off

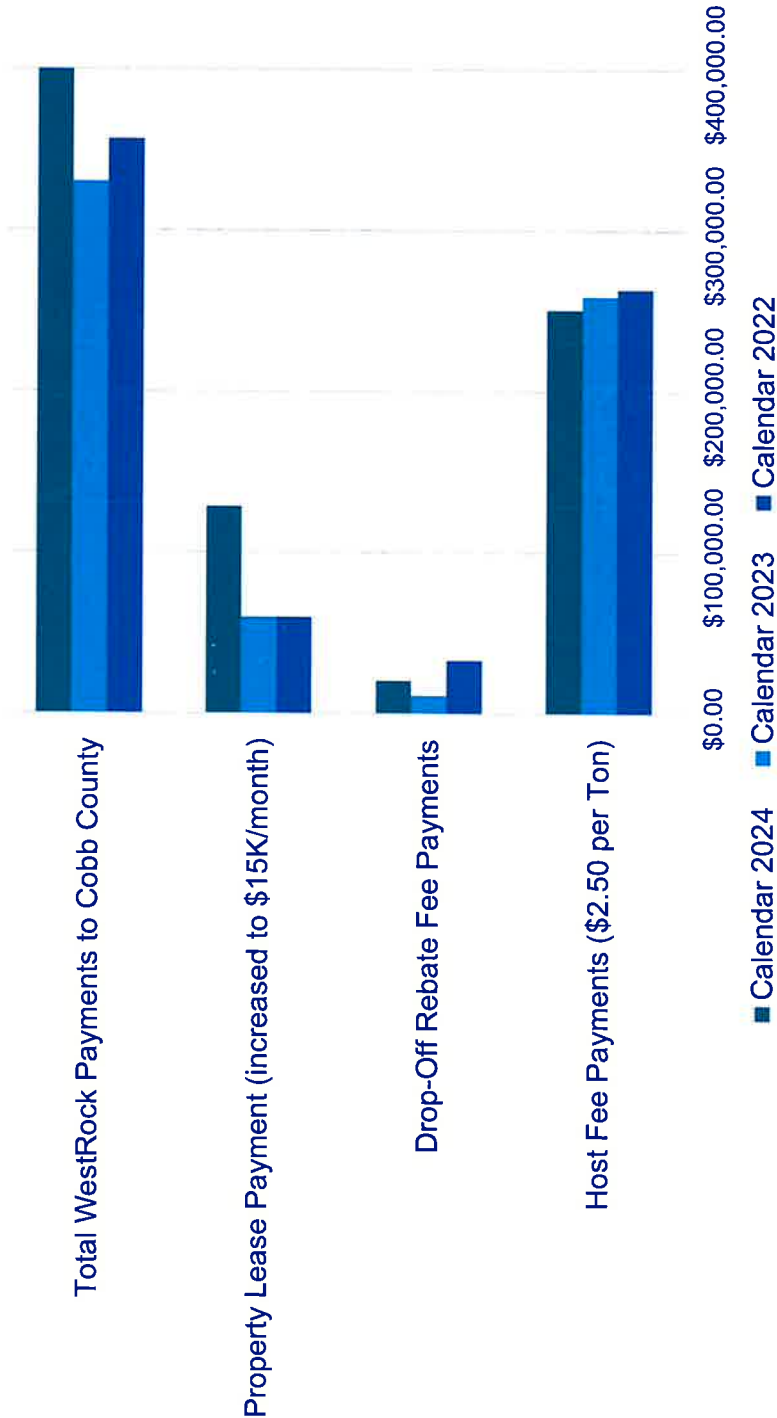


Atlanta West Recycle | No-Charge Citizen Drop off

	<u>Calendar 2023</u> <u>Tons *</u>	<u>Calendar 2024</u> <u>Tons</u>
Papers (Newspaper, magazines and mixed)	103.04	114.88
Aluminum	3.95	4.41
Cardboard	315.91	294.81
Glass	274.81	320.37
Plastic	36.7	40.92
TOTALS	734.41	775.39

* Drop off Reconstruction (Feb 2023 - Oct 2023)

Atlanta West Recycle | Financial Impact to Cobb County









- Keep Cobb Beautiful has several programs that uphold our mission and help us make an impact locally and improve Cobb County on a variety of levels.
- Each program or event we provide fits under one of our main focus areas.
- **Focus areas:**
 - 1 Litter Prevention
 - 2 Community Greening/ Beautification
 - 3 Waste Reduction and Recycling



Education	Beautification & Community Greening	Recycling & Waste Reduction	Litter Prevention
Associate Board Members	Cobb Trees Program	Bring One for the Chipper	Adopt-A-Mile
School Enviro-Education Program	School Garden Grant Program 'Dig 'N The Dirt"	Hefty™ ReNew®	Litter Index Survey
Virtual Sessions/ Recycling Games	Great American Cleanup	KCB Pop-Up Drop-Off Program	Community Cleanups
Cobb Library Education Series	Arbor Day & National Planting Day	Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty	KCB Crew Clean-Ups
Senior/Adult Hybrid Sessions	Community Gardens & Orchards	Medication Disposal	Green Business Program

Litter Index Survey Community Appearance Index



- The Litter Index Score is based on a rating scale of 1 (Best) – 4 (Worst)
- Average overall score is generated from the following categories:
 - Litter
 - Pedestrian Safety
 - Curbing
 - Illegal Signs
 - Graffiti
 - Tires

2023 - 2024 Litter Index Score Chart Averages

Countywide Litter Index Score	1.71 / 1.54
District 1 Litter Index Score	1.41 / 1.66
District 2 Litter Index Score	1.80 / 1.38
District 3 Litter Index Score	1.78 / 1.60
District 4 Litter Index Score	1.83 / 1.51

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Litter Score	Litter Score	Litter Score	Litter Score	Litter Score	Litter Score	Litter Score
1.58	1.68	1.76	1.71	1.60	1.71	1.54

ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation
2025 GCIP Grant recipient

Internship Program to Address:

- Focused litter prevention program
- Partnership with KAB
- Boundary roads that cross jurisdiction

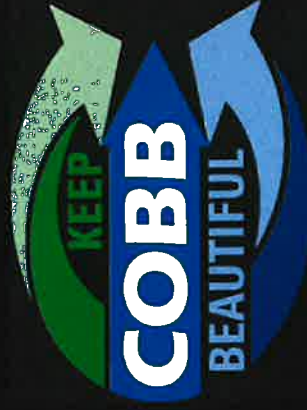


COBB COUNTY
LITTER
PREVENTION
STRATEGY

25% less
litter by
2026



New Communication Strategy



**KCB MOBILE RECYCLING
POP-UP / DROP-OFF**

April, 2025 - July, 2025
Various dates and locations
Visit website for more info

**OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
KEEP COBB BEAUTIFUL
COUNTY-WIDE SPRING 2025 EVENTS**

Recycling made easy -
coming near to where you live!
Drop-off (Hefty ReNew)
hard-to-recycle plastics
to us for free!

**COMMUNITY RECYCLING
EVENT**

April 12, 2025 / 9AM - 1PM
Jim Miller Park
2245 Callaway Rd SW
Marietta, GA 30008

Join us for our annual Spring recycling collection event:

- Paper Shredding
- Electronics
- Metals
- Textiles
- Hefty ReNew (hard-to-recycle) plastics

**SUSTAINABILITY
FORUM, EXPO & AWARDS**

April 30, 2025 / 4PM - 8PM
Jim Miller Event Center
2245 Callaway Rd. SW
Marietta, GA 30008

Attend sessions, demonstrations,
interactive exhibits and hear guest
speakers on green initiatives and
how this affects you - working, living,
& visiting Cobb!

Nominate your fellow neighbors for a sustainability award!
Visit keepcobbbeautiful.org for more info.

**GREAT AMERICAN
CLEAN-UP EVENTS**

April 1, 2025 - June 21, 2025
Multiple locations
throughout Cobb County

For more info visit:
keepcobbbeautiful.org

Participate in an event in your neighborhood -
sign up for supplies to clean your community

Join the District 4 Annual Earth Day
Clean-Up Event - March 29, 2025 10AM - 1PM
Wal-Mart Parking Lot on East-West Connector

Join the Adopt-A-Mile Program

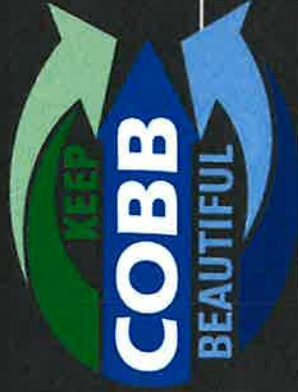
**MEDICATION DISPOSAL
EVENT**

April 30, 2025 / 10AM - 2PM
Location 1: 2245 Cobb Pkwy, SW, Marietta
Location 2: 4025 S. Hart Rd., SW, Marietta
Location 3: 3332 Sandy Plains Bld., Marietta

Safely dispose of unused and expired medications by bringing
them to our FREE event!

- Items accepted:
 - Prescription meds
 - Over-the-counter meds
 - Liquids and pills
 - Inhalers, eye drops, and creams
 - Pot meds

FOR MORE INFO ON ALL EVENTS LISTED PLEASE VISIT KEEPCOBBBEAUTIFUL.ORG or CONTACT US AT 770-529-1134



Non-Profit Update

KCB, Inc. Board of Directors

Executive Committee

- Barry Krebs – Chair
- Angelia Pressley – Vice Chair
- Jeff Padgett – Vice Chair
- Undriss Miller – Treasurer
- Sharon Meinhardt – Secretary





Non-Profit Update

NATIONAL AWARDS:

- Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Award
- National Recycling Innovation Award: **Pop-Up / Drop-Off Recycling Program**





Non-Profit Update

STATE AWARDS:

- Keep Georgia Beautiful Governor's Circle Award



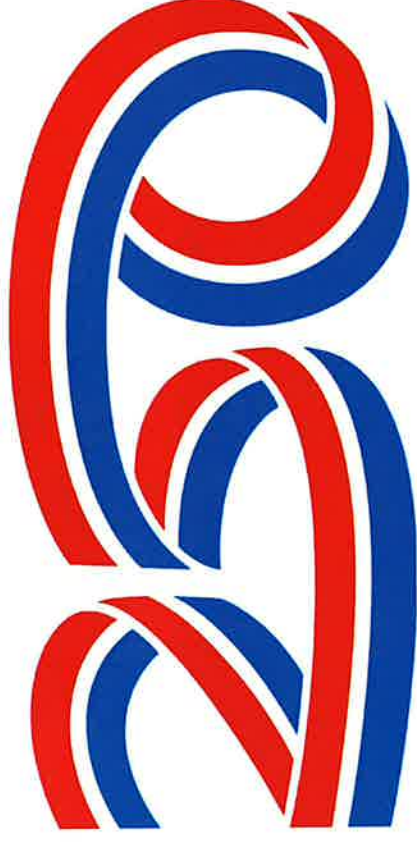


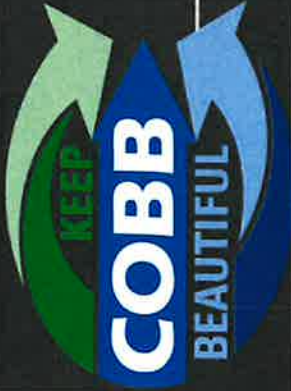
Non-Profit Update

GREATEST AMERICAN CLEAN-UP:

- The Greatest American Cleanup pledge is a commitment to help make the United States cleaner and greener in time for the 250th anniversary of the country's founding in 2026.
- The pledge encourages people to pick up litter, recycle, and plant native plants.
- Goal is to get 25,000 communities across the US to sign the pledge

AMERICA





2024 Programs

Bring One For the Chipper

- Christmas tree recycling program
- 9,820 trees collected and mulched
- 50+ Volunteers
- 400 seedlings distributed

Medication Disposal Days

- Partnership with U.S. DEA and Cobb PD
- 1,720+ lbs. of medication and pharmaceutical waste collected





2024 Programs

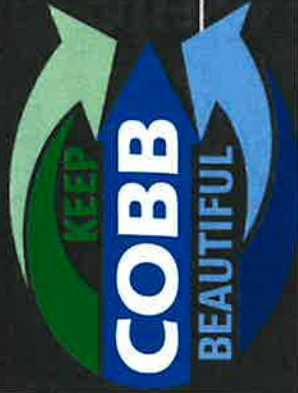
Community Recycling Event

- Two events held in 2024:
 - Paper Shredding – 60,000+ lbs.
 - Textiles – 10,143 lbs.
 - Metal Collected – 23.17 tons
 - Electronics Collected – 27.05 tons
 - Hefty® ReNew® material collected – 700 lbs.
 - 35 volunteers, 2,953+ residents served

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Amnesty – Paint Only

- KCB, SWB Department and Cobb Water System Partnership
- MS4 permit requires implementation of HHW collection
 - Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
- Offered to Cobb County citizens
- 500 vehicles in attendance
- 80,788lbs. of material collected
- Collected items included: paint only





2024 Programs



School STEM Projects

Dig 'n The Dirt

- Garden Grant Program now in 13th year!
- Purpose: To provide opportunities to school children through school gardens to experience and study nature
- The program directly involved over 2,500+ students (6 schools, \$4,578 in grant funds donated)
 - Program supported by:
 - Cobb County Government
 - Home Depot



Adopt-A-Mile Program

- 2024 – 1,576 volunteers / 18,900+ volunteer hours
- 700,000+ lbs. of litter collected
- 117 miles of streets/highways cleaned/adopted



- 2024 – 131 AAM Groups
- 2023 – 143 AAM Groups
- 2022 – 124 AAM Groups
- 2021 – 122 AAM Groups
- 2020 – 143 AAM Groups
- 2019 – 142 AAM Groups



2024 Programs

- Nationally recognized – award winning program
- Phase V – Countywide program
 - Drop-Off Options
 - Cities
 - Additional Haulers
 - Retail
- 700,000+ lbs. of material collected
- Expansion of end-user markets
 - Diesel Fuel
 - Oil
 - Wax
 - Plastic lumber
 - Block aggregate
 - Hydro-Blok System





2024 Programs

- Nationally recognized – award winning program
- Mobile Recycling Program
 - Hard-to-recycle plastics
 - Aluminum cans
 - Glass
 - Cardboard
- Community Partnerships
 - Kennesaw State University
 - Kroger Shopping Plaza
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Cobb PARKS Dept.

Keep Cobb Beautiful





- 
- Join the Movement!**
- Recycling is coming south to The United Nations Building. HQ (Department Store) is collecting recycling bins for each floor. Recycle bins are available for use in the building and on the roof.
- Let's Recycle Right!**





2024 Programs



Find Us In Your Neighborhood

Recycling with Ripple is easy and free. Find one of Ripple's purple bins in your neighborhood, and drop off your glass at a time that's convenient for you.



County Recycling Locations



MAIN:

Cobb County/Smurfit-WestRock
1775 County Services Pkwy, Marietta
3858 Kemp Ridge Rd., Acworth
4700 Austell Rd., Austell

District One:

District Four:

COBB COUNTY
—SUSTAINABILITY
FORUM &
EXP2
2024

**DISCOVER AND CELEBRATE
COBB COUNTY'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING, FUN AND INFORMATIVE EVENT!
ATTEND SESSIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS, INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS
AND HEAR GUEST SPEAKERS ON GREEN INITIATIVES
HOW THIS AFFECTS YOU - WORKING, LIVING & VISITING COBB

Thursday
April 11, 2024
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Jim Miller Park Event Center
2245 Callaway Rd. SW
Marietta, GA 30006

clean2go Green
FIRST 100 ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A FREE GIFT
COURTESY OF HELP COBB BEAUTIFUL
FOOD WILL BE SERVED
FREE ADMISSION
REGISTER HERE

For More Information
770-528-1135



Sustainability Expo & Forum



Sustainability Updates



- Renewable Energy Projects – Solar Initiatives
- Expanded recycling initiatives and opportunities
- Cobb County Sustainability Committee
- Green Communities Renewal
- EV Infrastructure Projects
- Beautification Collaboration Project
 - Commissioner Sheffield
 - Cobb Code Enforcement
 - Cobb Senior Services
 - Cobb DOT
 - OOS / KCB
 - Cobb PARKS
 - Cobb Communications
 - KAB/KGBF
 - My Green Earth
 - Kennesaw State University
 - Austell Community Taskforce
 - GFL

Upcoming Events



- **March 29 – District 4 Annual Community Clean-Up**
- **April 4 – Green Acres Elementary Career Day**
- **April 10 – Welcome to South Cobb Festival**
- **April 12 – Community Recycling Event @ Jim Miller Park**
- **April 23 – Upcycled Bead Making Class @ Switzer Library**
- **April 26 – Medication Disposal Event @ Precinct 1/Smyrna/East Cobb**
- **April 30 – Sustainability Expo & Forum**
- **July 11 – Litter Index Survey**
- **July 24 – Teen Recycling Competition and Showcase @ Switzer**

Final Questions & Comments

