

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF LANDFILLS**

Over the last decade, landfills have undergone many dramatic changes. The dug out pits, or what we called dumps, were left open for people to dispose of their throw away items. Today, landfills are engineered and designed facilities.

Starting in 1998, many new requirements were placed into effect, including lining the area with two feet of clay and a thick plastic liner and treating any water collected by it. All of these requirements are regulated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), which also permits and inspects each landfill in the state.

After a landfill has been filled to capacity, it is capped with two feet of clay and six inches of topsoil before it is grassed at time of "closure". For the next 30 years, Douglas County will be responsible for maintaining the cover and monitoring more than 100 different chemicals in the monitoring wells which are used as an early warning for possible, but unlikely, contamination.

Once a customer is done with an item and decides to dispose of it, that is only the beginning of its end. The Douglas County Landfill becomes the responsible owner and must maintain compliance with many state guidelines that govern landfills for many, many years. As a customer, you are paying for that long-term period that makes landfills protect human health and the environment, as well as paying for future landfills.

It is in the best interest of all citizens, to do a better job of handling waste before it goes into the landfill by reducing what we use and recycling when we can.

### **RECYCLING AND ITS IMPORTANCE**

Recycling is becoming more important as municipalities seek ways to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills. Douglas County is no exception and the landfill has taken great strides to make recycling both easy and beneficial. Douglas County has been mandated by the State of Georgia to reduce the amount of waste entering the Cedar Mountain Landfill by 25%. Recycling is one of many efforts aimed at meeting that goal.

Recycling of the following items at the Recycling Center is free: scrap metal and appliances, aluminum cans, motor oil, lead acid batteries, mixed paper products, small engine units, cooking oil, propane tanks, glass jars and bottles. The recycling center also accepts scrap tires, plastic, mattresses, electronics and freon loaded appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners, but a fee is charged for each item.

Vegetative waste, including yard trimmings, limbs, grass clippings, stumps, trees, branches and garden residuals are also being recycled. These items are banned from being buried in the landfill, but will be diverted to a separate area and chipped. The resulting wood chips and mulch may be hauled away, free of charge, by Douglas County residents. The vegetative waste must not be in plastic bags and must be clean and not mixed with lumber, garbage and other items. There is a fee charged for the disposal of vegetative waste. (See fee schedule).

The Recycling Center also accepts re-use items for collection by non-profit organization such as Goodwill and Salvation Army.

### **YOU ONLY PAY FOR WHAT YOU THROW AWAY**

The reasons for waste separation are many, but the most important being you should only pay for what you throw away. You should not be charged for any recycling.

Upon entering the Landfill, you will be directed to the Scale House where it will be determined what is being carried on your vehicle.

If you have recyclables only, you will be directed to the Recycle Center.

If you have household garbage or household garbage with recyclables, you will pay the clerk and be directed to the proper location.

If you have commercial garbage or any non-household garbage, including yard waste or construction debris, you will be asked to have your vehicle weighed before you unload and after you unload.

If you have recycling along with your commercial or non-household garbage, you will be asked to unload those items before weighing in. In this way, you will not be charged for these items.

If you are asked to weigh in and weigh out, the computer will figure the difference between the two weights and generate the appropriate fee.

**Recycling: (No Charge)** Metal, appliances, motor oil, mixed paper, aluminum cans, glass, Electronics, Vegetable Oil, Propane Tanks, small engine units, Re-Use item, copier, and auto batteries, plastics(bags, bottles, & jugs only).

<b>Tires: up to 17" diameter</b>	<b>\$5.00 ea.</b>
<b>Tires: above 17" in diameter</b>	<b>\$15.00 ea.</b>
<b>Freon-loaded Items:</b>	<b>\$16.00 ea.</b>
<b>Mattress/Box springs:</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>

### **Household Trash (under 500 lbs)**

Douglas County Residents	<b>\$7.00</b>
Residents w/ recycling	<b>\$5.00</b>
Non Residents	<b>\$18.00 up to 500lbs</b>
Non residents over 500lbs plus	<b>\$45.00 Ton</b>

Household trash includes daily waste produced inside the home. It does not include any type of construction material or carpet.

**Household Trash: (over 500 lbs)**  
**Commercial** **\$39.00 Ton**

**Construction Demolition Material** **\$35.00 Ton**  
(Non-household trash including residential and commercial construction materials, remodeling materials, carpet, roofing shingles, etc.)

**Vegetative Waste:** **\$33.00 Ton**

Includes yard waste, tree trimmings, grass clippings, stumps, branches, limbs, etc. Vegetative waste must be "clean: and not mixed with other trash.

### **ACCEPTABLE AND NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

The Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has banned a number of items from landfills across Georgia, including Douglas County's Cedar Mountain Landfill. These items include the following:

**Vegetative Waste:** Effective Sept. 1, 1996, as stated by EPD, "solid waste management authority shall impose restrictions on yard trimmings which are generated in or may be ultimately be disposed of in its area of jurisdiction."

**Solution:** The Cedar Mountain Landfill will still allow citizens to bring yard trimmings, etc., but the trimmings must be separated from the rest of the waste in each load. Loads will be rejected and turned away if trash and yard waste are mixed together. The yard waste will be diverted to a separate area where it will be chipped.

**Lead Acid Batteries:** This includes automobile and boat batteries.

**Solution:** The Cedar Mountain Landfill's Recycling Center accepts lead acid batteries for recycling.

**Liquid Wastes:** All liquids are prohibited from landfills, including paint and automobile fluids.

**Solution:** Motor oil is accepted at the Recycling Center, but all other items must be handled separately. Other items may be acceptable as solids. Pouring paint and allowing it to dry on cardboard or old carpet will make it acceptable for disposal. Mixing paint and other liquids with kitty litter or other absorbing material may also form an acceptable solid.

**Tires:** Tires are considered a hazardous waste and may not be disposed of in a landfill.

**Solution:** Douglas County does offer scrap tire recycling at its Recycling Center. There is, however, a charge for this service. Tires must be separated from rims. See Fee Schedule.

**Freon-loaded items:** Air conditioners, freezers, refrigerators, water fountains and drink machines are all items, which contain freon and may not be disposed of in landfills.

**Solution:** The EPA's Clean Air Act requires the freon to be reclaimed from these items. The Cedar Mountain Landfill must pay a certified recovery agent to perform this service. This charge is passed on to the customer disposing of each item.. See Fee Schedule.

**Biomedical Waste, Radioactive, Hazardous and PCB Wastes:** These wastes are not acceptable for disposal at the Cedar Mountain Landfill and must be specially handled.

**Solution:** Contact your regional Environmental Protection Division office for more information on landfill specially designed for these items.

### Waste Matters

The Douglas County Cedar Mountain Landfill accepts non-resident waste for transfer only. (Non resident rates apply) Proof of residency is required for all customers.

The Cedar Mountain Landfill is open 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Saturday. All loads requiring weighing in and out must be weighed in by 4:30pm.

The landfill is located at 1730 County Services Rd. Douglasville, Ga. 30134. Phone 770-920-3133 770-920-4937

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division permits the Cedar Mountain Landfill.

Household Garbage (under 500 lbs)	\$7.00 load
Household Garbage w/ recycling	\$5.00 load
Commercial Garbage	\$39.00 ton
Construction-Demolition Material	\$35.00 ton
Vegetative Waste (no other waste)	\$33.00 ton
Tires up to 17" diameter	\$5.00 ea.
Tires above 18" diameter	\$15.00 ea.
Freon-loaded items	\$16.00 ea
Non-Resident	\$18.00/\$45.00 ton.

The following items are not accepted for disposal at the Cedar Mountain Landfill: liquid wastes, biomedical waste, radioactive waste, hazardous waste, PCB waste.

The following items are not accepted for disposal, but may be recycled at the landfill (there may be a charge for some items): Lead acid batteries, tires, freon-loaded items and vegetative waste. **Vegetative waste has been banned from landfills across Georgia.**

All yard waste must be separated from other waste. Loads not separated may be rejected from dumping. Clean yard waste will be charged at \$1.65 / 100 lbs. If there are other items in the vehicle, which will be disposed, such as household garbage, the entire load will be charged at \$1.95 / 100 lbs.

Items, which can be recycled at the landfill at no cost, include: scrap metal, motor oil, auto batteries, aluminum cans, glass, Electronics, Vegetable Oil, Propane Tanks and mixed paper products.

All vegetative waste received at the landfill is chipped or composted. The resulting wood chips and mulch are available free of charge to residents at the landfill.

Open burning is banned in Douglas County each year from May 1 until September 30. This includes the burning of garbage and all vegetative waste (grass, leaves, clippings and other yard residuals).

All loads must be covered and secured. Uncovered loads, littering, illegal dumping, and scavenging are strictly prohibited in Douglas County. Violators will be prosecuted.

### OPERATIONS AT THE CEDAR MOUNTAIN LANDFILL

Public landfills across Georgia are closing at an alarming rate and many changes are in store for this Landfill in the future as the Environmental Protection Division maintains a tighter grip on solid waste facilities.

The Cedar Mountain Landfill is unique in the fact that not one single tax dollar is spent at its facilities. All past, present and future costs of the Landfill are supplemented by the fees paid by each customer at the scale house and from the sale of recyclable materials.

The \$39.00 per ton commercial tipping fee is a very reasonable fee for garbage disposal. Studies by the Atlanta Regional Commission show that Douglas County tipping fees are about the average for disposal facilities in the Atlanta area.

### WHERE DOES OUR TIPPING FEE GO?

The Cedar Mountain Landfill services thousands of citizens and commercial accounts each month, with almost all of the money generated going to the Landfill Enterprise Fund (a small portion is returned to the Douglas County's General Fund).

The Landfill Enterprise Fund is responsible for all expenses incurred at the Cedar Mountain facility such as future landfill space development, construction, all operating expenses (salaries, insurance, equipment purchases and maintenance, office supplies, etc.), landfill closure expenses and 30 years of post-closure monitoring.

The percentage breakdown for every \$1.00 collected at the Cedar Mountain Landfill in Douglas is as follows:

<b>Development Costs</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Construction Costs</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Operating Costs</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Closure Costs</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Post-Closure Costs</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Closure costs are incurred once the landfill is completely filled. Closure includes capping the landfill with two feet of clay and six inches of topsoil before covering with grass.

Post closure costs include maintaining and monitoring the landfill for a period of 30 years. The groundwater monitoring wells are used as an early- warning system to detect the possible, but unlikely groundwater contamination.

### LOADING YOUR VEHICLE

Proper loading of the vehicle is very important for easy use of the Landfill facilities. All recyclable items should be able to be unloaded first. Next should be all household garbage, considered to be kitchen, bathroom or bedroom garbage. All non-household garbage, both residential and commercial should be loaded last. Yard waste should be separated from the rest of the load and taken to the proper area.

# **CEDAR MOUNTAIN LANDFILL**



## **Douglas County Cedar Mountain Landfill**

**Landfill Enterprise Fund  
1730 County Services Rd.  
Douglasville, Ga. 30134**

**770-920-3133**

**770-920-4937**

### Hours of Operation

**Monday – Saturday 8:00 am. – 5:00 pm.\***

**Scales close at 4:30pm.**

**Closed Sunday**

Closed Holidays

New Years Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Veterans
Day	
Good Friday	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Friday
Independence Day	Christmas Eve
	Christmas Day