Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority

Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2004-2013

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R.W. Beck
## Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

### Section 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background ................................................................. 1-1
1.2 Planning Area Defined ....................................................... 1-2
  1.2.1 Topography/Unique Natural Features .......................... 1-3
  1.2.2 Population .............................................................. 1-5
1.3 Person Responsible for Plan .............................................. 1-7

### Section 2 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

2.1 Introduction ...................................................................... 2-1
2.2 Implementation Strategy ................................................... 2-1
  2.2.1 Summary of Needs and Goals ................................. 2-1

### Section 3 ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

3.1 Description of the County ................................................. 3-1
  3.1.1 Background .............................................................. 3-1
  3.1.2 Population .............................................................. 3-1
    3.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes .............................. 3-1
    3.1.2.2 Number of Households ...................................... 3-2
  3.1.3 Economic Activity ...................................................... 3-2
3.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis ......................................... 3-4
  3.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed ...................................... 3-4
    3.2.1.1 Waste Characterization ...................................... 3-5
    3.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations ....... 3-7
    3.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters ............................. 3-7
  3.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed ............................ 3-8
    3.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal .......... 3-8
3.3 Waste Reduction Element .................................................. 3-8
  3.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs ........................ 3-8
Table of Contents

3.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs .......................................... 3-8
3.3.1.2 Recycling....................................................................... 3-9
3.3.2 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities .......................... 3-12
   3.3.2.1 Items Requiring Special Handling .............................. 3-12
   3.3.2.2 Contingency Strategy .................................................. 3-13
3.3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs ........................... 3-13
3.3.4 Needs and Goals ............................................................... 3-13
3.4 Collection Element ................................................................................ 3-13
   3.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs ....................... 3-13
      3.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy .................................................. 3-16
   3.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs .................................... 3-16
   3.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering .............................. 3-16
   3.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal ............... 3-16
   3.4.5 Needs and Goals ............................................................... 3-16
3.5 Disposal Element ............................................................................... 3-17
   3.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities .................... 3-17
      3.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity ................................... 3-18
      3.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy .................................................. 3-19
   3.5.2 Assessment of Disposal ..................................................... 3-19
   3.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ........................................... 3-19
3.6 Education and Public Involvement Element ................................. 3-19
   3.6.1 Inventory of Education and Public Involvement ............... 3-19
   3.6.2 Assessment of Education and Public Involvement ............... 3-20
   3.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ........................................... 3-21
3.7 Land Limitation Element .............................................................. 3-21
   3.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas ..................................................... 3-21
   3.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities ...................... 3-23
   3.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation .......................................... 3-24
   3.7.4 Needs and Goals ............................................................... 3-24
3.8 Implementation Strategy ............................................................... 3-24
   3.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals ................................ 3-24
   3.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability .................................................. 3-25
   3.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity .......... 3-25
   3.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities) ........................................... 3-25

Section 4 BARROW COUNTY
4.1 Description of the County ............................................................. 4-1
   4.1.1 Background ................................................................. 4-1
   4.1.2 Population ..................................................................... 4-1
      4.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes ................................. 4-1
      4.1.2.2 Number of Households ........................................... 4-2
   4.1.3 Economic Activity ............................................................. 4-2
4.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis .................................................... 4-4
   4.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed ............................................ 4-4
      4.2.1.1 Waste Characterization ........................................... 4-5
### Table of Contents

4.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations............. 4-7  
4.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters........................................ 4-7  
4.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed........................................... 4-7  
4.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal................... 4-8  
4.3 Waste Reduction Element............................................................... 4-8  
4.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs......................... 4-8  
4.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs.............................................. 4-8  
4.3.1.2 Recycling........................................................................... 4-9  
4.3.1.3 Yard Trimmings Program and Facilities ..................... 4-11  
4.3.1.4 Items Requiring Special Handling.................................... 4-12  
4.3.1.5 Contingency Strategy......................................................... 4-13  
4.3.2 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs......................... 4-14  
4.3.3 Needs and Goals ........................................................................ 4-14  
4.4 Collection Element........................................................................ 4-14  
4.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs......................... 4-14  
4.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy......................................................... 4-16  
4.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs ..................................... 4-17  
4.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering............................. 4-17  
4.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal.............. 4-17  
4.4.5 Needs and Goals ........................................................................ 4-17  
4.5 Disposal Element........................................................................... 4-17  
4.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities............................. 4-17  
4.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity................................... 4-19  
4.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy......................................................... 4-20  
4.5.2 Assessment of Disposal............................................................. 4-20  
4.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ................................................... 4-20  
4.6 Education and Public Involvement Element................................. 4-21  
4.6.1 Inventory of Education and Public Involvement.................... 4-21  
4.6.2 Assessment of Education and Public Involvement................ 4-21  
4.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals................................................... 4-21  
4.7 Land Limitation Element............................................................... 4-22  
4.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas............................................................ 4-22  
4.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities............................ 4-24  
4.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation................................................. 4-25  
4.7.4 Needs and Goals........................................................................ 4-25  
4.8 Implementation Strategies............................................................. 4-25  
4.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals.................................... 4-25  
4.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability........................................... 4-26  
4.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity........... 4-26  
4.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities).......................................................... 4-26  

### Section 5 ELBERT COUNTY

5.1 Description of the County............................................................ 5-1  
5.1.1 Background............................................................................. 5-1  
5.1.2 Population................................................................................. 5-1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2.2 Number of Households</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3 Economic Activity</td>
<td>5-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis</td>
<td>5-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed</td>
<td>5-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.1 Waste Characterization</td>
<td>5-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Waste Reduction Element</td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs</td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1.2 Recycling</td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities</td>
<td>5-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.3 Items Requiring Special Handling</td>
<td>5-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.4 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
<td>5-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.5 Needs and Goals</td>
<td>5-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 Collection Element</td>
<td>5-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs</td>
<td>5-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>5-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs</td>
<td>5-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering</td>
<td>5-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal</td>
<td>5-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.5 Needs and Goals</td>
<td>5-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 Disposal Element</td>
<td>5-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities</td>
<td>5-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity</td>
<td>5-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>5-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.2 Assessment of Disposal</td>
<td>5-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals</td>
<td>5-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6 Education and Public Involvement</td>
<td>5-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6.1 Inventory of Public Education and Involvement</td>
<td>5-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement</td>
<td>5-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals</td>
<td>5-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7 Land Limitation Element</td>
<td>5-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas</td>
<td>5-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities</td>
<td>5-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation</td>
<td>5-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7.4 Needs and Goals</td>
<td>5-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8 Implementation Strategies</td>
<td>5-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals</td>
<td>5-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection</td>
<td>5-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capability</td>
<td>5-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity</td>
<td>5-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table of Contents

5.8.4  Short Term Work Program  (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities) ........................................................ 5-21

**Section 6 GREENE COUNTY**

6.1  Description of the County ........................................................................................................... 6-1

6.1.1  Background .......................................................................................................................... 6-1

6.1.2  Population ............................................................................................................................ 6-1

6.1.2.1  Seasonal Population Changes .................................................................................... 6-2

6.1.2.2  Number of Households ............................................................................................... 6-2

6.1.3  Economic Activity ................................................................................................................. 6-2

6.2  Waste Disposal Stream Analysis ............................................................................................... 6-4

6.2.1  Inventory of Waste Disposed .............................................................................................. 6-4

6.2.1.1  Waste Characterization ............................................................................................... 6-5

6.2.1.2  Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations .................................................... 6-7

6.2.1.3  Waste Generating Disasters ....................................................................................... 6-7

6.2.2  Projections of Waste to be Disposed .................................................................................. 6-7

6.2.2.1  Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal ............................................................ 6-7

6.3  Waste Reduction Element .......................................................................................................... 6-8

6.3.1  Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs ........................................................................... 6-8

6.3.1.1  Source Reduction Programs ....................................................................................... 6-8

6.3.1.2  Recycling .................................................................................................................... 6-8

6.3.2  Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities .......................................................................... 6-9

6.3.2.1  Items Requiring Special Handling ............................................................................ 6-10

6.3.3  Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs ....................................................................... 6-11

6.3.4  Needs and Goals .................................................................................................................. 6-11

6.4  Collection Element .................................................................................................................... 6-11

6.4.1  Inventory of Existing Collection Programs ....................................................................... 6-11

6.4.1.1  Contingency Strategy ................................................................................................... 6-13

6.4.2  Assessment of Collection Programs .................................................................................. 6-13

6.4.3  Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering ............................................................................ 6-14

6.4.4  Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal .................................................. 6-14

6.4.5  Needs and Goals .................................................................................................................. 6-14

6.5  Disposal Element ....................................................................................................................... 6-14

6.5.1  Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities .................................................................... 6-14

6.5.1.1  Assurance of 10-Year Capacity .................................................................................. 6-15

6.5.1.2  Contingency Strategy .................................................................................................. 6-16

6.5.2  Assessment of Disposal ...................................................................................................... 6-16

6.5.3  Statement of Needs and Goals ............................................................................................ 6-16

6.6  Education and Public Involvement Element ............................................................................. 6-16

6.6.1  Inventory of Education and Public Involvement ............................................................. 6-16

6.6.2  Assessment of Education and Public Involvement .......................................................... 6-17

6.6.3  Statement of Needs and Goals ............................................................................................ 6-17

6.7  Land Limitation Element ........................................................................................................... 6-17

6.7.1  Inventory of Land Areas ...................................................................................................... 6-17

6.7.2  Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities .................................................................... 6-19

6.7.3  Assessment of Land Limitation ......................................................................................... 6-20

6.7.4  Needs and Goals .................................................................................................................. 6-20
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 7 JACKSON COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Description of the County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1.1 Background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1.2 Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1.2.2 Number of Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1.3 Economic Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.1.1 Waste Characterization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 Waste Reduction Element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.1.2 Reuse Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.1.3 Recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.2 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.2.1 Items Requiring Special Handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.4 Needs and Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 Collection Element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4.5 Needs and Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 Disposal Element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.2 Assessment of Disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6 Education and Public Involvement Element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.1 Inventory of Education and Public Involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6.2 Assessment of Education and Public Involvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.6.3</td>
<td>Statement of Needs and Goals</td>
<td>7-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>Land Limitation Element</td>
<td>7-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7.1</td>
<td>Inventory of Land Areas</td>
<td>7-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7.2</td>
<td>Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities</td>
<td>7-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7.3</td>
<td>Assessment of Land Limitation</td>
<td>7-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7.4</td>
<td>Needs and Goals</td>
<td>7-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>Implementation Strategies</td>
<td>7-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8.1</td>
<td>Summary of County Need and Goals</td>
<td>7-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8.2</td>
<td>Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection</td>
<td>7-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8.3</td>
<td>Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity</td>
<td>7-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8.4</td>
<td>Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities)</td>
<td>7-21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Section 8 MADISON COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8.1</th>
<th>Description of the County</th>
<th>8-1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.1.1</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1.2</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1.2.1</td>
<td>Seasonal Population Changes</td>
<td>8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1.2.2</td>
<td>Number of Households</td>
<td>8-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1.3</td>
<td>Economic Activity</td>
<td>8-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Waste Disposal Stream Analysis</td>
<td>8-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.1</td>
<td>Inventory of Waste Disposed</td>
<td>8-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.1.1</td>
<td>Waste Characterization</td>
<td>8-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.1.2</td>
<td>Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations</td>
<td>8-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.1.3</td>
<td>Waste Generating Disasters</td>
<td>8-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.2</td>
<td>Projections of Waste to be Disposed</td>
<td>8-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2.2.1</td>
<td>Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal</td>
<td>8-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Waste Reduction Element</td>
<td>8-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.1</td>
<td>Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
<td>8-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.1.1</td>
<td>Source Reduction Programs</td>
<td>8-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.1.2</td>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>8-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.2</td>
<td>Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities</td>
<td>8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.2.1</td>
<td>Items Requiring Special Handling</td>
<td>8-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.3</td>
<td>Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
<td>8-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.4</td>
<td>Needs and Goals</td>
<td>8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Collection Element</td>
<td>8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.1</td>
<td>Inventory of Existing Collection Programs</td>
<td>8-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.1.1</td>
<td>Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>8-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.2</td>
<td>Assessment of Collection Programs</td>
<td>8-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.3</td>
<td>Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering</td>
<td>8-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.4</td>
<td>Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal</td>
<td>8-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4.5</td>
<td>Needs and Goals</td>
<td>8-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Disposal Element</td>
<td>8-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5.1</td>
<td>Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities</td>
<td>8-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5.1.1</td>
<td>Assurance of 10-Year Capacity</td>
<td>8-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5.1.2</td>
<td>Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>8-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.5.2 Assessment of Disposal ............................................................. 8-17
8.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals................................................... 8-17
8.6 Education and Public Involvement Element.................................................... 8-17
8.6.1 Inventory of Education and Public Involvement ........................................ 8-17
8.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement ............................ 8-18
8.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ................................................... 8-18
8.7 Land Limitation Element....................................................................... 8-18
8.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas ................................................................... 8-18
8.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities ........................................ 8-20
8.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation ..................................................... 8-21
8.7.4 Needs and Goals ........................................................................ 8-21
8.8 Implementation Strategies ..................................................................... 8-21
8.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals ........................................... 8-21
8.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability ................ 8-22
8.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity ............. 8-22
8.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities) ......................................................................................... 8-22

Section 9 MORGAN COUNTY
9.1 Description of the County ........................................................................ 9-1
9.1.1 Background .................................................................................. 9-1
9.1.2 Population .................................................................................... 9-1
9.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes .............................................. 9-1
9.1.2.2 Number of Households ...................................................... 9-2
9.1.3 Economic Activity ....................................................................... 9-2
9.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis ............................................................. 9-4
9.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed ....................................................... 9-4
9.2.1.1 Waste Characterization ...................................................... 9-5
9.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations .................. 9-6
9.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters .............................................. 9-7
9.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed ........................................... 9-7
9.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal ........................ 9-7
9.3 Waste Reduction Element........................................................................ 9-7
9.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs ..................................... 9-7
9.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs .............................................. 9-8
9.3.1.2 Recycling ........................................................................ 9-8
9.3.2 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities .................................... 9-9
9.3.2.1 Items Requiring Special Handling ................................ 9-9
9.3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs ............................... 9-10
9.3.4 Needs and Goals ........................................................................ 9-10
9.4 Collection Element ................................................................................ 9-10
9.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs .................................. 9-10
9.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy ...................................................... 9-13
9.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs ........................................... 9-13
9.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering ....................................... 9-13
9.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal ............. 9-13
### Table of Contents

**9.4.5 Needs and Goals** ................................................................. 9-13

**9.5 Disposal Element** ..................................................................... 9-14

9.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities ......................... 9-14

9.5.2 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity ................................................. 9-15

9.5.2.1 Contingency Strategy ......................................................... 9-15

9.5.3 Assessment of Disposal .......................................................... 9-15

9.5.4 Statement of Needs and Goals ................................................ 9-16

**9.6 Education and Public Involvement Element** ........................... 9-16

9.6.1 Inventory of Public Education and Involvement ....................... 9-16

9.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement .................... 9-17

9.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ................................................ 9-17

**9.7 Land Limitation Element** ....................................................... 9-17

9.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas .......................................................... 9-17

9.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities ............................. 9-19

9.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation ................................................. 9-20

9.7.4 Needs and Goals ................................................................. 9-20

**9.8 Implementation Strategies** ...................................................... 9-20

9.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals ....................................... 9-20

9.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability ........ 9-21

9.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity .......... 9-21

9.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities) ......................................................... 9-21

**Section 10 OCONEE COUNTY**

10.1 Description of the County .......................................................... 10-1

10.1.1 Background ................................................................. 10-1

10.1.2 Population ........................................................................ 10-1

10.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes ...................................... 10-1

10.1.2.2 Number of Households ................................................. 10-1

10.1.3 Economic Activity ............................................................ 10-2

10.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis ............................................... 10-4

10.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed ................................................. 10-4

10.2.1.1 Waste Characterization ................................................ 10-5

10.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations ............... 10-6

10.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters ........................................... 10-7

10.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed .................................... 10-7

10.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal .................... 10-7

10.3 Waste Reduction Element .......................................................... 10-7

10.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs ............................... 10-7

10.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs ........................................... 10-8

10.3.1.2 Recycling ................................................................. 10-8

10.3.2 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities ............................... 10-11

10.3.2.1 Items Requiring Special Handling .................................. 10-12

10.3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs ........................... 10-13

10.3.4 Needs and Goals ............................................................. 10-13

10.4 Collection Element ................................................................. 10-14
## Table of Contents

### 10.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs .......................................................... 10-14
  10.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy .................................................................................. 10-16

### 10.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs .............................................................. 10-16

### 10.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering ......................................................... 10-16

### 10.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal ..................................... 10-16

### 10.4.5 Needs and Goals ......................................................................................... 10-17

### 10.5 Disposal Element .............................................................................................. 10-17
  10.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities .................................................. 10-17
    10.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity ............................................................. 10-18
    10.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy ............................................................................. 10-19
  10.5.2 Assessment of Disposal ................................................................................... 10-19
  10.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ....................................................................... 10-19

### 10.6 Education and Public Involvement Element ..................................................... 10-20
  10.6.1 Inventory of Public Education and Involvement .............................................. 10-20
  10.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement ......................................... 10-21
  10.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ....................................................................... 10-22

### 10.7 Land Limitation Element .................................................................................... 10-22
  10.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas ................................................................................ 10-22
  10.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities ................................................. 10-25
  10.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation ..................................................................... 10-26
  10.7.4 Needs and Goals ........................................................................................... 10-26

### 10.8 Implementation Strategies ................................................................................ 10-26
  10.8.1 Summary of County Need and Goals ............................................................ 10-26
  10.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability .................................. 10-26
  10.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity .................................... 10-27
  10.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities) ............. 10-27

### Section 11 OGLETORPE COUNTY

#### 11.1 Description of the County .................................................................................. 11-1
  11.1.1 Background .................................................................................................. 11-1
  11.1.2 Population .................................................................................................... 11-1
    11.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes ................................................................. 11-1
    11.1.2.2 Number of Households ........................................................................... 11-1
  11.1.3 Economic Activity ......................................................................................... 11-2

#### 11.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis ...................................................................... 11-4
  11.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed ......................................................................... 11-4
    11.2.1.1 Waste Characterization ............................................................................ 11-5
    11.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations ........................................ 11-6
    11.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters .................................................................... 11-7
  11.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed ............................................................. 11-7
    11.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal ............................................. 11-7

#### 11.3 Waste Reduction Element ................................................................................ 11-8
  11.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs ....................................................... 11-8
    11.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs ..................................................................... 11-8
    11.3.1.2 Recycling .................................................................................................. 11-8
11.3.1.3 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities ................. 11-9
11.3.1.4 Items Requiring Special Handling ......................... 11-9
11.3.2 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs ................. 11-10
11.3.3 Needs and Goals ...................................................... 11-10
11.4 Collection Element ..................................................... 11-11
11.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs .......... 11-11
   11.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy ........................................ 11-12
11.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs ......................... 11-12
11.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering .................. 11-13
11.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal .... 11-13
11.4.5 Needs and Goals ...................................................... 11-13
11.5 Disposal Element .......................................................... 11-13
11.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities .......... 11-13
   11.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity ......................... 11-14
   11.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy ........................................ 11-15
11.5.2 Assessment of Disposal ............................................. 11-15
11.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ............................... 11-15
11.6 Education and Public Involvement Element ................. 11-15
11.6.1 Inventory of Public Education and Involvement .... 11-15
11.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement .... 11-16
11.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals ............................... 11-16
11.7 Land Limitation Element .............................................. 11-16
11.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas ........................................... 11-16
11.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities .......... 11-18
11.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation ............................... 11-19
11.7.4 Needs and Goals ...................................................... 11-19
11.8 Implementation Strategies ........................................... 11-19
11.8.1 Summary of County Needs and Goals ................. 11-19
11.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection Capability ......................................................... 11-20
11.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity .... 11-20
11.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities) ................................................ 11-20

Section 12 WALTON COUNTY
12.1 Description of the County ............................................. 12-1
   12.1.1 Background .............................................................. 12-1
12.1.2 Population ................................................................. 12-1
   12.1.2.1 Seasonal Population Changes .............................. 12-1
   12.1.2.2 Number of Households ......................................... 12-2
12.1.3 Economic Activity ...................................................... 12-2
12.2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis ................................. 12-4
12.2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed .................................. 12-4
   12.2.1.1 Waste Characterization ....................................... 12-5
   12.2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations ...... 12-6
   12.2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters ............................... 12-6
12.2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed ...................... 12-7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.2.2.1 Per Capita MSW Disposal Reduction Goal</td>
<td>12-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3 Waste Reduction Element</td>
<td>12-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
<td>12-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.1.1 Source Reduction Programs</td>
<td>12-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.1.2 Recycling</td>
<td>12-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.1.3 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities</td>
<td>12-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.1.4 Items Requiring Special Handling</td>
<td>12-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.1.5 Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>12-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.2 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs</td>
<td>12-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3.3 Needs and Goals</td>
<td>12-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4 Collection Element</td>
<td>12-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4.1 Inventory of Existing Collection Programs</td>
<td>12-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4.1.1 Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4.4 Assessment of Programs to Address Illegal Disposal</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4.5 Needs and Goals</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5 Disposal Element</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity</td>
<td>12-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5.1.2 Contingency Strategy</td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5.2 Assessment of Disposal</td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals</td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6 Education and Public Involvement Element</td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6.1 Inventory of Public Education and Involvement</td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6.2 Assessment of Public Education and Involvement</td>
<td>12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.6.3 Statement of Needs and Goals</td>
<td>12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7 Land Limitation Element</td>
<td>12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7.1 Inventory of Land Areas</td>
<td>12-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7.2 Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities</td>
<td>12-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7.3 Assessment of Land Limitation</td>
<td>12-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.7.4 Needs and Goals</td>
<td>12-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.8 Implementation Strategies</td>
<td>12-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.8.1 Summary of County Needs and Goals</td>
<td>12-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.8.2 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Collection</td>
<td>12-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capability</td>
<td>12-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.8.3 Statement/Demonstration of 10-Year Disposal Capacity</td>
<td>12-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.8.4 Short Term Work Program (5-Year List of Programs/Work Activities)</td>
<td>12-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents

List of Tables

Table 1-1 Local Governments Included in the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Update...........................................................................................................1-2
Table 1-2 Population and Projections for Counties in the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority.........................................................................................1-6
Table 2-1 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program 2004 - 2008 - Regional Implementation Strategy.................................................................2-3
Table 3-1 Athens-Clarke County and Census Zone Population........................................3-1
Table 3-2 Housing Units in Athens-Clarke County.............................................................3-2
Table 3-3 Athens-Clarke County Employment by NAICS Category....................................3-3
Table 3-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (2003) Athens-Clarke County.....................................3-5
Table 3-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Athens-Clarke County ...........................................................................................................................................3-6
Table 3-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current per Capita Disposal Rate Athens-Clarke County .................................................................................................................3-8
Table 3-7 Recycling Programs in Athens-Clarke County (2003)........................................3-10
Table 3-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area..............................3-11
Table 3-9 Recycling Facilities .............................................................................................3-12
Table 3-10 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ..................................................................3-12
Table 3-11 Haulers Operating in Planning Area..................................................................3-14
Table 3-12 Inventory of Collection Programs ......................................................................3-15
Table 3-13 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ..................................................3-18
Table 3-14 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013)......................................3-19
Table 3-15 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ..................................................3-20
Table 3-16 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria....................................................................3-23
Table 3-17 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program 2004 – 2008 Athens-Clarke County...............................................................3-26
Table 4-1 Barrow County and Census Zone Population....................................................4-1
Table 4-2 Housing Units, Barrow County ........................................................................4-2
Table 4-3 Barrow County Employment by NAICS Category.............................................4-3
Table 4-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Barrow County...............4-5
Table 4-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Barrow County 1 .................4-5
Table 4-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate Barrow County ...........................................................................................................................................4-6
Table 4-7 Recycling Programs in Barrow County (2003)....................................................4-10
Table 4-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area..............................4-11
Table 4-9 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ..................................................................4-12
Table 4-10 Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003)..............................4-13
Table 4-11 Haulers Operating in Barrow County...............................................................4-15
Table 4-12 Inventory of Collection Programs ....................................................................4-15
Table 4-13 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
   Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ........ 4-18
Table 4-14 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013)..................... 4-20
Table 4-15 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives............................... 4-21
Table 4-16 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria............................................. 4-24
Table 4-17 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term
   Work Program 2004 – 2008 Barrow County ............................................. 4-27
Table 5-1 Elbert County and Census Zone Population....................................... 5-1
Table 5-2 Housing Units, Elbert County ........................................................... 5-2
Table 5-3 Elbert County Employment by NAICS Category ................................ 5-2
Table 5-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Elbert
   County ........................................................................................................... 5-4
Table 5-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Elbert County¹ ...... 5-5
Table 5-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
   Elbert County .................................................................................................... 5-7
Table 5-7 Recycling Programs in Elbert County (2003) ...................................... 5-9
Table 5-8 Recycling Facilities ............................................................................ 5-10
Table 5-9 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ..................................................... 5-10
Table 5-10 Management of Special Materials................................................... 5-11
Table 5-11 Haulers Operating in Planning Area .................................................. 5-12
Table 5-12 Inventory of Collection Programs .................................................... 5-12
Table 5-13 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
   Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ........ 5-14
Table 5-14 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013) ....................... 5-15
Table 5-15 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ................................. 5-16
Table 5-16 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria ................................................. 5-19
Table 5-17 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term
   Work Program 2004 – 2008 Barrow County ................................................. 5-22
Table 6-1 Greene County and Census Zone Population ...................................... 6-1
Table 6-2 Housing Units in Greene County ......................................................... 6-2
Table 6-3 Greene County Employment by NAICS Category ............................... 6-2
Table 6-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Greene
   County ............................................................................................................... 6-4
Table 6-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Greene
   County¹ ............................................................................................................. 6-5
Table 6-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
   Greene County ................................................................................................... 6-7
Table 6-7 Recycling Programs in Greene County (2003) .................................... 6-8
Table 6-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from Greene County ................... 6-9
Table 6-9 Recycling Facilities ............................................................................. 6-9
Table 6-10 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ...................................................... 6-10
Table 6-11 Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003) ............. 6-10
Table 6-12 Haulers Operating in Planning Area ................................................. 6-12
Table 6-13 Inventory of Collection Programs .................................................... 6-13
Table 6-14 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
   Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ........ 6-15
Table of Contents

Table 6-15 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013) ..................................................... 6-16
Table 6-16 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ................................................................. 6-17
Table 6-17 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria ................................................................................ 6-19
Table 6-18 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term
    Work Program 2004 – 2008 Greene County .................................................................................. 6-22
Table 7-1 Jackson County and Census Zone Population ..................................................................... 7-1
Table 7-2 Housing Units in Jackson County ......................................................................................... 7-2
Table 7-3 Jackson County Employment by NAICS Category ............................................................... 7-3
Table 7-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Jackson
    County ....................................................................................................................................... 7-5
Table 7-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Jackson
    County ....................................................................................................................................... 7-5
Table 7-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
    Jackson County .......................................................................................................................... 7-7
Table 7-7 Recycling Programs in Jackson County (2003) ................................................................ 7-9
Table 7-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area ................................................. 7-9
Table 7-9 Recycling Facilities ........................................................................................................... 7-10
Table 7-10 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ....................................................................................... 7-10
Table 7-11 Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003) ............................................. 7-11
Table 7-12 Haulers Operating in Planning Area .................................................................................... 7-12
Table 7-13 Inventory of Collection Programs .................................................................................... 7-12
Table 7-14 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
    Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ............................................. 7-14
Table 7-15 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013) ....................................................... 7-16
Table 7-16 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ................................................................. 7-17
Table 7-17 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria .................................................................................. 7-19
Table 7-18 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term
    Work Program 2004 - 2008 Jackson County ................................................................................ 7-22
Table 8-1 Madison County and Census Zone Population ..................................................................... 8-1
Table 8-2 Housing Units in Madison County ....................................................................................... 8-2
Table 8-3 Madison County Employment by NAICS Category ............................................................. 8-3
Table 8-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Madison
    County ....................................................................................................................................... 8-5
Table 8-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Madison
    County ....................................................................................................................................... 8-6
Table 8-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
    Madison County .......................................................................................................................... 8-8
Table 8-7 Recycling Programs in Athens-Clarke County (2003) ......................................................... 8-9
Table 8-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area ................................................. 8-9
Table 8-9 Recycling Facilities ........................................................................................................... 8-10
Table 8-10 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ....................................................................................... 8-11
Table 8-11 Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003) ............................................. 8-11
Table 8-12 Haulers Operating in Planning Area .................................................................................... 8-12
Table 8-13 Inventory of Collection Programs .................................................................................... 8-14
Table 8-14 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
    Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ............................................. 8-15
Table 8-15 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013) ........................................ 8-16
Table 8-16 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ................................................. 8-18
Table 8-17 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria ............................................................... 8-20
Table 8-18 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term
  Work Program 2004 – 2008 Madison County ................................................................. 8-23
Table 9-1 Morgan County and Census Zone Population .................................................... 9-1
Table 9-2 Housing Units in Morgan County ..................................................................... 9-2
Table 9-3 Morgan County Employment by NAICS Category ......................................... 9-2
Table 9-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Morgan
  County ......................................................................................................................... 9-4
Table 9-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Morgan
  County 1 ......................................................................................................................... 9-5
Table 9-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
  Morgan County .......................................................................................................... 9-7
Table 9-7 Recycling Programs in Morgan County (2003)............................................... 9-8
Table 9-8 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) .................................................................... 9-9
Table 9-9 Management of Special Materials .................................................................. 9-9
Table 9-10 Haulers Operating in Planning Area ............................................................... 9-12
Table 9-11 Inventory of Collection Programs ................................................................. 9-12
Table 9-12 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
  Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ......................... 9-14
Table 9-13 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013)................................. 9-15
Table 9-14 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ............................................ 9-16
Table 9-15 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria ............................................................. 9-19
Table 9-16 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term
  Work Program 2004 – 2008 Morgan County ................................................................. 9-22
Table 10-1 Oconee County and Census Zone Population .............................................. 10-1
Table 10-2 Housing Units in Oconee County ................................................................. 10-2
Table 10-3 Oconee County Employment by NAICS Category...................................... 10-2
Table 10-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Oconee
  County ....................................................................................................................... 10-4
Table 10-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Oconee
  County 1 ....................................................................................................................... 10-5
Table 10-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
  Oconee County ............................................................................................................ 10-7
Table 10-7 Recycling Programs in Oconee County (1994-1999) .................................. 10-8
Table 10-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area ....................... 10-9
Table 10-9 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ................................................................. 10-12
Table 10-10 Programs for Materials Requiring Special Handling (2003) ....................... 10-13
Table 10-11 Haulers Operating in Planning Area ............................................................ 10-14
Table 10-12 Inventory of Collection Programs ............................................................... 10-15
Table 10-13 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
  Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 – 2013) ......................... 10-17
Table 10-14 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013)............................... 10-19
Table 10-15 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives ........................................... 10-21
Table 10-16 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria .......................................................... 10-24
Table of Contents

Table 10-17 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program 2004 – 2008 Oconee County.................................10-28
Table 11-1 Oglethorpe County and Census Zone Population .......................11-1
Table 11-2 Housing Units, Oglethorpe County .............................................11-2
Table 11-3 Oglethorpe County Employment by NAICS Category..................11-2
Table 11-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003)
Оglethorpe County..................................................................................11-4
Table 11-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Oglethorpe County........................................................................11-5
Table 11-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
Оglethorpe County..................................................................................11-7
Table 11-7 Recycling Programs in Planning Area (2003)..............................11-8
Table 11-8 Recycling Facilities ..................................................................11-9
Table 11-9 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ..............................................11-9
Table 11-10 Management of Special Materials.........................................11-10
Table 11-11 Haulers Operating in Planning Area........................................11-11
Table 11-12 Inventory of Collection Programs .........................................11-12
Table 11-13 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
Technologies to be Used During the Planning Period (2004 - 2013)............11-13
Table 11-14 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013).................11-15
Table 11-15 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives..........................11-16
Table 11-16 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria......................................11-18
Table 11-17 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program 2004 – 2008 Oglethorpe County.......................11-21
Table 12-1 Walton County and Census Zone Population ............................12-1
Table 12-2 Housing Units, Walton County..................................................12-2
Table 12-3 Walton County Employment by NAICS Category, 2002 ............12-2
Table 12-4 Waste Disposed by Sector (4Q 2002 through 3Q 2003) Walton County...............................................................................12-4
Table 12-5 Projected Characterization of MSW Disposed from Walton County........................................................................12-5
Table 12-6 Waste Disposal Projections at Current Per Capita Disposal Rate
Walton County......................................................................................12-7
Table 12-7 Recycling Programs in Walton County (2003)............................12-8
Table 12-8 Businesses that Accept Recyclables from the Walton County........12-9
Table 12-9 Recycling Facilities ..................................................................12-10
Table 12-10 Yard Trimmings Programs (2003) ............................................12-10
Table 12-11 Management of Special Materials..........................................12-11
Table 12-12 Haulers Operating in Walton County......................................12-13
Table 12-13 Inventory of Collection Programs in Walton County................12-14
Table 12-14 Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment
Technologies To Be Used During the Planning Period (2004-2013)............12-16
Table 12-15 Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary (2004-2013).................12-17
Table 12-16 Existing Environmental Education Initiatives..........................12-18
Table 12-17 Regional Landfill Suitability Criteria......................................12-20
Table 12-18 Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Work Program 2004 – 2008 Walton County .................................................. 12-23

List of Figures

Figure 1-1: Planning Area........................................................................................................ 1-3
Figure 1-2: Physiographic Districts of Georgia................................................................. 1-5
Figure 3-1...................................................................................................................... 3-22
Figure 4-1...................................................................................................................... 4-23
Figure 5-1...................................................................................................................... 5-18
Figure 6-1...................................................................................................................... 6-18
Figure 7-1...................................................................................................................... 7-18
Figure 8-1...................................................................................................................... 8-19
Figure 9-1...................................................................................................................... 9-18
Figure 10-1.................................................................................................................. 10-23
Figure 11-1................................................................................................................. 11-17
Figure 12-1.................................................................................................................. 12-19
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athens-Clarke County</th>
<th>Madison County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winterville</td>
<td>Carlton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barrow County</td>
<td>Colbert</td>
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<td>Auburn</td>
<td>Comer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>Danielsville</td>
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<td>Carl</td>
<td>Hull</td>
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<td>Russell</td>
<td>Ila</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elbert County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elberton</td>
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<td>Greene County</td>
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<td>Greensboro</td>
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<td>Siloam</td>
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<td>Union Point</td>
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<td>White Plains</td>
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<td>Woodville</td>
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<td>Jackson County</td>
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<td>Arcade</td>
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<td>Braselton</td>
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<td>Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoschton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pendergrass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talmo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bostwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckhead</td>
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<td>Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutledge</td>
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<td>Oconee County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bogart</td>
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<tr>
<td>North High Shoals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watkinsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oglethorpe County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arnoldsville</td>
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<td>Crawford</td>
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<td>Lexington</td>
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<td>Maxeys</td>
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<td>Walton County</td>
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<td>Between</td>
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<td>Good Hope</td>
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<td>Jersey</td>
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<td>Loganville</td>
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<td>Monroe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Circle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walnut Grove</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The location of these counties is shown in Figure 1-1.

![Figure 1-1: Planning Area](image)

### 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
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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>57,660</td>
<td>61,300</td>
<td>65,170</td>
<td>69,284</td>
<td>73,657</td>
<td>78,307</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>85,050</td>
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<td>Athens-Clarke County</td>
<td>106,016</td>
<td>108,196</td>
<td>110,420</td>
<td>112,690</td>
<td>115,006</td>
<td>117,370</td>
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<td>123,100</td>
<td>125,631</td>
<td>128,213</td>
<td>130,849</td>
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<td>Elbert County</td>
<td>21,020</td>
<td>21,378</td>
<td>21,743</td>
<td>22,114</td>
<td>22,491</td>
<td>22,875</td>
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<td>23,840</td>
<td>24,247</td>
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<td>Greene County</td>
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<td>15,695</td>
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<td>17,750</td>
<td>18,096</td>
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<td>Walton County</td>
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<td><strong>Total Planning Region</strong></td>
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<td><strong>590,957</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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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Director of Planning and Government Services  
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305 Research Drive  
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(706) 369-5792 FAX  
bwalker@negrc.org

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