



Solid Waste Management Planning Requirements

2011 legislation significantly changed planning requirements for local government solid waste management. DCA and the Regional Commissions are no longer involved in reviewing and approving solid waste management plans. Solid Waste Management Plans are still required of local governments, but they can be locally developed and implemented with no third-party review.

Local governments' solid waste management plans and updates, whether local, multi-jurisdictional or regional, must at a minimum:

- provide for 10 years of collection capability and disposal capacity from the date of completion of the plan,
- enumerate the solid waste handling facilities as to size and type, and
- identify those sites which are not suitable for solid waste handling facilities based on environmental and land use factors.

Any city or county that proposes to update or amend its solid waste management plan must publish notice in the county legal organ of the city's or county's Internet Web site, as applicable, at least two weeks prior to adopting such update or amendment.

The solid waste survey that DCA administers is optional, though DCA strongly encourages local governments to continue participating in this survey. This survey data is very valuable in maintaining Georgia's strong recycled materials economy.

The 2011 legislation further directed DCA to develop solid waste planning guidance that local governments may use to update or amend their solid waste management plans. This guidance can be found by clicking [here](#).

Finally, the 2011 legislation requires owners of municipal solid waste landfills, (including Construction and Demolition landfills, a subset of MSW landfills) to report to DCA annually. Because this information is already collected by the Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, DCA is able to obtain the needed information from DNR thereby avoiding double-reporting by the local governments.

For more information, please contact DCA Office of Planning and Environmental Management, at 404-679-5279