

A Resolution to Adopt

**WHEREAS**, The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act requires county and municipal governments to prepare a local solid waste management plan and periodic update; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockdale County, Georgia has compiled, reviewed and modified an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan for Rockdale County; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockdale County, Georgia has complied with the Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 110-4-3) including public participation requirements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners that the document entitled the 2008 – 2018 Solid Waste Management Plan be officially approved and adopted by and through this resolution.

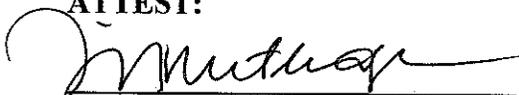
**SO RESOLVED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2010.**

Rockdale County, Georgia  
Board of Commissioners



Richard A. Oden, Chairman and CEO

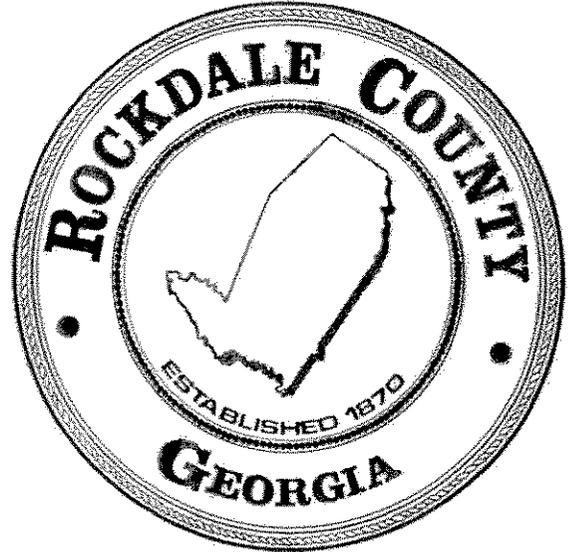
ATTEST:



Jennifer Rutledge, County Clerk



CITY OF  
*Conyers*



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# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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2008-2018

Developed Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-8-20

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# **Solid Waste Management Plan**

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# Solid Waste Management Plan

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## Section 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Planning Area

The planning areas for this Solid Waste Management Plan include the physical unincorporated area of Rockdale County and the incorporated area of the City of Conyers.

### 1.2 Person Responsible for the Plan

#### Solid Waste Management Plan Representative for

#### Rockdale County and City of Conyers

Brad Sutton

Director of Public Works and Transportation, 770-785-5043

City of Conyers

1184 Scott Street

Conyers, GA 30012

#### Rockdale County and City of Conyers Officials:

Randal S. Mills, Mayor, City of Conyers

1184 Scott Street

Conyers GA 30012

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Richard A. Oden, Chairman, Rockdale County Board of Commissioners

962 Milstead Avenue

Conyers, GA 30012

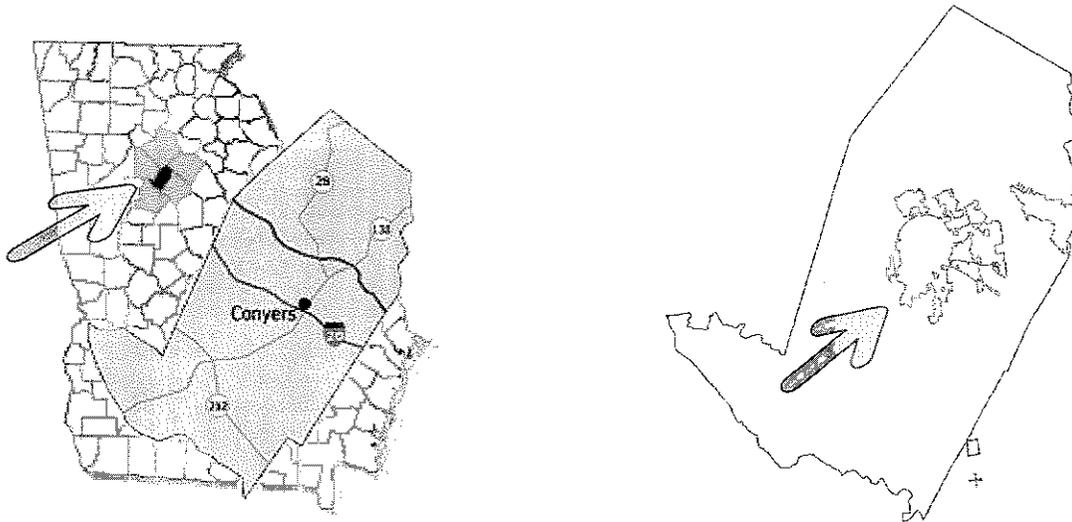
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## 1.3 Overview of the Area Covered in the Plan

### 1.3.1 Planning Area

Rockdale County was created from parts of Henry and Newton counties. It was the 133rd county created, and was named after the Rockdale Church, as well as the vein of granite running beneath the county. Rockdale County is a fast growing and dynamic suburban community located 24 miles east of Atlanta on Interstate 20 and considered part of the metro Atlanta area. It is about 130 square miles in size - the second smallest of Georgia's 159 counties. Rockdale has one municipality, the City of Conyers.



City of Conyers- (Incorporated Area highlighted in blue)

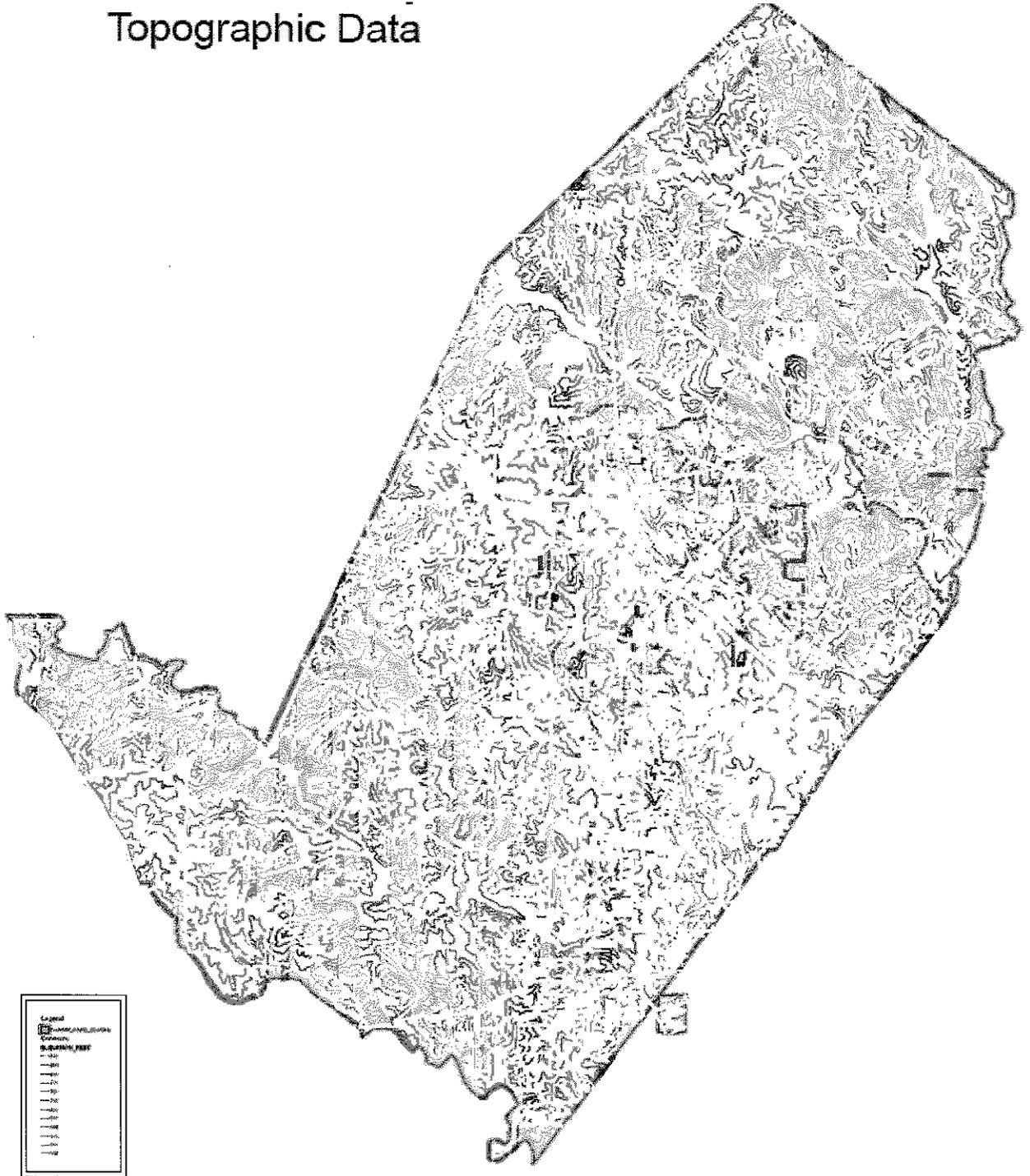
### 1.3.2 Topographic Information/Unique Features

Rockdale County comprises 130.7 square miles, including the incorporated City of Conyers, and is characterized by gently rolling hills, shallow bedrock and frequently exposed rock outcroppings. The majority of Rockdale County is comprised of flat to gently sloping terrain with slopes less than 15%.

Elevations in the County range from 620 feet above sea level near the South River to 980 feet near the intersection of Pleasant Hill and Hightower Roads. The City of Conyers rests at 900 feet above sea level.

The planning area topography promotes population growth to concentrate within the central area of the county. Such population growth within a small county creates a solid waste control factor. Ditches, swales, streams can easily become area dump sites.

# Topographic Data



### 1.3.3 Population

Despite being the second smallest county in the state of Georgia, Rockdale County is one of the fastest growing counties in Georgia. At 4.6% per year, the county had the tenth fastest average growth rate in Georgia between 1970 and 2000. The growth trend is estimated to continue at a rate of 2% per year.

In 1996 the City of Conyers hosted the equestrian and mountain biking events for the 1996 Olympic Games held in Atlanta. This was a growth engine for the incorporated area of the City of Conyers.

Jurisdiction	Current Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 10 2018
Rockdale County	69,254	70,503	71,772	73,064	74,376	75,710	77,066	78,445	79,845	81,269	82,715
City of Conyers	13,665	14,075	14,497	14,931	15,379	15,840	16,315	16,804	17,308	17,827	18,362
<b>Total Planning Region</b>	82,919	84,578	86,269	87,995	89,755	91,550	93,381	95,249	97,153	99,096	101,077

Source: ARC

-Rockdale County estimate average growth of 2% per year.

-City of Conyers population estimates are based on a 3% growth.

#### 1.3.3.1 Seasonal Population Variation

Local festivals, such as the Cherry Blossom Festival, and equestrian events have an impact on population variations during the year. In 2007 the Georgia International Horse Park, the biggest tourist attraction within Rockdale County, had an estimated count of 745,000 visitors.

#### 1.3.3.2 Number of Households

Rockdale County and the City of Conyers are a fast growing and dynamic suburban community. It has the type of "family-friendly" community that is appealing to parents who want a safe, wholesome and progressive environment in which to raise their children. This environment has made housing within the planning area overwhelmingly single family.

Jurisdiction	Current Year (2008)	
	Single-Family	Multi-Family
Rockdale County	23299	2177
City of Conyers	2351	1832
<b>TOTAL PLANNING REGION</b>	25,650	4,009

Source: Total number for the County was pulled from Arc's 2006 population and Housing report. City of Conyers numbers have been estimated based on the 2000 Census and the City of Conyers GIS Department.

## 1.3.4 Economic Activity

### 1.3.4.1 By SIC Code

The business environment in Rockdale County and the City of Conyers is one of unique collaboration between industry and retail living and working side by side with medical and public institutions. Promoting and maintaining a pro business environment is vital for the county's economic growth and the enhancement of the quality of life for our community. We want businesses to succeed.

**Number of Businesses by SIC Code**

SIC Code	Jurisdiction	Number of Businesses (2007)
SIC Code Division A- Agriculture	Rockdale County	14
SIC Code Division A- Agriculture	City of Conyers	9
<b>TOTAL SIC Code A Planning Area</b>		<b>23</b>
SIC Code Division B- Mining	Rockdale County	2
SIC Code Division B- Mining	City of Conyers	0
<b>TOTAL SIC Code B Planning Area</b>		<b>2</b>
SIC Code Division C- Construction	Rockdale County	676
SIC Code Division C- Construction	City of Conyers	70
<b>TOTAL SIC Code C Planning Area</b>		<b>746</b>
SIC Code Division D- Manufacturing	Rockdale County	31
SIC Code Division D- Manufacturing	City of Conyers	41
<b>TOTAL SIC Code D Planning Area</b>		<b>72</b>
SIC Code Division E- Trans, Comm., Utilities	Rockdale County	29
SIC Code Division E- Trans, Comm., Utilities	City of Conyers	24
<b>TOTAL SIC Code E Planning Area</b>		<b>53</b>
SIC Code Division F- Wholesale Trading	Rockdale County	84
SIC Code Division F- Wholesale Trading	City of Conyers	33
<b>TOTAL SIC Code F Planning Area</b>		<b>117</b>
SIC Code Division G- Retail Trade	Rockdale County	206
SIC Code Division G- Retail Trade	City of Conyers	442
<b>TOTAL SIC Code G Planning Area</b>		<b>648</b>
SIC Code Division H- Finance, Ins, Real Estate	Rockdale County	218
SIC Code Division H- Finance, Ins, Real Estate	City of Conyers	97
<b>TOTAL SIC Code H Planning Area</b>		<b>315</b>
SIC Code Division I- Services	Rockdale County	1296
SIC Code Division I- Services	City of Conyers	618
<b>TOTAL SIC Code I Planning Area</b>		<b>1914</b>
SIC Code Division J- Public Administration	Rockdale County	6
SIC Code Division J- Public Administration	City of Conyers	1
<b>TOTAL SIC Code J Planning Area</b>		<b>7</b>
Source: Planning/Permitting Department Rockdale County and City of Conyers		

### 1.3.4.2 Number of Employees

Rockdale County and the City of Conyers have a great job market. It was one of the six counties within the metro area not to lose jobs between 2000 and 2005. As a percentage of total jobs, Rockdale County and the City of Conyers have the 6<sup>th</sup> highest percentage of manufacturing jobs in the 20 county metro Atlanta areas.

**Employment by Sector  
Multi-Jurisdictional Plan**

Industry	Jurisdiction	Number of Employees (2005)	Estimated Number of Employees (2006)	Estimated Number of Employees (2007)	Estimated Number of Employees (2008)
Construction	Rockdale County	2256	2308	2361	2415
Construction	City of Conyers	693	709	725	741
<b>Construction</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>2949</b>	<b>3017</b>	<b>3086</b>	<b>3156</b>
Manufacturing	Rockdale County	5172	5291	5412	5536
Manufacturing	City of Conyers	843	862	882	902
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>6015</b>	<b>6153</b>	<b>6294</b>	<b>6438</b>
Trans/Comm./Utilities	Rockdale County	1270	1299	1329	1359
Trans/Comm./Utilities	City of Conyers	292	299	306	313
<b>Trans/Comm./Utilities</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>1562</b>	<b>1598</b>	<b>1635</b>	<b>1672</b>
Wholesale Trade	Rockdale County	1861	1904	1948	1993
Wholesale Trade	City of Conyers	277	283	289	295
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>2138</b>	<b>2187</b>	<b>2237</b>	<b>2288</b>
Retail Trade	Rockdale County	7271	7438	7609	7784
Retail Trade	City of Conyers	645	660	675	690
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>7916</b>	<b>8098</b>	<b>8284</b>	<b>8474</b>
Finance, Ins., Real Est.	Rockdale County	555	568	581	594
Finance, Ins., Real Est.	City of Conyers	300	307	314	321
<b>Finance, Ins., Real Est.</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>915</b>
Services, Misc.	Rockdale County	6409	6556	6706	6860
Services, Misc.	City of Conyers	2624	2684	2745	2808
<b>Services, Misc.</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>9033</b>	<b>9240</b>	<b>9451</b>	<b>9668</b>
Public Admin./Gov.	Rockdale County	4069	4163	4259	4357
Public Admin./Gov.	City of Conyers	181	185	189	193
<b>Public Admin./Gov.</b>	<b>Planning Area Total</b>	<b>4250</b>	<b>4348</b>	<b>4448</b>	<b>4550</b>

Source: ARC/ Census

## Section 2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

### 2.1 Inventory of Waste Disposed

Rockdale County does not offer a curbside pick up service for their residents. The accuracy of the inventory of waste disposed for Rockdale County is based on the willingness to participate and the numbers provided by private haulers and/or landfills in the surrounding area. Rockdale County does offer a great recycling center that operates Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This allows residents the opportunity to either hire a private hauler to pick up their waste or use the local recycling center. The average rate of waste disposed per person per day for Rockdale County is in line with the national and state rate at 4.1 pounds per person per day.

For years the City of Conyers has offered to all their residents' curbside pick up, brush/leaf pickup and miscellaneous pick up of trash such as furniture. In addition, metal is collected daily and recycled once the container is full. The average rate of waste disposed in the City of Conyers is below the average national and state rate at 3.2 pounds per person per day.

**Waste Disposed by Sector (Tons per Year)  
2007**

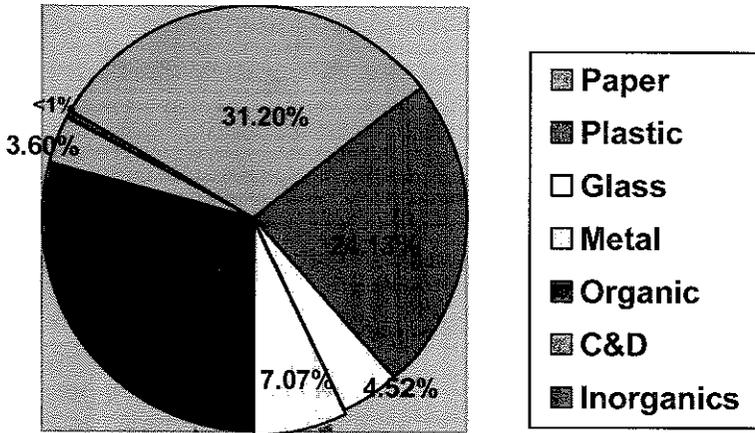
Jurisdiction	Residential	Commercial	Misc. Trash	Metal	Total Disposed (Tons)
City Of Conyers	3,299.73	3,593.25	1,027.98	10.79	7,931.75
Rockdale County unincorporated area	See total Disposed	See total Disposed	See total Disposed	See total Disposed	50,611.12
<b>Total, Planning Area</b>	See total Disposed	See total Disposed	See total Disposed	See total Disposed	58,542.87

Source: County, City Records and numbers provided by private haulers and local landfills.

#### 2.1.1 Waste Characterization

According to the Department of Community Affairs waste composition results for Rockdale County, paper plastic and organic materials make up more than three quarters, 84.8 %, of the total waste generated within Rockdale County and City of Conyers. Paper and plastics, 55.33% of total waste generated, are recyclable and could be diverted from landfills. This creates the need to continue and enhance our recycling efforts within Rockdale County and the City of Conyers.

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**Waste Composition by Category  
Rockdale County, City of Conyers**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Average Composition (EST)</u>
Paper	Newspaper	5.23%
Paper	Corrugated Cardboard	6.60%
Paper	Office	2.54%
Paper	Magazine/Glossy	3.16%
Paper	Paperboard	3.96%
Paper	Mixed (Other Recyclable)	2.24%
Paper	Other (Non-recyclable)	7.47%
<b>Total Paper</b>		<b>31.20%</b>
Plastic	#1 PET Bottles	2.40%
Plastic	#2 HDPE Bottles	2.02%
Plastic	#3-#7 Bottles	0.04%
Plastic	Expanded Polystyrene	1.18%
Plastic	Film Plastic	10.22%
Plastic	Other Rigid Plastic	8.26%
<b>Total Plastic</b>		<b>24.13%</b>
Glass	Clear	1.86%
Glass	Green	0.37%
Glass	Amber	1.41%
Glass	Other	0.88%
<b>Total Glass</b>		<b>4.52%</b>
Metal	Steel Cans	2.04%
Metal	Aluminum Cans	1.83%
Metal	Other Ferrous	2.10%
Metal	Other Non-Ferrous	1.10%

	<b>Total Metal</b>	<b>7.07%</b>	
Organic	Yard Waste		2.65%
Organic	Wood (non-C & D)		4.92%
Organic	Food Waste		11.19%
Organic	Textiles		5.16%
Organic	Diapers		3.33%
Organic	Fines		1.35%
Organic	Other Organics		0.88%
	<b>Total Organic</b>	<b>29.47%</b>	
C & D	Drywall		0.13%
C & D	Wood		2.25%
C & D	Inerts		0.00%
C & D	Carpet		1.22%
C & D	Other C & D		0.00%
	<b>Total C &amp; D</b>	<b>3.60%</b>	
Inorganics	Televisions		0.00%
Inorganics	Computers		0.00%
Inorganics	Other Electronics		0.00%
Inorganics	Tires		0.00%
Inorganics	HHW		0.00%
Inorganics	Other Inorganics		0.00%
	<b>Total Inorganic</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

Source: DCA Waste Composition Results for Rockdale County

<http://www.gasolidwaste.org/GADCAWebCalc/CalVars.aspx?regName=Rockdale&isCounty=true>

## 2.1.2 Unique Conditions and/or Seasonal Variations

The Cherry Blossom Festival, Horse Shows, the County Fair and other events cause seasonal variations in population and therefore variations in waste disposal amounts. On average a weekly variation of 1-5 tons of waste may be collected from the several events celebrated during the year.

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### **2.1.3 Waste Generating Disasters**

A disaster can generate tons of debris, including building rubble, soil and sediments, green waste (e.g., trees and shrubs), personal property, ash, and charred wood. All of this waste material can place an additional burden on a community already struggling to cope. The amount of debris generated from a disaster varies from situation to situation. The City of Conyers and Rockdale County will focus on recycling wood and metal only. Soil, wood, and some building materials can be recycled or composted into useful commodities. For example, green waste, such as trees and shrubs, can be "recycled" into valuable organic material, such as compost or mulch.

## **2.2 Projections of Waste to be Disposed**

The projections provided on the Waste Disposal Projection Multi- Jurisdictional Plan table on the next page are based on previous waste disposal numbers for the jurisdictions. For example in the past four years, 2004-2008, the City of Conyers had an average increase for waste disposal of 1.2 % per year (residential/commercial waste). Rockdale County had an estimated 1.8% increase per year. These percentages were used to project waste to be disposed for the ten year planning period.

**Waste Disposal Projections  
Multi-Jurisdictional Plan**

Jurisdiction	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
City of Conyers	7,931.75	8,026.93	8,123.25	8,220.73	8,319.38	8,419.21	8,520.24	8,622.48	8,725.95	8,830.66	8,936.63
Rockdale County unincorporated area	51,819.3	52,752.05	53,701.58	54,668.21	55,652.24	56,653.98	57,673.75	58,711.88	59,768.69	60,844.53	61,939.73
<b>TOTAL TONS</b>	59,751.05	60,778.98	61,824.83	62,888.94	63,971.62	65,073.19	66,193.99	67,334.36	68,494.64	69,675.19	70,876.36
Source: Solid waste management plan 1993, City of Conyers Sanitation Department, private haulers, local landfills.											

## **2.3 Per Capita Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Reduction Goal**

It is of great interest for Rockdale County and the City of Conyers to continuously reach and address MSW reduction goals. The “Waste Disposed Target for Planning Period” table below provides estimated solid waste reductions per capita during the planning period. The base year utilized in the table is 1993, the previous Solid Waste Management Plan submittal year for the planning area. The base waste reduction rate per capita used for the planning area is 6.06 lbs per person per day.

Currently, Rockdale County has a waste disposal rate of 4.09 lbs per capita per day. The City of Conyers has 3.2 lbs per capita per day waste disposal rate. It is expected that the waste disposal rate will continue to decrease as jurisdictions increase education efforts. In addition, starting July 17, 2008, the City of Conyers will implement a new recycling program that will reduce the waste disposal rate tremendously.

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**Waste Disposed Target for Planning Period  
Multi-Jurisdictional Plan**

<b>Note: City of Conyers</b>	<b>Base Year</b> 1993	<b>Current Year</b> 2008	<b>Year 1</b> 2009	<b>Year 2</b> 2010	<b>Year 3</b> 2011	<b>Year 4</b> 2012	<b>Year 5</b> 2013	<b>Year 6</b> 2014	<b>Year 7</b> 2015	<b>Year 8</b> 2016	<b>Year 9</b> 2017	<b>Year 10</b> 2018
<b>City of Conyers</b>												
Population/Projected Population	Included below	13,665	14,075	14,497	14,931	15,379	15,840	16,315	16,804	17,308	17,827	18,362
Tons Disposed	Included below	7,931.75	8,026.93	8,123.25	8,220.73	8,319.38	8,419.21	8,520.24	8,622.48	8,725.95	8,830.66	8,936.63
Pounds Per Capita Per Day Disposed	6.06	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.96	2.91	2.86	2.81	2.76	2.71	2.67
Reduction in Per Capita Disposed from Base Year	-----	2.96	2.96	2.96	3.06	3.1	3.15	3.2	3.25	3.30	3.35	3.39
<b>Rockdale County</b>												
Population/Projected Population	63,264	69,254	70,503	71,772	73,064	74,376	75,710	77,066	78,445	79,845	81,269	82,715
Tons Disposed	70,080	51,819.30	52,752.05	53,701.58	54,668.21	55,652.24	56,653.98	57,673.75	58,711.88	59,768.69	60,844.53	61,939.73
Pounds Per Capita Per Day Disposed	6.06	4.09	4.09	4.09	4.09	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.101	4.101	4.102	4.103
Reduction in Per Capita Disposed from Base Year	-----	1.97	1.97	1.97	1.97	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
<b>Total for Planning Area</b>		4.83	4.93	4.93	5.03	5.06	5.11	5.16	5.20	5.25	5.3	5.34

Source: Solid waste management plan 1993, City of Conyers Sanitation Department, private haulers, local landfills. Source for population ARC.

## Section 3 Waste Reduction Element

### 3.1 Inventory of Waste Reduction Programs

Rockdale County and the City of Conyers have proactively supported programs that promote source reduction. Local businesses and institutions promote a range of source reduction practices. Building relationships with industries such as Pratt Industries has created new opportunities to lead and enhance waste reduction programs within the planning area, programs such as curbside recycling and drop-off recycling.

In 2007 jurisdictions in the planning area participated in various waste reduction/source reduction events that led to diverting 34 tons of waste going to landfills.

**1) Cell Phone Recycling Drive-** Collected 107 cell phones and donated phones to Project ReNeWal for recycling

**2) Great American Cleanup Event-** Had over 225 volunteers participate in community-wide, one-day cleanup event. Groups collected approximately 7.5 tons (15,000 lbs.) of debris, litter, and trash from public parks, roadways and streets within Rockdale County and the City of Conyers.

**3) Scrap Tire Recycling Drive-** A one day event was held to accept scrap tires (residential only, no commercial) at no fee, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. KCRB collected 600 tires (an estimated 10 lbs plus per tire equals to 3 tons). (NOTE: KCRB will be reimbursed \$1,336 through a grant from the EPD's Scrap Tire Management Unit).

**4) Phone Book Recycling Drive-** KCRB collected 748 phone books from elementary schools and 34 from local Boy Scout troops (estimated 3 lbs per book, equals to 1.1 ton)

**5) Electronics Recycling Drive (E-Drive) -** KCRB collected over 33,692 lbs. of electronic items to be recycled, including 244 computer monitors, 288 PCs, and 31 TVs. All items are disassembled and the parts recycled.

**6) Rivers Alive-** Had over 125 volunteers participate in the community-wide, one-day cleanup event. Groups collected approximately 5 tons (10,000 lbs.) of debris/litter/trash from the County's reservoir, the Yellow River, Honey Creek, retention ponds and over 12 roadways throughout the city and county. Approximately 90 tires were collected during the cleanup.

**7) Bring One for the Chipper-** Recycle cut Christmas trees – will be chipped into mulch. Bring cut Christmas tree for chipping and receive free seedling.

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### 3.1.1 Source Reduction

Local industry is stepping up to the plate when it comes to source reduction. For example:

- 1) Hill Phoenix, based in Conyers, Rockdale County, initiated a Rubbish Reduction Plan to reduce the amount of paper, pallets, cardboard and metal produced during their manufacturing process. Engineering drawings, job notes, jobs order and instructions that were previously printed out for production purposes were now replaced by electronic versions in various work stations. In addition, they reduced, in a year, unwanted packaging materials, wood by 55% and scrap metal by 43%. They also increased cardboard recycling by 18%.
- 2) SOLO Cup Company, based in Conyers, Rockdale County, evaluated all areas of operations to improve efficiency and material reduction. Examples of such initiative is recycling or reusing over 99% of all raw materials (e.g. paper, plastic, corrugated and scrap metal) as well as pallets and electric batteries.

Many other companies are promoting recycling within their organizations. Companies like Madison Industries and Frey-Moss Industries participate in recycling of metal and cardboard. (Tonnage information not available)

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### 3.1.2 Recycling

Rockdale County Recycling Center serves all county residents. Currently it recycles an average of .1 lbs per capita per day (based on county population only) of the waste disposed according to 2007 tonnage reports. This is over 1200 tons of waste diverted and recycled. In addition, Rockdale County will be expanding the recycling program within County jurisdiction. Recycling bins will be located in 4 of the 7 Fire Department Stations around the county. This will give county residents the opportunity to participate and benefit from drop off recycling program. The program is expected to collect all types of paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, metal cans and glass. The program was implemented July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

The City of Conyers, together with Pratt Industries, began implementing a curbside recycling program on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Paper, plastics, glass and metal (e.g. cans) will be collected weekly around the City. These items make up 66.92% of the waste composition in the planning area according to the DCA.

Pratt Industries picks up over 200 recycle bins of mixed paper products from local business in the planning area collecting an average of 84 tons every month. Publix, Kroger and Ingles supermarkets around the planning area all have plastic bags recycling programs.

Staples and Office Depot, two major office supply stores in the planning area, participate in ink cartridge recycling, paying the customer up to \$3.00 per cartridge recycled.

Firestone accepts tires during the annual tire recycling drive sponsored by Keep Conyers-Rockdale Beautiful.

**Recycling Programs in Planning Area  
2007**

<b>Type of Program</b>	<b>Jurisdictions</b>	<b>Population Served</b>	<b>Operated by:</b>	<b>Materials Accepted</b>	<b>Tons Diverted (2007)</b>
Curbside Recycling	City of Conyers	Accessible to: 3,400 households	City of Conyers	Newspaper	NEW
				Aluminum Cans	NEW
				Glass Bottles	NEW
				Plastic Bottles	NEW
Drop-Off Center	Rockdale County	Accessible to: 82,919 County/City Residents	Rockdale County	Newspaper	20.048
				Plastic (#1,#2)	57
				Glass Bottles	28.09
				Corrugated	45.661
				Magazines	5.012
Mixed Paper	36.87				
Pratt Industries	Rockdale County and City of Conyers	200 Business	Pratt Industries	Mixed Paper Products	1008

Source: Rockdale County Recycling Center, Pratt Industries

### Business that Accept Recyclables from the Planning Area

Name	Location	Accepts Material from:		Materials Accepted
		Geographic Area	Sector	
Publix Supermarket	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Plastic Bags
Kroger Supermarket	City of Conyers	City of Conyers	Residential	Plastic Bags
Ingles Supermarket	Rockdale County	Rockdale County	Residential	Plastic Bags
Office Depot	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential Commercial	Ink Cartridges, batteries, mobile phones, computers, monitors, computer components
Staples	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential Commercial	Ink Cartridges, batteries, mobile phones, computers, monitors, computer components
Electronics Waste Management	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential Commercial	Mobile phones, computers, monitors, computer components
Pet Smart	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential Commercial	Mobile Phones
Advance Auto Parts 2 Locations	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil, Car Batteries
Wal-Mart Tire and Lube	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil, Car Batteries
Tune-up Clinic	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil, Car Batteries, Antifreeze
Pep-boys	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil
Tire Plus Store	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil, Car Batteries
Jiffy Lube	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil, Antifreeze
AutoZone 2 Locations	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Oil
Firestone Complete Auto Care	City of Conyers Rockdale County	Entire Planning Area	Residential	Tires, Oil, Car Batteries

Source: Local Business, Earth 911

### 3.1.2.1 Recycling Facilities

According to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, there are four recycling facilities that provide recycling services to the planning area. They vary from paper collectors and processors to metal collectors, processors and users. The "Recycling Facilities" table provides the facility name and type, materials collected and tonnage recycled, if provided, for the 2007 period.

One of the recycling centers is owned and operated by Rockdale County. It opened its doors in September of 1993 and the information below is an itemized list of materials that are accepted.

**The following recyclable materials are accepted at no charge:**

- Newspapers and advertising inserts.
- Glossy magazines and catalogs.
- Corrugated cardboard.
- Telephone and MLS books.
- Tin, steel food cans (rinse clean, labels do not have to be removed).
- Aluminum cans.
- Glass food jars and beverage bottles (Rinse clean - labels do not have to be removed).
- Plastic bottles (remove caps)
- Plastic milk and water jugs (remove caps, rinse clean).
- Plastic containers (remove caps, rinse clean).
- Scrap metal and appliances without a Freon compressor.
- Wet-cell batteries (car, truck, boat, motorcycle).
- Waste motor oil.
- Small yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, pine straw).
- Large woody debris (trees, branches, shrubs, manufactured lumber, all-wood furniture).

**The following materials are accepted for a charge:**

- Indoor household garbage and trash - \$1.00 per 30 gallon container or 50 cents per small kitchen bag. *There is no maximum charge.*

#### **Furniture items**

- Sofa/Couch/Loveseat: \$6.00 each.
-

- Mattress and/or box springs: \$5.00 each.
- Chair: \$4.00 each.
- Dresser: \$6.00 each.

#### **Electronic items**

- Television: \$6.00 each.
- Audio components: \$3.00 each.
- VCR: \$3.00 each.

#### **Other Items**

- Latex Paint: \$1.00 (per gallon containers)
- Auto Tire: \$3.00 each (remove from rim).
- Truck Tire: \$5.00 each.
- Farm Tire: \$10.00 each.

#### **The following items are NOT accepted:**

- Oil based paints, stains, solvents, adhesives (hold for HazWaste Day).
- Old gasoline, kerosene, antifreeze (hold for HazWaste Day).
- Carpets and pads, linoleum, vinyl flooring.
- Demolition debris, concrete, rock, bricks, blocks, sheetrock, stumps.
- Appliances containing freon - (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.)

### Recycling Facilities

Facility Name	Facility Type	Owner/Operator	Jurisdictions Served	Sectors Served	Materials Accepted	Tons Processed (2007)	Average Tons Per Day Processed <sup>1</sup>	Maximum Processing Capacity (TPD)
Rockdale County Recycling Center	Collector	Rockdale County	Rockdale County and City of Conyers	Residential	Electronics, paper, glass, metal, furniture, wood and misc. trash.	1208.18	4.64	N/A
Pratt Industries	Paper Collector/Processor	Pratt Industries	Rockdale County and City of Conyers	Residential Commercial	All types of Paper products	285,254	781.52	N/A
Allied Recycling	Collector/End User	Allied Recycling	Rockdale County and City of Conyers	Residential Commercial	All types of metals, appliances	No Participation	No Participation	No Participation
Rockdale Recycling and Metals	Collector/Processor	Rockdale recycling and Metals	Rockdale County and City of Conyers	Residential Commercial	Metals, non ferrous metals, aluminum cans	No numbers provided	No numbers provided	No numbers provided

Source: DCA: [http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/EnvironmentalManagement/programs/recycling/county\\_search.asp](http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/EnvironmentalManagement/programs/recycling/county_search.asp), Recycling Centers

### 3.1.3 Yard Trimmings Programs and Facilities

Since 1993, Rockdale County has accepted yard waste/trimmings in its recycling center located at 1200 Sigman Road. The waste or trimmings are grinded down and offered as mulch at no charge. Rockdale County promotes yard trimming recycling and composting via their website and Local TV Channel Rockdale 23.  
<http://www.rockdalecounty.org/main.cfm?id=2307>

The City of Conyers offers curbside ‘brush’, leaf and yard waste pick up to all its residents. The brush and yard trimmings are grinded down to mulch and used in City parks and facilities. It is also made available to City residents. Leaves collected are composted and made available to residents and businesses such as farmers. In addition, the City educates and provides information on composting via the City website.  
[http://www.conyersga.com/client\\_resources/cityhall/homecompostingbrochure.pdf](http://www.conyersga.com/client_resources/cityhall/homecompostingbrochure.pdf)

#### Yard Trimmings Programs (2007)

Program	Owner/Operator	Jurisdictions Served	Sector Served*	Materials Accepted	Quantity	Final Disposition
Municipal curbside leaf vacuum	City of Conyers	City of Conyers	R	Leaves	Collected 3,598 Cubic yards in 2007	Composted and made available to residents free of charge.
Municipal curbside yard trimmings	City of Conyers	City of Conyers	R	Brush/Yard trimmings	8799 Cubic Yards Collected in 2007	Mulched and used for municipal projects
Municipal Drop-off yard trimmings	Rockdale County	Rockdale County	R	Brush/Yard trimmings	Not Available	Mulched and made available to residents free of charge

Source: Rockdale Recycling Center, City of Conyers Sanitation Department

### 3.1.4 Items Requiring Special Handling

Rockdale County and the City of Conyers continuously participate in events and programs that promote proper disposal and recycling of items that need special handling. The “Management of Special Materials” table details handling of various items and final disposition.

#### Management of Special Materials

Material	Targeted Sector(s) <sup>1</sup>	Management Strategy	Final Disposition of Material(s)
Electronics	R, C	1) Annual collection event or 2) Drop off at Recycling Center	Recycled- Pick up by private company
Household Hazardous Waste	R	Residents are encouraged to properly stored, reuse and to visit Earth 911 website for alternatives uses for HHW.	N/A
Lead Acid Batteries	R, C	Drop off at Rockdale Recycling Center	Pick up by private company
White Goods	R	Curbside collection by City of Conyers or Drop off at Rockdale County recycling center.	Recycled- Pick up by private company
White Goods	CD, I, C	Generators hire private entities to manage scrap	Managed by private entities.
Tires	R, C, I	Drop off at Rockdale Recycling Center , at Annual Event or Firestone Center	Managed by private recycling company
<small>1 R= Residential, I=Industrial, C=Commercial, CD= C&amp;D Source: City of Conyers Sanitation department and the Rockdale Recycling Center</small>			

## **3.2 Disaster Debris Management – Waste Reduction Strategy**

A major disaster can have significant economic impacts on solid waste management for any city or county, especially for small jurisdictions such as Rockdale County and the City of Conyers. This will hinder waste reduction efforts. It is vital for the jurisdictions in the planning area to join efforts in the management of disaster debris and its reduction. The contracting and assistance of private recyclers and haulers will be vital in the waste reduction disaster strategy for the planning area. Rockdale County and the City of Conyers will make every effort to recycle disaster debris focusing on wood and metal materials. The following steps will help have a successful reduction of disaster debris.

- Main focus on the recycling of wood and metal.
- Contact local private recyclers previously selected and contracted for disaster debris management.
- Identify recycling staging areas accessible to haulers and residents when curbside pickup is not available.
- Keep public informed of disaster debris management and recycling efforts via local TV channel 23, websites, local newspaper, radio, emergency crews or work crews.

### **3.3 Assessment of Waste Reduction Programs**

An assessment of the waste reduction programs within the planning area indicates that waste reduction programs for the planning area target appropriate sectors and materials.

- With curbside trash, leaf, brush, residential, commercial and a new curbside recycling program, the City of Conyers is looking to reach and exceed a 25% reduction within the planning period.
- The centralized location of the Rockdale County Recycling Center has helped promote and establish a recycling program that thousands of residents have benefited from. The expansion of the recycling program, with added locations, will give county residents better access which should increase the probability of them recycling. The effectiveness of the waste reduction program will be determined with time.

### **3.4 Needs and Goals**

Waste reduction is important to the planning area. The needs and goals of the planning area are:

- 1) Promoting benefits of single stream curbside recycling through educational public service announcements and mailings.
  - 2) Promoting citizen participation in recycling drop off program through educational public service announcements and mailings.
  - 3) Evaluating opportunities to expand commercial recycling programs.
  - 4) Continue looking for opportunities to promote and expand current electronics recycling drive, community wide cleanup events and other Keep Conyers Rockdale Beautiful events.
  - 5) Expanding educational efforts to cover backyard composting.
  - 6) Evaluating recycling drop off collection sites to maximize participation and success.
  - 7) Continue waste reduction/recycling programs in government facilities.
  - 8) Continue collecting accurate numbers of waste disposed and determine what programs are effective.
-

## **Section 4 Collection Element**

### **4.1 Inventory of Collection**

#### **4.1.1 Inventory of Existing Programs**

Jurisdictions participate in a variety of collection programs. No curbside arrangements are in place with any private entity other than for the final disposition of bulk waste, recyclables, and yard trimmings collected via the public programs.

- City of Conyers operates a curbside solid waste pickup and curbside recycling program. It disposes of solid waste collection but has to arrange for the final disposition of metal and curbside recycling.
- Rockdale County Recycling Center arranges for the final disposition of oil, phonebooks, mixed paper, metal, household solid waste, cans and glass.

Within the unincorporated area of Rockdale County, private haulers are contracted directly by residents and business. If the business operator is located in Rockdale County, the operator is then required to obtain a business license.

**Haulers Operating In Unincorporated Rockdale County**

<b>Hauler Name</b>	<b>Hauler Address</b>	<b>Sector Served</b>	<b>Arrangement</b>
Haul Masters	1311 Dayspring Tr., Lawrenceville GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Robertson's Sanitation	Lilburn, GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Trash Masters Disposal	Loganville Hwy, Conyers GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Allied Recycling	2495 Old Covington Hwy, Conyers GA	R, C	Contracts directly with customers. Agreement with the City for final disposition of metal collected.
Universal Environmental Services	411 Dividend Dr, Peachtree City, GA	C	Agreement with Rockdale County Recycling Center for the final disposition of recycled oil.
Strategic Materials	3050 Roosevelt Hwy, Atlanta GA	C	Agreement with Rockdale County Recycling Center for the final disposition of recycled glass.
Burgess Hauling	700 North Lake Dr, Covington GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Pratt Industries	1800 Sarasota Business Parkway, Conyers GA	C	Contracts directly with customers. Agreement with planning area for the disposition of recycled mixed paper and single stream collection.

Superior Waste	1216 Green St, Conyers GA	Unknown	Unable to contact
Dixie Waste	285 Ashland Farm Rd	Unknown	Unable to contact
Waste Management	3001 South Pioneer Dr, Smyrna GA	R, C	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Waste Services	8194 Washington St, Covington GA	C	Contracts directly with residential customers. Agreement with Rockdale County Recycling Center for the final disposition of recycled metal, Bulk waste and cans.
Visy Paper	1800 Sarasota Business Parkway, Conyers GA	C	Contracts directly with customers.
Advanced Disposal	120 Radio Dr, Jackson GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Curbside Sanitation	1975 Old Covington Rd, Conyers GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Marathon Waste	744A East 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Jackson GA	R	Contracts directly with customers.
Harris Roll Offs	8163 Old Atlanta Hwy Covington GA	C&D	Contracts directly with customers.
<p>1 R= Residential, I=Institutional, C= Commercial, CD= C&amp;D Source: EPD, Private entities</p>			

### Inventory of Collection Programs

Type	Collector	Program Description	Jurisdictions Served	Sectors Served <sup>1</sup>	Number of Households/Businesses served, if available <sup>2</sup>	Contractual Arrangements
Curbside Collection	Various Private Haulers	Weekly curbside collection of garbage.	Rockdale County	R	Unknown	Contracts directly with residential customers.
Compactor, Commercial and roll-off collection	Various Private Haulers	Weekly collection or as needed basis	Rockdale County	I, C, CD	Unknown	Entities arrange for collection with hauler of choice.
Drop Off Site-manned	Rockdale County	Accepting Recyclables and bulk waste weekly	Rockdale County	R	All county residents 82,919	Arrangements with Pratt Industries, Universal Environmental Services, SNP Recycling, Strategic Materials and Waste Services for the final disposition of collected waste.
Unstaffed Drop-off sites	Rockdale County	Open daily- recyclables only. (e.g. paper, glass, cans)	Rockdale County	R	All county residents 82,919	Arrangement with Pratt Industries for the final disposition of recyclables.
Curbside Collection	City of Conyers	Weekly collection of garbage, bulk waste, brush, metal, leaves, recyclables.	City of Conyers	R, C	About 4,000 Households	Arrangements with Pratt Industries for final disposition of recyclables. Arrangement with Allied Recycling for final disposition of metal.

<sup>1</sup> R= Residential, I=Institutional, C= Commercial, CD= C&D

Source: Private Haulers, City of Conyers Sanitation Dept and Rockdale Recycling Center

## **4.1.2 Contingency Strategy**

In the event the primary collection programs become interrupted, the contingency strategy for the interim collection of waste includes alternative collection options and the length of time it will take to bring the collection plan on line.

- City of Conyers- The City of Conyers offers a full service curbside pickup program performed by a fleet of eight trucks, one and in some cases two, of which are on standby in the event an interruption occurs. The response time to an interruption would be one hour. However, a scheduled maintenance program performed by our in-house maintenance department does not allow the collection to be interrupted.
- Rockdale County- Private haulers perform all of the collection efforts within the County jurisdiction. In the event there is any type of interruption due to private haulers inability to collect, the County would establish unmanned drop off locations around the affected area. The City of Conyers would provide commercial size (2, 4, 6, 8 yard) dumpsters at the sites and would provide the weekly pickup service until a more permanent solution is reached. The collection plan would be online within 72 hours of the interruption.

## **4.1.3 Disaster Debris Management – Collection Strategy**

Previously we identified a waste reduction strategy (SECTION 3.2 page 26) that maximizes the recycling efforts in the event of a disaster. In the collection strategy we will identify procedures for waste collection under special conditions resulting from any type of disaster.

In the event of a disaster where curbside collection is impossible and private haulers are unable to collect due to road closures, the City of Conyers would provide temporary commercial size (2, 4, 6, 8 yard) dumpsters to establish unmanned drop off locations in accessible areas or areas affected less by the disaster. The City would then have weekly pickups of these unmanned sites.

The public would be informed of the sites via local TV channel 23, websites, local newspaper, radio, emergency crews or work crews.

## **4.2 Assessment of Collection Programs**

Privatized collection is not regulated by Rockdale County. It's unknown how effective collection efforts are within County jurisdiction. Assessment of the collection programs indicates the need to understand privatized collection programs. For example, how much of the curbside waste collected by the private haulers is actually recycled? Collection data is vital in the effectiveness of solid waste management.

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## **4.3 Inventory of Illegal Dumping/Littering**

Illegal dumping and litter prevention are of high priority to both jurisdictions in the planning area. The worry free curbside pickups performed by the City of Conyers, the centralized location of the Rockdale County Recycling Center and the implementation of new recycling programs is testimony to the dedication of the local governments to prevent illegal dumping from occurring.

Education helps the community understand the advantages of proper disposal of waste. Education takes places through fact sheets, websites, local newspaper, our local TV Channel Rockdale 23, school presentations and cleanup events such as the Great American Cleanup and Rivers Alive during the year.

Local illegal dumping and littering ordinances are also enforced on a daily basis. City of Conyers Police Department, Marshall Unit and the Rockdale County Code Enforcement actively enforce the illegal dumping and litter ordinances within the planning area. In order to continue combating illegal dumping, jurisdiction will continue evaluating the possibility of hiring additional code enforcement, as funds become available, during the ten year plan period.

## **4.4 Disposal / Dumping**

The education and enforcement efforts of both jurisdictions have yielded excellent results. Jurisdictions in planning area will continue program implementation.

## **4.5 Needs and Goals**

In 2007, the City of Conyers had no illegal dumping or littering citations on record. It may indicate the educational program is effective and that the curbside service provided by the City is reducing illegal dumping within City limits. It may also indicate a lack of monitoring or enforcement within the City of Conyers. The City's goal will be to determine if any changes in the enforcement effort is needed.

In 2007, Rockdale County Code Enforcement opened:

- 38 Illegal Dumping Cases – 12 resulted in citations
  - 2 Litter Cases – 0 Citations
  - 6 Yard Debris Cases – 0 Citations
  - 237 Trash in Yard Cases – 6 resulted in citations
  - 40 Trash in Road Cases – 1 resulted in a citation.
-

For Rockdale County these numbers indicate that Code enforcement is effectively addressing and enforcing local ordinances and reaching residents with the importance of proper disposal. It may also show a lack of proper collection programs. Collection might not be easily accessible to all residents. If this is the case, the County's goal will be to determine if additional collection programs are needed to prevent illegal dumping of trash and litter within county jurisdiction.

The goals of the jurisdictions are summarized:

- 1) Strengthen enforcement by evaluating the possibility of hiring additional code enforcement.
- 2) Monitor proper enforcement of litter control ordinances.
- 3) Continue expanding educational efforts on the importance of proper disposal
- 4) Evaluate the success of single stream curbside recycling.
- 5) Evaluate the success of drop off recycling program sites.
- 6) Continue administration of billing, complaints, changes, payments.
- 7) Purchase two residential garbage trucks and one commercial garbage truck within the planning period to ensure proper collection without interruption.
- 8) Continue the purchase of 95 gallon garbage carts for curbside solid waste pick up and single stream recycling program according to the annual development.

## **Section 5     Disposal Element**

### **5.1 Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities**

The curbside program performed by the City of Conyers collects household solid waste. The final disposal location for this waste is the Pine Ridge Landfill in Griffin, GA.

Private haulers that work the unincorporated area of the county disposed the solid waste produced in various landfills outside the planning area. Due to the unwillingness of private haulers to provide capacity assurance, the planning area has assured capacity for the estimated tonnage the incorporated area will produce during the ten year period.



**Inventory of Disposal Facilities and Thermal Treatment Technologies  
to Be Used During the Planning Period  
(2008-2018)**

Facility Name	Jurisdiction(s) Using Facility <sup>a</sup>	Physical Address	Owner/ Operator	Facility Type <sup>b</sup>	Types of Waste Accepted	Maximum Capacity (TPD)	Year Expected to Reach Capacity
Pine Ridge	City of Conyers Rockdale County	105 Bailey Jester Rd, Griffin, GA 30223	United Waste	Landfill	Household, C&D, Non Haz.	40 Million C.Y.	2038

Source: EPD, Landfill Managers, Waste Services hauler for the recycling center.

### 5.1.1 Assurance of 10-Year Capacity

Assurance letters have been provided for the jurisdictions in the planning area.

The jurisdictions have contacted twenty one private haulers that are believed to service the Rockdale County area. A total of only four responded but very little information was provided. The City of Conyers and Rockdale County have decided to locate a landfill that would be willing to provide assurance for the excess total amount of waste produced by the planning area. Please see the attached assurance letter, Appendix C.

**Disposal Capacity Assurance Summary  
(2008-2018)**

	Current Year (2008)	Year 1 (2009)	Year 2 (2010)	Year 3 (2011)	Year 4 (2012)	Year 5 (2013)	Year 6 (2014)	Year 7 (2015)	Year 8 (2016)	Year 9 (2017)	Year 10 (2018)
<b><u>City of Conyers</u></b>	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Amount of Waste	7931	8026	8123	8220	8319	8419	8520	8622	8725	8830	8936
Pine Ridge	7931	8026	8123	8220	8319	8419	8520	8622	8725	8830	8936
<b><u>Rockdale County</u></b>	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Amount of Waste <sup>1</sup>	51819	52752	53701	54668	55652	56653	57673	58711	59768	60844	61939
Pine Ridge	51819	52752	53701	54668	55652	56653	57673	58711	59768	60844	61939

## 5.1.2 Contingency Strategy

In the event primary disposal options become interrupted, the contingency strategy for the interim disposal will be:

- Identify available landfill sites or transfer stations willing to accept excess waste short term.
- Redirect disposal of waste to selected temporary sites.
- If landfill sites or transfer stations are unwilling to assist, the temporary storage site will be the permitted Miller Bottom Road Landfill which is currently closed. The City would closely work with EPD to ensure approval of temporary storage at this location.

The jurisdictions have identified sites that are willing to accept excess waste temporarily:

- The jurisdictions have identified Harris Transfer Station as the site that will be used in the event primary disposal options become interrupted. Please see Disposal Assurance letter, Appendix C.

This arrangement will be online within 24 hours of the interruption.

## 5.1.3 Disaster Debris Management – Disposal Strategy

A disaster could easily cripple proper disposal efforts. Previous disaster debris management strategies focused on reduction and collection of debris in the event a disaster strikes. The disposal strategy will identify the procedures for waste disposal under special conditions resulting from any type of disaster which would generate significant volumes of waste.

- Identify wood and metal debris that will be recycled.
- Unmanned drop off disposal locations around the affected area would be created.
- Inform primary disposal landfill of excess amount of waste collected due to disaster.
- In the event municipal owned garbage trucks are not sufficient to handle additional waste, private haulers will be contacted for disaster debris disposal and management.

Keeping the public informed of disaster debris management, disposal and recycling efforts via local TV channel 23, websites, local newspaper, radio, emergency crews or work crews is vital for proper disposal.

## 5.2 Assessment of Disposal

The availability of disposal sites is in short supply in the Atlanta metro area. Disposal efforts could easily be halted due to the space constraints on some of the landfills. The unwillingness to provide assurance letters due to legal concerns will become a true issue for jurisdictions.

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## 5.3 Statement of Needs and Goals

Capacity concerns will be addressed promptly to guarantee disposal facilities meet disposal needs for both jurisdictions in the planning area. The needs and goals of the planning area are:

- Evaluate the need for an additional recycling center.
- Evaluate the need for a transfer station.
- Periodically confirm disposal capacity guaranteed.
- Continuously monitor disposal quantities to ensure proper harmony with plan.

## **Section 6     Land Limitation Element**

### **6.1 Inventory Land Areas**

Jurisdictions in the planning area have natural environmental limitations that would make them unsuitable for development of recycling, recovery, composting or solid waste disposal facilities. The proximity of rivers, streams and their buffer; rock outcroppings and wetlands; all within such a small area, are just a few of the environmental limitation challenges we are faced with.

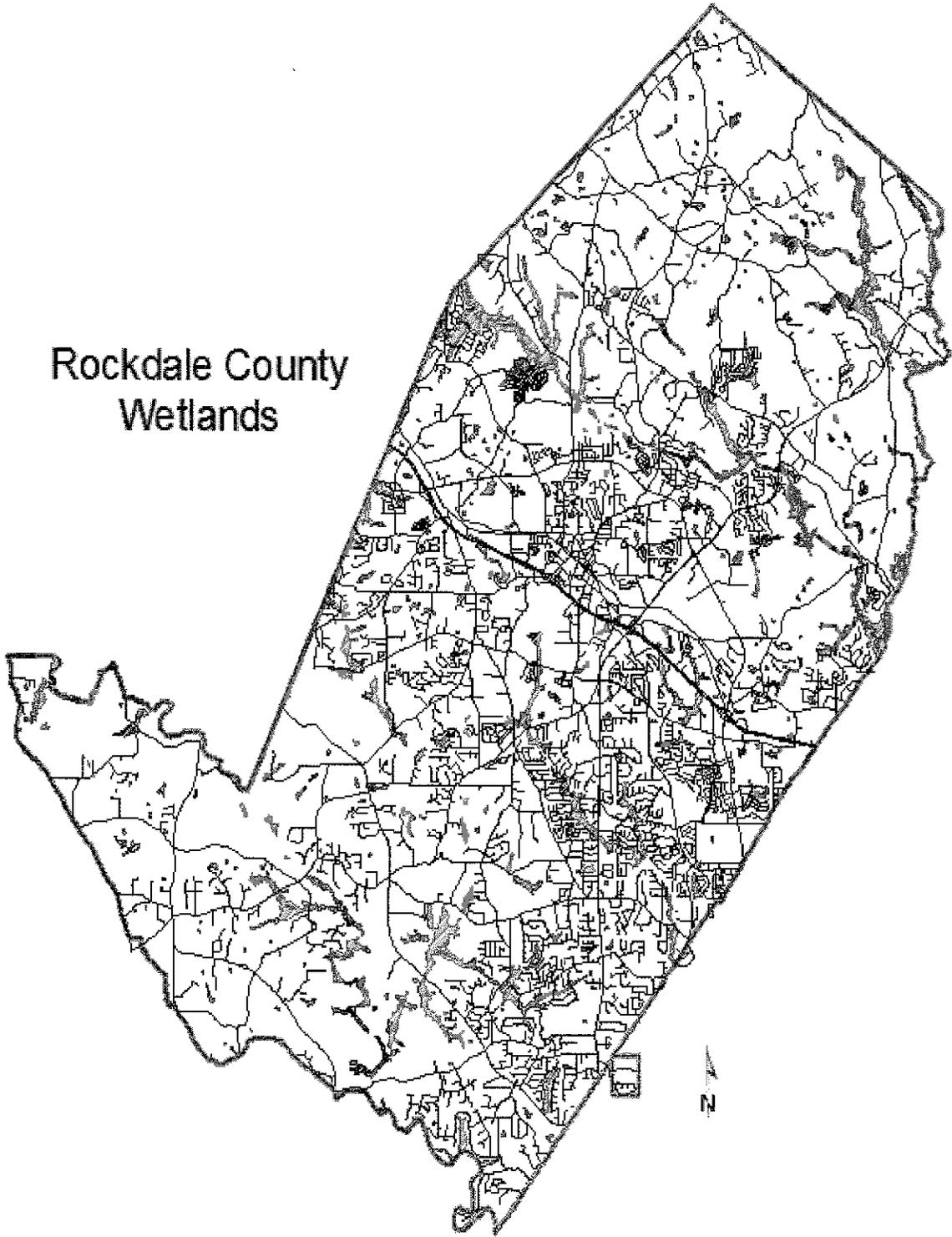
#### **6.1.1 Inventory Areas with Natural Environmental Limitations**

Our goal is to adhere to Federal, State and local regulations when a request for siting a solid waste facility is presented. Environmentally sensitive areas such as water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, river corridors, protected mountains, flood plains, fault areas, seismic zones and unstable areas should be avoided at all times.

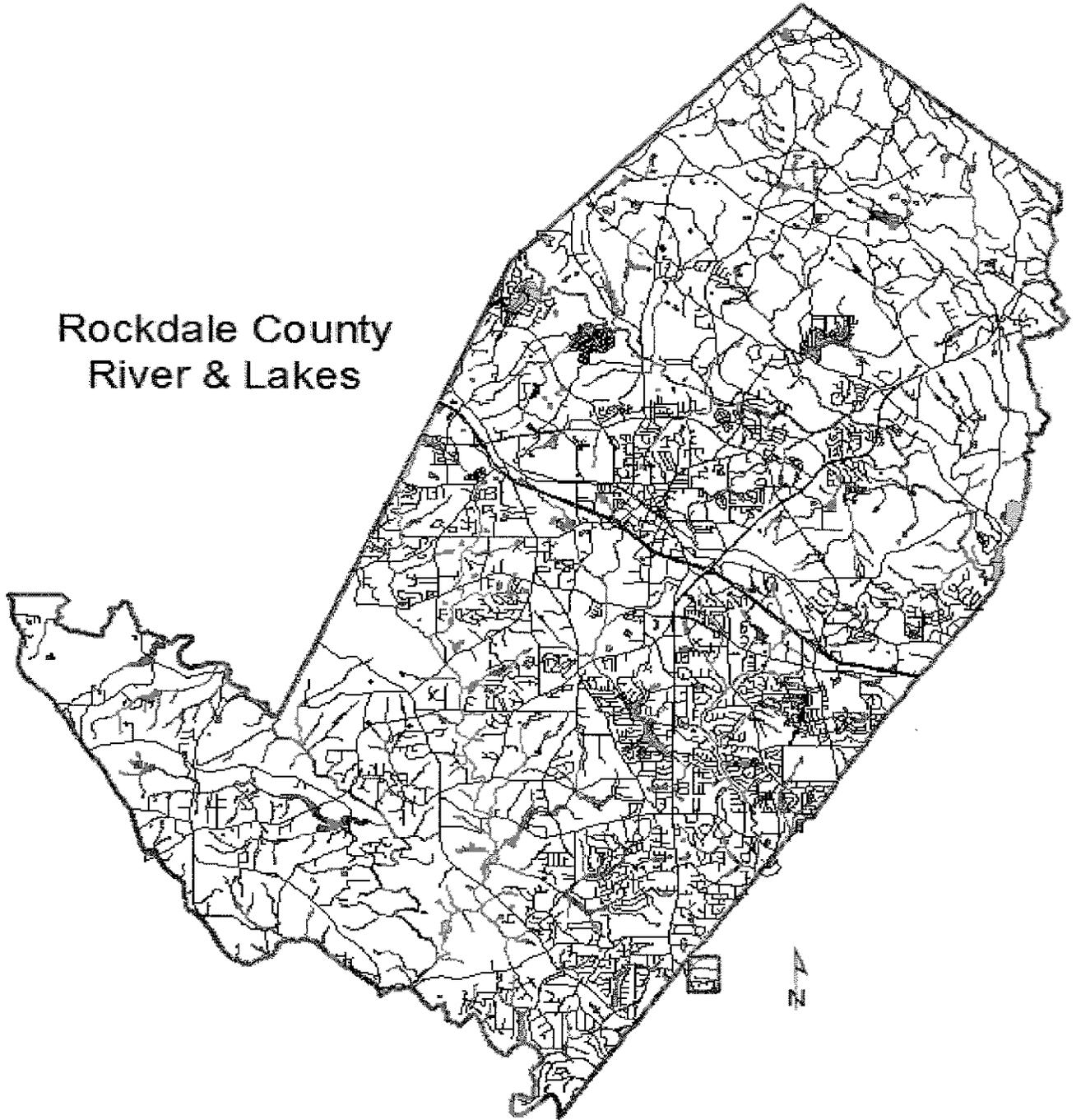
Georgia Department of Natural Resources Rule 391-3-16, Environmental Planning Criteria, deals specifically with the previously mentioned environmentally sensitive areas. The rule limits the siting of any solid waste facility in these areas. Jurisdictions have implemented Ordinances based on Rule 391-3-16.

- Chapter 324, Environmental Planning Criteria, of the Rockdale Code of Ordinances establishes regulations to protect significant groundwater recharge areas, wetlands and river corridors from pollution by but not limited to solid waste landfills. Please note that there are no protected mountains within Rockdale County.
  - Title 8, Planning and Development, Chapter 7, Zoning, subsections 62-64 of the local ordinance for the City of Conyers sets measures that protect groundwater, wetlands and watershed. These regulations clearly help identify the areas unsuitable for the siting of solid waste facilities. Please note that there are no protected mountains within the City of Conyers.
-

Rockdale County  
Wetlands



Rockdale County  
River & Lakes



▲

## 6.1.2 Inventory Areas with Land Use Limitations

Rockdale County is the second smallest county in the state of Georgia, with only 130 square miles. However, the county had the tenth fastest average growth rate in Georgia between 1970 and 2000 as mentioned in section 1.3.3. This creates land use and zoning limitations for the development of industrial or commercial recycling, recovery, composting or solid waste disposal facilities. Watershed protection in the north end of the county and low to medium residential zoning in the central and south end of the County limits the development of any disposal facility.

- Title 8, Planning and Development, Chapter 7, of the City of Conyers Ordinance codes, establishes limits and sets protections for different districts. Section 8-7-90 "Permitted and special uses" in part states:

(a) The permitted and special uses listed in the table below shall be permitted in the city zoning districts and no structure shall be erected, structurally altered or enlarged unless the use is permitted as:

(1) A permitted use (P).

(2) A special use (S) subject to approval following the application procedures and requirements in section 8-7-92 and in article E of this chapter.

(5) Any use not so listed below shall be prohibited unless the city manager, or his or her designee, determines that it is similar in nature, intensity and impact to a use that is listed and consistent with the purpose and intent of the subject zoning district. Any party denied a permit to allow a use of their property in a zoning district other than as provided in this section may file an appeal before the board of zoning appeals and adjustments, as provided in article E of this chapter.

<u>NAICS Code</u>	<u>Principal Uses</u>	<u>Suppl. Reg?</u>	<u>R-A</u>	<u>RS-20</u>	<u>RS-14</u>	<u>TND</u>	<u>TH</u>	<u>RM</u>	<u>O-I</u>	<u>BN</u>	<u>MxD</u>	<u>BG</u>	<u>BGC</u>	<u>HSB</u>	<u>I-D</u>
	Compost Facility, Municipal Solid Waste	Yes													S
	Recovered Materials Processing Facility	Yes													P
423930	Salvage Operation, Junk Yard, Recyclable Material Wholesalers	Yes													S
562212	Landfill, Privately Owned and Operated	Yes													
	Solid Waste Transfer Station	Yes													S
562212	Solid Waste Landfill	Yes													
562	Waste Management and Remediation Services	Yes													

- Rockdale County's Article 1, "PERMITTED AND SPECIAL USES" sets rules for the protection or particular zoning districts. Section 218-1, Table of permitted, in part states:

(a) The uses set forth in the table below shall be permitted only as listed within each zoning district and only in the manner so listed. Any use not listed in said table is prohibited in all districts. No use shall be permitted and no structure associated with such use shall be erected, structurally altered or enlarged unless the use is permitted as one of the following:

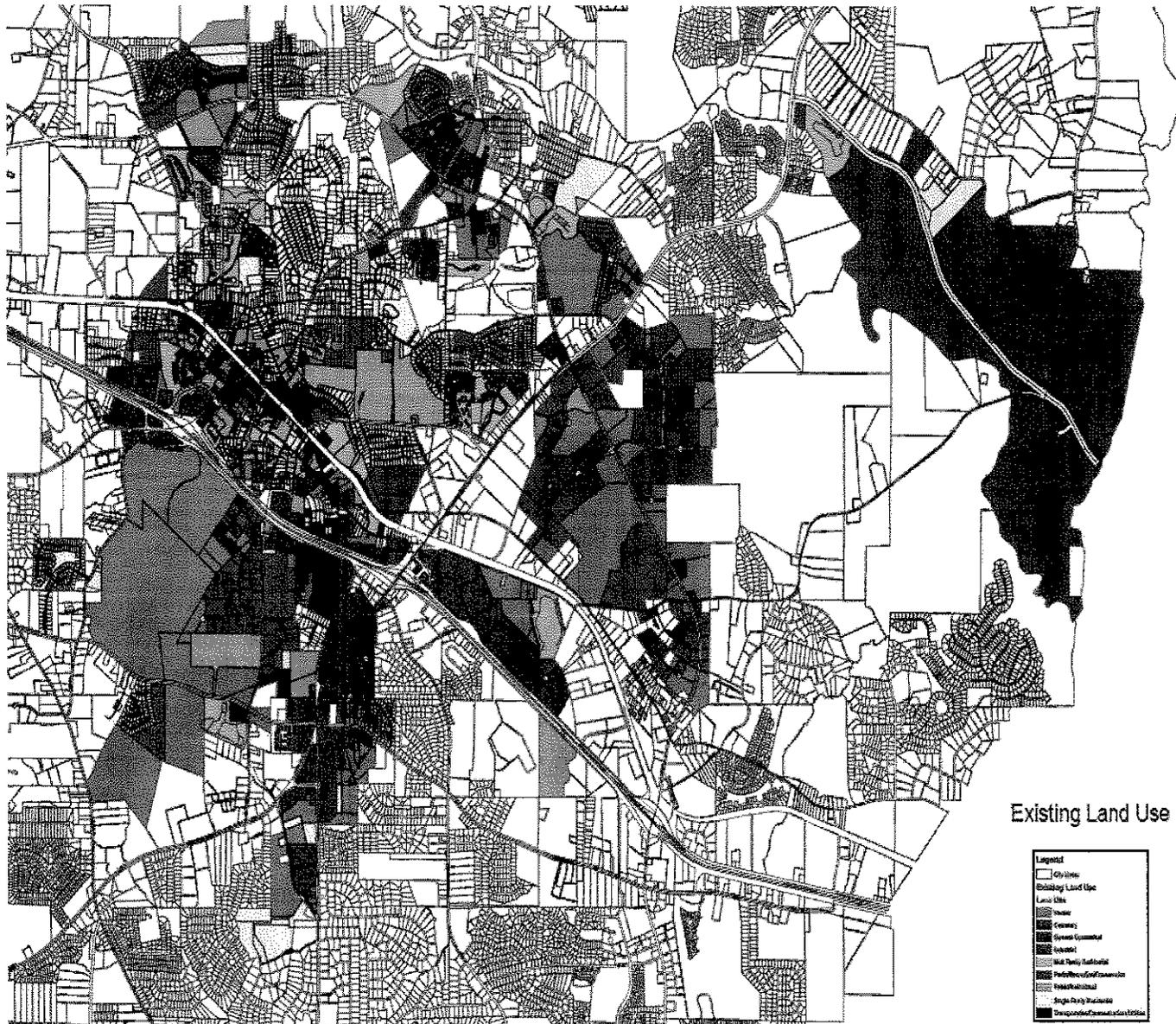
(1) P: A permitted use.

(2) C: A uses requiring a special use permit subject to approval following the application procedures and requirements in section [chapter] 238 of the UDO.





## City of Conyers Land Use Map 2007



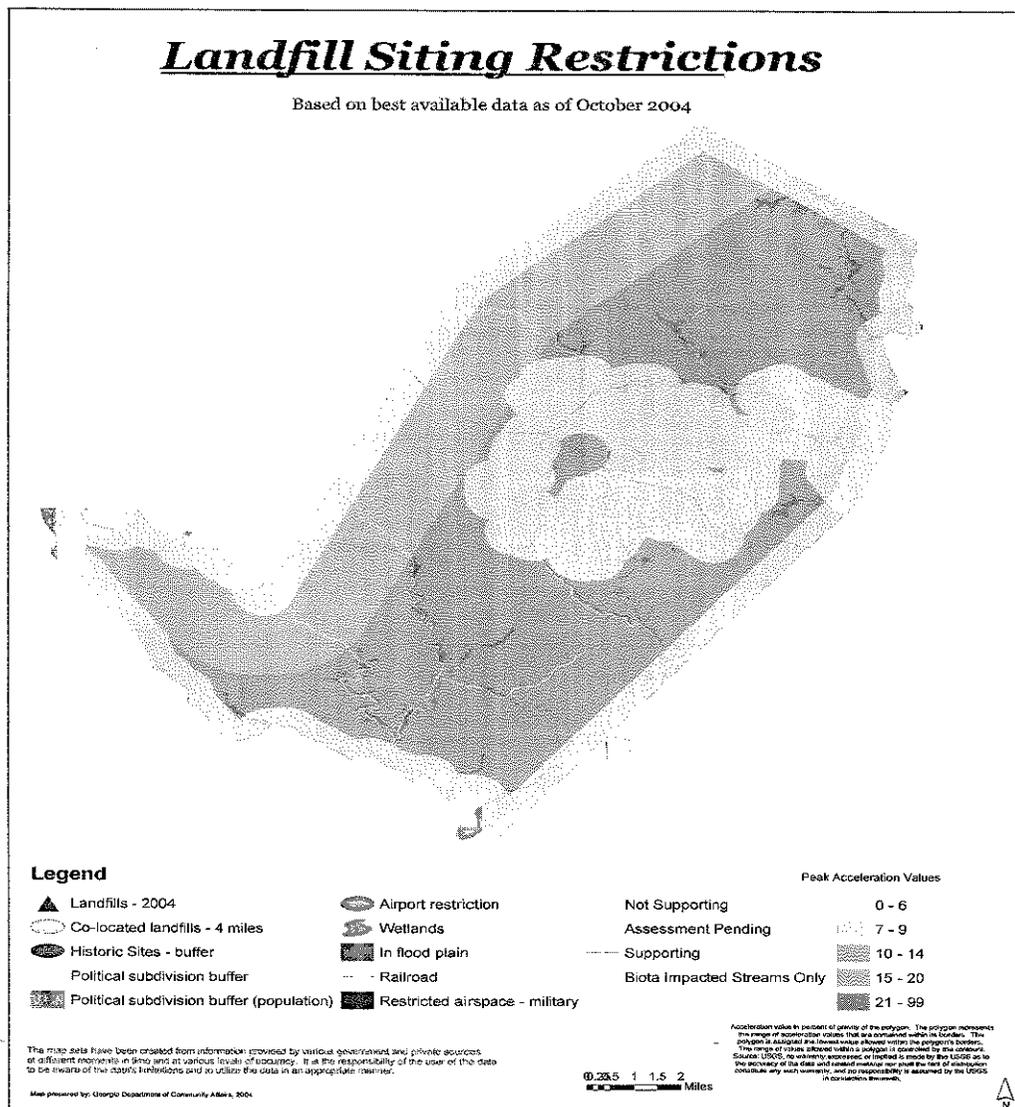
### 6.2 Local Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

Local ordinances in the planning area discourage the siting of such facilities in areas identified as unsuitable. In the event that a request for the siting of a solid waste facility is submitted, the developer of such a facility is asked to submit a special use permit for the planned facility. In addition public meetings for comments will be announced through local media. Local officials then decide if the facility site is suitable for the planning area. If the request is rejected, local ordinance allow for the requestor to appeal. Local codes like Chapter 238, "Procedures", of the Rockdale County Code of Ordinances establish procedures for Public hearings, special use permits, appeals and variances. For the City of Conyers, local ordinance 8-7-92 (dd) (1), Landfill, privately owned and operated, identifies local procedures. It states, in part: "Prior to a rezoning for a sanitary landfill, the applicant shall provide to the director a detailed site plan and a conceptual design prepared by a Georgia

registered professional engineer. The site plan shall include all of the property under consideration and shall identify proposed points of ingress and egress, the location of all surface water, the location and extent of wetlands, unusable land and buffer areas.” These ordinances should be consulted for specifics on land limitations and siting of solid waste management facilities.

## 6.3 Assessment of Land Limitation

Land limitation due to environmental features and local zoning has made the development of a solid waste facility in the planning area difficult. Land is extremely limited and when zoning ordinances allow the use, it is only considered if a special use permit is requested. These are necessary steps to prevent a facility to be developed in an area that is not suitable due to public health and environment concerns. To highlight these areas please see the attached Landfill Siting Restrictions map below, based on 2004 data from the Department of Community Affairs.



## 6.4 Plan Consistency

In order for EPD to issue or renew a permit for a solid waste handling facility or facility expansion in Rockdale County or City of Conyers, the proposed public or private facility must be consistent with the Conyers-Rockdale Solid Waste Management Plan.

Applicants are responsible for verifying procedures for siting solid waste management facilities with local, State and Federal agencies. These procedures may include but are not limited to the proper submittal of documentation demonstrating compliance and hydrological assessments in accordance with DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05 (1). At a local level these procedures may include but are not limited to compliance with zoning ordinances, special use permit applications and formal reviews.

Public hearings will be announced through local media vehicles to notify the public of proposed facility or facility expansion. The applicant or representative should attend all public hearings on the application.

The proposed facility or facility expansion will at all times be consistent with the Conyers-Rockdale Solid Waste Plan. A written document, "Solid Waste Plan Consistency Statement", will be submitted by the applicant, as a minimum, stating plan consistency.

The document should include the following information:

- The anticipated impact the proposed facility or expansion will have upon current solid waste management facilities.
- How the proposed facility will further progress toward achieving the State's 25% per capita waste reduction goal within Conyers- Rockdale jurisdictions.
- How the owner/operator will satisfy local ordinances.
- The anticipated impact the proposed facility will have upon adequate collection and disposal capability within the planning area.

The applicant will provide details on, but not limited to, the following:

- Impacts to vehicle traffic and public safety.
- Impact to natural and cultural resources.
- Impacts on waste reduction and recycling efforts.
- Impacts on collection capabilities.
- Impacts to individuals and business.
- Impact on disposal capacity
- Impact on current public or private solid waste management infrastructure.

This written "Solid Waste Plan Consistency Statement" will be reviewed by planning area officials to determine whether or not the proposed facility or facility expansion is consistent with the Conyers-Rockdale Solid Waste Plan. If the proposed facility or facility expansion is not consistent, the applicant may address inconsistencies and resubmit request.

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## 6.5 Needs and Goals

Enforce current procedures to ensure development of facilities is in accordance with local regulations and are sited in areas suitable for such development. The jurisdictions should, when deemed necessary:

- Review zoning ordinances relative to solid waste to ensure consistency between the City and the County.
- Review Plan update provisions at the local government level.
- Adopt Plan update through local government resolutions.
- Create a solid waste specific GIS (geographic information system) map depicting land suitability with limitations for siting waste facilities.

## **Section 7 Education and Public Involvement Element**

### **7.1 Inventory Existing Public Education Programs and Public Involvement Opportunities**

Jurisdictions in the planning area currently participate in various educational programs and activities and promote public involvement.

- **Local Government Programs** include public involvement through curbside and drop off recycling programs, media campaigns through local TV channel 23, in school presentations, presentations twice during the summer offered to local children at a City owned pavilion called “Summer Series Events”.
  - **Keep Conyers- Rockdale Beautiful** promotes programs and activities such as cell phone recycling drive, the Great American Cleanup, Rivers Alive, Scrap Tire Recycling Drive, Phone Book Recycling Drive, Electronic Recycling Drive and Bring One for the Chipper.
  - **Litter Control Programs** include code enforcement of ordinance Sec. 78-41, Article II by Rockdale County Code Enforcement. The City of Conyers police department and Marshall Unit enforces Title 5, Chapter 7 of the City of Conyers ordinances pertaining to litter control.
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### Existing Environmental Education Initiatives

Program/Activity	Jurisdictions Covered	Operated by	Target Audience	Number of Participants per Year	Description of Impact
Recycling Brochures to Each Households	City of Conyers	City of Conyers	Residents	3,400 households	Increased curbside recycling participation.
Media Campaign	Rockdale County and City of Conyers	Rockdale County	All City and County Residents	82,919 Residents	Increased awareness of solutions and public involvement opportunities
Annual Xmas Tree Chipping	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents and Businesses	Unknown	Divert x trees from landfill
Great American Cleanup	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents and Businesses	225 Volunteers in 2007	Collected over 7.5 tons of litter, debris from area dumping sites.
Rivers Alive	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents and Businesses	125 Volunteers in 2007	Collected over 5 tons of litter, debris from area dumping sites, rivers and streams.
Scrap tire Recycling Drive	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents	Unknown	Diverted an estimated 3 tons in 2007 from landfill.
Cell Phone Recycling Drive	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents and Businesses	Unknown	Diverted 107 cell phones in 2007 from landfill.
Phone Book Recycling Drive	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents and Businesses	Unknown	Recycled over 782 books an estimated 1.1 tons diverted from landfill.
Electronic Recycling Drive	City of Conyers and Rockdale County	Keep Conyers/Rockdale Beautiful	Residents and Businesses	Unknown	Diverted over 16.8 tons of electronics in 2007 from landfill.

## **7.2 Assess Adequacy of Environmental Education Initiatives**

Rockdale County and the City of Conyers actively participate in environmental education and public involvement initiatives offered by Keep America Beautiful and other local organizations. Current education programs and activities target the appropriate waste generating sector and streams. Recycling efforts are of upmost importance to the jurisdictions in the planning area, hence the implementation of curbside recycling in the City of Conyers and drop off sites within County jurisdiction. Through the efforts previously mentioned, the jurisdictions will possibly be diverting, as showed in the waste stream analysis, over 65% of waste produced by the jurisdictions.

## **7.3 Statement of Needs and Goals**

Promoting public involvement initiatives and educational programs have a great impact on participation. The following goals will help determine if and how public outreach is working within the jurisdictions.

- Better track participation numbers of volunteers, attendance and involvement in educational programs.
- Continue participating in all recycling events sponsored by Keep Conyers-Rockdale Beautiful.
- Continue in school educational efforts.
- Expand educational efforts to and involvement of business and industry.
- Continue educational curbside recycling campaign.
- Design and launch an educational campaign for planned drop off site recycling program.
  
- Maintain directory of recycling opportunities within the planning area.

## Section 8 Implementation Strategy

### 8.1 Summary of Goals and Needs

The goals and needs for all elements examined in the plan are listed in the Summary of Goals and Needs below.

#### Summary of Goals and Needs by Planning Element

Element	Description of Goal/Need	Jurisdiction
Waste Reduction- Goal	<b>Reduce the amount of solid waste leaving the planning area.</b>	<b>All</b>
Waste Reduction- Needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promote benefits of single stream curbside recycling through educational public service announcements and mailings.</li> <li>2) Promote citizen participation in recycling drop off program through educational public service announcements and mailings.</li> <li>3) Evaluate opportunities to expand commercial recycling programs.</li> <li>4) Continue looking for opportunities to promote and expand current electronics recycling drive, community wide cleanup events and other Keep Conyers Rockdale Beautiful events.</li> <li>5) Expand educational efforts to cover backyard composting.</li> <li>6) Evaluate recycling drop off collection sites to maximize participation and success.</li> <li>7) Continue waste reduction/recycling programs in government facilities.</li> <li>8) Continue collecting accurate numbers of waste disposed and determine what programs are effective.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) City of Conyers</li> <li>2) Rockdale County</li> <li>3) City of Conyers</li> <li>4) All</li> <li>5) All</li> <li>6) Rockdale County</li> <li>7) All</li> <li>8) All</li> </ol>

Element	Description of Goal/Need	Jurisdiction
<b>Collection- Goal</b>  Collection- Needs	<b>Ensure efficiency of collection programs</b>  1) Strengthen enforcement by evaluating the possibility of hiring additional code enforcement. 2) Monitor proper enforcement of litter control ordinances. 3) Continue expanding educational efforts on the importance of proper disposal 4) Evaluate the success of single stream curbside recycling. 5) Evaluate the success of drop off recycling program sites. 6) Continue administration of billing, complaints, changes, payments. 7) Purchase two residential garbage trucks and one commercial garbage truck within the planning period to ensure proper collection without interruption. 8) Continue the purchase of 95 gallon garbage carts for curbside solid waste pick up and single stream recycling program according to the annual development.	All  1) Rockdale County 2) All 3) All 4) City of Conyers 5) Rockdale County  6) City of Conyers  7) City of Conyers  8) City of Conyers
<b>Disposal- Goal</b>  Disposal- Need	<b>Ensure disposal facilities meet disposal needs for both jurisdictions in the planning area.</b>  1) Evaluate the need for an additional recycling center. 2) Evaluate the need for a transfer station. 3) Periodically confirm disposal capacity guaranteed. 4) Continuously monitor disposal quantities to ensure proper harmony with plan.	All  1) Rockdale County 2) City of Conyers 3) City of Conyers 4) City of Conyers
<b>Land Limitation-Goal</b>  Land Limitation- Need	<b>Enforce current procedures to ensure development of facilities is in accordance with local regulations and are sited in areas suitable for such development.</b>  1) Review zoning ordinances relative to solid waste to ensure consistency between the City and the County. 2) Review Plan update provisions at the local government level. 3) Adopt Plan update through local government resolutions. 4) Create a solid waste specific GIS (geographic information system) map depicting land suitability with limitations for siting waste facilities.	All  1) All 2) All 3) All 4) All

Element	Description of Goal/Need	Jurisdiction
Education and Public Involvement- Goal	Promote public involvement and educational programs to help the community understand issues associated with solid waste management.	All
Education and Public Involvement- Needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Better track participation numbers of volunteers, attendance and involvement in educational programs.</li> <li>2) Continue participating in all recycling events sponsored by Keep Conyers-Rockdale Beautiful.</li> <li>3) Continue in school educational efforts.</li> <li>4) Expand educational efforts to and involvement of business and industry.</li> <li>5) Continue educational curbside recycling campaign.</li> <li>6) Design and launch an educational campaign for planned drop off site recycling program.</li> <li>7) Maintain directory of recycling opportunities within the planning area.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) All</li> <li>2) All</li> <li>3) All</li> <li>4) All</li> <li>5) City of Conyers</li> <li>6) Rockdale County</li> <li>7) All</li> </ol>

## 8.2 Implementation Strategy/Short Term Work Program

The implementation strategy for the planning area illustrates a year-by-year schedule for implementing the identified needs for the jurisdictions in the planning area. A description of the need or program, timing, responsible party, estimated cost and funding source is established in the implementation strategy table.

### Implementation Strategy for Rockdale County and the City of Conyers

Program/Activity	Years Program/Activity Takes Place										Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source		
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017				2018	
1, 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/yr	City and County	General Fund
3			X	X	X								N/A	City of Conyers	N/A
4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$10,000	City and County	General Fund
5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	City and County	N/A
6	X	X	X	X									N/A	Rockdale County	N/A
7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/yr	City and County	General Fund
8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	City and County	N/A
<b>Waste Reduction Element Goal: Reduce the amount of waste Needs:</b>															

Program/Activity	Years Program/Activity Takes Place										Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source		
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017				2018	
<b>Collection Element Goal: Ensure efficiency of collection programs Needs:</b>															
1				X		X		X			X		Rockdale County	N/A	N/A
2, 3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City and County	N/A	N/A
4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City of Conyers	N/A	N/A
5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Rockdale County	N/A	N/A
6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City of Conyers	\$40,000/yr	General Fund
7				X	X			X	X				City of Conyers	\$500,000	General Fund
8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City of Conyers	\$8000/yr	General Fund
<b>Disposal Element Goal: Ensure disposal facilities meet disposal needs for planning area Needs:</b>															
1			X	X	X	X	X	X					Rockdale County	N/A	General Fund
2		X	X	X	X	X							City of Conyers	N/A	General Fund
3			X		X			X			X		City and County	N/A	N/A

Program/Activity	Years Program/Activity Takes Place											Responsible Party	Estimated Cost	Funding Source		
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018					
4		X		X		X			X				X		N/A	N/A
<b>Land Limitation Element Goal: Enforce current procedures to ensure development of facilities is in accordance with local regulations and are sited in areas suitable for such development.</b> <b>Needs:</b>																
1		X		X		X			X				X		N/A	N/A
2	X	X			X	X				X				X	N/A	N/A
3	X	X				X				X					N/A	N/A
4									X						\$5000	General Fund
<b>Education and Public Involvement Element Goal: Promote public involvement and educational programs to help the community understand issues associated with solid waste management.</b> <b>Needs:</b>																
1-4, 7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$2000/yr	General Fund
5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1000/yr	General Fund
6	X	X													\$1000/yr	General Fund

## **Section 9 Appendix**

- **Appendix A- Publisher's Affidavit and Public Hearing Advertisement**
  - **Appendix B- Public Hearing- Agenda/Comments**
  - **Appendix C-Landfill Capacity Letters and Interim/Emergency Disposal Assurance Letters**
  - **Appendix D- Plan Submittal Resolution(s)**
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**Appendix A**

**Publisher's Affidavit and Public Hearing Advertisement**

**Appendix B**  
**Public Hearing- Agenda/Comments**

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**City of Conyers**  
**Public Hearing Comments**  
**Conyers-Rockdale Solid Waste Management Plan 2008-2018**

Date: August 20, 2008

Time: 7:00 P.M.

**Comments:**

- 1) No comments were received at this public hearing.

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Brad Sutton

Director

Public Works and Transportation

**Appendix C**

**Landfill Capacity Letters and Interim/Emergency Disposal  
Assurance Letters**



**Appendix D**  
**Plan Submittal Resolution(s)**

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