

CITY OF PALMETTO



Solid Waste Management Plan 2005

Adopted October 2005

Prepared By:



Keck & Wood, Inc.

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PLANNING PROCESS AND PURPOSE

This Solid Waste Management Plan has been completed pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia, Annotated, Section 12-8-20 et seq., also known as the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. The Plan has been prepared according to the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, which are intended to provide a framework to facilitate and encourage integrated, comprehensive solid waste management planning at the local, multi-jurisdictional, and regional levels.

The Plan is organized according to five core-planning elements: waste reduction, collection, disposal, land limitation, and education and public involvement. These core elements are preceded by an introductory waste stream analysis and followed by an implementation schedule. Each element of the Plan provides an inventory and assessment of the current status of solid waste management practices in the planning area, derives needs and goals from that assessment, and determines how an effective and comprehensive solid waste management program will be implemented within the jurisdiction.

The Solid Waste Management Act requires that this plan:

- Provide for the assurance of adequate solid waste collection capability and disposal capacity within the planning area for at least ten years from the date of plan completion.
- Promote a program to reduce by 25 percent the per capita rate of municipal solid waste disposed of statewide in solid waste facilities. (FY 1992 is to be considered the base year.)
- Identify solid waste handling facilities within the plan's area as to size and type.
- Identify land areas in the planning area unsuitable for solid waste handling facilities based on environmental and land use factors.

This plan is submitted to the Department of Community Affairs to fulfill these requirements as well as to provide the citizens of the planning area a guide for future solid waste management.

NOTE: *The City is aware that SB 122 repealed the State's 25% Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) reduction goal. That reduction goal remains a part of this plan as a local solid waste management and planning goal.*

**SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION**

The City of Palmetto, incorporated in 1853, is located in south Fulton County and northern Coweta County. The City is approximately 25 miles southwest of downtown Atlanta. Since its charter the City has experienced continuous expansion and today encompasses approximately 5 square miles.

Interstate 85, State Route 154, State Route 74, State Route 14, and U.S. Highway 29 serve the City and provide access for both personal and commercial traffic. Railway systems in the area include freight service provided by CSX Transportation, Inc. from Atlanta to Mobile, Alabama. Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is located approximately 20 miles northeast of Palmetto.

Climatic conditions prevailing in the Palmetto area include an annual average temperature of 64.3°F, an average winter temperature of 45.8°F, and an average summer temperature of 79.1°F. The average annual rainfall is 48 inches. Fifty percent of the yearly precipitation occurs between April and September. Humidity is high and averages around 60 percent.

Palmetto is developed along a northeast to southwest ridge. The landscape is gently rolling hills and valleys. The elevation ranges in the City from 900 to 1050 feet above sea level.

Palmetto’s economy is influenced by that of south Fulton County and the City of Atlanta. The Atlanta regional economy is heavily represented by the service sector followed by the retail sector and the finance insurance real estate sector. Other employment includes commercial manufacturing, construction, and educational/social services. Principal employers in the Palmetto area are identified in *Table 1.1*.

**TABLE 1.1
Principal Employers
City of Palmetto**

Name	Product	Number Employees
Fulton County Bd. of Education	Public School System	150 (1)
Spurlin Industries	Whirlpool Bath Specialists	75
Georgia Baptist Children’s Home	---	75
City of Palmetto	Municipality	35
Bradley’s Big Buy	Grocery Store	27
Dairy Queen	Ice Cream/Food Restaurant	25
Bojangles	Food	25
Ballard’s Crossing Chevron	Gasoline/Convenience Store	25

Source: City of Palmetto

(1) Number within City limits.

Employment by sector for the City of Palmetto (2000) is identified in *Table 1.2*.

TABLE 1.2
Employment by Sector 2000
City of Palmetto

Sector	Number	Percent
Agriculture, Forestry and Mining	9	0.7
Construction	159	11.8
Manufacturing	244	18.1
Wholesale Trade	54	4.0
Retail Trade	224	16.6
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	98	7.3
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	50	3.7
Information	21	1.6
Professional, Management, Scientific, Administrative	85	6.3
Educational, Health and Social Services	194	14.4
Arts, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	112	8.3
Other Services	44	3.3
Public Administration	56	4.1

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census 2000

Palmetto is governed by a Mayor and City Council form of government with a full-time City Administrator. Other key administrative positions include the Chief of Police and Director of Public Works.

The City owns and operates an electric distribution system serving the City and surrounding unincorporated areas of Fulton and Coweta Counties. The City purchases electricity through a purchasing agreement with the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG).

Water and wastewater systems are City owned and operated, and provide service primarily to customers located within the corporate limits of the City.

Solid waste collection, recycling and disposal in Palmetto are provided by the City under a contract with Waste Management, Inc. Natural gas service is provided by Atlanta Gas Light Company, and local telephone is provided by BellSouth, Inc.

There are approximately eight acres of neighborhood parks located within the city limits of Palmetto. Also, a large Fulton County community park (Wilkerson Mill Park) is located just outside the Palmetto city limits at the corner of Wilkerson Mill Road and U.S. Hwy. 29.

Palmetto's population as reported by the 2000 Census was 3,400. Palmetto's population figures are presented in *Table 1.3*. Between 1960 and 1970, Palmetto experiences a 39 percent increase in population and remained virtually stable from 1970 to 1980. In 1980,

the City annexed three large parcels of land that increased the amount of land within the city limits by approximately 1,300 acres. Over the following twenty-year period since then (1980 – 2000), Palmetto’s population grew about 63 percent to 3,400 persons. In the three years since then, the population has continued to grow steadily by approximately 9 percent to an estimated 3,710 persons in 2003.

Based on U.S. Census data, *Table 1.4* presents housing/household characteristics for 2000 and two earlier decades. Also shown in *Table 1.4* are estimates of housing/household characteristics for 2003 as estimated by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). The total number of housing units available in Palmetto has increase significantly over the 33-year period of 1970 through 2003. According to the 2000 Census the predominant housing type in Palmetto was single family, totaling 971 or 79% of the total. Over this same period the number of persons per household has decreased from 3.12 in 1970 to 2.78 in 2000.

**TABLE 1.3
Population
City of Palmetto**

Census Year	Population	Percent Change
1960	1,466	
1970	2,045	+39
1980	2,086	+2
1990	2,612	+25
2000	3,400	+30
2003	3,710	+9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census except 2003 estimate by Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

**TABLE 1.4
Housing/Household Characteristics
City of Palmetto**

Census Year	Total Housing Units	Single Family Units	Persons/ Households
1970	600	503	3.12
1980	746	621	2.97
1990	1,014	775	2.77
2000	1,225	971	2.78
2003	1,363	1,109	2.78

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census except 2003 estimate by Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

Palmetto’s future growth is related to the growth of the greater Atlanta metropolitan area and specifically the growth of South Fulton County. Previous population projections including those in the City’s approved Comprehensive Plan were based on a 4.35 percent growth rate until 2005 and a 3.70 percent straight-line increase from 2005 to 2020. Those population projections for the years 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020 are 4967, 5956, 7142 and 8563 respectively. While the projection for 2005 will not be realized because of the moratorium on sewer connections resulting from a Consent Order currently in place, it is expected that the projections for 2010 and beyond will rebound to previously anticipated levels. Population data and projections are presented in *Table 1.5*.

**TABLE 1.5
Population Projections
City of Palmetto**

Year	Population	Straight-Line Annual Percent Change
1990	2,612	
2000	3,400	+3.02
2003	3,710	+3.04
2006	4,270	+5.03
2010	5,960	+9.89
2015	7,140	+3.97
2020	8,560	+3.97
2025	10,260	+3.97

Source: City of Palmetto Comprehensive Plan.

Recent growth has been limited by a moratorium on sewer connections stipulated in a current EPD Consent Order. This has generated a significant backlog of development, which is being stopped until public sewer service becomes available. The lifting of the sewer connection moratorium will trigger accelerated growth. That type of growth is a reflection of a substantial increase in population, which is expected to reach the level in 2010 that had been previously projected in the Comprehensive Plan for 2010.

**SECTION 2
WASTE STREAM ANALYSIS**

Inventory of Waste Stream Generators

The primary contributors to the overall waste stream in the City of Palmetto are residential, commercial and industrial sources and yard trimmings. FY2004 quantity collection data by source and collecting agency is reflected in *Table 2.1*.

**TABLE 2.1
Quantity of Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclables Collected
For Fiscal Year 2003-2004
City of Palmetto**

Collection Agency	Waste Handled	Quantity of Solid Waste Collected Tons/Year
* Waste Management Atlanta-South	Residential	1419
	Commercial	499
	Industrial	1441
	Recyclables	107
City of Palmetto Public Works Dept.	Yard Trimmings	776
** Volunteer Palmetto Association	Recyclables (newspaper only)	57
*** BFI	Commercial/ Industrial	2063
TOTAL		6362 Tons

** Indicates the collection agency with City contract*

*** Indicates the collection agency privately contracts for collection and disposal services*

**** Indicates estimated quantity based on 1992 base year adjusted for change in locations served*

There is no local level data as to the composition of the City’s waste stream so data from the RW Beck Waste Characterization Study completed in 2004 compiled/published at the direction of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (GA DCA) is utilized for purposes of this document. That information is depicted in *Table 2.2*. As noted, the composition of the waste stream includes paper, plastic, glass, metal organic, C&D and inorganic materials.

TABLE 2.2
Composition of Solid Waste
City of Palmetto
2004

Waste Type	Percent of Total MSW
Paper	37.7%
Plastic	16.2%
Glass	4.1%
Metal	5.5%
Organic	27.9%
C & D	5.9%
Inorganic	2.8%

Source: RW Beck Waste Characterization Study 2004

Summary population data from the City of Palmetto’s Master Plan and Keck & Wood, Inc. is presented in the introduction to this document. In preparation for the issuance of Utility System Revenue Bonds the City and Keck & Wood, Inc. have prepared more detailed population estimates which extend through (and beyond) the planning period for this document. This data (through the planning period) is reflected in *Table 2.3*.

TABLE 2.3
City of Palmetto
Solid Waste Management Plan
Population Projections For Ten Year Planning Period 2005-2014

YEAR	POPULATION
2005	3,980
2006	4,270
2007	4,690
2008	5,110
2009	5,530
2010	5,960
2011	6,190
2012	6,430
2013	6,660
2014	6,900

Source: City of Palmetto Comprehensive Plan and Keck & Wood, Inc.

Using the information gathered in the inventory phase, anticipated waste amounts without reductions for the planning period have been extrapolated for the period FY2003-2004 through 2014 which encompasses the entire planning period. *Table 2.4* reflects the projected annual waste stream tonnage generated, disposed of, recycled and per capita pounds per day per person. The population data is from the previously cited population projections (*Table 2.3*). The annual tonnage amounts are calculated on an incremental increase in volume basis consistent with the rate of annual population growth.

TABLE 2.4
Annual Projections Without Reductions
Municipal Solid Waste FY2003-2004 Through 2014
City of Palmetto

Year	Population	Tons Disposed	Tons Recycled	Total Generated	Lbs./Person/Day Generated
2003	3710	6198	164	6362	9.39
2004	3845	6421	170	6591	9.39
2005	3980	6645	176	6821	9.39
2006	4270	7123	189	7312	9.38
2007	4690	7821	208	8029	9.38
2008	5110	8517	227	8744	9.37
2009	5530	9215	246	9461	9.37
2010	5960	9924	265	10185	9.36
2011	6190	10301	275	10576	9.36
2012	6430	10692	285	10977	9.35
2013	6660	11066	295	11361	9.34
2014	6900	11464	306	11770	9.34

To calculate the pounds per person per day the annual total tons generated was divided by 365 to determine the total tons per day. Next, the total tons per day were multiplied by 2000 (2000 lbs. equals one ton to determine the pounds per day). That total was then divided by the projected population to determine the pounds per person per day of waste generated. This calculation was performed for each year FY2003-2004 through 2014 in *Table 2.4*.

Annual projections through the planning period for waste generated by composition without reductions are reflected in *Table 2.5*. This data was calculated by applying the pro rata percentage of each composition type from *Table 2.1* to the projected waste stream generated (exclusive of recyclables) contained in *Table 2.4* on an annual basis.

TABLE 2.5
Annual Projections Without Reductions
Municipal Waste Composition By Type FY2003-2004 Through 2014
City of Palmetto

Year	Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal	Organic	C&D	Inorganic
2003	2336	1004	254	340	1726	365	173
2004	2418	1040	263	353	1790	378	179
2005	2505	1076	273	365	1853	390	183
2006	2685	1150	292	390	1987	420	199
2007	2948	1262	320	430	2182	461	218
2008	3210	1374	348	469	2376	502	238
2009	3474	1490	377	506	2570	540	258
2010	3741	1605	406	545	2765	585	277
2011	3883	1664	422	566	2873	605	288
2012	4030	1732	433	588	2980	630	299
2013	4170	1792	453	608	3082	652	309
2014	4321	1857	470	630	3190	676	320

TABLE 2.6
Waste Reduction Calculations
City of Palmetto

2005 Base Year

Population	3980
Waste Landfilled	6645 TPY
Material Recycled	176 TPY
Per Capita Disposal Rate	9.39 PPD
Per Capita Recycling Rate	0.24 PPD

2005 Per Capital Waste Reduction Goal For Palmetto:

- A. $9.39 \text{ PPD} \times 0.25 = 2.35 \text{ PPD}$ (25% of Base Year Disposal Rate)
 - B. $2.35 \text{ PPD} - 0.24 \text{ PPD} = 2.11 \text{ PPD}$ (25% Red. - Recycling Rate)
 - C. $9.39 \text{ PPD} - 2.11 \text{ PPD} = 7.28 \text{ PPD}$ (Adj. Disposal Rate for 2010)
- PPD = Pounds Per Person Per Day* *TPY = Tons Per Year*

TABLE 2.7
Illustrative Graduated Changes In Disposal And Recycling Rates
To Meet The 25 Percent Reduction Goal
With 2005 As The Base Year And 2010 As The Target Year
City of Palmetto

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Disposal Rate PPD	9.39	8.96	8.54	8.12	7.70	7.28
Recycling Rate PPD	0.24	0.61	0.99	1.36	1.73	2.11

SECTION 3 WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT

Inventory Assessment

The City of Palmetto has maintained in place since 1992 a residential recycling program. It is currently operated under contract by the City's private collection provider. The provider services approximately 1300 residential accounts with once weekly curbside pick-up utilizing recycling bins. Approved recyclables include paper, plastic and aluminum/tin products. The cost of the service is included in each resident's monthly sanitation fee (\$13.50) and recycling only service is available for a fee of \$3.00 per month for curbside recycling which is perhaps the most accessible, convenient and effective of recycling alternatives. In FY2003-2004 107 tons of recyclables were collected at curbside under this program.

In addition, the Volunteer Palmetto Association operates unstaffed drop-off collection bins for newspaper recycling only located at the City's Community Center. During the most recent fiscal year this location collected 57 tons of newspaper recyclables.

In 1992 at the time the initial Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared recycling was a newly implemented initiative. During the FY2003-2004 year the documented recyclables collected equaled 164 tons. This represents approximately 2.6% of the City's overall waste stream and 7.5% of residential collections. Additionally, in 1992 the per capita pounds per day per person (PPD) was 10.33. In FY2003-2004 it was 9.39 a reduction of .94 lbs. or 10% of PPD. These favorable results have occurred during a period when the City's population has increased almost 37%. This PPD is somewhat above the statewide PPD average.

Contrary to the findings of the DCA Solid Waste and Recycling Collection 2004 Update where it was reported that the number of local governments whose residents have access to recycling services has slowly dwindled and that there has been a steady decline in the number of local governments making residential recycling services available in their jurisdictions the City of Palmetto has maintained and enhanced recycling opportunities over the previous ten (10) years.

While documentation is limited or lacking there is potential that significant recycling efforts may also be taking place among commercial, institutional and industrial operations within the City who contract directly with a private collection provider for service. Documentation of such activities is a critical need in the City's overall solid waste management planning and is identified accordingly in this document.

Source Reduction. The City of Palmetto does not have a formal waste reduction program for reuse programs. It is likely that local commercial/institutional/industrial operations have source reductions programs in place. However, documentation is not readily available to confirm the presence and scope of same.

Recycling. The City of Palmetto sponsors a residential curbside recycling program operated by its contract City collection provider. The Volunteer Palmetto Association operates drop-off collection bins for newspaper recycling only on property provided by the City.

Yard Trimming Mulching/Composting. The City of Palmetto operates a yard trimming collection program under the auspices of the Public Works Department. Yard trimmings meeting all local and state limitations bagged in biodegradable bags are picked up by appointment only. The cost is \$25.00 per standard dump truck load. In addition to this regular program once a year in April the City sponsors a Community Clean Up Weekend where all qualifying yard trimmings are collected at no charge. All yard trimmings are disposed of in an approved C&D landfill.

This program requires that yard trimmings not be placed in or mixed with municipal waste and that yard trimmings be sorted and stored for collection in such a manner as to facilitate collection.

While the City has no formal composting and mulching program it encourages private participation in these practices. There are numerous individual household composting activities by private citizens within the City but these are not reported and/or registered/permitted by the City so no documentation as to volumes are available. Local utility companies, tree surgeons and landscapers grind limbs, stumps and trees but this volume is not reported to the City for documentation.

As previously noted the yard trimmings collected by the City operated yard trimmings collection program are transported to a permitted C&D landfill.

Special Management Items. The City does not provide a formal program for special management items. The City does maintain a resource list of qualified firms which handle special management items and will refer citizens upon inquiry regarding the same.

Assessment of Waste Reduction Program and Facilities. The City of Palmetto, the City's contract provider Waste Management Atlanta-South and the Volunteer Palmetto Association operate valuable waste reduction programs for recycling and keep excellent collection and disposal records. However, gathering data from private commercial/industrial collection companies and programs carried out by private businesses/persons/households has proven very difficult to identify and document. Consequently, it is difficult to ensure accurate data beyond those sources the City controls directly and/or by contractual agreement.

The absence or unreliability of this "outlier" information notwithstanding, based on substantiated data there has been considerable progress achieved by the current programs even though they have not met the 25% per capita PPD reduction goal. However, it is important to note that they have assisted in reducing the per capita PPD amount by 10%, recycling 2.6% of the City's overall waste stream and 7.5% of the residential stream.

Given the relatively large volume and percentage of yard trimmings collected and landfilled by the City and the absence of documented waste reduction measure of all methods in the private sector it appears these are two areas the City should identify as needs and establish goals to more effectively address opportunities to target further waste disposal reduction in these respective areas.

Needs and Goals

The assessment demonstrates there is a need to ensure accurate record keeping as to the amount and composition of the solid waste generated within the City from private commercial/industrial collection firms and private sector firms for the purpose of accurately determining waste reduction progress. To meet this need the City's goal is for the City to develop and implement a comprehensive data collection reporting system for private providers of significance.

The assessment demonstrates there is a need to continue and enhance the on-going successful City and volunteer sponsored recycling programs and make modifications as necessary to support private contract and business recycling and reuse efforts. These enhancements should play a key role for ensuring progress toward the 25% state goal for per capita PPD reduction in landfilled waste. To meet this need the City's goal must be to continue its existing recycling efforts and expand its contacts with other private collection providers and local commercial businesses and industry to target large waste quantities for recycling, source reduction and reuse.

The assessment demonstrates there is a need to target yard trimmings as a priority method to further reduce per capita solid waste disposal. The City should evaluate a mulching program using either its own program, a contracted program or participation in a joint regional program. One alternative is to have a mulching operator grind properly stored trimmings on a schedule basis (monthly, quarterly, etc.). This mulch can be offered to City residents and/or other specified groups for reuse.

The assessment demonstrates there is a need to encourage and support community-based recycling, reuse and reduction programs. To meet this need the City's goal must be prepared to actively support schools, churches, civic groups and businesses as both catalyst and participants in recycling, reuse and reduction efforts.

**SECTION 4
COLLECTION ELEMENT**

Inventory and Assessment

The City of Palmetto currently contracts with a private entity (Waste Management of Atlanta-South) to provide both residential MSW collection and residential recycling. The contract was most recently renewed in January 2004 and the term of same continues until September 30, 2007. New base rates (*Table 4.1*) to the City were established at the time of the extension and are subject to an annual rate adjustment by a percentage equal to the Consumer Price Index for the prior year. Waste Management of Atlanta services approximately 1300 residential customers in Palmetto.

**TABLE 4.1
Residential and Garbage Recycling
Base Rates Charged By Private Collection/Disposal Provider
to The City of Palmetto
2004 Agreement Amendment**

<i>Type Service</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Per Residential Unit for household garbage (curbside)	\$10.93 per month
Per Residential Unit for household recycling (curbside)	\$ 1.77 per month

Residential collection is provided two (2) times per week (Tuesdays and Fridays), and recyclables collection one (1) time per week (Tuesdays). Residential MSW collection is accomplished by means of collecting approved 32 gallon garbage bags placed at curbside on designated collection days. Every calendar year the City provides 100 collection bags at no charge to each subscribing residential customer. Additional approved bags beyond the initial 100 may be purchased at selected locations within the City for a cost of \$8.50 per roll of 50. Collection fees to the resident by the City are reflected below in *Table 4.2*. Only approved garbage collection bags may be used. In the most recently completed fiscal year the private provider collected 1419 tons of residential MSW in the City.

**TABLE 4.2
Residential Garbage and Recycling Collection Rates
City of Palmetto
2005**

<i>Type Service</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Per Residential Unit for household garbage (curbside)	\$13.50 monthly flat rate
Per Residential Unit for household recycling (curbside)	\$ 3.00 monthly flat rate

Recyclable collection is provided by means of recycling bins placed at curbside on the designated collection days. Acceptable recyclable products include specified paper, aluminum and plastics. Recyclable collection for residences who do not subscribe to the private provider’s MSW collection service is \$3.00 per month. There is a one-time \$5.00 recycling bin charge for all recycling customers. In the most recently completed fiscal year the private provider collected 107 tons of residential recyclable materials in the City.

All residential MSW collected in the City by the private provider is transported to one of three (3) transfer stations located around the City. All those facilities transport the collected MSW to either Pine Bluff Landfill in Cherokee County, Georgia and/or R & B Landfill in Banks County, Georgia.

Additional commercial and industrial MSW collection is available directly by agreement between other private collection providers and the respective local user. There is no city-wide contract for these services. Collection methods typically include 2, 4, 6 and 8 yd front-loading “greenbox” containers and various sized roll off containers. In addition to Waste Management one additional private firm (BFI) provides significant commercial/industrial service within the City. Collected MSW from this private provider is transported to the BFI - Richland Creek Landfill in Buford, Georgia.

The names and addresses of collection hauler(s) operating in the City – both residential, commercial and industrial follow:*

1. Waste Management of Atlanta-South
1571 Burks Drive
Lake City, Georgia 30260
2. BFI Waste Services, LLC
3045 Bankhead Highway, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

*Known to the City.

In addition to the City contracted residential MSW/recyclables collections and privately contracted commercial/industrial collection previously described there are two (2) additional types of collection/recycling utilized in the City

The first consists of unstaffed drop-off collection bins for newspaper recycling only located at the City's Community Center and operated by the Volunteer Palmetto Community Association. During the most recent fiscal year this location collected 57 tons of newspaper recyclables.

The second consists of a City provided yard trimmings collection program. Operated under the auspices of the City's Public Works Department residential yard trimmings meeting local and state limitations are picked up at curbside by appointment only. Trimmings must be bagged in biodegradable bags. Residents call the Public Works Department and schedule a pick-up date. The cost is \$25.00 per standard dump truck load. The City has in place the necessary equipment and manpower to provide this service. All collections under this program are authorized and tracked by written work order and detailed records are maintained. All trimmings collected are disposed of in an approved C&D landfill – Safeguard Landfill Management in Fairburn, Georgia.

In addition to this regular program of yard trimmings collection once a year in April the City sponsors a Community Clean Up Weekend where all qualifying yard trimmings are collected at no charge.

During the most recent fiscal year the City collected 776 tons of yard trimmings.

The collection programs described herein are collectively adequate to serve the City of Palmetto. The residential MSW collection system made available under the City contract helps ensure the broad spectrum of residences will have safe, reliable and reasonably priced collection services. The system of open market competition for commercial/industrial MSW collection services, where service demands may be more specialized and customers more familiar with service products, seems appropriately suited to that particular market.

Similarly, all residences have access to a City contracted curbside recycling program which provides perhaps the most convenient and effective recycling option available (as well as a volunteer newspaper drop-off recycling alternative) while commercial/industrial users with greater volumes and more specialized recyclable products can negotiate for service on the open market.

Overall, appropriate and adequate service is consistently available to the entire population of the City. There are no topographic or similar conditions which adversely effect or limit normal service provisions.

Illegal dumping is an occasional problem in the City of Palmetto. The City uses a part-time Codes Enforcement Officer as well as Police and Public Works personnel to closely

monitor such activities. On the occasions a significant incident is identified the City takes immediate steps to compel and/or accomplish clean up and compliance.

Current collection programs (including multiple recycling options) adequately meet the needs of the City of Palmetto. The City has no plans to alter current collection methods. The City has found current collection practices to be fiscally responsible, efficient and effective. Actual costs for the Sanitation Fund in the previous two (2) fiscal years and the current year (FY2005) budget for the Fund are shown in *Table 4.3* below:

TABLE 4.3
Sanitation Fund FY2003 - FY2005
City of Palmetto

Expense Item	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY2005
Contracted Services	\$169,219	\$189,114	\$196,960
Bad Debt Expense	\$ 940	\$ 963	-0-
Customer Garbage Bags	\$ 20,472	\$ 22,218	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous	-0-	-0-	\$ 400
TOTAL	\$190,631	\$212,295	\$222,090

Source: City of Palmetto Audit Reports and Budget Document

Needs and Goals

Fiscally responsible, efficient, effective and responsive residential collection of MSW and recyclables are critical public services. It is the City’s goal to continue current practices utilizing a private provider to collect residential MSW and recyclables at curbside.

Accurate record keeping is essential to solid waste management and planning. The City of Palmetto, the private City contracted provider, Waste Management of Atlanta-South, and the Volunteer Palmetto Community Association (bin newspaper recyclables) all keep excellent records for both waste disposed and recyclables. However, gathering data from private commercial/industrial collection companies that are not contracted with the City has proven very difficult. Many of the companies complain that the information is burdensome and difficult to provide because their routes do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries and that the data they would provide would be an estimate at best.

Accordingly, it is the City’s goal to develop and implement a data collection reporting system for non-city contract private providers of solid waste collection operating within the City. The purpose of this improved data collection is to more accurately determine the effectiveness in meeting statewide and local reduction programs and upon which to base other solid waste management decisions.

An effort will be made to secure this information voluntarily in a mutually agreeable format. To this end the City will seek the input of the private collection companies as to how they could best collect and submit the data.

If this voluntary effort is not successful the City should consider requiring by ordinance that all solid waste collection companies serving customers within the City be required to register (or be permitted) and supply data. The ordinance would establish reporting guidelines and penalties for noncompliance.

The City has utilized with significant success the services of a part-time Codes Enforcement Officer to address illegal dumping, littering, and proper solid waste disposal among other environmental compliance issues. As the City's population base, density of development and physical limits increase it is the City's goal to make the Codes Enforcement Officer a full-time position.

Contingency Collection Strategy

Should the current primary method for collecting solid waste in the City of Palmetto be interrupted or become unavailable the City has a two-tiered alternative collection strategy.

There are a number of private solid waste collection providers in the metropolitan Atlanta area capable of assuming solid waste collection duties within the City of Palmetto. The City maintains an amicable business relationship with these providers and the first alternative collection strategy would be to retain one of these firms to provide the service on an interim basis. The City would invoke emergency procurement authorization to facilitate the commencement of immediate negotiations with available firms to provide collection services on a temporary basis. It is anticipated that these services could be procured and authorized within a week with collection services beginning within that same time period subject to mobilization requirements. It is likely during this interim service period that curbside collections would be reduced to one (1) day per week and curbside recycling temporarily suspended.

During this interim service period the City would expeditiously move to prepare and issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) to seek and evaluate submittals from qualified firms to provide solid waste collection service on a long-term contract basis. It is anticipated that this process could be completed within forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days.

As previously described the City uses the "bag system" to collect residential solid waste. As a result special mechanical lift paddles on collection equipment such as those necessary to lift and dump a roll out residential container are not required. Similarly, no operating technical skills are required of collection personnel with the exception of the collection vehicle driver. The collection process requires only the physical placement of an approved garbage bag in a properly equipped collection/transport vehicle. As the second alternative collection strategy City personnel and temporary labor could provide

residential collection services utilizing existing City equipment on a short-term basis. As with alternative one this service could be initiated within a week, collection would be temporarily reduced to once weekly and curbside recycling temporarily suspended.

As with the first alternative the City would proceed immediately with its procurement process to retain a qualified private sector firm to provide solid waste collection services on a long-term contract basis. It is anticipated this process could be completed within forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days.

Natural Disaster/Emergency Situation

The Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (AFCEMA) was established as the joint agency responsible for the development and implementation of Emergency Management for the County and its member cities. The City of Palmetto is a signatory to a 2001 Local Government Resolution confirming its participation. AFCEMA has an approved Emergency Operation Plan. The plan establishes a framework for emergency planning and responses to: prevent emergency situations; reduce vulnerability during disasters; establish capabilities to protect residents from the effects of crisis; respond effectively and efficiently to actual emergencies; and provide for rapid recovery from any emergency or disaster that affects the local jurisdiction. The plan includes a Public Works and Engineering Emergency Support Function which includes plans for addressing the matter of debris collection and disposal. In the event of a disaster rising to the level of a Presidential Disaster Declaration the resources of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) would be available to the City to assist with the collection and disposal of waste under a program coordinated with the City by AFCEMA.

For a disaster or emergency of lesser scope the City would involve its local emergency response plan for its internal use wherein on-call personnel would be mobilized to operate removal equipment. Private contractors would also be retained under emergency procurement authorization as necessary. The top priority would be to clear emergency facilities and roadways.

Follow this priority activity the City would use a private contractor(s) to collect and dispose of vegetative debris such as branches, limbs, trees, leaves, etc. and residential waste at curbside. Dependent upon the volume a temporary chipping/grinding operation might be initiated for the vegetative debris. In extreme circumstances the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) might be contacted to request permission for incineration using on-site air-curtain incinerators. The private collector would be responsible to find and utilize permitted or otherwise authorized disposal sites for MSW and/or debris.

In an extreme case the City would use existing City vehicles/labor and set up temporary service routes to collect debris and MSW to augment private contractors.

**SECTION 5
DISPOSAL ELEMENT**

Inventory and Assessment

According to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (GA DCA) 2004 Solid Waste Management Update the State of Georgia has over 25 years of MWS landfill disposal capacity and more than 13 years of permitted C&D landfill disposal capacity remaining as of FY 2003. According to that same report the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Regional Development Center (RDC), in which the City of Palmetto is located, has a remaining MSW landfill capacity of 20 to 29 years.

According to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) List of 2004 Landfill Remaining Capacity, Appendix I, there are 20 permitted landfills (8 MSW and 12 C&D) in the ten (10) county ARC area. *Table 5.1* below lists those facilities with accompanying details. These landfill facilities have estimated years remaining life ranging from 0 to 56 years and remaining capacity in cubic yards (CY) of 109,612,144.

**TABLE 5.1
Permitted Landfills – Remaining Capacity
ARC Counties**

ARC County	Name	Facility Type	Owner Type	Remaining Capacity (CY)	Years Remaining	Estimated Fill Date
Cherokee	Cherokee Co-Pine Bluff Landfill, Inc.	MSW	Private Commercial	52787458	56	06/11/2060
Cherokee	Cherokee Construction and Demolition Landfill	C&D	Private Commercial	3198430	36	11/12/2040
Cherokee	Cherokee Co-Swims-SR92 PH4	C&D	Private Commercial	0		
Cherokee	Cherokee Co-Swims-SR92 PH 5	C&D	Private Commercial	125000	4	01/04/2007
Clayton	Clayton Co – SR 3 Lovejoy Site # 3	MSW	Public	3466480	21	01/08/2024
DeKalb	DeKalb Co – Seminole Rd. PH 2 (SL)	C&D	Public	402710	6	01/07/2010
DeKalb	Rogers Lake Road C&D Landfill	C&D	Private Commercial	2158143	5	09/25/2008
DeKalb	APAC/GA-Donzi Ln PH 5A (L)	C&D	Private Commercial	2591411	4	09/10/2008
DeKalb	APAC/GA-Donzi Ln PH 5B (L)	C&D	Private Commercial	0		
DeKalb	WMI-Live Oak #2 (SL)	MSW	Private Commercial	4729320	3	10/16/2007
DeKalb	WMI-Live Oak #1 (SL)	MSW	Private Commercial	0		
DeKalb	BFI-Hickory Ridge (MSWL)	MSW	Private Commercial	1621651	2	12/12/2005
DeKalb	DeKalb Co – Seminole Rd PH 2A, 3&4 (SL)	MSW	Public	9263575	14	11/11/2018
DeKalb	BFI-East DeKalb Landfill	C&D	Private Commercial	727456	1	12/12/2004
DeKalb	Phillips-Scales Rd C&D(L)	C&D	Private Commercial	21074	0.5	04/15/2005

ARC County	Name	Facility Type	Owner Type	Remaining Capacity (CY)	Years Remaining	Estimated Fill Date
Douglas	Douglas Co-Cedar Mt/Worthan Rd PH1 (SL)	C&D	Public	503335	9	01/30/2013
Fulton	Chadwick Rd Landfill, Inc.	C&D	Private Commercial	3978266	7	02/09/2001
Fulton	Chambers-Bolton Rd (SL)	MSW	Private Commercial	153900	1	03/28/2005
Fulton	Safeguard Landfill Management C&D	C&D	Private Commercial	2261814	4	03/15/2008
Gwinnett	BFI-Richland Creek Rd (SL)	MSW	Private Commercial	21622121	19	02/12/2023

Source: Georgia Environmental Protection Agency List of 2004 Landfill Remaining Capacity

The City of Palmetto currently contracts with Waste Management of Atlanta-South to provide both residential MSW collection/disposal and recyclable collection. Waste Management hauls all MSW collected in the City of Palmetto to one of three (3) transfer stations located around the City. All these facilities transport the collected MSW to either Pine Bluff Landfill in Cherokee County, Georgia and/or R & B Landfill in Banks County, Georgia. BFI transports MSW collections from the City to the BFI – Richland Creek Road Landfill in Buford, Georgia.

The City of Palmetto under the auspices of the Public Works Department operates a residential yard trimmings collection/disposal program. All trimmings are disposed of in the Safeguard Landfill Management C&D Landfill in Fairburn, Georgia.

Table 5.2 reflects the type, remaining life, ownership, types of wastes accepted in each disposal facility and other pertinent information used by the City and its contract private solid waste collection/disposal provider.

**TABLE 5.2
Landfills Receiving City of Palmetto Solid Waste**

Name/Location	Type	Ownership	Remaining Life (Years)	Remaining Life (CY)
Cherokee Co. – Pine Bluff Landfill, Inc. Cherokee County, GA	MSW	Private	56	52787458
Chambers Road B Landfill Site #2 Banks County, GA	MSW	Private	36	22147641
Safeguard Landfill Management C&D Fairburn, GA	C&D	Private	4	2261814
BFI – Richland Creek Road Landfill	MSW	Private	19	216622121

The City of Palmetto does not have any thermal treatment technologies and none are anticipated during the planning period

The existing disposal facilities and services will be adequate for MSW disposal through the ten (10) year planning period. However, the City will have to explore additional capacity for C&D disposal during the ten (10) year planning period.

Needs and Goals

Adequate C&D Disposal Capacity. The goal for the City of Palmetto is to identify and secure an alternative permitted C&D disposal facility to meet the need which will occur when the currently utilized facility's estimated life ends in approximately four (4) years.

Accordingly, the City will initiate discussions with several of the existing permitted C&D landfills in reasonable proximity. Fortunately there are a number of facilities in the metropolitan area within a reasonable distance of the City with significant remaining capacity.

Appendix B includes a letter from the City of Palmetto's private solid waste collection provider, Waste Management of Atlanta-South, which contains a written commitment of capacity assurance, which identifies the landfills where the waste is disposed, from a commercial or contract solid waste hauler serving a local government. Under this Appendix there is also a capacity assurance letter from BFI which provides privately negotiated contracted services to certain customers within the City.

Contingency Disposal Strategy

Should the current disposal practices be interrupted or become unavailable the City has a two-tiered alternative disposal strategy.

There are a number of private solid waste haulers in the metropolitan Atlanta area capable of hauling the City's MSW and with access to one of several permitted MSW landfills in the same general area for disposal purposes. The City maintains an amicable business relationship with these firms and the first alternative disposal strategy would be to retain one of these firms to provide the service on an interim basis.

During this interim service period the City would expeditiously move to prepare and issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) to seek and evaluate submittals from qualified firms to provide disposal services on a long-term contract basis. It is anticipated that this process could be completed within forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days.

As previously noted the City uses the "bag system" to collect residential solid waste. Because of the simplicity of this methodology the City could use existing City equipment and a combination of existing City personnel and temporary labor to haul collected solid

waste to one of the several permitted MSW landfills in the area on a short-term basis as a second alternative disposal strategy. As with the first alternative this approach could be initiated within a week.

As with the first alternative the City would proceed immediately with its procurement process to retain qualified hauler and/or permitted MSW landfill for disposal on a long-term contract basis. It is anticipated this process could be completed within forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days.

See Contingency Collection Strategy, Natural Disaster/Emergency Situation, (page 19) in reference to disaster collection and disposal plans.

SECTION 6 LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT

Inventory and Assessment

The purpose of this element is to provide an inventory and assessment of areas in the City of Palmetto which are unsuitable for solid waste recycling, recovery, composting, or disposal facilities because of natural environmental limitations or land use criteria. Environmental limitations include such items as water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, river corridors, and protected mountains, Land use criteria refers to heavily developed areas, zoning, historic resources, and airports.

While the City of Palmetto does not anticipate the locating of a solid waste disposal facility within its jurisdiction in the foreseeable future it is the intent of Palmetto to consider the delineated items of this element in determining the location of any solid waste management facility within the City of Palmetto if necessary.

Maps included in this section identify areas which have a land use or natural environmental limitation. Solid waste handling facilities should be located in areas which are not restricted by existing and planned land uses and are environmentally conducive to facilities. *Map 6.1* provides an overall base map of the city limits, county lines, major roads and other features.

A review of the Specific Natural Environmental Limitations and those applicable to the City of Palmetto follows:

Water Supply Watersheds: Delineated on *Map 6.2*. Article XVI. of the City's Zoning Ordinance establishes a Water Supply Watershed District within the City of Palmetto. The City Water Supply Watershed District comprises the land that drains to the City water supply reservoir. The boundaries of these overlays are defined by the ridgelines of the respective watersheds and the boundary of a radius of seven (7) miles upstream of the City water supply reservoir. These overlays are further delineated and defined on the Water Supply Watershed Protection District Overlay Map previously referenced.

The District establishes stream buffers; impervious surface setbacks; septic tank setbacks; impervious area percentage limitations; administrative/enforcement procedures; site plans; review procedures and other applicable provisions. A copy of this section is included in this document as Appendix G.

DNR Rule 391-3-16-.01(7)(c) requires that at any location within a small water supply watershed, new solid waste landfills have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.

Flood Plains: Delineated on *Map 6.3*. DNR rule 391-3-4-.05 (1)(d) stipulates that any solid waste landfill located in the 100-year flood plain shall not restrict the flow of the 100-year flood, reduce the temporary water storage capacity of the flood plain, or result in a washout of solid waste so as to pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Wetlands: Delineated on *Map 6.3*. DNA Rule 391-3-16-.03(3)(e) establishes that solid waste landfills may constitute an unacceptable use of a wetland.

Groundwater Recharge Areas: The Georgia DNR has mapped all of the recharge areas in the state which are likely to have the greatest vulnerability to pollution. The map indicates that none of the identified groundwater recharge areas are located in the City of Palmetto.

Protected Mountains: No lands within the City of Palmetto fall within DNR's definition of a "protected mountain".

River Corridors: The City of Palmetto is not located in a protected river corridor.

A review of the Specific Land Use Criteria Limitations and those applicable to the City of Palmetto follows:

Zoning: DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(a) requires that the site must conform to all local zoning/land use ordinances, and that written verification of such must be submitted to EPD.

Under the provisions of the City of Palmetto's Zoning Ordinance landfills are permitted only in the M-2, manufacturing and heavy industrial district. *Map 6.4* the Official Zoning Map of the City delineates existing M-2 districts in the City. In addition Section 5-23. Operation of Sanitary Landfills, of the Zoning Ordinance establishes specific criteria for information required by the Mayor and Council for consideration of zoning for a landfill. A copy of this section is included in this document under Appendix G.

Proximity to Adjoining County Boundaries: No new or existing solid waste disposal facility should be expanded into the area one-half mile from a county boundary unless the adjoining county approves. *Map 6.5* delineates this approximate one-half mile area that surrounds the border of Palmetto. Coweta County's border is within this one-half mile area.

Historic Resources: Two properties in the City of Palmetto are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first is the Thomas P. Arnold House located at 518 South Main Street and the second, the Levi Ballard House located at U.S. 29 and S.R. 154. No solid waste handling facility should be located in or adjoining as to negatively impact a district or site on the National Register.

Developed and Built-Up Areas: *Map 6.5* delineates the developed areas within the City of Palmetto. These are primarily single family residential areas.

Airport Safety: The City of Palmetto has one private airport accommodating smaller piston-type aircraft. Georgia EPD Rules for Solid Waste Management require that solid waste landfill not be located within 5,000 feet of any airport runway end used by only piston-type aircraft (*Map 6.5*).

The City of Palmetto has several factors limiting the locations of solid waste handling/disposal facilities. Zoning restrictions reduce the effective useable area and restrictions based on airport, county line setbacks, watershed considerations, etc. reduce the area even further. A composite delineation of these limitations is reflected on *Map 6.6*. It is anticipated the City will continue to contract for disposal outside the jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not likely that a solid waste disposal facility will be developed within the City. However, certain sites may lend themselves to handling facilities such as recycling, composting, or material separation/recovery facilities.

Needs and Goals

The City of Palmetto has a goal to ensure that proposed solid waste handling facilities are located in areas suitable for such developments, are compatible with surrounding uses, and are not considered for locations in areas which have been identified by the community or region as having environmental or other development or land use limitations.

Moving forward the City needs to create rules and procedures regarding solid waste disposal/handling facilities that will be reflective of its newly updated Solid Waste Management Plan.

One item that should be included, as part of new rules and procedures is a formal application process that is specific to the Solid Waste Plan. In this application process the applicant seeking to use, own and/or operate a solid waste disposal/handling facility or any type of solid waste management facility should be required to submit an application specific to a type of facility, such as municipal solid waste/Subtitle D, construction and demolition and/or inert. The City should also request necessary information related to the operation of the landfill. Such requested information could include the following: hours of operation, location and size of facility, capacity, materials accepted, disposal fees, private or public usage and number of employees.

SECTION 7 EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT

Inventory and Assessment

Perhaps the most frequent and best-received exchange of information in the City of Palmetto regarding solid waste education takes place at City Hall and the Public Works Department or at the initiation of City staff through the distribution of informational/educational flyers. These informational/educational flyers on recycling and solid waste collection are provided to all persons opening a utility account with residential garbage pick-up/recycling service. These flyers are also displayed in prominent locations at City Hall and the Public Works Department office for ready access and availability to visitors and guests. One on one contact between City personnel and residents by telephone, fax, email or in person serves as an invaluable and arguably the most effective local communication tool for information sharing on this topic. Additionally, the Codes Enforcement Officer has been a growing resource in the area of litter control information.

Annually in April the City sponsors a citywide clean-up weekend where yard trimmings and residential MSW are collected and disposed of at no charge from City residences. This has become a much anticipated annual event preceded by public announcements, news stories, advertisements and information flyer distribution citizen awareness regarding the matter of solid waste collection and options to the landfilling of collected product is called to attention during this high profile participatory event.

At least annually the City's private sector solid waste collection/recycling and disposal provider conducts an educational program in the local elementary school This year's program centered on recycling materials and instructional content from the Georgia Recycling Coalition, Inc. Following the program and questions/answer session calendars and bookmarks with educational information on recycling were distributed to students, faculty and staff.

While there is no formal Solid Waste Advisory Committee/Task Force in the City, the Volunteer Palmetto Association remains a strong partner to the City in support of encouraging recycling. As previously described in this document they operate unstaffed drop-off collection bins for newspaper recyclables only on property provided by the City at its Community Center.

Residential recycling is established in Palmetto by City Ordinance (Appendix E). Contrary to the findings of the DCA Solid Waste and Recycling Collection 2004 Update where it was reported that the number of local governments whose residents have access to recycling services has slowly dwindled and that there has been a steady decline in the number of local governments making residential recycling services available in their jurisdictions recycling remains a cornerstone in the City of Palmetto's solid waste practices.

Two (2) Public Hearings were conducted for the Palmetto Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management. Refer to Appendix C for a copy of the Public Hearing notices and minutes from each Public Hearing.

Numerous opportunities to expand education programs and public involvement related to solid waste management exist in the community. In many cases needed materials are available free of charge. DCA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) have a variety of public education/public involvement materials. Examples of involvement pamphlets produced by EPA include: Waste Transfer Stations; A Manual for Decision-Making; Sites for Our Solid Waste; and a Guidebook for Effective Public Involvement.

Needs and Goals

While the City of Palmetto has a generally adequate education and public involvement program, particularly for recycling activities, there are areas of need and opportunity as it relates to education/public involvement for resource recovery; reuse, reduction at source and litter control.

The recycling and other existing, on-going education and public involvement activities should be continued and enhanced. Community involvement could be enhanced by involving local civic organizations, church groups and volunteers.

Residents should be made aware, educated and encouraged to take advantage of resource recovery opportunities such as obtaining mulch derived from processed yard waste and recovered or returned to useable organic matter.

Residents should be made aware, educated and encouraged as to the practicality of re-using articles that are sometimes discarded for disposal but have remaining useful life such as clothing, furniture and small appliances.

Residents should be made aware, educated and encouraged as to reduction-at-source opportunities such as "Reduction Habits" particularly relating to consumer purchases and packaging. The program should emphasize that changing buying habits of households and businesses focused and aware of source reduction can have significant results when multiplied by the City's households resulting in noticeable waste reduction.

Residents should be made aware that littering, the irresponsible scattering of waste throughout the City particularly along streets, roads and highways carries a high cost of clean-up, the negative impact of visual blight and the potential danger of adversely affecting natural resources such as waterways. The City should aggressively enforce litter prohibitions of existing ordinances and make enforcement a priority of the Codes Enforcement Officer.

Education and public involvement in each of these areas can be achieved through a combination of visual aids, pamphlets, videos, newsletters, press releases, workshops, classroom sessions, email messages and website posting to suggest a representative list of potential communication and learning tools.

The City should consider utilizing the support and assistance of the Volunteer Palmetto Association as a partner in educating and informing citizens as to the broader spectrum of waste reduction opportunities.

The City should consider developing a recognition and award program for the community to encourage waste reduction efforts perhaps co-sponsored by private contract providers, civic groups or other interested parties.

Through these and other allied efforts it is the City of Palmetto's goal to help its community achieve an understanding and awareness of the social and environmental issues with solid waste management, especially in terms of resource recovery, reuse, reduction-at-source, litter control, recycling, composting, energy recovery and endeavor to increase support for effective solid waste management.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Goals and Strategies

Waste Reduction Element

- Goal 1:** To more accurately determine and record the amount and composition of solid waste generated within the City (particularly from non contract private collection/disposal firms and the private sector customers within the City they serve) in order to have a sound information base upon which to plan and implement solid waste management.
- Strategies:**
1. Continue existing program of waste collection/disposal record keeping for contract private provider and City performed services (e.g. yard trimmings).
 2. Develop and implement a comprehensive data collection reporting system for private collection/disposal providers of significance either through voluntary cooperation or if necessary by registration/permitting ordinance with noncompliance penalties.
- Goal 2:** To assess a mulching and reuse alternative for yard trimmings currently collected and landfilled.
- Strategies:**
1. Explore effectiveness and costs of a City and/or contractor operated mulching operation for collected yard trimmings including possible participation in cooperative regional program or periodically scheduled mobile grinding service (monthly, quarterly, etc.).
 2. Explore the potential distribution of mulch to City residents and/or broader marketing of product.
- Goal 3:** To ensure at a minimum a 25% per capita PPD reduction of waste being received at disposal facilities by promotion of source reduction, reuse, composting, recycling and other applicable waste reduction programs.
- Strategies:**
1. Continue existing citywide curbside residential program through private contract provider.

2. Develop and maintain a working relationship with local businesses/industries to encourage their participation in the citywide waste reduction and recycling efforts.
3. Encourage and promote composting as a means of waste reduction. Encourage individual “backyard” household composting of organic waste such as leaves, yard trimmings and garden reuse. Various public agencies such as DCA, EPD and the UGA Extension Service and private consultants provide information on this practice.
4. Identify and use incentives to encourage participation in recycling and waste reduction.
5. Encourage and support community-based recycling and waste reduction programs in schools, churches, businesses and civic clubs.
6. Participate in appropriate solid waste related workshops and seminars to educate public officials on developing technologies, methodologies and successful implementation regarding solid waste planning/management.

Collection Element

Goal 1: To continue residential collection and recycling utilizing a City contracted private provider. This has proven a fiscally responsible, efficient, effective and responsive public service. Continue to have private providers service commercial/industrial customers on a negotiated basis.

Strategies: 1. Periodically review competitiveness of contract fee and service efficiency for these services with prevailing market conditions.

Goal 2: Develop and implement a data collection reporting system for non-city contract private providers of solid waste collection operating within the City.

Strategies: 1. Retain the services of a qualified consultant to assist the staff in developing and implementing data collection reporting systems.

Disposal Element

- Goal 1:** Continue to utilize private contractors to transfer and dispose of solid waste collected within the City in appropriately permitted landfill facilities.
- Strategies:**
1. Continue to assess the capacity of all landfills utilized by City disposal providers. Periodically review competitiveness of contract for this service with prevailing market conditions.
 2. Assess alternatives for handling yard trimmings. Explore potential for grinding and subsequent reuse. Identify alternative C&D landfill facility with adequate disposal capacity for yard trimmings during the planning period.

Land Limitation Element

- Goal 1:** To create rules and procedures regarding solid waste disposal/handling facilities that will be reflective of the Updated Solid Waste Plan.
- Strategies:**
1. Develop a formal solid waste disposal/handling facility/solid waste management facility application process that is specific to the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Education and Public Involvement Element

- Goal 1:** To assist the citizens of Palmetto in developing an awareness of the social and environmental issues, problems, concerns and opportunities associated with the broad scope of solid waste management including littering, waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy recovery, etc.
- Strategies:**
1. Continue and enhance current education and public information efforts on solid waste planning and management.
 2. Support solid waste educational programs in the schools and the “recycle as a family” concept.

3. Hold annual special events/activities regarding solid waste planning/management.
4. Designate a local community group or civic organization to play a lead role in education/public involvement efforts.
5. Utilize local media, email, websites, to highlight the benefits of waste reduction locally.
6. Coordinate the distribution of informational material through various medias regarding local recycling and waste reduction programs.
7. Annually disclose the full costs of solid waste management services to the City.

**CITY OF PALMETTO SOLID WASTE 10-YEAR
WORK PLAN PROGRAM
2005-2014**

WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT

PLAN ELEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED										RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$) IF ANY	FUNDING SOURCES
	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14			
Continue existing recycling contract by private provider.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Contract Provider City	\$27,600 to \$75,900 per year	User Fees City
Develop data collection reporting system for non-contract private providers.	X	X	X								City Consultant	\$5,000	City GEFA
Implement data collection system.				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	\$2,000 per year	City
Evaluate grinding yard trimmings for reuse as mulch.	X	X	X								City Consultant	\$10,000	City GEFA
Develop closer working relationship with local businesses to encourage participation in recycling/waste reduction.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City Local Businesses	-----	City
Utilize incentives to encourage recycling.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City & Community Groups	\$1,000 per year	City
Participate in solid waste related workshops.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City Staff, Volunteers	\$500 per year	City

COLLECTION ELEMENT

PLAN ELEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED										RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$) IF ANY	FUNDING SOURCES	
	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14				
<i>Collection Element</i> Continue utilizing private contractors for residential collection.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	* \$175,000 to \$305,000 per year	User Fees City
Periodically review contract for competitiveness.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	-----	City
Develop and implement data collection reporting system for non-city contract providers.	X	X	X									City Consultant	\$5,000	City GEFA
Implement data collection system.				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	\$1,000 per year	City
Hire full-time Codes Enforcement Officer to address littering, illegal dumping, support education efforts.		X										City	\$39,000 per year	City

DISPOSAL ELEMENT

PLAN ELEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED										RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$) IF ANY	FUNDING SOURCES	
	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14				
<i>Disposal Element</i> Continue to use private contractor to transfer and dispose of MSW.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	* included in collection costs	User Fees City
Periodically review contract for competitiveness.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	-----	City
Assess capacity of landfill sites for future disposal.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	-----	City
Identify alternative C&D landfill facility.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	-----	City

*Total collection/disposal costs.

LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT

PLAN ELEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED										RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$) IF ANY	FUNDING SOURCES
	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14			
<i>Land Implementation Element</i>													
Develop a formal solid waste disposal/handling facility application.	X	X	X								City Consultant	\$12,000	City GEFA
Implement application process				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City	-----	City

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT

PLAN ELEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED										RESPONSIBLE PARTY	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$) IF ANY	FUNDING SOURCES
	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14			
<i>Education and Public Involvement Element</i>													
Continue existing education and public information efforts.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City, EPD, DCA, GEFA	\$1,900 per year	City
Support broad program of enhanced and expanded recycling; waste reduction programs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	City, Civic/Community Groups	\$2,500 per year	City