

Recycling in Alabama

Presented by:
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Alabama Recycling Coalition Expo
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Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Areas of Responsibility



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Program Past to Present

- **1991** – Alabama Legislature Act 90-546
 - ✓ Requires all state agencies and public school systems to implement waste reduction and recycling programs
- **2008** – Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Management Act Introduced
 - ✓ \$1.00/ton tipping fee on all solid waste disposal
- **2009** – State SWMP adopted into regulations
 - ✓ 25% state-wide recycling goal established
 - ✓ First round of Alabama Recycling Fund Grants
- **2014** – Statewide Campaign
 - ✓ Beginning in 2014 through 2015, a statewide recycling campaign created a Public Service Announcement (PSA) and aired it on local television stations. The recycling rate went from 21% in 2016 to 26% in 2017.
- **2024**–Revision of Recycling Regulations
 - ✓ Increasing state-wide recycling goal
 - ✓ Improve reporting requirements to allow for enhanced detailed reporting of landfill diversion activities including recycling
 - ✓ Enhance recycling practices and encourage recycling markets within the state to increase economic value of commodities to reduce the need for Department initiated remediation efforts.

Recent Program Accomplishments

- **Alabama Recycling Fund:**
 - **FY 23 Supplemental:**
21 Grants ~\$1.5 million
 - **FY 24:** 27 Grants ~\$6 Million
 - **FY 25:** 18 Grants ~\$2 million
- 2024 ADEM Recycling Grants Workshop & Big Check Presentation
- Increased involvement in conferences and Education & outreach activities
- Awarded funding for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR)



- Streamline data collection and reporting infrastructure
- Update the current recycling/economic guide in the State
- Update Alabama's Solid Waste Management Plan
- Revise current recycling regulations including the elevation of the solid waste reduction goal

Rulemaking Update

- Division 4-Scrap Tire
- Division 13-Recycling and Solid Waste Management Plan
- Division 13-Tire Disposal

Division 4-Scrap Tire

- Public Notice January 24, 2024
- Public Hearing March 21, 2024
- Commission Approval June 14, 2024
- Effective August 12, 2024

Division 13-Recycling & SWMP

- Public Notice April 24, 2024
- Public Hearing June 20, 2024
- Commission Approval August 9, 2024
- Scheduled Effective Date October 14, 2024
 - Chapter 9 (SWMP)
 - Chapter 10 (AL Recycling Fund Grants)
 - Chapter 13 (SW Reduction Goal)

ADEM has not finalized revisions to Chapter 1 and Chapter 3

Div. 13 Chapter 9 State Solid Waste Management Plan

- Incorporated Appendix A
- No major changes made

Div. 13 Chapter 10

AL Recycling Fund Grants

- Updated language to reflect electronic reporting system, AEPACS
- Added language for multi-year grant, must be submitted prior to September 1 for upcoming grant cycle
- Added language to specify any amendments or modifications must be submitted by listed RO and approved by the Department before they become effective
- Grant Limited equipment-must be properly maintained and used solely for recycling purposes for at least 5 years from grant agreement
 - If recycling ceases must notify Department within 30 days
 - Equipment may be transferred to another government, authority, or non-profit if requirements are met and approved by the Department
 - If sold within 5 years, funds must be returned to the AL Recycling Fund
- Language added to specify existing and new programs must be properly registered with the Department

Div. 13 Chapter 13

Solid Waste Reduction Goal

- Increased the goal from 25% to 40%
- Formula based on recyclable materials, materials used for energy recovery, and beneficial use materials which are processed and diverted from landfills to end-use markets

$$G_{\text{year}} = (D / (D + W)) \times 100\%$$

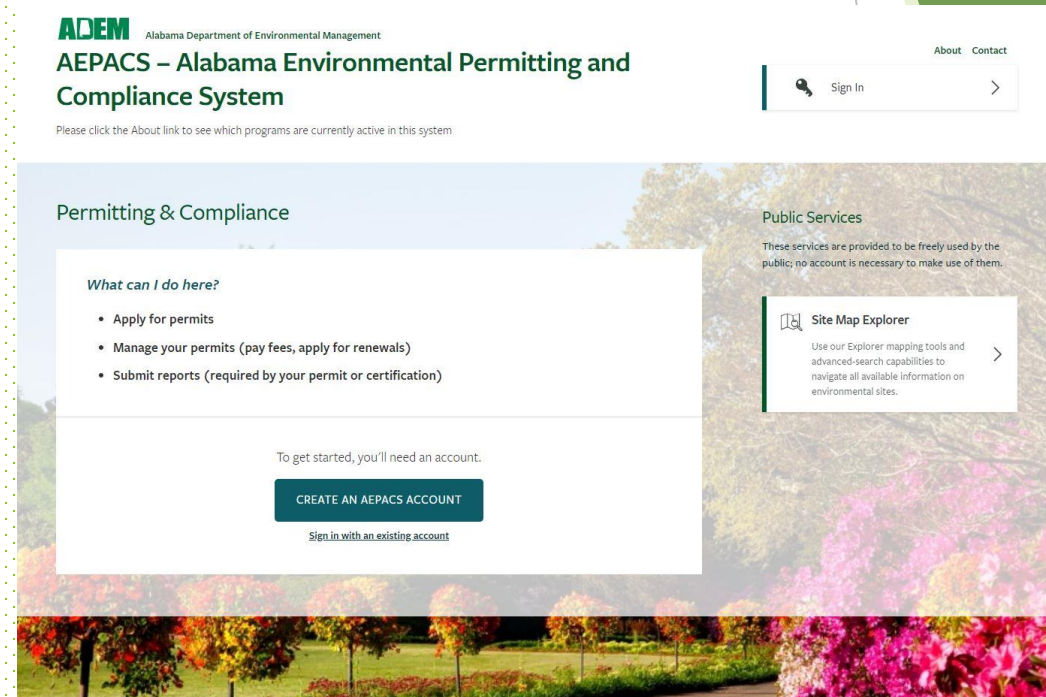
Division 13

Whole Tire Disposal

- Public Notice June 18, 2024
- Public Hearing held on August 8, 2024
- Commission Consideration – October 11, 2024
- Revisions are being proposed to update existing rules including Ch. 335-13-4 Permit Requirements including Landfill Operations and Waste Tire Management, Ch. 335-13-5 Procedures for Obtaining Permits, Ch. 335-13-8 Procedures for Variances, Ch. 335-13-11 Solid Waste Fund Site Remediation, and 335-13-12 Landfill Operator Certification Requirements.

Future Program Goals

- Rulemaking Revisions
- Continued engagement through education & outreach
- Enhanced data collection/measurements
- Improved reporting
- Continued collaboration with other states, regions, and organizations





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