

SOLID WASTE ELEMENT

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SOLID WASTE

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**Seminole
County
Comprehensive
Plan
Element**



SOLID WASTE ELEMENT INTRODUCTION

Element Overview

A Plan Element that addresses Solid Waste is a requirement of State law. The purpose of the Solid Waste Element is to identify the policies that govern the provision of Solid Waste Services to the citizens of Seminole County. As of 2008, County operates two solid waste facilities – the Osceola Road Landfill (landfill) and the Central Transfer Station (transfer station). The landfill is located in the northeastern corner of the County and provides disposal and recycling facilities serving the entire County, both unincorporated and municipal. The transfer station, located at the center of the County's urban area, provides a point from which to move the majority of the County's solid waste to the landfill or other contracted waste management and recycling facilities. As of 2006, the landfill and the transfer station are projected to meet the County's needs beyond the 2025 planning horizon, based on current regulations, disposal techniques, and operational policies.

Element Assessment

Three sets of issues have been identified for this Element, which are: waste recycling and reduction issues; health and safety issues; and level of service and operational issues. Overall, the Element's only goal and supporting objectives and policies have been successful in the following ways:

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- A The County has met and continues to meet all State mandated waste stream separation and reduction requirements applicable to municipal solid waste disposal in the Class I landfills. Recyclable wastes and construction/demolition debris continue to be diverted from the landfill by special processing performed at the transfer station or adjacent to the landfill and then disposed of or reused as appropriate and in accordance with any applicable regulations (*Objectives SOL 1 and SOL 3*);
- B The previously State mandated minimum of a 30% diversion of the waste stream from the landfill has now been redefined as a goal to be achieved. Diversion operations already in existence prior to the change have been continued at nearly the same level, significantly extending the life of the landfill (*Objective SOL 1*);
- C The County replaced its separation and recycling operation (cans, bottle, paper, etc.) off-site contract operations resulting in a significant reduction in cost while improving revenue due to the volume processing done by the contractor (*Objective SOL 1*);
- D The County continues to sponsor a Household Hazardous Waste Program. Amnesty Days have been expanded to include all days during regular business hours. Additional disposal programs include electronic goods, sharps, tires and used oil. Additionally, the County operates a small business hazardous waste disposal program for Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (*Objective SOL 2*);
- E The County has been and continues to be in compliance with regulatory requirements to perform daily covering of the exposed disposal area at the landfill with dirt and mulch. This activity is designed to reduce/eliminate aerial disease vectors (flies, etc.) and reduce the opportunity for animal feeding (in particular birds and pigs) to further limit disease transmission (*Objective SOL 2*);
- F A litter and nuisance control program continues to be successfully operated through the County's Code Enforcement Board (*Objective SOL 2*);





- G The County is developing a separate citizen's area at the Central Transfer Station for household and small business drop-off. This will improve safety and provide a minor capacity increase on the private hauler side of the facility (*Objective SOL 2*);
- H Currently eighty percent (80%) of all the solid waste handled by the County is delivered to the Central Transfer Station. The other 20% is delivered directly to Seminole County's Landfill where recyclable construction materials are separated out for separate processing, as are white goods and landscaping debris. The Transfer Station is operating at 63% of daily capacity while annual landfill disposal is consuming the remaining space at a current rate of 1.5% per year (*Objectives SOL 3 and SOL 4*);
- I Adopted level of service (LOS) disposal rates are being met. As noted in *Policy SOL 3.1 Level of Service Standard*, the LOS standards for waste disposal shall be recalculated with each scheduled Comprehensive Plan EAR. New LOS levels, if necessary, will be adopted as one of the EAR recommended amendments. (*Objective SOL 3*) or as part of an annual Capital Improvements Element Update (CIE). The LOS levels were updated with the 2007 Annual CIE Update on 12/11/2007;
- J Landfill operations are expected to continue in the foreseeable future given the purchase of property adjacent to the landfill as conservation land which will reduce any threat of closure from creeping urbanization, and the construction of a slurry wall containment design which has been found compliant by the State (*Objective SOL 3*);
- K Neither of the County's two solid waste facilities is projected to be deficient within a 20 year planning horizon and no capacity increases are planned at this time. The positioning of the Transfer Station in the center of the County and landfill operational techniques and regulations have ensured maximal use of these facilities (*Objective SOL 4*); and
- L On December 1, 2007, the County initiated a gas-to-energy program at the landfill. This permitted facility captures gas produced from the landfill mass and processes it for sale.



SOLID WASTE ELEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

WASTE RECYCLING AND REDUCTION ISSUES

Issue SOL 1 Solid Waste Management Act – Waste Reduction

The Florida Solid Waste Management Act originally required that landfilling of municipal solid waste be reduced by 30% by December 31, 1994. In 1994, the County attained the mandated goal of a 30% reduction in waste disposed in the landfill area through various programs of recycling waste materials. Since that time, a 30% reduction of disposal in the landfill has been set as a goal to be achieved but is no longer mandated [Chapter 403.706, Florida Statutes, Paragraph (4)(a)]. The Osceola Road Landfill is a Class 1 landfill and can be considered one of the County's most valuable assets due both to its rural location and the monetary investment made by the County to meet the State's strict rules for construction, maintenance, operation and closure. Because such landfills are difficult to site and expensive to construct, it is to the County's advantage to limit disposal to waste which cannot either be recycled or disposed of in any other way. In the future, the County will continue its present recycling and work efforts.

Issue SOL 2 Solid Waste Management Act – Prohibited Materials

The Solid Waste Management Act prohibits certain materials from being disposed of in Class I landfills. Five items have been specifically targeted to be excluded from permanent disposal at the landfill: yard waste, tires, white goods (major appliances), batteries, used oil, and oil based paints. The County has developed programs to either process these materials on site (yard waste chipping and composting area) or contracted for disposal by approved private firms using State mandated handling and disposal techniques.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Issue SOL 3 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

The County currently operates a household hazardous waste disposal program which adequately meets the needs of Seminole County and is expanding the program as necessary to continue to meet those needs.

Issue SOL 4 Operation of Landfill and Collection System

The County operates a landfill and mandatory collection system for the benefit of County residents as one of the fundamental public health actions which a jurisdiction can provide. The continued operation of an efficient, effective and cost responsible solid waste program is of great value to the citizens and should be continued.



LEVEL OF SERVICE AND OPERATIONS ISSUES

Issue SOL 5 Adopted Levels of Service

The State requires that local jurisdictions assure that adopted levels of solid waste service be maintained concurrent with the demand for those services. The goals, objectives and policies section establishes a level of service (LOS) to be maintained for each facility. Also required is the planning for new facility capacity once projected available capacity drops below a set number of years. Given the amount of facility capacity available and the historically steady and projectable growth in disposal demand that takes place, it is felt that a yearly recalculation and adoption of the most current disposal rates is overly conservative. To make this process more efficient, the Level of Service standards set forth here and in the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan shall be in effect for the entire seven year period between Evaluation and Appraisal Reports. The next recalculation of Solid Waste LOS shall be done no later than 2013.

As demonstrated in the Capital Improvements Element and the support document to this element, the County currently has adequate facility capacity, existing and planned, to meet the service demands for both the current planning period through 2012 and for the future planning period through 2025.



SOLID WASTE ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

The County shall provide solid waste services for existing and future development needs in a cost effective, socially acceptable and environmentally sound manner that will prevent the spread of disease and the creation of nuisances, and protect the public health, safety and welfare.

The County shall continue to recycle and reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of by landfilling.

OBJECTIVE SOL 1 WASTE RECYCLING AND REDUCTION

Although no longer mandated, the County shall continue to set as a goal the diversion of a minimum of 30% of the County's solid waste stream from disposal in the Osceola Road Landfill and meet solid waste recycling and separation goals as mandated by the Solid Waste Management Act. The Department of Environmental Protection's formula for the measurement of the reduction of municipal solid waste shall be used.

Policy SOL 1.1 Recycling Program

The County shall set as a goal a minimum 30% reduction in the amount of solid waste disposed of at the County's Class I landfill. Actions which shall be taken include, but are not limited to the following:

- A Continue to operate a Countywide recycling program.
- B Continue the Countywide residential recycling program and further develop such program through mechanisms such as implementation of materials recycling facilities or contracting for recycling processing. The program will at minimum continue to include newspaper, glass, aluminum, ferrous metals and plastic.
- C Periodically review relevant technologies for best management practices and assess the potential for use in the County's recycling program.

Policy SOL 1.2 Special Wastes

The County requires the separate collection and delivery for disposal or recycling of the following special wastes:

- A Yard waste - The County operates and maintains a yardwaste processing program at the Osceola Road Landfill, adjacent but separate from the permitted Class I disposal area.
- B White goods - The County shall continue to operate a temporary white goods storage area and dispose of white goods periodically by marketing them to a recycler.
- C Lead acid batteries - The County shall continue the existing program of drop-off sites at the transfer station and the Landfill. The County shall continue battery pickup by local recyclers.



- D Household hazardous waste - The County shall continue the existing program of Transfer Station and Landfill drop-off sites. Waste is disposed of by a contract hazardous waste management firm.
- E Waste motor oil - The County shall continue the existing program of Transfer Station and Landfill drop-off sites and will maintain the network of drop-off sites (oil igloos) throughout the County.
- F Tires – The County shall continue the existing program of contracting for tire disposal through appropriate off-site processors.

Policy SOL 1.3 Construction and Demolition Debris

- A The County shall, in order to reduce the amount of construction and demolition debris disposed of at the Osceola Road Landfill, continue to:
 - 1 Operate a permitted construction and demolition recycling area outside of the Class I landfill area.
 - 2 Continue to recycle construction and demolition waste for use as landfill cover, road building material, etc.
- B The County shall continue to pursue the code enforcement process in order to deter the unlawful dumping of construction and demolition debris.

Policy SOL 1.4 Recyclable Materials Markets

The County shall support programs and activities which develop or expand recyclable material markets. Actions taken shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A The County shall use the Intergovernmental Recycling Committee to identify and pursue other recyclable commodities such as telephone books, Christmas trees, etc., and to promote additional recycling efforts by the business community to increase the amount of waste recycled.
- B The Department of Environmental Services shall continue to identify and contact recycling processors and investigate the possibility of locating recycling operations in Seminole County and the Central Florida area.

OBJECTIVE SOL 2 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The County shall endeavor to protect County residents from diseases associated with solid waste, from nuisances caused by the improper disposal of waste materials and from improper disposal of hazardous waste by implementing the following policies.

Policy SOL 2.1 Household Hazardous Waste Program

The County shall continue to sponsor the Household Hazardous Waste Program including the Amnesty Days program, operation of the existing Household Hazardous Waste Collection facilities at the Transfer Station and Landfill and the pickup and disposal of hazardous waste materials by hazardous waste management firms.

Policy SOL 2.2 Litter/Nuisance Control

The County shall continue to enforce the Seminole County nuisance provisions through its Code Enforcement Board and other available remedies and shall promote anti-litter practices through the existing adopt-a-road program. The County shall cooperate with other jurisdictions and agencies on the detection and correction of nuisances through a Countywide litter committee comprised of Solid Waste, Potable Water, Department of Transportation, Library and Leisure Services and Administrative Services.

OBJECTIVE SOL 3 LEVEL OF SERVICE AND OPERATIONS

The County shall provide solid waste facilities with sufficient capacity to process and dispose of present and projected future volumes of solid waste by establishing and maintaining a set level of service for each County solid waste facility.

Policy SOL 3.1 Level of Service Standard

The County shall set and maintain adopted levels of service through the day-to-day activities of the Division of Solid Waste and the implementation of the Capital Improvements Element and the annual budget. County solid waste levels of service shall be as stated here and as stated in *Exhibit SOL: Capacity, Demand and Level Of Service*. The levels of service shall be recalculated and adopted as part of the amendments associated with each scheduled Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR). A recalculation and adoption may also be done in conjunction with any update to the Capital Improvements Element.

As adopted by Ordinance 2007-46 on 12/11/2007 the following are the Solid Waste Levels of Service:

Facility Type	Service Area	Period of time	Adopted Level of Service
Osceola Road Landfill	Countywide	2007/08 - 2011/12	4.2 lbs/capita/day
County Transfer Station	Countywide	2007/08 - 2011/12	4.3 lbs/capita/day

Policy SOL 3.2 Capacity Study Committee

The County shall ensure that available capacity is sufficient to maintain the adopted levels of service for solid waste. The County shall appoint a study committee to begin the process of adding additional landfill capacity once the projected capacity drops below 20 years and of adding additional transfer station capacity once the projected capacity drops below 15 years.

Policy SOL 3.3 Central Transfer Station

The County shall continue to operate and maintain a Central Transfer Station.

Policy SOL 3.4 Landfill Permit Requirements

The County shall continue to comply with all Class I landfill permitting requirements including, but not limited to, the following:

- A The County shall continue to operate the water quality control system; and
- B The County shall continue the evaluation of methane co-generation periodically.

Policy SOL 3.5 Enterprise Operation

The County shall continue to operate the Countywide solid waste program as an enterprise program by means of user fees, program oriented State funds, grants, etc., and not through the use of ad valorem taxes.



OBJECTIVE SOL 4 COORDINATION, MAXIMIZATION, AND DEFICIENCY CORRECTION

The County shall correct any future capacity deficiencies, coordinate capacity increases and maximize the use of existing facilities.

Policy SOL 4.1 Priority of Solid Waste Services

The County shall establish the priority of solid waste activities as follows in order of priority:

- A Operation and maintenance of all facilities in accordance with applicable regulations.
- B Provision of additional capacity to service new development.

Policy SOL 4.2 Intergovernmental Coordination

The County shall continue to support an intergovernmental approach to the problems and opportunities of waste management, both within and outside the County, through the monthly coordination meetings with the recycling coordinator and any future interlocal agreements.

Policy SOL 4.3 Annual Capital Improvements Element Update

The County shall annually update the Capital Improvements Element to adequately fund activities and programs enabling the correction of any deficiencies which might arise, the replacement of equipment, the maximizing of existing facilities and facility capacity increases needed to serve future needs.



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