

# ***2024 Waste Tire Survey***

## ***Summary Report***



***Working together for better solutions...***

*September 2, 2024*

## Introduction

During the 2024 Legislative Session, elected officials listened to a group of stakeholders regarding concerns over the stability of the state's Waste Tire Fund and the ability of county governments to pay the ever increasing costs for managing waste tires. According to Section 44-96-170 of the Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991:

1. Whole tires are banned from disposal in landfills;
2. County governments are required to manage waste tires generated within the county with collection and enforcement programs; and
3. SC will place a \$2 fee on the purchase of specific new tires to provide funding for the proper management of recycling tires.

Unfortunately, "...proper management..." would imply that there was sufficient funding being generated to cover the costs for managing tires, and maybe in 1991 it was. However, 33 years later, without any increase in funding for the Waste Tire Fund, this is no longer the case. For the past several years there has been increasing concern over the shrinking Waste Tire Fund due to the increasing costs for managing waste tires. This has never been more evident than this past year when an unforeseen expenditure due to an accounting error caused the fund to be overspent by more than \$500,000. Reimbursements to the counties had to be stopped until the fund started to rebuild itself. An entire quarter's worth of ST390 reimbursements, and a partial reduction in the next quarter, was required to make up for this error.

Collectively we could see that the Waste Tire Fund, and a county government's ability to continue to generate sufficient funds to pay for the costs associated with managing waste tires, was not going to be enough as time went on. With waste tire grants decreasing and costs increasing to manage tires, a waste tire committee of stakeholders was formed to work out new legislation that could help resolve the funding issue for everyone. After several rounds of negotiation we believed that we had language that would ease the financial burden, at least in the short run, and that it would appease the politics of the day. Regrettably, our efforts to get the proposed legislation out of sub-committee and onto the floor of the legislature for a vote failed at the very last minute of the session. But that's not where the story ends...

Discussions have been on-going since the end of the legislative session, and plans for our go forward position continue to be worked on. Participating stakeholders continue to meet to have discussions about what we need to do to be prepared for the upcoming legislative session, so that we can be successful in passing legislation that will help every County across the state to meet the financial demands that have been placed on them for managing tires. Some of these plans include:

1. Getting new draft legislation prepared for the upcoming legislative session that will, among other things:
  - A. Add a minimum of \$2 to the current \$2 per tire fee charged on the sale of new tires; and

- B. Lift the cap on the tipping fee of \$150 to allow county governments to charge a fee that is commensurate with their cost of operation; and
  - C. Consider other funding mechanisms that may be used to help support the Waste Tire Fund, such as adding the current tire fee to the sale of new car tires; and
  - D. Support research efforts to identify new markets and technologies that will build sustainable end markets for the waste tires that are produced here in SC.
2. Adding the waste tire issue to the Association of County's work plans for the coming year to help support the efforts of the waste tire stakeholders group in getting legislation introduced.
  3. Identify sponsors for the new legislation so that it can be pre-filed by the December 2, 2024 pre-file date.
  4. Continue to try and get data on the costs being incurred by county governments for the management of waste tires to add to the initial survey results received.

To be successful we will need your help and continued support for the work that has been started. By providing data through this survey, by sharing information with your local delegations about how this issue is effecting your operations, and attending meetings of stakeholders to voice your concerns about what will help support you in managing your waste tires, you will be the ones to make the difference.

If you have any questions about the work of the waste tire stakeholders group, or what you can do to help, please contact Ed Marr at [emarr@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:emarr@solidwasteauthority.org) so that we can share your thoughts and concerns with the group. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Summary of Responses**

There are 46 counties in SC, and we received 9 responses to our initial request for information. This is a living, breathing document so there is still time to share information about your program, and the costs for managing waste tires in your County. A copy of the original survey has been included for your use. If you haven't completed the survey, please consider taking a few minutes to provide the information requested so that we can add your concerns with the rest of your peers from across the state.

The following will summarize the information that has been turned in to date.

### **Anderson County**

- Accepts tires from county residents, businesses and municipalities
- Materials are accepted at the MRF and at 2 other satellite locations
- Liberty Tire is the vendor that is being used
- Liberty provides trailers for the county to load
- Construction of a new loading dock has been approved due to the large volume of tire being managed

- In addition to ST390 funds and tire grant funds, the county charges additional fees for non-ST390 tires as follows:
 

Car and Small Truck	\$1.50 per tire
Off Road<29"	\$3.50 per tire
Off Road>29"	\$105.00 per tire
- The disposal cost listed below includes hauling and processing. The handling costs are for all of the other reported costs for managing waste tires.
- Anderson County is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

### **Beaufort County**

- The county accepts up to 4 automotive tires at a time at its convenience centers
- Only residential tires are accepted
- The disposal cost listed below includes hauling and processing. The handling costs are for all of the other reported costs for managing waste tires.
- Tires are accepted at no charge
- Beaufort County is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

### **Berkeley County**

- Accepts automotive tires from county residents at a rate of \$150 per ton at the county landfill
- Materials are also accepted at the 10 convenience centers located throughout the County. Up to 5 tires per month per residence are accepted at no charge with a residential ID
- The tire vendor leaves a trailer to be loaded, but will sometimes have a live load that is required
- The only revenue received is from the tire grant fund (\$119,237) and from tipping fees (\$176,403.41)
- The disposal cost listed below includes hauling and processing. The handling costs are for all of the other reported costs for managing waste tires.
- Berkeley County is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

### **Clarendon County**

- The county accepts tires from county residents at the county landfill
- Tires are also accepted at the 12 convenience centers located throughout the county
- There is a 6 tire per year per household at no cost for disposal policy
- Off-road tires and tires on rims are not accepted
- County staff and equipment is used to collect tires from convenience centers and brought back to landfill for consolidation
- The disposal cost listed below includes hauling and processing. The handling costs are for all of the other reported costs for managing waste tires.

- Clarendon County is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

#### **Colleton County**

- Up to 5 tires per visit are accepted at no charge by the county
- If more than 5 tires are brought for disposal, a \$150 tipping fee is applied
- Tires are stockpiled on site until they have enough for transport
- US Tire brings a trailer to be live loaded when they are contacted
- Anderson County is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

#### **Greenville County**

- Accepts tires at the county landfill and at convenience centers
- The county has stopped taking ST390 tires from retailers since these tires cannot be charged a disposal fee
- This change has been an effort to deal with the rising cost of tire disposal/processing and hauling costs
- The disposal cost listed below includes disposal/processing and hauling
- Greenville County is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

#### **Greenwood County**

- The county accepts up to 5 tires per trip for free from residents at its landfill location
- Undocumented automotive and light truck tires are accepted at the landfill for a \$150 per ton fee
- Liberty Tire is the only vendor that has been found willing to accept tires from the county
- Initial calculations by the landfill have identified a potential savings to shred tires and dispose of them on-site as compared with the current practice of using Liberty Tire to dispose/process their tires
- Further reductions in grant funding availability will force Greenwood County to start processing and disposing of tires on-site
- While Greenwood County does support the initiative to increase the fee, there is a concern that further increases to the tipping fee would increase illegal dumping of tires
- The county prefers a solution similar to that used for computers where the manufacturers have some or all of the responsibility for covering the costs for waste tires (Extended Producer Responsibility)

#### **Horry County Solid Waste Authority**

- The SWA accepts tires at its landfill location as well as the 25 convenience centers scattered throughout the county
- Tires are stockpiled and loaded into Liberty Tire trailers that are left on-site for the SWA
- 2 loads per day are sent for disposal/processing

- A vendor that is contracted with to haul materials from the convenience centers brings roll-off loads of tires to the stockpile area at the landfill
- All tires are scaled in and loaded by SWA staff
- Undocumented tires are charged \$150 per ton for disposal/processing
- Large off-road tires are accepted, and charged \$450 per ton for disposal/processing
- The SWA is in favor of both the fee increase for tires as well as the lifting of the \$150 cap on the tipping fees that can be charged for tires.

### **Oconee County**

- Tires are accepted at no charge from county residents at the 11 convenience centers located throughout the county
- Retail tires are accepted at the landfill at no charge if the proper documentation is provided, and will be charged \$150 per ton without the proper ST390 paperwork
- County staff collects tires from the convenience centers and brings them back to the consolidation area at the landfill
- Liberty Tire brings trailers to the landfill to be live loaded on an as needed basis
- Oconee County supports both initiatives to increase the tire fee and lifting the tipping fee cap of \$150
- The county would also support a possible fee placed on tires manufactured in the state to help support the Waste Tire Fund

Waste Tire Survey Summary

County	Annual Tons	Annual Cost			Total Revenue	Shortfall	\$ Needed/Ton to Get Whole
		Handling	Disposal	Total			
Anderson	1,467.51	\$148,615.40	\$306,610.00	\$455,225.86	\$306,610.43	\$148,615.43	\$101.27
Beaufort	190.00	\$30,000.00	\$56,420.00	\$86,420.00	\$48,346.82	\$38,073.18	\$200.39
Berkley	1,328.52	\$48,320.31	\$490,184.02	\$538,504.33	\$295,640.41	\$242,863.92	\$182.81
Clarendon	520.00	\$63,222.79	\$118,900.00	\$182,122.79	\$123,884.65	\$58,238.14	\$112.00
Colleton	653.00	\$43,600.00	\$129,759.00	\$173,359.00	\$56,000.00	\$117,359.00	\$179.72
Greenville	3,115.00	\$88,640.00	\$576,275.00	\$664,915.00	\$624,030.00	\$40,885.00	\$13.13
Greenwood	663.00	\$5,625.41	\$218,249.59	\$223,875.00	\$161,228.00	\$62,647.00	\$94.49
HCSWA	3,954.19	\$313,345.25	\$336,106.15	\$649,451.40	\$350,789.00	\$298,662.40	\$75.53
Oconee	375.00	\$14,680.00	\$113,720.00	\$128,400.00	\$82,281.00	\$46,119.00	\$122.98

## **Resources**

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services has a number of resources available on its website to provide a wide variety of information that can help support you with the information you will need when responding to questions about the waste tire issue. Please visit their website at:

<https://scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/waste-tires>

Watch for future notices for waste tire stakeholder meetings and resources that will be scheduled and distributed to you for your use to support your program needs. Our goal is to provide you with all of the relevant, up to date information that we can so that you are aware of our activities as we head into this next legislative session.

Lastly, a copy of the survey has been attached for your use. We hope that you will consider completing the survey so that your concerns may be addressed along with all of the other programs across SC.