



DeKalb County
Department of Public Works

SANITATION DIVISION

DID YOU KNOW...

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE



Dear DeKalb Citizens:

As we continue in our quest to become the “greenest county in America,” I encourage each of you to take part in our Curbside Recycling program, geared toward reducing waste in our community landfill. Currently, more than 40,000 single-family homeowners participate in the program, which diverts over 220 tons of material away from our landfill each week? While this is a great effort, less than 20 percent of our county’s eligible homeowners currently participate in the program.

Our program has the potential to help make DeKalb County a greener community for its 740,000 citizens, but we need your help to make DeKalb a great place to live, work and play. Imagine what the program can accomplish if 50 percent of DeKalb’s eligible homeowners sign up. Please subscribe today and encourage your neighbors to join our efforts in preserving our natural resources. Together, we can make DeKalb County a cleaner and healthier community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Burrell Ellis, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.

Chief Executive Officer
W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.



Board of Commissioners

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History of Waste Collection

Proper waste management has been vital since humans began living in permanent settlements. Before there were regular waste management services, it was common for people to throw their garbage and human waste out of their doors or windows and let it decompose in the street. The resulting filth caused stench, harbored rats and other pests, led to contaminated water supplies, and perpetuated human disease.

Around 3000 B.C., to prevent such problems, people in Crete created the first urban garbage dump. They dug large holes where garbage was dumped. Around 500 B.C., the Athenians institutionalized similar techniques by banning the dumping of refuse in the city streets and mandating that waste be deposited no less than one mile outside the city of Athens. Unfortunately, these enlightened policies didn't survive the fall of Rome, and during the Middle Ages in Europe, people resorted to throwing their wastes out the door or window. The resulting filth was responsible for the bubonic plague, cholera and typhoid fever that killed millions of people in Europe during this time.

The most dangerous disease to ever hit mankind broke out around 1350. "The Black Plague," killed 25 million people in just 5 years. People were very uncivilized in Europe, war was common, and anything that could be re-used was not wasted. Around this time Britain introduced their first garbage men, perhaps the first official garbage men in history. They called themselves "rakers," and their job was simply to rake up the trash, into a cart, on a weekly basis. These men forged the way for the future of the garbage man. You can imagine trying to clean a filthy city, enduring tough physical labor, and trying to stay healthy while doing it.

Keeping streets clean became a priority for modern cities. Benjamin Franklin led a movement to petition the Pennsylvania Assembly to stop commercial waste dumping inside Philadelphia. He also is credited with organizing the first public street cleaning in the city.

In 1842, a British government report linked disease to filthy environmental conditions. Historians suggest that this period in history ushered in the modern "age of sanitation." Within a couple decades, England was systemically incinerating much of its waste. In the United States, the first garbage incinerator was built on Governor's Island in New York in 1885. During this time, in Europe, the United States and other parts of the developed world, more organized waste collection and landfilling programs were established in urban areas.

Recycling Services

DID YOU KNOW ...

Americans generate 250 million tons of garbage per year.

Since 1960, the amount of waste generated in America has nearly tripled. To combat this and reduce our carbon print Sanitation's comprehensive recycling program allows residents of unincorporated DeKalb and the cities of Lithonia and Dunwoody to conveniently recycle a large variety of household materials.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That You Are Able To Recycle:

- All grades of paper(newspaper, phone books, magazines, office paper, cardboard, junk mail),
- all glass beverage bottles,
- all steel, tin, and aluminum cans,
- All plastic containers with recycle symbol numbers 1 through 7 (no food residue and no motor oil containers please).

DID YOU KNOW ...

That the initial cost to begin recycling is **FREE**. There is a nominal fee of \$15 to purchase the commingled blue plastic bags (box of 100). Participants can pick up their bags at the Sanitation Division Administrative Building – 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA 30032.

For more information about the Recycling Program, please feel free to contact us by either emailing or calling us at 404.294.2900, so that one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives can assist you.



PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL

Transfer Stations/Landfill/Compost

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Seminole Road Landfill is the only landfill owned and operated by DeKalb County and that it accepts about 2000 tons of refuse every day – mostly residential solid waste.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Seminole Road Landfill was originally constructed in 1975 and will be able to continue accepting garbage until 2071.

DeKalb County Seminole Road Landfill helps to facilitate cost effective and timely disposal in order to ensure an aesthetically pleasing community for the residents and commercial entities within DeKalb County.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The landfill accepts municipal solid waste, yard debris, and construction and demolition materials from DeKalb County residents and DeKalb County licensed businesses. Waste items accepted include: home-generated refuse such as noncombustible trash, discarded furniture, old appliances, vegetative waste, building materials, commercial waste, tires, and small dead pets. Dried paint and properly bagged feces material are accepted.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That compost can be delivered, at \$7.50 per cubic yard (minimum 10 cubic yards). Call 404-244-4895 for delivery.

Does the landfill recycle?

Yes, At the Landfill's Residential Convenience Center citizens can drop-off segregated recycling by type (mixed paper, aluminum, plastics, and glass) in specifically marked containers. Also electronics, propane tanks, scrap metal, and tires (maximum of 10 passenger car tires per vehicle, \$1.00 per tire).

For more information about the Seminole Road Landfill or to schedule a tour, please feel free to contact us by either emailing or calling us at 404.294.2900, so that one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives can assist you.

KEEP DEKALB BEAUTIFUL



DID YOU KNOW ...

Keep DeKalb Beautiful's (KDB) mission is to connect people and businesses with resources that promote sustainability focusing on litter prevention, waste reduction, and beautification.

KDB is committed to improving DeKalb County's environment; focusing on the preservation of natural resources by educating residents, businesses, and students on anti-litter, recycling, beautification, and many other community improvement projects.

DID YOU KNOW ...

KDB works with highly motivated, environmentally conscious individuals who are interested in protecting DeKalb County's precious natural resources. Because of our dedicated volunteers that work tirelessly to ensure that DeKalb is operating and well trimmed, DeKalb County is able to uphold its reputation as one the nation's "best nature friendly places to live."

DID YOU KNOW ...

KDB participates in a variety of annual environmental programs and initiatives, such as Arbor Day (Feb.), Volunteer Training (Mar.), Earth Day (Apr.), Great American Clean Up (Apr.), Compost Event (May), Household Hazardous Waste Event (Oct.), America Recycles Day (Nov.), Shredding Event (Nov.), and & permanent electronic drop off sites.

DID YOU KNOW ...

KDB has viable voluntary based community programming, such as - Adopt-A-Road, Adopt-A-Marta Bus Stop, Green Business Program, KDB Patch Program, Beautification Projects, and public presentations.

As we provide educational programming that focuses on environmental preservation and conservation, we hope to empower citizens and our youth to maintain healthy, visually appealing communities.

Visit our site to see how you too can get involved and support our effort:

www.keepdekalbbeautiful.org.

INSPECTIONS BRANCH

DID YOU KNOW ...

That there are two dedicated inspectors for the county who conduct routine inspections of residential and commercial areas when conditions are reported or discovered are not in accordance with the County's Solid Waste Code.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Inspectors respond to complaints such as: Trash cans being left at the curb continuously, illegal dumping, yard debris improperly prepared, construction debris not prepared properly, abandoned trash, scrap tires illegally dumped, commercial dumpster areas not being properly maintained.

We rely on conscientious citizens to advise us. Please feel free to contact us by either emailing or calling us at 404.294.2900, so that one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives can assist you.

LITTER PATROL

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Litter Patrol is designed to support DeKalb's ongoing efforts to improve the environment and address community concern about litter is divided in each quadrant of the county.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Litter Patrol also coordinates its efforts with DeKalb County's Code Enforcement Department and Keep DeKalb Beautiful (KDB).

DID YOU KNOW ...

That community service workers from the Georgia Department of Corrections participates in the Litter Patrol as a condition of their sentence.

For more information on the Litter Patrol, please feel free to contact KDB at 404-371-2654.

GREEN ENERGY FACILITY

DID YOU KNOW ...

That the Seminole Road Landfill is the first certified green energy producer for Georgia Power?

DeKalb County is the first government in Georgia to harness landfill gas? For the past 4 years, the green energy project generates 3.2 Megawatts of electricity an hour and has generated over \$4 million in revenue for DeKalb County by selling it to Georgia Power (which puts it into the power grid as part of the green energy program). The Green Energy Facility produces enough electricity for approximately 3,000 residential homes.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The electricity generated at the Green Energy Facility is from renewable methane gas from the Seminole Road Landfill. Methane gas burns cleaner than fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum based gases. This fuel produces clean electricity that is classified as Green Energy by the state EPD and Federal EPA. While production at the Green Energy Facility is small in comparison to electricity needs for DeKalb County, the efforts create a serious impact in our attempts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

For more information how you can purchase Green Energy kilowatts energy blocks from Georgia Power, visit www.georgiapower.com click Green Energy.

ANIMAL CREMATORY

DID YOU KNOW ...

Dead animals are collected by the Sanitation Department from unincorporated DeKalb County right-of-ways and roads.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That there is a fee to collect these deceased animals for 0- 23 lbs =\$5 and 25lbs and above =\$10

DID YOU KNOW ...

Approximately 12, 000 animals are disposed of yearly through the crematory.

For more information how you can purchase Green Energy kilowatts energy blocks from Georgia Power, visit www.georgiapower.com click Green Energy.

COLLECTION SERVICES

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Sanitation Division provides collection of household garbage twice per week in the unincorporated areas of the county and the city of Lithonia. Currently, this collection service is provided to an estimated **165,000 residential households**, a few home based and small businesses.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Commercial Services offers compactors, dumpsters, roll-offs and business recycling to several hundred businesses in DeKalb County.

DID YOU KNOW ...

ALL household garbage must be placed in an approved 20-32 gallon receptacle and must be placed in individual plastic bags that are securely tied.

DID YOU KNOW ...

ALL household garbage must be placed at the curb without blocking mailboxes, utilities, driveways, sidewalks, drainage systems, or roadways before **8:00 a.m.** on the scheduled day of household garbage collection for your area.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That in addition to picking up household garbage residents can properly prepare their yard debris, bulky household items, special item and roll -off container services (*additional fee incurred*)

MOWING & HERBICIDE

DID YOU KNOW ...

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way joining their property.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Sanitation periodically mows overgrown County right-of-ways, trims bushes, increases sight vision on right-of-ways and County owned vacant lots. If you need more information please contact us at sanitation@co.dekalb.ga.us or by phone at (404) 294-2900.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE

If the holiday is observed on your pick-up day the schedule is changed as follows: Holiday is observed on Monday there will be no collection service on Monday. **Monday** pick-up will be on **Tuesday** , and **Tuesday** picked-up will be on **Wednesday**.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DID YOU KNOW ...

That Sanitation Administrative Services is available for service Monday through Friday 7AM to 6PM.

The Sanitation Division provides various administrative functions by way of:

- **Customer Service**
Processes nearly 3,500 of Special Collections Application Forms annually
- **Call Center**
Answers nearly 90,000 calls for service annually
- **Purchasing**
Ensures the effective spending and ordering of supplies
- **Safety & Compliance**
Enforces the compliance of Office and OSHA safety requirements
- **Training & Development**
Facilitates various training continuums for industry best practices
- **Payroll & Personnel**
Ensures the accurate processing of payroll, benefits and personnel matters for nearly 700 employees

DID YOU KNOW ...

Most requests can be handled on line, including payments for special service.

DID YOU KNOW ...

That household refuse container shall not be placed curbside before 5:00PM on the day prior to collection.

That the removal of the household refuse container shall be accomplished not later than 7:00PM on the day of collections.

For more information on the various ordinances for Disposal of Refuse and Garbage, please feel free to visits www.municode.com.

QUICK REFERENCE NUMBERS

Customer Service

(404) 294-2900

3720 Leroy Scott Dr
Decatur, Georgia 30032

Website:

www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sanitation

Email:

sanitation@dekalbcountyga.gov