



**SOUTH WAKE  
LANDFILL**



## Expansion projects help improve operations through redundancy

### Ongoing operations help minimize odors

In addition to managing daily operations and maintenance at the South Wake Landfill, our staff continues to look for solutions to improve operations and minimize odors.

In early August, the latest landfill gas expansion project was launched. This project required some waste to be uncovered during the day as we began to open a new section of the landfill for waste disposal. While tarps and dirt were used to cover waste at the end of each day, weather was not favorable during this time of year, so residents in nearby communities reported detecting odors at unusually higher rates. We originally intended to complete this project earlier in the year, but dealt with some delays. The project was completed last week, so we hope this will reduce odors in the coming weeks.



To assist with improving operations, our division has also purchased a new air compressor skid (pictured to the right). Currently, if heavy equipment hits one of the pipes used to extract landfill gas from the wells, which is fairly common, our system temporarily shuts down. This machine will allow our blower/flare to continue to operate even when there are issues in the well field associated with operations, helping us to better manage landfill gas.

As a reminder, in the spring, we also rolled out the [Envirosuite app](#) to the public to give residents the power to forecast the potential for odors. While we welcome odor reports, we also want to continue to encourage people to use the app to better understand how weather affects where and how odors can spread.

## WAKE COUNTY WASTE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

### Applications now open for Waste Prevention Grants Program

For over 20 years, Wake County has annually offered up to \$10,000 in grant funds for projects that can potentially divert waste from the landfill through its Waste Prevention Grant Program. This year is no different! We want to encourage more schools, businesses and nonprofit organizations to offer their talents and ideas to create programs and products that can help us reduce landfilled waste.

To learn more, check out our overview video above. You can also see what our 2024-25 grant winners brought to the table and apply for the [Waste Prevention Grant Program here](#).

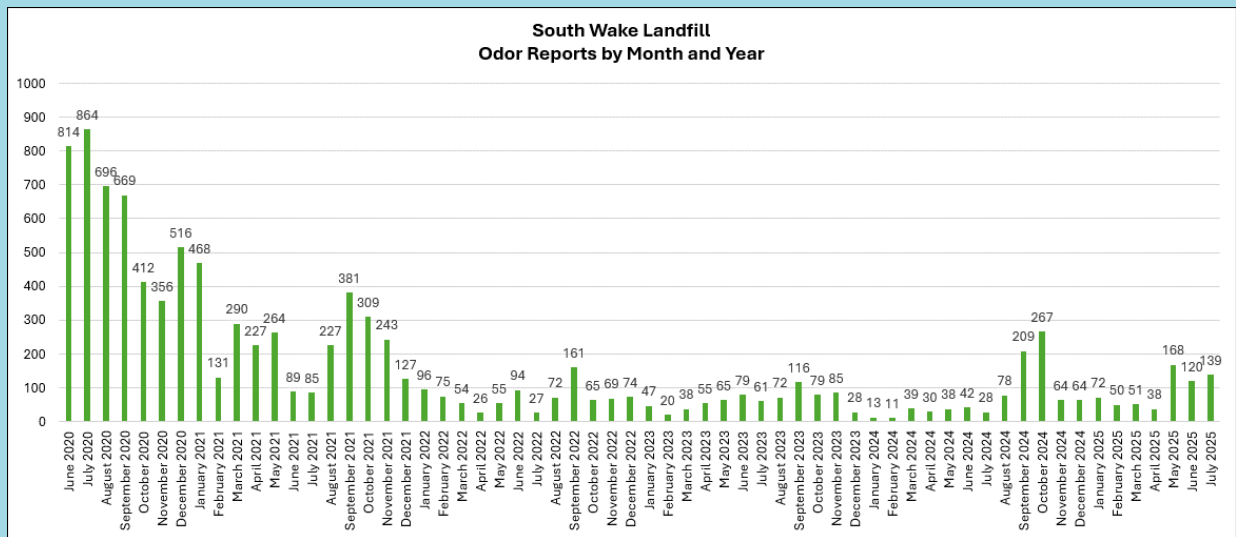
### Odor reporting data uptick in recent months

While it's common for landfill odors to affect nearby communities more frequently between August and November (as evidenced in the graph below) due to prevailing winds shifting more to the south, there has been a surprising increase in odor reporting in the last few months than we've normally seen. Our staff has concluded there are likely four factors that have brought about this increase:

- **Significant rainfall** – During rain events, our odor report numbers are lower, as the rain to some degree “knocks down” odors. Unfortunately, the aftereffect is that the rain “sours” the existing waste and makes full dirt closures at the end of the day difficult and sometime not as effective as usual.
- **New phase opened** – We recently moved “down” to a new phase called 2C, and with the waste being at a very similar elevation to our neighboring property, it has been more difficult to manage our odors. We’ve had that as a theory in the past, but obviously it is now more than a theory. The last time we opened a new phase was 2020, when the odor reporting was significantly worse, more so than now. We have our mobile vapor system in operation and, in addition, have a stationary misting system (on the south side of the landfill) that are both in operation daily.
- **Leachate treatment process** – We opened a reverse osmosis plant in 2023, and started fully using the facility during 2024. The treated water is a great benefit to this system, however, there is an effluent odor that is similar to sewer odors. We are working on a solution to remove this odor from the “equation” and should have one in place later this month or by early October. In the meantime, we are only running this system during the daytime which should help with reducing odors.
- **Landfill gas (LFG) system expansion** – Despite our best efforts to conduct malodorous LFG system expansion before August, due to delays in bidding and timing of when the contractor could be onsite, we started the latest expansion project in early August. We're working to back up any bidding of these types of future projects to January or February, so we can do these types of projects before the more troubling periods in the future.

As always, we encourage feedback from our neighbors, so if you smell something, say something! [Let us know here](#) and our staff will investigate to see if the odors most likely originated from the landfill. The data we collect from the odor reports is crucial to helping us

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in our ongoing mission to improve our county's environmental health!



## "Can I Recycle This?" returns to your local library this fall

Not sure if you should bag your magazines and newspapers before they go into your recycling bin? Unclear on which of your coat hangers and food containers are recyclable? Well, Wake County's got you covered!

To help the community learn more about the hows and whys of recycling, encourage more participation in the County's recycling programs and reduce landfilled waste, we're bringing our free educational events back to Wake County libraries this fall! Residents can visit local libraries to ask our recycling experts everything they want to know about recycling best practices in the county. These are all-ages, drop-in events, so the whole family can attend and join the conversation!

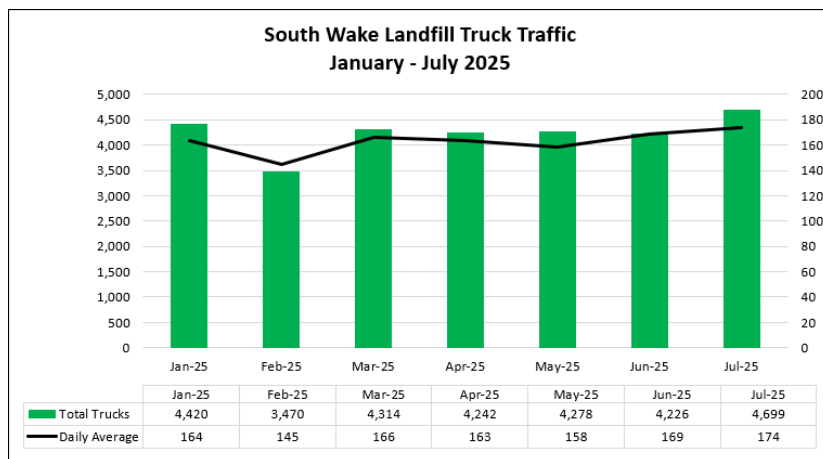


Events will take place at the following dates and locations:

- Northeast Regional Library – Thursday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Athens Drive Community Library – Tuesday, Nov. 18, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Fuquay-Varina Community Library – Thursday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Zebulon Community Library – Thursday, Nov. 20, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Eva Perry Regional Library – Friday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- East Regional Library – Monday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Holly Springs Community Library – Tuesday, Dec. 9, 9 – 11 a.m.

Residents can also check out our [Recycling 101 page](#) for FAQs, lists of what can be recycled and what should be trashed, and more.

garbage routes, but every truck eventually unloads at the South Wake Landfill. Here's a look at how much traffic we saw in the past six months.



## Renewable natural gas plant opening soon



After being closed down due to a fire in January 2024, our previous energy production facility will soon be replaced.

With assistance from Archaea, we will convert the former landfill gas-to-energy facility into a

reclaimed natural gas (RNG) plant.

Please visit our [LFG Collection and Control System webpage](#) to get the full details of what the previous facility could do and what to expect from the new facility. The grand opening is expected in November.

## America Recycles Day

Friendly reminder that Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day! While America Recycles Day Bingo won't return this year, Wake County will be hosting several events to educate the public and encourage the spirit of recycling.

As mentioned above, there will be a FREE "Can I Recycle This?" event taking place at Northeast Regional Library in Raleigh on Nov. 13 and another at Athens Drive Community Library on Nov. 18. So, if you're looking for something close to the occasion, but you don't have time on Nov. 15, these are great learning opportunities to take advantage of!

The County will also be hosting a FREE screening of an indie film titled "Refabricate". This short documentary explores sustainable fashion innovation around the Raleigh-Durham area. Dates and times are to be announced. You can read more about the film and some of its currently scheduled screenings [on their dedicated website](#).

We're meeting **Wednesday, Sept. 24**, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the [South Wake Landfill Field Office](#). The meeting will be held as a hybrid, so you can join us online or we'd love to see you in person! You can also view past presentations [here](#).

[Get Involved](#)

## Volunteers needed to combat roadside litter

Roadside litter doesn't just happen and it won't go away on its own. However, Wake County offers [free litter kits](#) to help. All we need are volunteers willing to be part of the solution! We're calling on Wake County residents to pick up a litter kit with all of the supplies they need and organize groups to assist in our antilitter campaign. Litter kits include safety vests, grabbers and plastic bags for collection.

Residents can also help to discourage litterers by reporting them via the N.C. Department of Transportation's [Swat-A-Litterbug app](#) or contact the [State Highway Patrol](#).

If you observe a transfer station tractor trailer polluting the roadsides and it is a CEI truck, residents can contact [CEI Transport](#) directly to report the littering. CEI is responsible for managing its own transports and ensuring that its trucks comply with regulations.

We also encourage residents to get involved in removing roadside litter by joining [NCDOT's upcoming litter sweep](#).

[Request a litter kit](#)

[Updates to](#)

A **[FREE landfill tour](#)** will also be offered on Nov. 15. If you can't make it on this tour date, no worries! We have several other dates already scheduled through December and you can even **[join the waitlist](#)** if your preferred date isn't currently available. We can also schedule a private tour for groups of 10 or more and you can check out our **[virtual tour](#)**, if you're interested in learning more from the comfort of your home and getting a behind-the-scenes look at some areas of the landfill!

If you'd like to increase your recycling knowledge by talking to the experts, we also recommend taking a free **[Sonoco Recycling facility tour!](#)** You can schedule a private tour for a group of eight or more or join one of our upcoming public tours by **[contacting Chelsea Arey](#)**.

## mattress program

As of July 1, the disposal fee for mattresses and box springs brought to the South Wake Landfill has been increased from \$10 to \$15. The increase in fees is necessary for the operation and maintenance of the shredding process.

Wake County residents may bring only two mattresses/box springs per day. Only Wake County residents are permitted to use this service.

### Learn more about the [South Wake Landfill](#) →

We strive to keep residents well informed on activities taking place at the landfill and welcome all feedback. If have questions or concerns, please contact **[Marcus Thompson](#)**.

If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to sign-up to receive the newsletter **[click here](#)**.

### Wake County Solid Waste Management

**Telephone:** 919-856-6424

**Address:** Wake County, Solid Waste Management Division, P.O. Box 550, Raleigh, NC 27602

**Director:** **[John W. Roberson](#)**, PE

**Website:** **[wake.gov/landfill](#)**



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