



New study aims to prepare residents for the next phase in waste management

Open houses and survey coming this spring

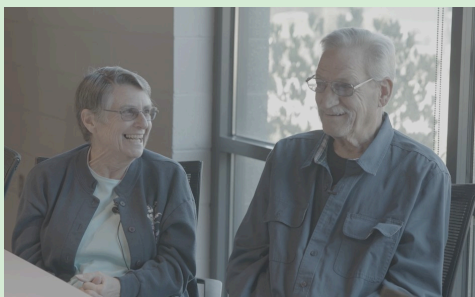
The South Wake Landfill has been in operation since 2008, but with limited space, the landfill is expected to reach capacity and close as early as 2040. With the help of CDM Smith, the Solid Waste Management Division started the Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study to consider options for what to do with Wake County's waste before this happens.



Currently, the four options for future waste disposal being considered are:

- Development of a new landfill in Wake County
- Hauling and disposal at regional landfills outside Wake County
- Development of a Waste-to-Energy facility in Wake County
- Alternative disposal technologies

There are several community engagement efforts planned within the next few months to better inform residents and businesses about the options and receive public input. Keep an eye on our social media channels and your inbox for more updates!



Wake County couple continues learning from landfill tours after 10 years

Sharon Mahovlic and Jim Schleper have been married for 53 years and describe themselves as "each other's best friend, next to Jesus." The Fuquay-Varina residents have been attending landfill tours at least

once every other year since 2015.

Jim and Sharon, who both retired from Wake County School System, are avid learners and share a passion for reducing waste in the environment. While they've been recycling in Wake County for 26 years, the couple say they still enjoy the tours because they keep gaining new insights.

“Things are always changing and it’s so informative and you learn something new every time,” Sharon said, when asked what keeps them coming back to the tours.

[Read more](#)

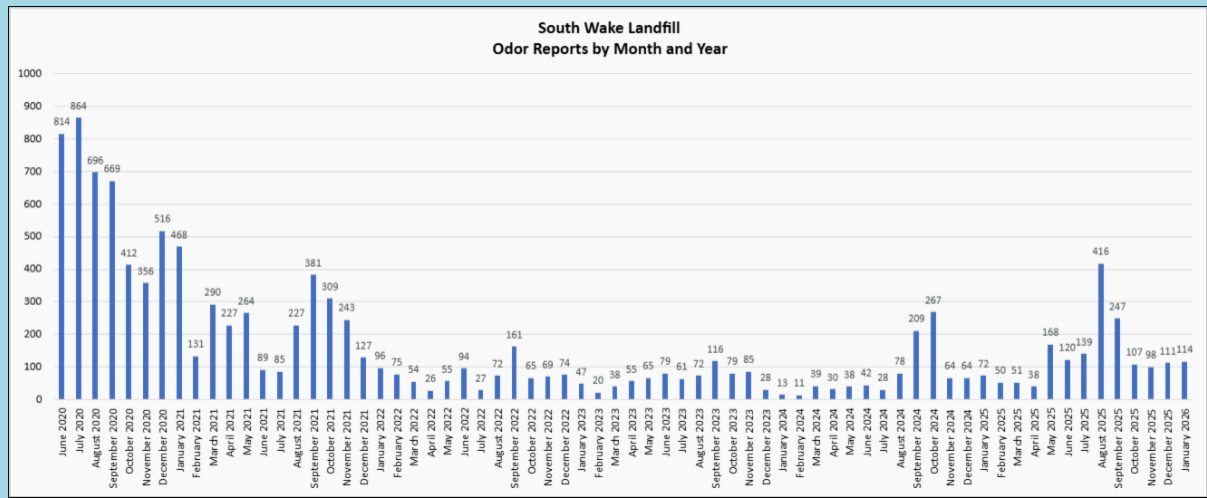
Odor reporting data shows a significant decline in winter

After a significant spike in odor reports between August and November, we’re seeing the numbers trending down again, as shown in the graph below.

As data from earlier years would indicate, prevailing winds are expected to shift more to the south during the summer and fall months. However, as we mentioned in our previous newsletter, multiple factors most likely contributed to the growth in odor reports during that season, including significant rainfall and simultaneous ongoing projects.

As always, we encourage feedback from our neighbors. Please [let us know here](#) if you detect bad odors in your area 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 measure which odor-fighting tactics are working and improving our operations.

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

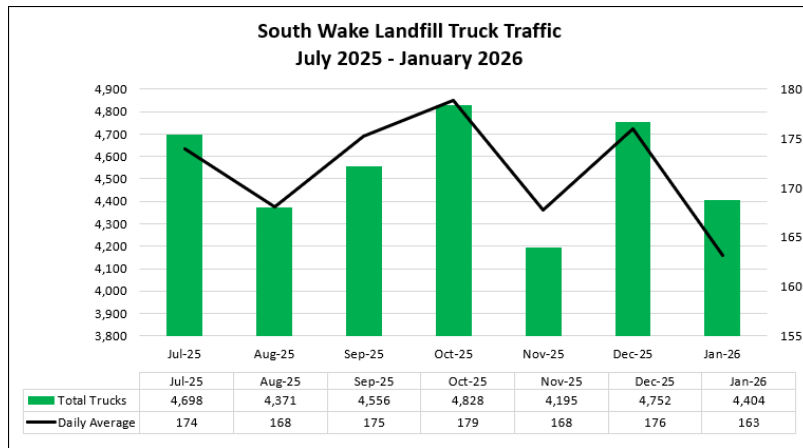


Landfill Truck Haulers

Wake County's 1.2 million residents are served by multiple 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.

South Wake Landfill Citizens Committee

We're meeting **Wednesday, March 25**, 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](#).



Shoutout to Wake County's roadside litter warriors

Since July, volunteers from all over Wake County have dedicated over 59 hours to removing roadside litter. Their efforts have resulted in 129 bags, or 1.3 tons, of litter being removed from our roads and outdoor spaces. While we celebrate the work of volunteers, this illustrates a larger problem in our county. Litter should not be on the roads in the first place.

Our upcoming [litter pickup in partnership with Keep America Beautiful](#) on March 21 and [NCDOT's upcoming litter sweep](#) are good opportunities for you to get involved and help us keep our roadsides litter-free! Wake County also offers [free litter kits](#) year-round to help residents who want to do something about litter on the roads. Litter kits include safety vests, grabbers and plastic bags for collection. You can pick up a kit and organize a cleanup in your community!

Additionally, you can help discourage those who pollute our county 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.

Renewable natural gas plant opening soon



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

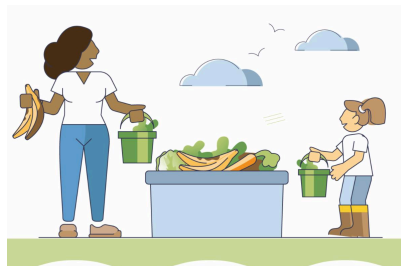
With assistance from Archaea, we will convert

the former landfill gas-to-energy facility into a reclaimed natural gas (RNG) plant. Originally expected to open in November 2025, the RNG facility is now planned to open by June.

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.

Compost Education and Bin Sale

Throughout the spring, Wake County Solid Waste Management is partnering with Wake County Public Libraries to offer residents the chance to learn about the hows and whys of backyard composting, a simple, environmentally friendly method for disposing of organic matter at home instead of sending it to the landfill.



Our environmental education experts will be hosting these free classes and registration is requested. To sign up, visit Wake County Public Libraries' [event calendar](#). All who attend a class will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a free compost bin to help put their new composting knowledge to use!

If you don't win a free bin in the raffle, no worries... Our annual compost bin sale is coming up soon! From May 1-31 you can purchase a bin for half the regular price! Each compost bin order comes with a handbook explaining composting best practices. We also offer discounted composting accessories to make the experience even easier! Customers don't need to be Wake County residents to order a bin, but all bins must be picked up in person. Help spread the word about these events and help us protect the county's environmental health!

[Request a litter kit](#)

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

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