

Public input phase concludes in study to decide future of waste management

Virtual room available to review potential disposal options



With the help of CDM Smith, Wake County's Solid Waste Management Division started the **Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study** to evaluate cost-effective options for what to do with the county's waste before the landfill reaches capacity, which is estimated to happen as soon as 2040.

Between April and August, the County and CDM Smith conducted the public engagement phase of the study to gather feedback that will help inform future phases.

During this period, Wake County invited the public to learn about the Beyond South Wake Landfill Study and share feedback on future waste management options. Community members were engaged through in-person information sessions and a virtual room, community presentations, email and social media updates and an online survey.

Over 1,900 responses were provided to the survey. We are analyzing the results of the survey now and will share them in 2027. For more information, please visit the **Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study webpage**. If you would like to learn more about future waste disposal options, the virtual room is still available 24/7!

Visit the Virtual Room

Lithium-ion battery disposal ban

Improper lithium-ion battery disposal has been the leading cause of fires at our facilities, including the $1.55 million in damages done to the North Wake Household Hazardous Waste facility in January 2025. On average, fires have occurred once every three months at Wake County solid waste facilities over the last few years.

On Dec. 1, a new state law banning the disposal of lithium-ion batteries from household waste will go into effect.



Ahead of the statewide ban, Wake County launched a **new battery disposal webpage** and a social media campaign in early October to educate the public about how to properly handle battery waste.

Read more



Heather Cashwell returns to Wake County as new director of Solid Waste Management

After an extensive search, Wake County is happy to announce Heather Cashwell has been chosen as the new director of the Division of Solid Waste Management.

Since 2008, Cashwell has gained considerable experience, working within several local and state organizations to develop solutions to waste and recycling-related issues. From 2016-2018, she served as the Wake County Solid Waste Management Division's outreach and education manager, helping to expand the county's waste reduction programs and inform the public about recycling and composting best practices.

Cashwell currently serves on the North Carolina Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America's Board of Directors and on its policy committee. She is also a member of the Wake County Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Advisory Committee.

Cashwell will start her new role with Wake County on Oct. 30.

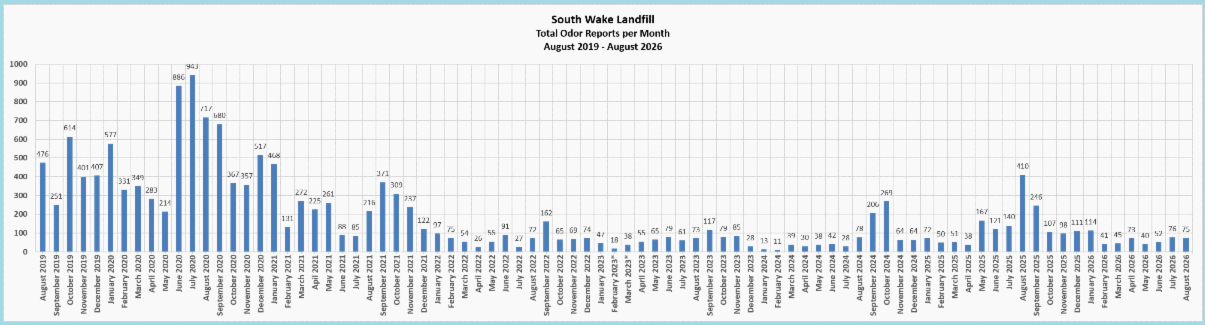
Read more

Odor reports continue to decline in 2026

With wind directions typically shifting to the south between the midsummer and fall months, odor reports tend to spike significantly in this season. However, the total number of odor reports have remained lower this summer compared to previous years, as indicated in the graph below.

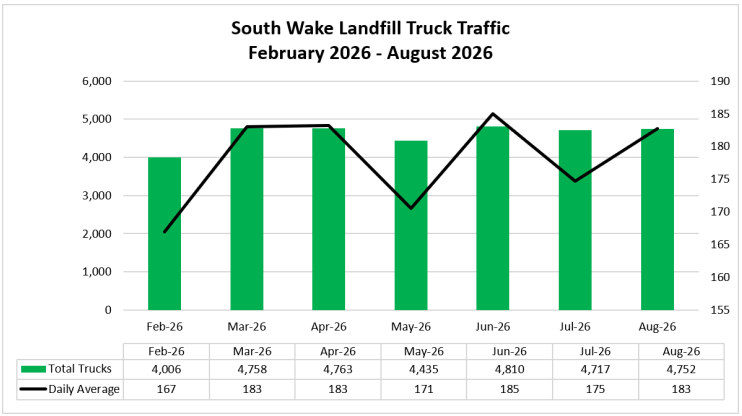
As always, we encourage feedback from our neighbors. Please **let us know here** if you detect bad odors in your area and our staff will investigate to see if the odors most likely originated from the landfill. The data we collect from the odor reports is crucial to helping us measure which odor-fighting 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.



	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26
Total Trucks	4,006	4,758	4,763	4,435	4,810	4,717	4,752
Daily Average	167	183	183	171	185	175	183

Renewable natural gas plant now open



With assistance from Archaea, the former landfill gas-to-energy facility has been converted into a reclaimed natural

South Wake Landfill Citizens Committee

We want to hear what you think future South Wake Landfill Citizens Committee Meetings should look like!

To ensure these meetings provide as much value as possible to neighboring communities, we'd like to know what content you'd like to see presented about the South Wake Landfill and our waste reduction efforts.

You can reach out to **marcus.thompson@wake.gov** with feedback.

Our last South Wake Landfill Citizens Committee took place on Sept. 29. You can view past presentations **here**.

Get Involved

Upcoming Litter Sweep

We're participating in the Greatest American Cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Anderson Point Park from 9-11 a.m.

We will meet at 20 Anderson Point Drive, Raleigh, N.C. Closed-toed shoes and pants are recommended.

gas (RNG) plant.

The new facility is expected to reduce energy costs for nearby homes and businesses while also helping to minimize odorous, harmful gases in the environment. You can now **watch our video** detailing how the plant works.

The previous facility was closed in 2024 after a fire. 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.

Please contact chelsea.arey@wake.gov with questions.

Sign up now

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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Director: Heather Cashwell

Website: **wake.gov/landfill**

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