South Wake Landfill Update

South Wake Citizens Committee
September 30, 2026

WAKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

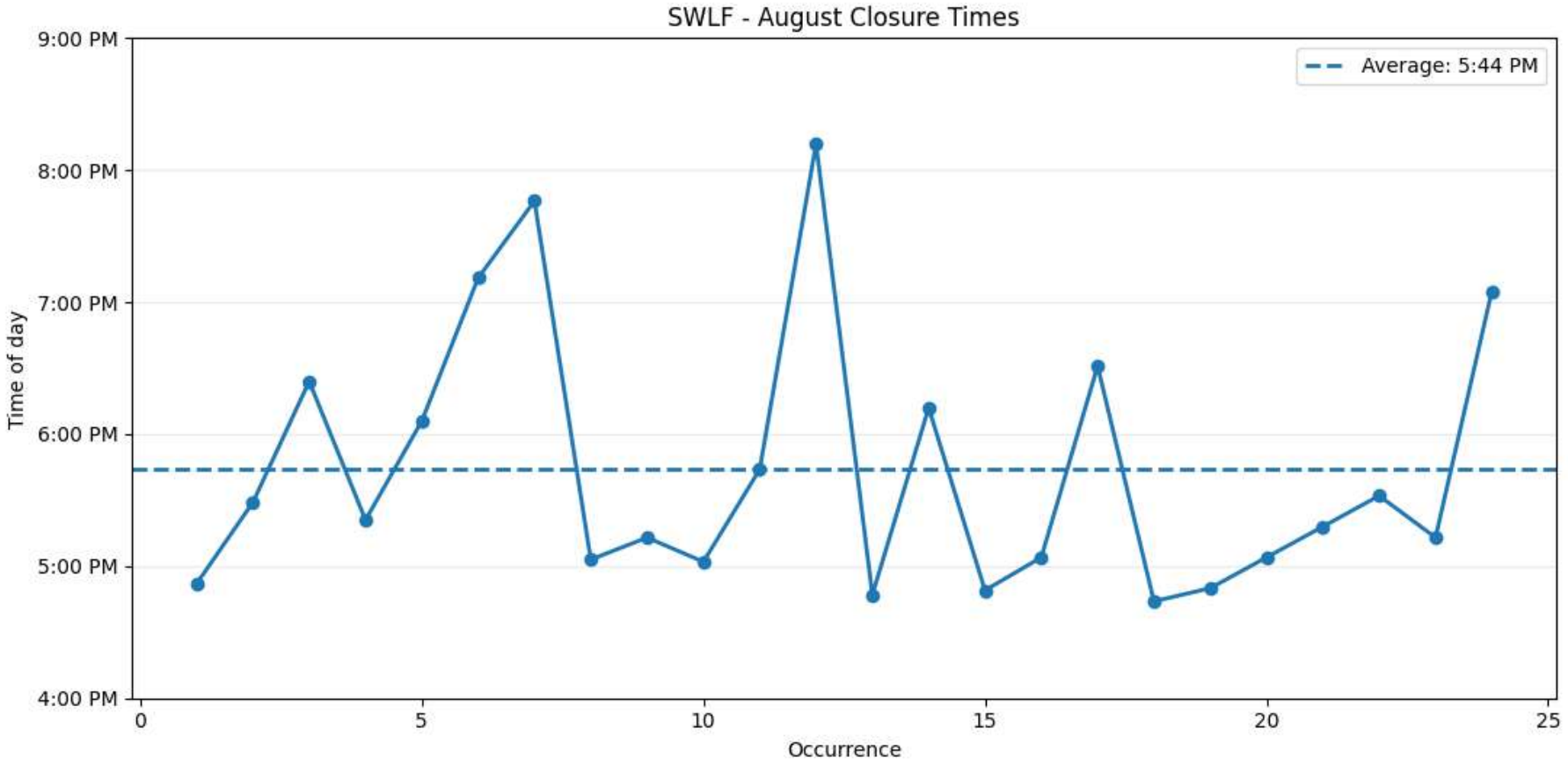
Overview

- Introductions
- GFL Improvements & Investments
- Wake County Improvements & Investments
- Odor Reporting Trends & Metrics
- Community Outreach Initiatives
- Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study
- Future of this Committee

GFL
Improvements & Investments

Operational Update – GFL

- August average closure time – 5:44 PM
- Current elevation – 398'. Phase 2C, lift 3.
- Daily cover, holiday & weekly full cover
- Misting system

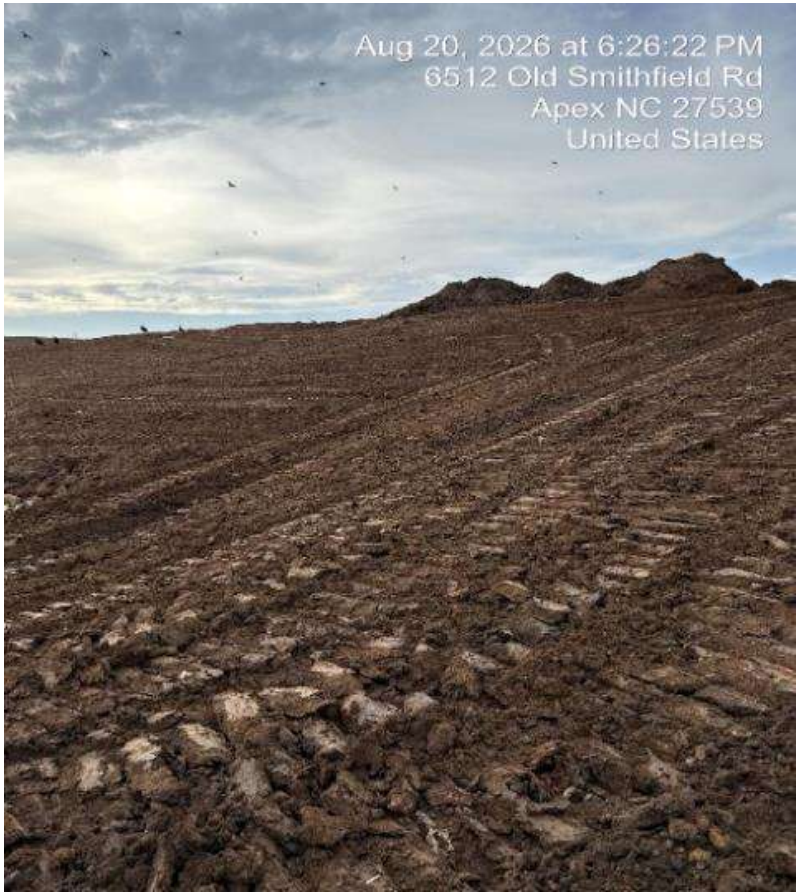

SWLF - August Closure Times
Average: 5:44 PM
9:00 PM
8:00 PM
7:00 PM
6:00 PM
5:00 PM
4:00 PM
Time of day
0
5
10
15
20
25
Occurrence

Working Face



Full Soil Cover





Alternative Daily Cover (Tarps)





Perfume Misting System



Wake County
Improvements & Investments

Landfill Gas turned into Natural Gas

MIKE PROCTOR
WAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITIES MANAGER-LFG

How is Landfill Gas turned into Natural Gas

- Strip the unwanted gases
- Each gas requires a different step
- It's done in real time through the plant
- The unwanted gases are destroyed in a flare….100% combustion

Pipeline Quality for Enbridge

- 94-98% natural gas to put in the pipeline
- Many steps throughout the plant to check gas quality. 7 instruments
- Enbridge also has their quality checks as well before receiving gas
- Any issues with gas quality is shut down and the plant has to burn off (flare) until quality is sufficient



We are currently sending 3200 scfm of LFG



We completed our landfill gas well expansion (September) and increased capturing another 250-300 scfm



Archaea is a lifetime plant….built to last the LFG volume that we produce.

Your trash is heating homes, cooking food, etc.

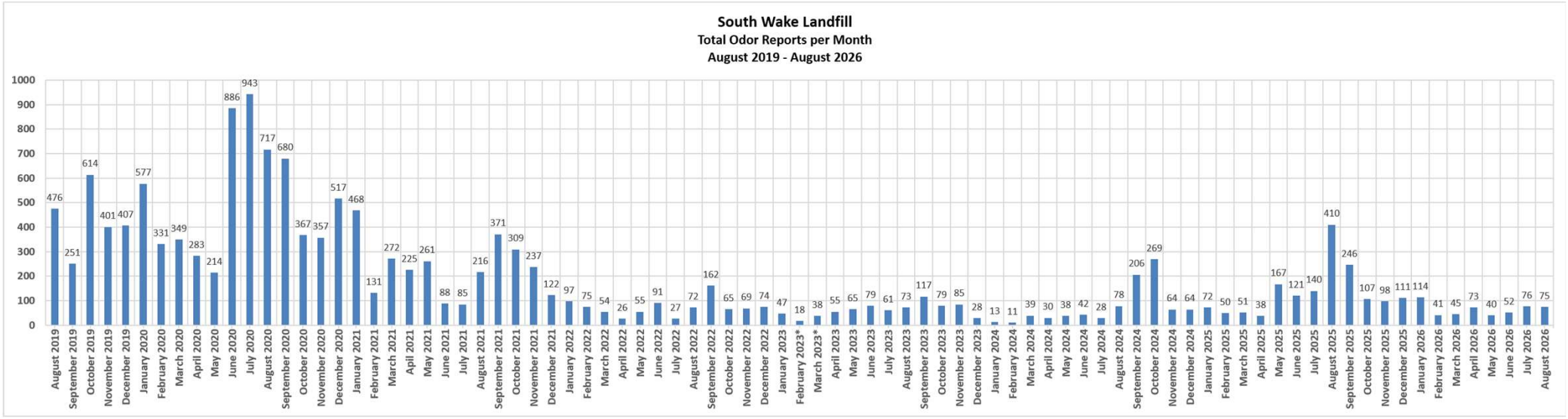
Questions….

I love to talk about LFG and our efforts at the South Wake Landfill



Odor Reporting Trends & Metrics

Average Odor Reports Per Month Have Declined Since August 2019



What Do Odor Reports from the Last Six Months Tell Us?

"Likely from SWLF" Reports

- March: 31
- April: 47
- May: 35
- June: 42
- July: 60
- August: 63

Target Monthly Metrics

- 100 or less "likely from SWLF"
- 200 or less total reports
- Likely odor target last missed in Sept. 2025 (208 reports)
- Total target last missed in Sept. 2025 (246 submissions)

Outreach & Communications

Waste Prevention Grants Due Oct. 16

- Businesses, schools, & nonprofits can apply
- Awards from $1,000 to $10,000
- Projects complete in 12 months
- Four projects underway



Crosslink Community Garden is using grant funds to create a drive-through system for food scraps collection in Raleigh.

Wake Up to Fall with our Outreach Team



- State Fair, Oct. 15 -25
- Litter Cleanup, Nov. 7
- Beech Bluff Grateful Harvest Festival, Nov. 7
- Cary Harvest Fest, Nov. 21

Composting will be the focus of our display at the State Fair in Raleigh next month.

Check Your Inbox!



WAKE COUNTY | Solid Waste Management Division

SOUTH WAKE LANDFILL

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.

- Semiannual SWLF Newsletter:
  - 2.8K+ subscribers
  - 69% open
- Monthly Wake Up to Waste Newsletter:
  - 9K+ subscribers
  - 55% open
- Beyond the SWLF Study

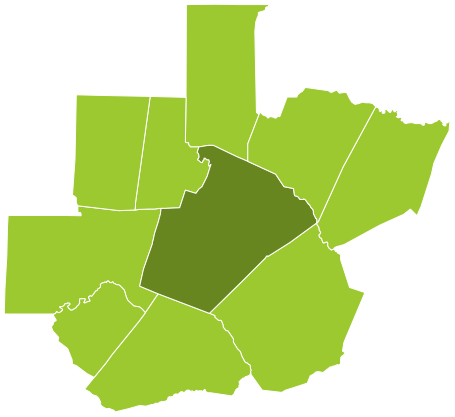
“Beyond the South Wake Landfill” Study Update

Goals of the Beyond the SWLF Study

1. Objectively evaluate long-term solid waste disposal options

2. Engage stakeholders and the public in the decision-making process





3. Solidify local partnerships and explore regional partnerships

4. Develop an adaptive plan for implementing the preferred option

Public Engagement Phase
May – August 2026

- Hosted 5 open houses focused on the study
- Tabled at 11 events in 8 of Wake's 12 municipalities
- Received more than 1,900 responses to survey
- Participation from every zip code in Wake
- Strong response residents of Holly Springs & Apex
- Top two zip codes were 27540 and 27526

Want to Explore the Options?



- Visit wake.gov/beyondswlf
- Click on “Get Involved”
- Click “View information in our virtual room!” button

What Comes Next?

- Survey results analysis
- Next Solid Waste Management Director to continue study
- Present to County Commissioners in early 2027
- Refine options and costs for preferred solution



What is the Future of This Committee?

Questions?