

Solid Waste Assessment Questions and Answers

1. What is a Solid Waste Assessment? As solid waste assessment is a charge imposed against residential property to fund solid waste management and disposal services, facilities, and programs. A solid waste assessment must be fair and reasonably apportioned and provide a benefit to the property.
2. What are the solid assessment rates? The proposed solid waste assessment is \$112 per dwelling unit.
3. What is included in the disposal cost? The disposal cost is what it costs the county to dispose of your trash on an annual basis and does not include hauling trash to the landfill. Currently there are private haulers, if your chose, to haul your trash to landfill, for which they charge a fee and would continue to do so under this assessment.
4. Will there be a reduction in my hauling fee since the haulers will not have to pay for disposal at the landfill? That will be solely determined by your private hauler.
5. With this assessment, will I still have to pay by the pound to drop off my garbage? No, you will be allowed to drop all your residential trash off at the landfill without an additional disposal charge.
6. What are the FDEP requirements for the transfer station which are not being met? We are not containing our leachate (liquid run-off) at the current transfer station causing potential ground water issues. We have not closed, to DEP specifications, our landfill. FDEP permit regulations, Section 62-701.600 Landfill Final Closure of the Florida Administrative Code (FAC), require that a landfill be closed within one year after waste is no longer collected. Closure of this landfill is well past this requirement.
7. What happens to all of the money that is collected now from cash receipts? They are deposited in the County's Solid Waste Fund for operation of the landfill.
8. Does current cash flow fund operations at the landfill? No, they do not. Current cash collections are not meeting the needs of operations.
9. How much money is coming in to the county from current operations? We collect approximately \$800,000 a year at the landfill from our cash receipts.
10. Will this be a yearly assessment? Yes, it will be annual.

11. If so, why is this new assessment being imposed on the citizens? To better maintain and operate the County's solid waste program. Also to ensure that all trash generated in the County goes through the landfill since every household will pay for the trash they generate.
12. How was this service being paid for in the past? Cash receipts at the landfill.
13. What is "curb side pickup and recycling" versus "just disposal"? Curbside pick-up would include the cost of having your trash pick-up as well as disposed at the landfill. It would be mandatory and the county would contract with a trash hauler to provide this service, which would require an higher assessment charge.
14. What is covered in the USDA Loan for the Transfer Station that will be supported by the Assessment? The loan component of the USDA-RD program will provide \$1,495,000 in funding for the construction of the transfer station. The proposed loan of \$1,495,000, at interest rate of 3.50% and a 38-year amortization period, produces an annual debt service of \$71,745. Since there is no pre-payment penalty for this loan, the County has the option to pay down this loan sooner than the 38-year schedule. In the PER submitted with our application to the USDA-RD, the loan repayment was based on the implementation of a special assessment. Should the assessment not be in place to support the debt payments, the County would have to provide the USDA-RD another "dedicated" source of revenue for debt repayment. The only other source funding available to secure this loan funding for repayment is the General Fund.
15. Who will be exempt from paying the Solid Waste Assessment? Government owned properties.
16. Will there be a hardship exemption?
17. When is the public hearing? September 9, 2010 at 6:00pm at the new Wakulla County Community Center, 318 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville, Florida(The former New Life Church Property)