

Ben Hill County Solid Waste – Frequently Asked Questions and Concerns

WHY?

Why is the solid waste process changing?

The change will save Ben Hill County approximately \$200,000. It also allows residents in unincorporated areas the *option* to enroll in curbside trash pickup—previously only available in areas near the City of Fitzgerald. This transition will also free up the County Road Department to focus more on road maintenance. It's important to note that curbside pickup is *optional*.

HOW?

STEP 1:

Contact **Golden Environmental** at **(229) 426-5075** to request curbside trash service.

STEP 2:

Golden Environmental will provide you with a service form.

Complete the form and return it **by email** or **in person/mail** to:

544 Camp Brooklyn Road, Fitzgerald, GA 31750

STEP 3:

Trash can delivery will begin on **August 1st, 2025**.

STEP 4:

Once your service begins, you will receive a **monthly bill** directly from Golden Environmental.

COST?

How much will the curbside trash can cost? Is this just another tax?

Residents who choose to participate in curbside service will pay **\$25 per month** directly to **Golden Environmental**, a private solid waste disposal company. Each additional trash can will cost **\$11.50 per month**. This is not a new county tax—residents will receive a monthly bill from Golden Environmental. Citizens will pay the fee and receive a service. Again, it's important to note that curbside pickup is *optional*.

I live in the county but already have trash service with the city.

You are currently paying **\$35 per month**. Customers who choose to switch to Golden Environmental will save **\$10 per month**. About **820 county residents** will benefit from this cost savings.

What if I don't want a curbside trash can?

County residents are not required to sign up for curbside service. Residents may continue to

dispose of their household waste at the two remaining dump sites: **Joshlyn Road** and **Westwood Drive**.

WHEN?

When will dumpsites begin to close?

Sites will be closed over the course of 4 weeks beginning on August 11th. The last day of operation for dumpsites which will be closed are as follows.

August 11th: Mobley Bluff Rd. and Sparrow Rd.

August 25th: Sturgeon Creek Rd. and Mc Pettigrew Rd. (Queensland)

September 9th: Othar Lee Rodgers Rd. and Ben Hill County Jail.

CONCERNS?

I have a long driveway and don't want to roll the can that far.

You may leave your trash can at the end of your driveway, allowing you to simply drop off your household trash when needed—avoiding the inconvenience of hauling it to a dumpsite.

I heard my regular dumpsite is closing—is that true?

Possibly. Only two dumpsites will remain open: **Joshlyn Road** and **Westwood Drive**. These sites will be expanded to accommodate the anticipated increase in use.

Is the county concerned about an increase in illegal dumping?

Yes, illegal dumping is and has always been a concern. The county will increase staffing and expand the capacity of the two remaining dump sites to help during this transition. The **Ben Hill County Sheriff's Office** will also be actively pursuing and prosecuting illegal dumping cases.

Why can't we just keep the current system?

While that was a possibility, continuing the current system is not financially sustainable. Changing our process would have to happen at some point. Switching to private service reduces county expenses, allows reallocation of Road Department staff, avoids costly equipment replacements, and ensures waste is managed by professionals who specialize in disposal services.

CUSTOMER SERVICE?

Will Golden Environmental provide good service?

Golden Environmental currently serves several nearby communities and has been managing industrial waste in Ben Hill County with positive results. As a private company, their success depends on customer satisfaction, and we expect reliable service. Golden currently operates

residential or commercial dumping in Atkinson, Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Tift, and Turner County.

What if I have issues with Golden Environmental?

If you experience problems, **contact Golden Environmental directly**, share your concerns, and give them the opportunity to correct the issue. As your service provider, they are committed to resolving customer concerns efficiently.