

Candler County Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill Proposed Closure FAQ

1. *When will the Candler County Landfill close?*

The Candler County Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfill is scheduled to close on October 1, 2025.

2. *Why is the landfill closing this year? This seems to be a sudden decision.*

Each year the Board of Commissioners conduct, with the help of the landfill engineer, a survey to determine the current capacity and future estimates for the landfill. During the past few years, as the county has grown, it has become apparent that the landfill was approaching its capacity at a faster pace than it was years ago. The Board believes that this will continue, and likely accelerate, as new business and residents move into our county.

The county is required, under state law, to maintain adequate funds to ensure that it can meet the ongoing maintenance costs of the landfill post closure. Although the county has maintained those funds as required, the actual cost to close the landfill has increased significantly in the past four (4) years due to inflation which resulted in a cost to close, cover, cap, grade and vegetate the landfill that exceeds \$4-\$4.5 million.

The county has set aside roughly \$2.1 million for these costs, and has been setting aside between \$80,000 and \$150,000 each year, but the cost for the closure has been increasing faster than the county can save funds.

In order to slow down this progress to a forced closure, and to make sure the county can control the expense for the taxpayers, it is necessary to close the landfill to reduce operational costs so that those funds can be used to work toward a permanent closure.

This strategy is much preferable to having to raise additional funds to close the landfill in one year, either now or in the future, by raising taxes significantly. By handling the closure in this manner, we seek to avoid that type of impact to the taxpayers. Although this seems sudden, these conversations have been going on for the past few years each fall when the capacity report is received and during our budget discussions.

3. *How much is the closing costs and how much has the county saved?*

As stated above, the county's engineers estimate that the closure cost will be somewhere between \$4 million and \$5 million dollars. The county currently has closure reserves of \$2,100,000.

4. *After the closure will there be future monitoring costs?*

Yes, there will be an ongoing cost for the closed landfill. We believe that cost will be \$200,000 - \$250,000 per year.

5. *What will happen to the county and city of Metter municipal waste?*

The county and city will need to find another location for the municipal waste. As of right now, the county anticipates contracting with Allgreen/Atlantic for disposal of the waste as

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well as collection (which they already do). Waste will need to be hauled outside the county for disposal and there is a cost for that.

6. Will the taxes go up because of the closure?

The Board anticipates an increase in the annual garbage fee in the unincorporated area of the county. The unincorporated area is the areas outside the city limits of Pulaski and Metter. Those residents will have an additional charge of \$66 per year for the disposal costs of the waste, since it is no longer able to be taken to the landfill.

7. Will the annual fees for garbage continue to go up each year?

The waste collection fee (\$168/yr.) and the waste disposal fee (\$66/yr.) are fees provided by a contractor (Allgreen/Atlantic) on a fee for service agreement with the county. The contract stipulates that the vendor is entitled to cost increases each year as determined by inflation rates. The fees collected for these services are paid directly to the vendor and are not used for other purposes by the county.

8. Will residents still be able to use the landfill after October 1, 2025?

No. The MSW landfill will not be accepting any waste after that date.

The county's recycling and collection center will still be open and residents may deposit small loads of household garbage in the bins at that location.

In addition, the inert landfill will remain open to residents to take yard waste for a fee.