

2015 SOLID WASTE NEEDS ASSESSMENT DECATUR COUNTY, TENNESSEE



**This Report is required by the
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1991
(TCA 68-211-801 through 68-211-874)**



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 14th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

**Prepared by the
SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
102 East College Street, Jackson, Tennessee 38301**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
Preface	
Regional Solid Waste Management Planning	i
Solid Waste Needs Assessments.....	ii
Solid Waste Planning Region - General Profile	iii
Item 1	Demographic Information and Projections..... 2
Item 2	Analysis of Economic Activity within the Region 4
Item 3	Characteristics of the Solid Waste Stream 5
Item 4	Solid Waste Collection Systems 9
Item 5	Analysis of Existing/Potential Solid Waste Flows within & between Regions 11
Item 6	Analysis of Attitude of Region toward Waste Management in General and Specify Needed Changes and/or Educational Measures 14
Item 7	Evaluation of the Waste Reduction Systems for Counties and Municipalities in Region..... 14
Item 8	Collection/Disposal Capacity and Projected Life of Solid Waste Sites 15
Item 9	Unmet Financial Needs and Cost Summary..... 16
Item 10	Comparison of Revenue Sources for the Region’s Current Solid Waste Programs with Projected Future Demands..... 16
Item 11	Sustainable Goals Consistent with the State Plan..... 16

LIST OF CHARTS

1. Population by Year by Jurisdiction in Decatur County, TN.....	3
2. Decatur County Solid Waste Department Organizational Chart.....	10

LIST OF MAPS

Decatur County, Tennessee - Municipalities and Facilities	1
--	----------

LIST OF TABLES

1. Population Estimates and Projections – Decatur County.....	3
2. Per Capita Income – County and Cities	4
3. Businesses by NAICS (Decatur County)	4
4. Solid Waste Disposed of by the Decatur County Solid Waste Department – Actual (2000-2013) and Projected (2014-2018)	6
5. Solid Waste Recycled and Diverted from Class I Landfills by Public and Private Programs in Decatur County (2010-2014).....	7
6. Decatur County Solid Waste Facilities	13
7. Meeting the 25 % Solid Waste Reduction Goal – Decatur County (2013).....	12
8. Landfill Capacity and Life Span.....	12
9. Decatur County Solid Waste Department Expenditures and Revenues (2014-2015 Proposed Budget).....	13

Preface

In an effort to coordinate and plan for safe, efficient solid waste disposal in the state, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted several pieces of legislation, which are compiled in Title 68, Chapter 211 of the *Tennessee Code Annotated*. To comply with the requirements of this chapter, all local governments must engage in specified planning and organizational activities (See the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991, T.C.A. §§ 68-211-801 through 68-211-874).

Regional Solid Waste Management Planning

To begin implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act, counties were instructed to form solid waste regions (single or multi-county) and establish a solid waste board. Each region was required to formulate a 10-year plan for collection and disposal of solid waste in the area and submit this plan to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Each municipal solid waste region must submit an annual progress report and 5-Year Plan Update (T.C.A. § 68-211-814). The plan, and any revised plan, submitted by each region must be consistent with the state solid waste plan and with all relevant state laws and regulations.

At a minimum, each plan must contain the following items:

- Demographic information and projections;
- Analysis of economic activity in the Region;
- Characterization of the waste stream;
- Projection of solid waste generation;
- Evaluation of collection systems within the Region;
- Current system analysis of waste streams, collection capability, disposal capability, costs, and revenues;
- Description of waste reduction activities designed to attain the required 25 percent reduction in solid waste;
- Description of education initiatives designed to achieve the goals stated in the statute; and,
- Any other information the commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation deems relevant.

In order that the regional planning effort is implemented on a solid foundation of relevant and objective knowledge of local conditions, the Act requires the Development Districts to coordinate, conduct and maintain a Needs Assessment for each solid waste region. This Assessment shall be revised every five years.

Solid Waste Needs Assessments

The State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) contracted with the Southwest Tennessee Development District (SWTDD) to prepare this Solid Waste Needs Assessment. The planning window for these needs assessments is every five years. Thus, this report’s period of applicability will be from 2015 through 2020.

Sources consulted to compile demographic and economic statistics for this report include the U.S. Census Bureau, the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), the University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TDECD), Annual Progress Reports (APRs) of the Decatur County Solid Waste Planning Region, the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce, and other sources. Some estimates and projections in this document may differ from one another based on the source of the information the type of methodology used to develop the numbers, and/or the year the estimate or projection was made, however, every effort was made to select and use the most reliable information available.

Three documents from the past specifically addressing solid waste services in Decatur County were reviewed. They were the Municipal Solid Waste Regional Plan for the Decatur County Solid Waste Region (1994) by Kevin Tucker Design Group and the Decatur County Solid Waste Needs Assessment (2009) by the Southwest Tennessee Development District. Annual Progress Reports were also consulted when drafting this report.

This Decatur County, Tennessee, Solid Waste Needs Assessment, 2015 was prepared by Thomas Skehan, Environmental Programs Coordinator with SWTDD; under the direction of R. Ashby Barnes of TDEC’s Division of Solid Waste Management. The document “Guidelines for Preparing Solid Waste Needs Assessments”, updated by TDEC in September of 2012, was used to establish the format of this report.

For more information on the 2015 Decatur County, Tennessee, Solid Waste Needs Assessment please contact Southwest Tennessee Development District, 102 East College Street, Jackson, Tennessee 38301 | 731-668-7112 | swtdd@swtdd.org.

Solid Waste Planning Region – General Profile

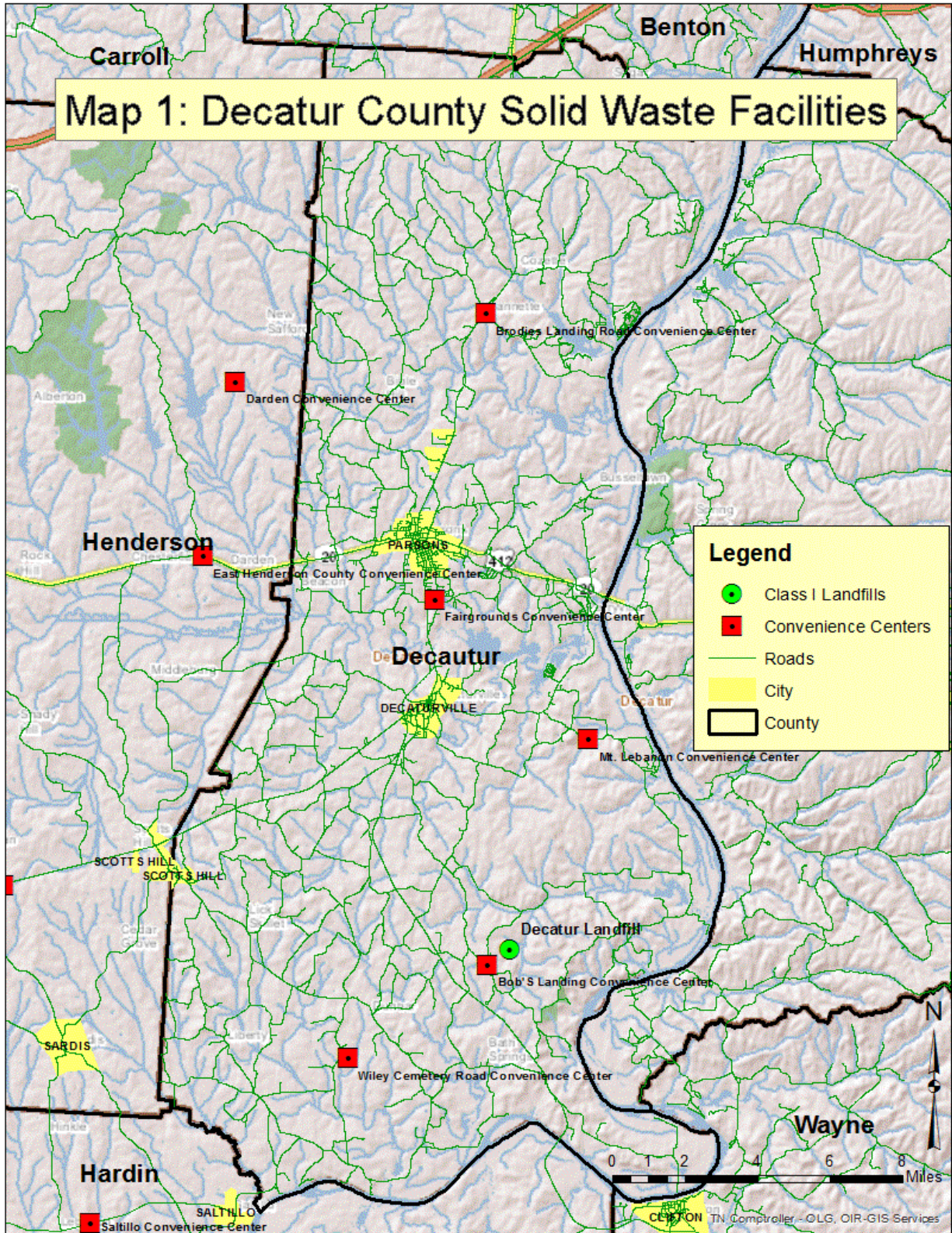
The Decatur County Solid Waste Planning Region consists of one county—Decatur County, Tennessee. Located roughly midway between Memphis and Nashville the planning region has one Class I landfill and five convenience centers.

Decatur County is located in the easternmost portion of Tennessee’s West Tennessee Grand Division and is principally bordered by Benton County to the north; Henderson County on the west; Hardin County on the south and Perry County on the east. Decatur County has an area of 345 square miles and is governed by a county mayor and 18 county commissioners. Michael Creasy was sworn in as mayor of Decatur County on September 1, 2014.

The City of Decaturville is the county seat and second largest municipality in Decatur County. Decaturville is located in the south central portion of the county. Other incorporated municipalities in the county are Parsons and part of Scott’s Hill.

Decatur County’s transportation needs are primarily served by Interstate 40, US Highway 412, Tennessee River, State Highways 69 and 100 and the Beech River Airport in Henderson County. The airport offers commercial flight service. Passenger flights are available at McKellar-Sipes in Jackson TN approximately 40 miles to the east. The Alvin C. York Bridge on U.S. Highway 412 near Perryville into Perry County and the John C. Wilder Bridge on Tennessee Highway 114 near Bath Springs into Hardin County are the only two bridges that span the Tennessee River. Ferry services are no longer a public transportation option in Decatur County.

Four public schools in Decatur County: two elementary schools; one junior high school; and one high school are located in the county. The University of Tennessee at Martin extension campus located in Parsons.

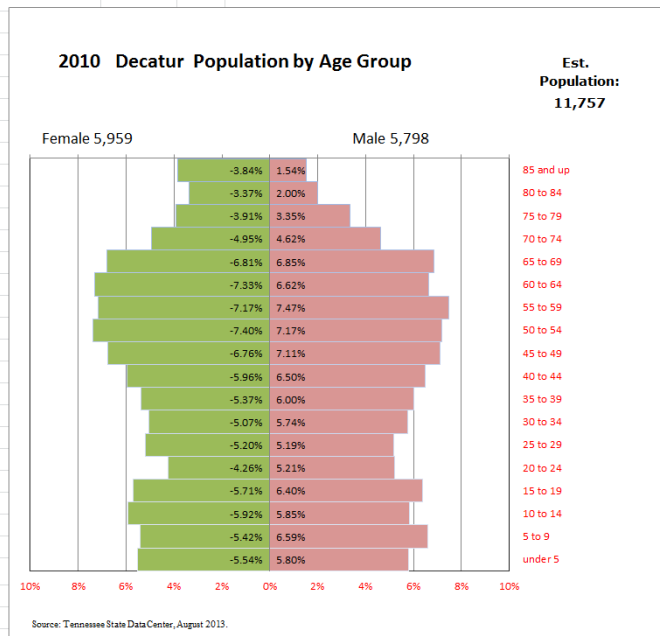


Item 1 – Demographic Information and Projections

Like many other counties in West Tennessee, Decatur County’s population trend over that last fifteen years and for the next five years was is and will be fairly flat (Chart 1). With the exception of Scotts Hill (in both Henderson and Decatur County) this flat growth rate is also evident is all of the municipalities in Decatur County. As is typical for many rural areas in Tennessee, much of the younger population leaves the county after high school, either for college or technical training at institutions outside Decatur County, or for employment in larger cities. However, Decatur County has benefitted from a recent trend of retirees relocating to Decatur County. This is supported by Census data showing the median age for Tennessee as 38.0 years and the median age for Decatur County at 44.3 years. Some of these retirees are natives of Decatur County returning home while others are attracted by the attributes of Decatur County— waterfront living on the Tennessee River/Kentucky Lake; relatively mild Southern winters; comparatively low cost of living; friendly, welcoming communities; and the convenience of nearby attractions and services owing to Decatur County’s proximity to Jackson, Nashville, and Memphis.

Age Group	Female	Male	Grand Total
under 5	330	336	666
5 to 9	323	382	705
10 to 14	353	339	692
15 to 19	340	371	711
20 to 24	254	302	556
25 to 29	310	301	611
30 to 34	302	333	635
35 to 39	320	348	668
40 to 44	355	377	732
45 to 49	403	412	815
50 to 54	441	416	857
55 to 59	427	433	860
60 to 64	437	384	821
65 to 69	406	397	803
70 to 74	295	268	563
75 to 79	233	194	427
80 to 84	201	116	317
85 and up	229	89	318
Grand Total	5,959	5,798	11,757

[Click Here For POPULATION BY RACE Options](#)



DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

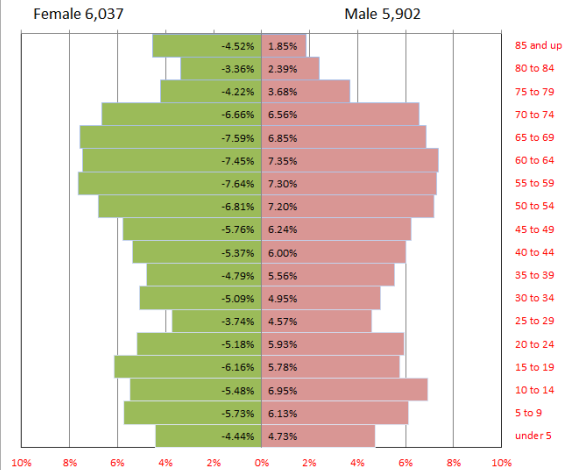
2015 Decatur Population by Age Group

Age Group	Female	Male	Grand Total
under 5	268	279	547
5 to 9	346	362	708
10 to 14	331	410	741
15 to 19	372	341	713
20 to 24	313	350	663
25 to 29	226	270	496
30 to 34	307	292	599
35 to 39	289	328	617
40 to 44	324	354	678
45 to 49	348	368	716
50 to 54	411	425	836
55 to 59	461	431	892
60 to 64	450	434	884
65 to 69	458	404	862
70 to 74	402	387	789
75 to 79	255	217	472
80 to 84	203	141	344
85 and up	273	109	382
Grand Total	6,037	5,902	11,939

[Click Here For POPULATION BY RACE Options](#)

2015 Decatur Population by Age Group

Est. Population: 11,939



Source: Tennessee State Data Center, August 2013.

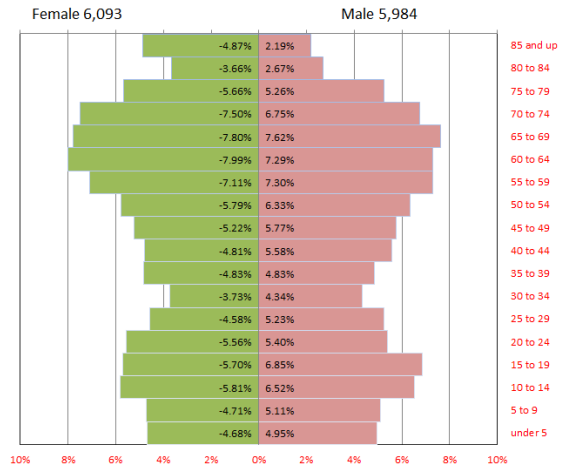
2020 Decatur Population by Age Group

Age Group	Female	Male	Grand Total
under 5	285	296	581
5 to 9	287	306	593
10 to 14	354	390	744
15 to 19	347	410	757
20 to 24	339	323	662
25 to 29	279	313	592
30 to 34	227	260	487
35 to 39	294	289	583
40 to 44	293	334	627
45 to 49	318	345	663
50 to 54	353	379	732
55 to 59	433	437	870
60 to 64	487	436	923
65 to 69	475	456	931
70 to 74	457	404	861
75 to 79	345	315	660
80 to 84	223	160	383
85 and up	297	131	428
Grand Total	6,093	5,984	12,077

[Click Here For POPULATION BY RACE Options](#)

2020 Decatur Population by Age Group

Est. Population: 12,077



Source: Tennessee State Data Center, August 2013.

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

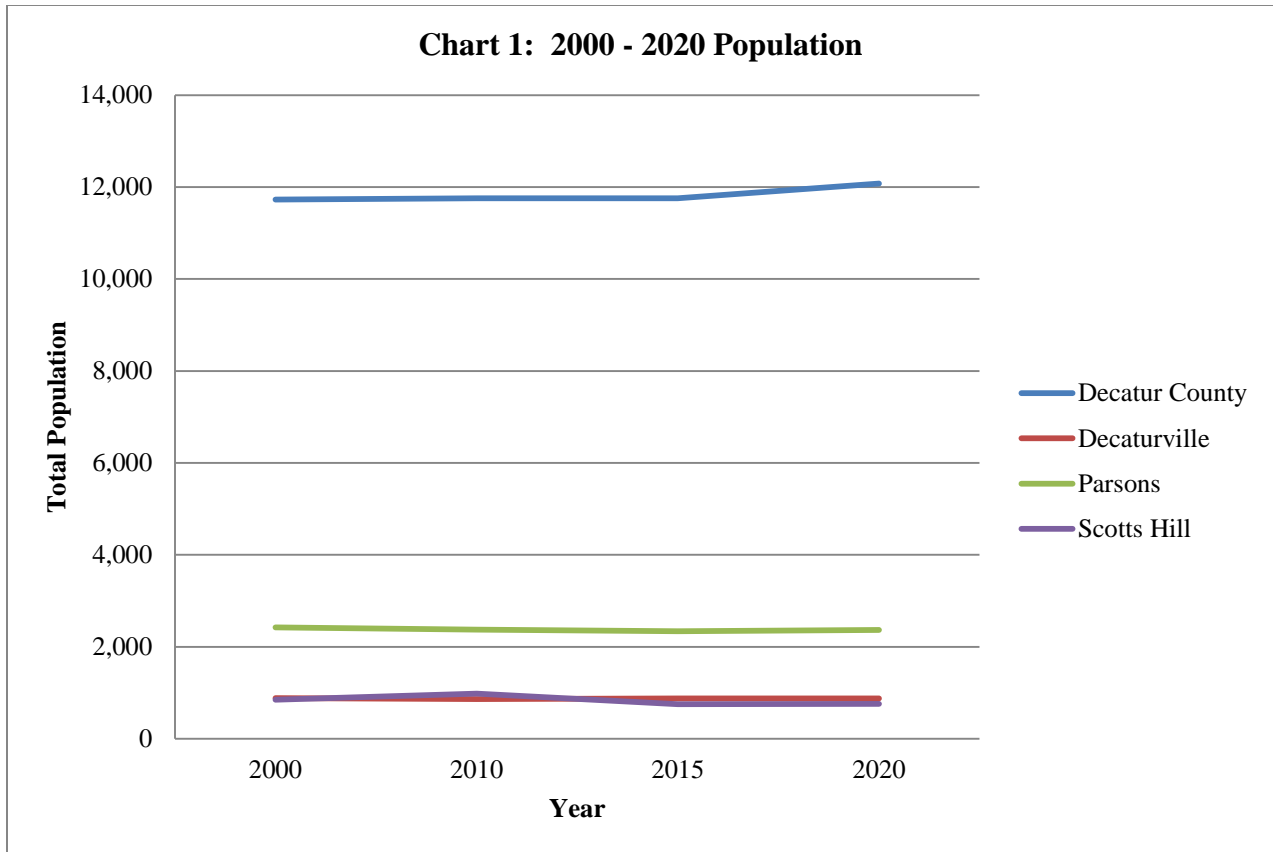
Table 1 presents past population estimates and future population projections for Decatur County from 2000 to 2020. Estimates and projections for the cities of Decaturville, Parsons, and Scotts Hill are also illustrated.

With no anticipated growth in the county’s population the demand for waste disposal services will fall mainly on the municipalities within the county rather than on the county itself. In fact, the projected decline in rural residents indicates that the county’s solid waste infrastructure will experience a decline in use. This is not to say that the rate of recycling cannot be improved but to say that population growth will not fuel the material tonnage demand.

More important to Decatur County’s Solid Waste equation is population density. Tennessee’s population density is 35.2 persons per square mile. Decatur County’s population density is 15.9. With a density more than one half the state’s average, impact, outreach, collection become principal issues.

TABLE 1: Population by Year by Jurisdiction in Decatur County, TN							
Jurisdiction	2000	2010	2015	2020	% Change 2000 - 2010	% Change 2010 - 2015	% Change 2015 - 2020
Decatur County	11,731	11,757	11,760	12,077	0.22%	0.03%	2.70%
Decaturville	886	867	879	879	-2.14%	1.38%	0.00%
Parsons	2,426	2,373	2,338	2,369	-2.18%	-1.47%	1.33%
Scotts Hill*	851	984	753	761	15.63%	-23.48%	1.06%
Total Municipalities	4,163	4,224	3,970	4,009	1.47%	-6.01%	0.98%
County Balance	7,568	7,533	7,790	8,068	-0.46%	3.41%	3.57%

2000 and 2010 Data from the US Census Bureau; 2015 and 2020 Population Projections for the State of Tennessee University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research (UTCBER) Scotts Hill is not affiliated with the Decatur County Solid Waste Region but is included since part of the town is located in Decatur County.



2000 and 2010 Data from the US Census Bureau; 2015 and 2020 Population Projections for the State of Tennessee University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research (UTCBER) Scotts Hill is not affiliated with the Decatur County Solid Waste Region but is included since part of the town is located in Decatur County.

Item 2 – Analysis of Economic Activity within the Region

Economic indicators, like the aforementioned demographic data, are at best stable over the last ten years and, at worse, on the decline over the last ten years. The recent economic downturn in the nation’s economy has disproportionately had a negative effect on Decatur County. In the 2012, 2013, and 2104 Audit held at the State of Tennessee Comptrollers office Local Taxes Revenue overall (Exhibit C-3 – State of Tennessee Comptrollers Audit) decreased between 2012 and 2013 with \$2,939,048 to \$2,726,695 and slightly increased in 2014 but still less than the 2012 amount \$2,793,766. Solidwaste/Sanitation Taxes from 2012 went from \$259,151 to being completely eliminated from the books by 2013 and 2014. It is anticipated that some of the economic data reported below will improve given the county’s close proximity to the Jackson TN metropolitan area.

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

This Needs Assessment will not focus on unemployment rates since the author found no research showing that this economic indicator adds any additional understanding of factors influencing waste streams.

TABLE 2: Per Capita Income – County and Cities				
Jurisdiction	2000	2010	2013	2010-2013
Decatur County	\$17,285	\$19,757	\$25,318	\$5,561
Decaturville	\$14,864	\$16,324	\$15,412	(\$912)
Parsons	\$18,077	\$16,952	\$20,344	\$3,392
Scotts Hill	\$19,141	\$24,007	\$22,241	(\$1,766)

US Census Bureau (Decennial Census and ACS)

TABLE 3: Businesses and Employees by Industry in Decatur County (2002, 2007 & 2012)							
		2002		2007		2012	
Code	Industry	Employees	Establishments	Employees	Establishments	Employees	Establishments
31-33	Manufacturing	33	791	27	765	22	443
42	Wholesale	5	-	3		N/A	
44	Retail	48	486	56	433	N/A	
51	Information	7	100	8	84	N/A	
53	Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	3	-	5	6	N/A	
54	Professional, Scientific & Technical services	17	47	18	84	N/A	
56	Administrative, Support, Waste Management Remediation Services	7	46	8	87	N/A	
62	Health care & Social Assistance	17	625	22	945	N/A	
71	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4	9	3		N/A	
72	Accommodation & Food Services	25	156	21	176	N/A	
81	Other services (except Public Administration)	19	65	19	68	N/A	
	Total	185	2,325	190	2,648	22	443

US Census Bureau or calculations based directly on said data. N/A Not Available from 2012 ACS.

Specifically, according to the Chamber of Commerce, Decatur County’s largest employers include:

- Kolpak/Manitowoc Company 285 employees
- Vulcan Materials 49 employees
- Teague Brothers Sand & Gravel 25 employees
- Tinker - Watkins Sand & Gravel 18 employees
- American Manufacturing 14 employees
- RJS Industrial Services 13 employees
- Hayes Machining 12 employees
- B & R Sales 12 employees

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

- Nutronics Incorporated 10 employees
- Volner’s Sawmill 10 employees

Property tax and sales tax revenues do not necessary influence the waste stream but does influences the resources the county has to address solid waste issues. Property tax revenues (\$1.99 per \$100 value) have been fairly flat in recent years but retail sales tax collections have steadily increased according to Tennessee’s Economic & Community Development (1997 \$65,149, 2007 \$98,877 and 2012 \$859,716).

The 2013 per capita income for Decatur County is estimated by the US Census Bureau at \$25,318. This represents an increase of \$5,561 or 28%. This is evidence that the economic profile of the county is improving.

Table 3 shows that, between the years 2002 and 2007 the county’s business climate was relatively healthy, with an overall increase in the number of employers and employees.

The given economic data above leads one to a similar conclusion as with the slow population growth: those economic forces likely will cause only a small increase in the county’s waste generation over the next five to ten years. The increase in the number of employers presents an opportunity to reach out to these companies for more opportunities to recycle their production or packaging materials.

Item 3 – Characteristics of the Solid Waste Stream

Virtually all of the solid waste disposed of in Decatur County is generated within the county.

Table 4 shows the amount of waste disposed of by Decatur County since 2010 and makes predictions for the amount of solid waste to be disposed of from 2015 through 2020.

The amount of solid waste disposed of in Decatur County has decreased considerably since 2012 due to an increase in the amount of local recycling. The largest amount of solid waste disposed of in Decatur County was 9,900 tons in 2012. The smallest known amount disposed of was 4,895 tons in 2013 (the 2014 APR has not been finalized).

The best prediction is that the amount of solid waste disposed of by Decatur County will likely remain in the 13,000 ton to 16,000 ton range over the next few years based on local population

and economic trends in the county. All well within Decatur County’s capacity and ability to handle its waste disposal needs for the coming fifteen years.

Regarding Waste Flow, the Decatur County Solid Waste Department estimates that 70 percent of the waste it disposes of is residential in origin, 15 percent commercial, 10 percent industrial, and five percent institutional.

Problem wastes; such as batteries, oil and oil filters, and tires; are collected year round by the Decatur County Solid Waste Department at its convenience centers and its landfill. The county, however, does not collect antifreeze nor does the county sponsor household hazardous wastes collection events.

TABLE 4: SOLID WASTE DISPOSED OF BY THE DECATUR COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT ACTUAL (2000–2013) AND PROJECTED (2014–2018)	
Year	Disposed Tons
2010	7,758
2011	7,948
2012	9,900
2013	4,895
2014	N/A (estimated at 4,800)
2015	N/A (estimated at 4,700)
2016	4,600
2017	4,550
2018	4,500
2019	4,450
2020	4,400

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Decatur County Solid Waste Department

Waste tires will likely remain a problem for the county over the next five years. The county will reevaluate their strategy regarding discharged tires after the State’s new tire program has been in effect for a year.

The county still does not collect latex paint or e-waste. The county should re-evaluate the potential markets for these commodities. Used oil is, however, collected and then transported by a certified transporter.

Industrial and commercial wastes are still handled either in-house by the company or are picked up by a contractor or city. The county does not pickup recyclables. Much of the waste collected by the independent haulers contracting with the businesses and industries is transported to the Fairgrounds Convenience Center, while the rest is taken to landfills in the surrounding area depending on the hauler. Overall, Decatur County plans to continue the current solid waste disposal plan for the next five years given the absence of population growth and a less-than-dynamic local economy.

Decatur County recycled or diverted 425 tons of solid waste from Class I landfills in 2013. This is a considerable improvement over previous years where 20 tons were diverted in both 2010 and 2011. This data is probably underreported due to a failure to properly collect or report the data. The 2014 APR data was not available at this time.

TABLE 5: SOLID WASTE RECYCLED/DIVERTED FROM CLASS I LANDFILLS BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS (2010–2014)	
Year	Tons Recycled/Diverted
2010	20*
2011	20*
2012	425
2013	425
2014	N/A

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Decatur County Solid Waste Department. *Probably a data reporting or data collection error.

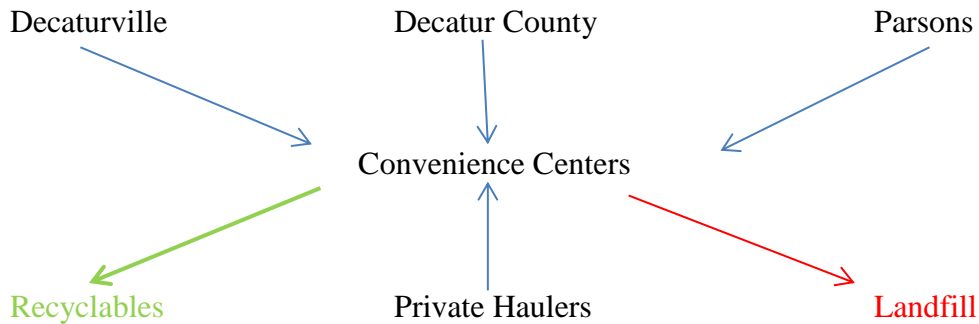
Decatur County works with local schools to collect sorted paper and cardboard. The county currently collects sorted paper and cardboard in all public schools. The county also partners with “Keep America Beautiful” in its “Stop Litter Program” to help reduce the amount of litter in the county.

Overall, the waste stream in Decatur County will be handled the same way using the same resources. This will undoubtedly lead to some of the same problems Decatur County has faced in the past as it relates to management, efficiency, efficacy and waste reduction.

Item 4 – Solid Waste Collection System

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

The current solid waste director for Decatur County is the County Mayor (Michael Creasy). While not an ideal the previous director, Robert Haynes, retired after the most recent election. Mayor Creasy promoted an existing employee that lobbied for the position but this individual was later relieved of the director’s position.



The Decatur County Solid Waste Regional Planning Board has also gone through a major restructuring since the election. Mayor Creasy did not like the previous habit of appointing the same individuals to numerous county boards. He intends to diversify the representation and thus hopes to appoint individuals that will take an active interest in the board and the solid waste issues that face the community.

Decatur County owns and operates a Class I landfill, the Decatur County Landfill, on a 300 acre tract at 75 Landfill Way south of Decaturville. The landfill accepts residential, commercial, and industrial wastes. Decatur County provides five convenience centers for solid waste collection. Each convenience center is open 64 hours per week (M-S 7 AM to 5 PM and Sunday 1 – 5 PM). The Decatur County Solid Waste Department has two full-time equivalent employees and three part-time equivalent employees. Decatur County does not charge residents for solid waste disposal services at their convenience centers. Landfill disposal fees for local industrial businesses are \$20.00 per ton.

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

There are several solid waste collection systems operating within Decatur County: (1) the county-operated drop-off system for rural residents and door-to-door collection systems in three municipalities.

Residents of the other municipalities in Decatur County are welcome to dispose of their solid waste in the county's convenience centers too if they deem it to be more convenient than their municipally-sponsored door-to-door collection services.

Decaturville offers curbside garbage pickup but no recycling pickup. City crews pickup garbage twice a week. On one day they focus on residential customers. On the other day, commercial accounts are handled. Residential customers are charged \$5.00 per month and commercial accounts are charged \$10.00 per month.

Parsons operates a collection system charging \$4.00 per month for once a week collections. The city will also pick up recyclables at the curb. Commercial customers are charged \$10 a month for weekly collection. The fee increases to \$50.00 per month if the business wishes daily pickups. The City has also introduced CNG vehicles to their fleet in the last year.

Item 5 - Analysis of Existing or Potential Solid Waste Flows within the Region and Between Adjacent Regions

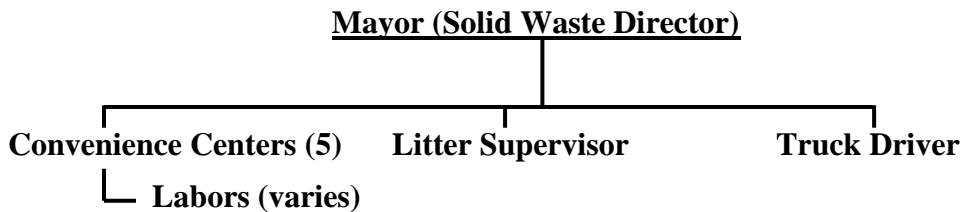
Virtually all of Decatur County's solid waste is disposed of within the county. Although the county has disposed of waste in other landfills outside the county in years past, the great majority of waste generated in Decatur County since 2006 has been disposed of in the Decatur County Landfill. Some waste generated by local industries is disposed of by contract with private haulers in out-of-county landfills including landfills in Tennessee.

The Decatur County is organized in the following flow chart illustration. The solid waste director has identified a need for three additional part-time employees in the county's Recycling Center located at the Decatur County Landfill or, as an alternative, seven inmates to be employed there. Inmates are required to work fewer hours than part-time employees thus the need for seven inmates versus three part-time employees.

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

The Solid Waste Director acknowledges that inmate labors and general workforce deficiencies are a problem in Decatur County. Increasing jail populations consist of State prisoners and these offenders are not allowed to provide labor for the department. In addition, finding competent labors to fill vacant positions or newly created positions is increasing difficult given improper work preparation or attitudes toward this type of employment.

CHART 2: Decatur County Solid Waste Organizational Chart



In general, Decatur County’s solid waste facilities are considered adequate to serve the county for the next five years and no major facility upgrades have been identified.

TABLE 6: DECATUR COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITIES

Facility	Address, City
Decatur Co. Class I Landfill	324 Landfill Ln, Bath Springs
Fairgrounds Convenience Center	275 Fairgrounds Road, Parsons
Bob's Landing Convenience Center	715 Bob's Landing Road, Bath Springs
Wylie Gardner Convenience Center	105 Wylie Gardner Cemetery Lane, Bath Springs
Jeanette Convenience Center	170 Brodie's Landing Rd, Parsons
Mt. Lebanon Convenience Center	1440 Mt. Carmel Road, Decaturville

Decatur County Solid Waste Department

Aside from reassigning onsite equipment, Decatur County has not specifically identified equipment needed to improve services.

One area the County will try to improve is the effort to increase participation in the business and industry waste reduction/recycling reporting program through the Development District. In the coming years, Decatur County and municipal officials will work more closely with major

businesses and industries in the Region to further expand the voluntary reporting program. This program is extremely important to the Region in their efforts to reach the 25% waste reduction goal using the “real time” calculation method. Finally, an e-waste recycling program should be implemented within the next 5 years to collect and eliminate electronics from the Class I waste stream.

Item 6 - Attitudes of Region towards Waste Management in General and Needed Changes and/or Educational Measures

Since 2007 Decatur County has not met its 25 percent waste reduction and diversion goal. More so than adding equipment, changing the attitudes of Decatur County residents will go a long way in meeting TDEC’s 25% reductions goals.

Current attitudes of the citizens of Decatur County toward recycling and waste reduction efforts have basically been about average for counties of similar size, population and economic vitality. While there are some residents that fully support and participate in the drop-off recycling program, most residents are still reluctant to view recycling and waste reduction as an option.

With the influx of new residents from other states in recent years, County officials have seen an increase in the level of interest from citizens. While this has probably led to an increase in participation, there still seems to be high level of apathy among most residents pertaining to waste reduction and recycling, although the County has provided ample opportunity for all residents. While there is an effort to educate children in schools, there are no current educational measures in place to change the negative attitude many have towards recycling. The general feeling is that most residents approve of recycling as an option to waste disposal but are not motivated to participate consistently. There is a need for an increase in educational awareness programs to change citizen’s behavior. Decatur County unfortunately does not have the funds to implement a program of this nature at this time. Much of the attention is focused on litter control and illegal dumping activities. If measures could be implemented, a program designed to show the public the environmental and financial benefits to the community of recycling and waste reduction programs.

Item 7 – Evaluation of the Waste Reduction Systems for Counties and Municipalities in the Region

Table 7 shows the most recent available data for Decatur County’s reduction rate. The table also shows that the county is not meeting the diversion goals of all methods available.

TABLE 7: MEETING THE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION GOAL (2013)						
Year	Generation (Disposal + Diversion (Tons)	Disposal (Tons)	Reduction Population Ratio	Reduction Population / Economy Ratio	Real Time Comparison	Per- Capita Rate
2013	8,362	6,994	4%	-14%	16%	.6

Source: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

As noted earlier in this report and, reinforced previously in the 2011 Qualitative Assessment, Decatur County’s noncompliance has been an ongoing issue that appears to receive little to no attention by the Solid Waste staff, Solid Waste Board, the County Commission or County Mayor’s office (regardless of administration). Someone needs to take ownership of this program and give it a well thought out and strategic effort. This is no guarantee for success but perhaps will show TDEC that progress is being made.

Item 8 - Collection/Disposal Capacity and Projected Life of Solid Waste Sites

Based on the current rate of solid waste disposed of in Decatur County, the Decatur County Class I Landfill has a remaining capacity of 20-to-25 years. This life cycle may be extended future if current declines in population and declines in job growth continue.

Item 9 - Unmet Financial Needs and Cost Summary

presents proposed expenditures and revenues for the Decatur County Solid Waste Department’s budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 as provided by the department. The Solid Waste fund is financially sound. Given the department’s fund surplus and coupled with its non-compliance status regarding waste reduction, the department needs to be more cost effective in reaching solid waste reduction goals versus saving money to the benefit of other county departments.

TABLE 9: Decatur County Solid Waste Department 2014 Audited Expenses and Revenues	
Revenue:	
Local Taxes	\$268,997
Charges for Current Services	\$ 40,954
Other Local Revenue	\$ 53,928
State of Tennessee	\$ 50,896
Total Revenues	\$414,775
Expenses:	
Landfill Operation and Maintenance	\$212,924
Convenience Centers	\$ 75,678
Other Charges	\$ 36,807
Employee Benefits	\$ 27,037
Total Expenses	\$352,446
+ Surplus / - Deficit	+\$ 62,329

Source: Audit for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

Item 10 – Comparison of Revenue Sources for the Region’s Current Solid Waste Programs with Projected Future Demands

In terms of declining population and job growth projections and in terms of comparing revenues to expenses, the Decatur County Audit, filed with the State of Tennessee, bare out that the Solid Waste Department appears adequately funded.

Item 11 – Sustainable Goals Consistent with the State Plan

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

This Needs Assessment has identified the following deficiencies in the Decatur County solid waste management system:

It is recommended that the following actions be taken over the next five years to address the deficiencies noted in the previous sections:

1. The Solid Waste Board must become more involved in both the overall scope and daily oversight of the department.
2. The Board should consider directly or indirectly expanding or upgrading residential and commercial collection services in the county by considering incentives to Decaturville and Parsons to increase their recycling efforts.
3. Pursue all TDEC grant funds for equipment acquisition and facility expansion.
4. Better utilize Technical Assistance Providers.
5. Attend recycling and solid waste conferences/meetings to establish network support and to garner new ideas.
6. Expand recycling material types and amounts collected by working with schools, medical facilities and businesses to identify new materials and new strategies.
7. Routinely gather competitive market prices for recyclable materials to determine emerging product trends.
8. Establish and maintain a flexible problem waste collection system.
9. Continue the successful Public School Outreach, Program.
10. Utilize SWTDD and TDEC for Solid Waste Board enhancements.
11. Consider consolidating with another Planning Region or teaming with area Regions to become a Hub or Spoke.

The recommendations outlined above comply with and support all provisions of the State’s Solid Waste Management Plan—ensuring that the citizens of Decatur County will continue to be provided with professional solid waste services in an efficient and cost-effective manner for years to come.

Sources:

Cite all sources, documents, surveys, and contacts.

2000 and 2010 Data from the US Census Bureau;

2015 and 2020 Population Projections for the State of Tennessee University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research (UTCBER)

Mike Creasy, Mayor and Solid Waste Director, Decatur County

State of Tennessee Comptollers, Audits 2012,

DecaturCounty – 2015 Solid Waste Needs Assessment

State of Tennessee Comptollers, 2013

State of Tennessee Comptollers, 2014

2011 Qualitative Assessment, R. Ashby Barnes, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

OIR/GIS Services, Maps

Municipal Solid Waste Regional Plan for the Decatur County Solid Waste Region (1994) by Kevin Tucker Design Group

Decatur County Solid Waste Needs Assessment (2009) by the Southwest Tennessee Development District.