



October 10, 2025

## *2025 Updates on Waste Management in NC*





## *DWM's Role in DEQ*

*Department of Environmental Quality - Waste Management*

- Protection of groundwater
- Lead remediation
- Facilitate redevelopment
- Perform compliance activities
- Issue Permits
- Emergency Response





# *Division of Waste Management Mission*

To prevent harmful releases of waste to the environment and clean up existing contamination.



*Department of Environmental Quality - Waste Management*



# Core Program Areas

- Brownfields Redevelopment
- Hazardous Waste
- Solid Waste
- Superfund
- Underground Storage Tanks  
*Petroleum releases above and below ground*
- Utility-Scale Solar Projects



*Department of Environmental Quality - Waste Management*



# *Waste Management Summary Information SFY 2024-25*



Contaminated land redeveloped in productive economic use:  
953 acres



Private capital funding in Brownfields redevelopment:  
over \$3.3 billion



Number of inspections performed: 4746



Number of homes/businesses provided alternative drinking  
water due to contamination of water supply wells: 604



*Department of Environmental Quality - Waste Management*







# *Helene Response*

- Temporary Debris Sites
- (15,000,000 cu yds debris)
- Oil and Haz Substances
- UST Bridge Loan
- EPA RCRA Grant



## *UST Bridge Loan Program*

- NC General Assembly passed SL 2024-53 which gives NCDEQ the authority to create an emergency infrastructure bridge loan program with 22 million dollars (adjusted to \$2 million).
- Commercial UST Facilities
- Loan bears no interest
- Maturity date of June 30, 2030; or upon receipt of disaster fund monies (FEMA/SBA loans)



<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/underground-storage-tanks-section/bridge-loan-program>



# *Waste Management 2025 Session Legislation*

## SL 2025-53 (SB 387) Brownfields Property Reuse Act Revisions:

- Made revisions to Brownfields tax exemption law (G.S. 105-277.13) regarding exclusionary periods for improvements.
- Clarifies the fee section of the BF Property Reuse Act (BPRA) (G.S. 130A-310.39), including clarification that DEQ and DOJ can recover costs to the State for enforcement for non-compliance.

## SL 2025-66 (SB 706) County Waste Management Assistance:

- Revises Scrap Tire Disposal Tax Use law (G.S. 105-187.19) to shift 30% of the proceeds back to the Scrap Tire Disposal Account from the General Fund, effective October 1, 2025, mainly to provide grants to local governments for assistance with scrap tire disposal.



# *Waste Management-Related Rulemaking*

## Environmental Management Commission (EMC) Rules

- Amendments to 15A NCAC 02L .0202 for groundwater standards for PFOA, PFOS, and HFPO-DA (GenX)
  - Adopted by the EMC at their September 11, 2025, meeting
  - Effective date is pending Rules Review Commission approval
- 2024 - 2025: Conducted 10-year rule review process (necessary/unnecessary designation) for rules pertaining to the dry-cleaning solvent cleanup fund and to USTs and petroleum releases.
- 2026 - 2027: Expected to conduct 10-year rule review process for rules pertaining to hazardous waste, solid waste, and the inactive hazardous sites program.

# 2024-2034

## North Carolina Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan



- Advancing Waste Reduction
- Growing the Circular Economy
- Developing Infrastructure & Optimizing Material Recovery
- Ensuring Public Health & Safety
- Educating & Engaging with the Public





# *Utility-Scale Solar Management Program*

- S.L. 2023-58 added new statutes as Part 2J of Article 9, Chapter 130A, (G.S. 130A-309.240 - .243) that govern registration, decommissioning and financial assurance requirements for utility-scale solar projects (2 MW AC, not for own use).
- These statutes serve to protect landowners from having to fund decommissioning at the end of the project's life for new projects.



# Utility-Scale Solar Management Program



- As a result of SL 2023-58, a new Program has been established under the DEQ Division of Waste Management.
- Webpage:  
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/utility-scale-solar-management-program>
- Guidance and program information can be found on the webpage.

## Utility-Scale Solar Management Program



The Division of Waste Management, Utility-Scale Solar Management Program administers the requirements applicable to utility-scale solar projects as mandated in North Carolina [Session Law \(SL\) 2023-58, Part II and III](#).

North Carolina [Session Law \(SL\) 2023-58](#) requires the owner of a utility-scale solar project generating two (2) or more megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC) that is directly connected to the electrical grid to:

- Properly decommission the project upon cessation of operations and restore the property.
- Register with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and pay a fee.
- Submit a decommissioning plan and establish financial assurance for new and rebuilt/expanded utility-scale solar projects.

Additional information on these requirements is provided below.



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT  
UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Utility-Scale Solar Project Decommissioning and Financial Assurance Guidance

North Carolina [Session Law \(SL\) 2023-58](#) requires the owner of a utility-scale solar project capable of generating two (2) or more megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC) that is directly connected to the electrical grid to:

- Properly decommission the project upon cessation of operations and restore the property.
- Register with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and pay a fee.
- Submit a decommissioning plan and establish financial assurance for new and rebuilt/expanded utility-scale solar projects.

#### Who must comply?

Only [utility-scale solar projects](#) capable of generating **2 or more MWAC** that are directly connected to the local or regional electrical grid with the ability to deliver power to the electrical grid must comply with the requirements set forth in [SL 2023-58](#).

- The requirements to [decommission/restore the site](#), to [register](#) with NCDEQ, and [pay a fee](#) apply to existing and new utility-scale solar projects.
- The requirements for submittal of a [decommissioning plan and financial assurance](#) apply to utility-scale solar projects:
  - For which applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) are pending or submitted on or after November 1, 2025 and
  - Generating solar energy or are interconnected to a transmission facility on November 1, 2025, that are rebuilt or expanded after November 1, 2025.

These requirements **do not apply** to utility-scale solar projects smaller than 2 MWAC, or to renewable energy facilities owned or leased by a retail electric customer intended primarily for the customer's own use or to offset the customer's own retail electrical energy consumption at the premises or for net metering.

#### When is the compliance date?

The requirements become effective **November 1, 2025**.

- The requirements to properly [decommission upon cessation of operation and restoration of the site](#) apply as of November 1, 2025 to existing and new utility-scale solar projects.
- The owner of a utility-scale solar project must [register](#) with NCDEQ, and [pay a fee](#) as follows:
  - By November 1, 2025, or at least 90 days prior to the commencement of construction of the project if the project is to be constructed after November 1, 2025; and
  - At least 90 days prior to commencement of a rebuild or expansion of a utility-scale solar project.
- The owner of a utility-scale solar project must submit a [decommissioning plan and establish financial assurance](#) as follows:
  - By November 1, 2025, or prior to commencement of construction of the project if the project is constructed after November 1, 2025, and
  - Prior to commencement of a rebuild or expansion of a utility-scale solar project.





# Action Strategy for PFAS



News > Key Issues > Emerging Compounds > Action Strategy for PFAS

North Carolina is working aggressively to address the impacts of PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, in our state. PFAS compounds are widely used in commercial and consumer products such as food packaging, water- and stain-repellent fabrics, nonstick products and firefighting foams. PFAS are known as “forever chemicals” because they don’t break down in the environment. PFAS have been linked to health effects in humans and animals.

To protect residents from future exposures and reduce environmental pollution, DEQ has developed a comprehensive Action Strategy to address PFAS contamination in a proactive, systematic way. This

|                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><a href="#">Emerging Compounds</a></b>              |
| <a href="#">Understanding PFAS</a>                     |
| <b><a href="#">Action Strategy for PFAS</a></b>        |
| <a href="#">Air Quality Work on Emerging Compounds</a> |

## NC Groundwater Remediation Goals-PFAS

- IMACs established and effective October 15, 2024, for 8 PFAS constituents in the parts per trillion (ng/l):

|             |                        |              |                          |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| <u>PFOS</u> | 0.7 (enforceable at 4) | <u>PFOA</u>  | 0.001 (enforceable at 4) |
| <u>GenX</u> | 10                     | <u>PFBS</u>  | 2,000                    |
| <u>PFNA</u> | 10                     | <u>PFHxS</u> | 10                       |
| <u>PFBA</u> | 7,000                  | <u>PFHxA</u> | 4,000                    |

- Moving parallel in the rule making process with establishing 15A NCAC 02L.0202 PFAS Groundwater Standards for three PFAS constituents.
  - PFOA, PFOS, GenX
- Public Comment period end December 31, 2024
  - EMC-Decision to approve hearing officer's report, final RIA, adopt rule: September 11, 2025
  - Rule Review Commission approval of rule: Proposed Oct 2025
  - Approved effective date; November 1, 2025





# Landfill PFAS Sampling Initiative



- Groundwater data for approximately 278 landfill facilities.
- Notice of Regulatory Requirement letters sent to an initial subset of 20 facilities (2<sup>nd</sup> round of letters sent to approximately 50 facilities)
- Letter outlined an Immediate Action for an updated receptor survey
  - Inventory and map of all identifiable drinking water wells, irrigation wells, springs, and surface waters.
- Next Steps: Facilities are currently determining if offsite private well sampling is warranted.
- Working on screening reports for second subset of letters.



## *Brownfields Redevelop Section*

# Celebrating 750<sup>th</sup> Brownfield Agreement







*Brown School Lofts at Legacy Heights*

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*Department of Environmental Quality - Waste Management*

