

## Landfill Assurance Trust Fund

The Landfill Assurance Trust Fund is an interest-bearing account, set apart from other accounts. The funds in this account have been set aside to pay for the anticipated costs of closure of the landfill and/or landfill cells, post-closure care and potential remediation concerning closures. This accumulation of funds is required by DEQ under sections of LAC 33:VII.1303.

Trust funds are an asset of the Union Parish Police Jury and are being held in Origin Bank. The Trust Funds are restricted which means the funds can only be used for a specific purpose. In this case, the specific purpose is Closure and Post Closure costs. The Trust funds are included in the Fund Balance within the Landfill Budget. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the Landfill Assurance Trust Fund has a Cash in Bank Balance of \$9,676,263.79.

Each year an amount is transferred into the Trust Fund. This amount is located in the budget and is labeled "Financial Assurance." The amount the jury must transfer each year is based on two things:

- Inflation costs
- How many years of life the landfill has remaining

To calculate remaining life, we divide the remaining airspace by the airspace used per year. For the year 2021, the landfill consumed 83,389 cubic yards of airspace. For the year 2022, the landfill took in more tonnage, which is good, but a lot more airspace was used. For the year 2022, the landfill consumed 124,659 cubic yards of airspace which shortened the remaining life of the landfill and therefore caused the required yearly transfer amount to increase.

Closing a Sanitary Landfill means that actions are to be taken by the owner or operator of a solid waste disposal facility for long-term care and to make it suitable for other uses. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, specific closure goals include the following:

- Minimize the need for maintenance
- Minimize formation and release of leachate and gases in a form that is protective of human health and the environment
- Compliance with specific state/provincial technical standards

There are specific steps related to closure. A closure plan must be implemented. Closure plans must meet the following objective:

- Ensure activities to close the landfill are specified
- Serve as a basis for efficient closure
- Serve as a basis for determining cost
- Closure plans should be in stages (pre-planning, three months prior to closure, actual closure and three months after closure)

Once a facility/cell is closed there must be long term care/environmental monitoring. Long-term is a mandatory thirty (30) year period. Long term care includes the following:

- Land surface care

- Erosion damage repairs
  - Vegetation and soil amendment
  - Annual mowing to control woody vegetation
- Inspections/record keeping
- Monitoring (gas, groundwater, surface water, leachate)
- Leachate Collection and Treatment
- Landfill Gas Management
- Maintenance (preventive/corrective)
  - Leachate pumps and lift pumps
  - Operate gas removal systems
  - Wells
  - Final cover – mowing, replace plantings, grading, settlement, drainage, etc.
- Fees (license, inspection/regulatory charges)
- Administration

Closure, and post-closure care, are long-term activities that are expensive. The process, along with our permit, requires yearly planning to have the money at the ready to cover the expenses at the appropriate time.