



May 01, 2025

Public Ownership of Solid Waste Facilities

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-530

Counties have several options through which they may fulfill their responsibilities for solid waste management. They may contract with private entities for those services, they may provide services or contract for services through solid waste authorities, or they may provide the services themselves. A county or municipality may apply for a solid waste facility permit. A county may execute a contract of obligation instead of a performance bond to insure proper operation and closure of its publicly owned facilities. T.C.A. § 68-211-116. In addition to equipment for collection and disposal of solid waste, a county may also construct and operate energy recovery and resource recovery facilities which process waste into energy fuels. T.C.A. § 68-211-502.

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