



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **ADEM Announces Awards up to \$2,500 per Family to Promote the Use of Recycled Scrap Tires**

**MONTGOMERY** – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has announced that it will provide grant funds to support the use of recycled scrap tires as part of residential septic tank systems in Alabama. The Department is making \$100,000 available to increase awareness, and use, of scrap tire materials in septic tank drain fields.

Alabama residents produce more than five million scrap tires each year and another four million are imported into Alabama annually for disposal. Almost seven million of these scrap tires are beneficially reused each year. However, through this grant program the Department will work to improve this recycling rate by reimbursing homeowners up to \$2,500 per home for the utilization of scrap tire materials as part of their septic system.

Scrap tires can be cut into small pieces that are known as tire-derived aggregate (TDA). This tire-derived aggregate can then be used in lieu of sand or gravel as part of a septic tank infiltration system. Studies have shown that TDA performs as well as sand and gravel while being much easier to handle.

In order to participate in this reimbursement program, the septic system must be installed at a residence and TDA must be utilized as the drainage media. The design and installation of the septic system must meet, or exceed, the requirements that have been established by the Alabama Department of Public Health. In addition, the septic system must be installed by an installer that is licensed through the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board.

The reimbursement does require pre-approval from ADEM through the submittal of a Septic Field Media Reimbursement Application. Application information can be found on the ADEM website at [www.adem.alabama.gov](http://www.adem.alabama.gov) or by contacting the Scrap Tire Marketing Program at (334) 271-7700. Preference will be given to installations that utilize TDA from scrap tires that are generated in Alabama.

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[adem.alabama.gov](http://adem.alabama.gov)