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Clay County Uses ADEM Grant to Uplift Recycling Program

In this year Grant selection process, the Department focused on the 2016 Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) study, “A Plan for Boosting Residential Material Recovery and Recycling in Alabama”, which details how recycling efforts can be made more effective in our state. The central focus is the development of a “Hub and Spoke” model where larger cities, or hubs, partner with smaller and more rural communities, or spokes, to collect and recycle materials in a more efficient way.

In an effort to enhance recycling, along with economic growth, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management is pleased to announce that Clay County is the recipient of \$25,302.45 for this year’s grant process. This recycling grant will be used to purchase a forklift that will make recycling more convenient for the people of Clay County.

When asked how recycling has impacted their community a Clay County representative said “Our recycling program has tried to change the way the younger generations view recycling and waste management in general to establish recycling as a common practice. We have distributed materials to our schools and hosted work days where students have come to and helped in the recycling center.” As Alabamians continue to push forward in their recycling efforts Clay County said they expect to see their program grow by “...see[ing] the same progress in the next 5 years.” The Department is honored to be able to assist communities in their recycling endeavors and has been able to aid Clay County by “...being an open door with valuable information to us and our communities on how to better operate and make a positive impact.”

These grant funds are made possible through the Solid Wastes & Recyclable Materials Management Act which was passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008. The legislation imposed a \$1 per ton fee on all solid wastes disposed of in Alabama landfills. A portion of the proceeds

generated by this fee supported the creation of the Alabama Recycling Fund, which provides the foundation for ADEM to award the recycling grants on an annual basis.



“Every little bit helps to make a difference and it can start with just one person or positive action.” –
Clay County