

Coal Ash in Georgia: Legislative Solutions

Coal ash is left behind after burning coal to produce electricity, and it's *toxic*.

- It contains dangerous heavy metals and carcinogens including arsenic and lead which have been linked to lung and heart problems, stomach ailments and premature death.
- When utilities stop using coal ash ponds, they commonly pump contaminated water from the ponds into nearby lakes and streams. The remaining "dry" sludge of toxic coal ash is left in place, however many of these "dry ponds" do not contain liners to prevent ground water contamination.



Coal Ash

Normal River Sediment

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Coal Ash from other states is being shipped to landfills in Georgia.

- Under Georgia law municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills may receive coal ash as long as they create and comply with coal ash management plans, but the law does not clarify what a plan must include.
- Communities currently have no way to know if their local landfills are receiving or will receive coal ash.



Coal ash is already polluting groundwater and surface water.

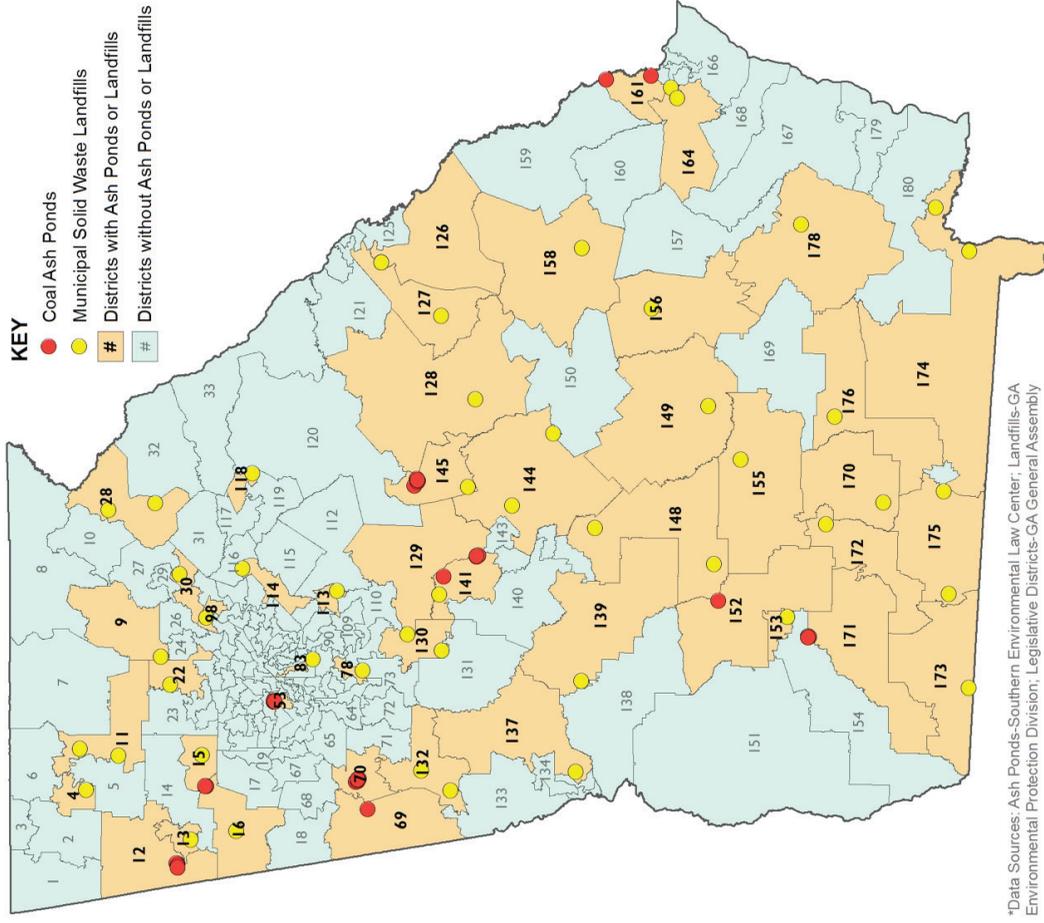
- Georgia Power reported¹ polluted water at six of the company's 11 power plant sites.
- Altamaha Riverkeeper found toxins, including arsenic and thallium, entering water from coal ash ponds in Milledgeville, Macon and Juliette, GA
- Coal ash contaminants have been detected in groundwater next to MSW landfills in Georgia that have received coal ash.
- Many sites across the country where coal ash has been covered up or "capped" in place continue to experience high levels of toxic pollution.

Smart Legislation is needed to protect Georgia Communities and their drinking water from toxic coal ash contamination.

- Require MSW landfills that receive large volumes of coal ash to notify local communities and apply for a major permit modification of existing solid waste handling permits.
- Prohibit the storage of coal ash in MSW landfills that are located near drinking water sources or waterways that are used for swimming and fishing.
- Memorialize and clarify what must be contained in a coal ash management plan.
- Require utilities to get a new water disposal permit or seek a major permit modification of existing permits before draining their coal ash ponds. The utility will have to demonstrate that the water being pumped out of their ponds will not negatively impact water supplies for Georgians downstream.

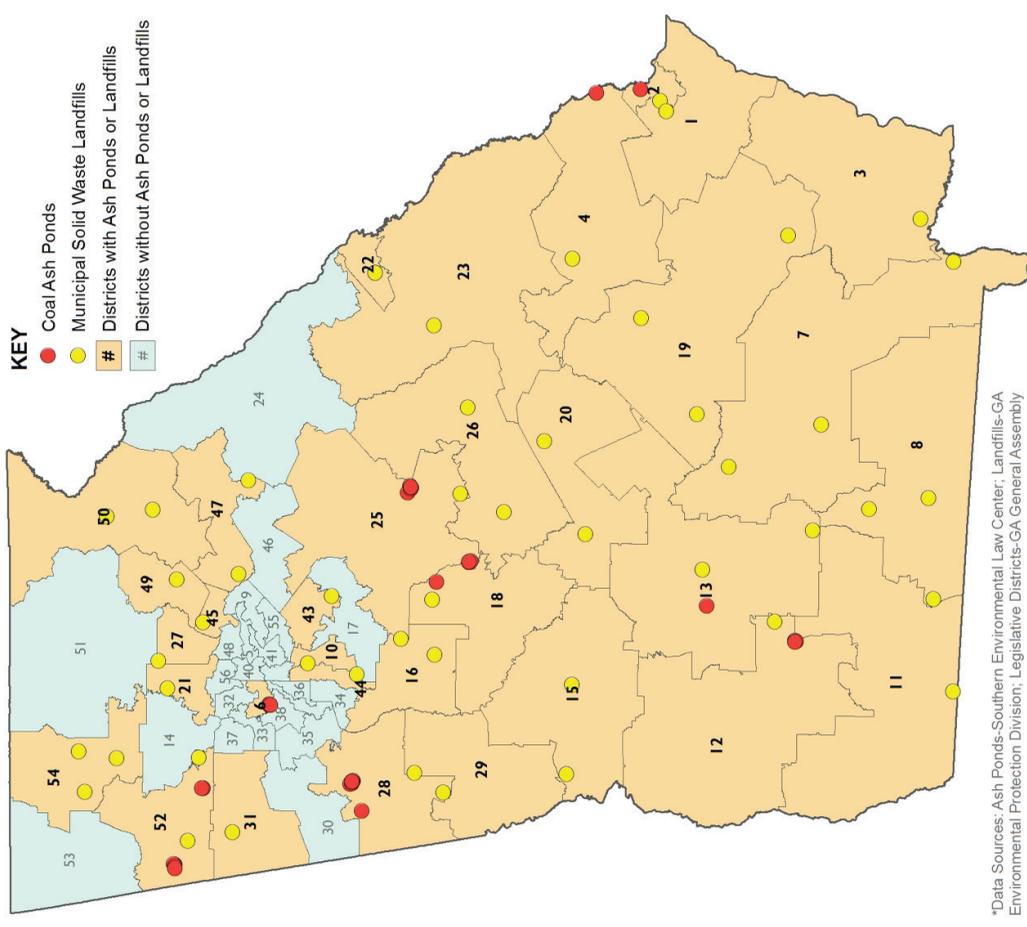
HOUSE

Districts Containing Coal Ash Ponds and Municipal Landfills



SENATE

Districts Containing Coal Ash Ponds and Municipal Landfills



Explore this map online at: <http://gawater.org/coal-ash>

Find more information about coal ash in Georgia at: <http://www.southeastcoalash.org>