

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CASE STUDY:

SCOTLAND COUNTY - MOBILE HOME RECYCLING PROGRAM



Jurisdiction:

Best Management Practice:

Purpose:

Ordinance:

Contact:

Scotland County

Mobile Home Recycling Program

To remove abandoned and junked mobile homes from around the county and separate out recyclable materials that would otherwise be part of the waste stream

Scotland County, N.C., Ordinance #28

Steve Edge, solid waste director, (910) 277-2421 or sedge@scotlandcounty.org

DESCRIPTION

Scotland County has operated a mobile home recycling program since 1997, following the development of an ordinance requiring the removal of all abandoned and dilapidated mobile homes in the county. Under this ordinance, following the issuance of a notice of violation, the owner has 30 days to comply voluntarily before being issued a court order. Non-compliance can ultimately result in financial and criminal penalties. The owner is required to transport the home to the county landfill for recycling and pay a construction and demolition debris (C&D) tipping fee for disposal. The solid waste department uses in-house equipment, staff and community service workers to dismantle the mobile homes on-site and recycle the metal components.

IMPLEMENTATION

Six to eight mobile home manufacturers exist within a 25-mile radius in Scotland County. Additionally, at one point the county was home to three abandoned mobile home parks. In response, the county planning department created an ordinance that mandates the removal and disposal of all junked mobile homes. Failure to comply with the ordinance can result in criminal penalties. The county planning department is responsible for identifying and issuing violations to the last owner shown on the title. In the case of mobile home parks, the landowner is issued the violation. The owner then has 30 days to voluntarily comply with the ordinance by removing the mobile home. If the owner does not respond within 30 days, the environmental enforcement officer serves a criminal summons and the resident must either comply or go to court. So far, all disputes have been settled out of

court. However, currently the county is revising the ordinance to clarify the definition of a mobile home in the event that a dispute does go to court.

Following the implementation of the ordinance, the solid waste department started a mobile home recycling program to provide an alternative method of disposal for these materials.

The owner is required to transport the mobile home to the landfill at his or her own expense. The mobile home is weighed at the landfill and assessed a C&D tipping fee. The average mobile home weighs seven tons, and using the current C&D tipping fee of \$31/ton, the average cost of disposal is \$217. Landfill staff then dismantle the mobile home with assistance from community service workers (such as inmates) whenever possible. Backhoes and hand tools are the main equipment involved in the destruction process. All aluminum siding and window frames, wiring, white goods and structural steel frames and axles are separated and recycled. The remaining debris, such as non-recyclable wood framing and flooring, is disposed of in the C&D landfill.

Since its inception, the program has been cost neutral. All costs incurred to implement the program are recovered through the tipping fee and the sale of the recyclable goods.

RESULTS

Since 1997, the Scotland County mobile home recycling program has recycled approximately 100 units. The program is a successful example of providing an alternative method for mobile home disposal and ultimately keeping recyclable materials out of the landfill without incurring additional costs.



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF POLLUTION PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE
1639 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH NC 27699-1639 • (800) 763-0136

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