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Recycling Works

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Active Year for Proposed Recycling and Solid Waste Laws

by **Scott Mouw**, *Community & Business Assistance Section Chief*

2007 looks to be an active year for recycling and solid waste legislation. To some degree, the activity is being spurred by North Carolina's current moratorium on new landfill permits, which, in turn, was driven by concern over the possible influx of out-of-state waste into a number of proposed large landfills. But legislators are also seeking to address other long-standing issues, hoping to implement statewide recycling solutions for discarded electronics and abandoned mobile homes.

Landfill Permitting and Tipping Fees

Chief among the new bills are the companion proposals Senate Bill 1492 and House Bill 1233, which would dramatically modify North Carolina's landfill permitting process. The bills, as introduced, also include a solid waste tipping fee surcharge

to generate revenues to clean up old landfills. S1492 will attract a great deal of attention from a wide range of stakeholders. Recycling advocates hope that the tipping fee surcharge can be expanded to include funding for recycling.

Electronic Waste

Two bills have been introduced to spur computer equipment collection - S1525, largely reflecting the position of Dell and other computer manufacturers, and S1553, which would establish a more detailed and aggressive producer responsibility approach to computer recycling.

Abandoned Mobile Homes

A set of companion bills in the House and Senate seek to produce a solution to the problem of abandoned mobile homes. S1255 and H1134 are very similar in approach, but the House bill includes spe-

(See [Laws](#), Page 4)



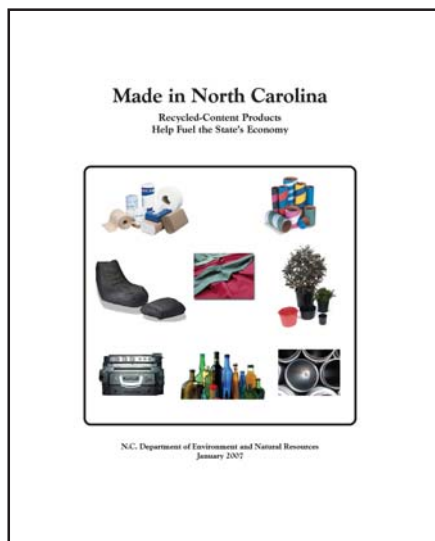
North Carolina's current moratorium on new landfill permits is helping stimulate new recycling and solid waste legislation.

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Recycled Products Fuel State's Economy

by Wendy Worley, Recycling Business Development Specialist



The Recycling Business Assistance Center is pleased to announce the publication of *Made in North Carolina: Recycled-Content Products Help Fuel the State's Economy*, which highlights North Carolina's thriving recycling sector. According to *Made in North Carolina*, the number of jobs related to recycling are increasing in North Carolina and becoming a more important part of the state's economy.

Between 1994 and 2004, recycling jobs increased from 8,700 to 14,000. In contrast, manufacturing jobs overall have declined from 817,300 to 577,400 during the same 10-year period.

"Our state's recycled product companies are doing their part to retain manufacturing jobs in North Carolina and the United States," said Scott Mouw, the division's community and business assistance section chief. "They are operating profitable businesses, giving people the products they want, and are in step with a global trend to use secondary or recovered materials that meet or exceed quality and specification standards."

The companies profiled in *Made in North Carolina* are an important part of North Carolina's economic future. Products manufactured range from traditional everyday paper, plastic bottles and flowerpots, to relatively new items such as composite decking and rubber mulch. Regardless of the feedstock used, or consumer item produced, it appears that manufacturers, here in North

Carolina and around the world, will increasingly rely on recycled materials to fuel the economy. Needless to say, success in recycling will also help us reduce our dependence on landfills and help us prevent long-term environmental problems.

The document emphasizes that this waste stream represents a potentially rich source of materials that can be put back to work for the North Carolina economy. To complete the recycling loop, the final step requires consumers to purchase and use recycled-content products. "Buying recycled" helps create long-term stable markets for collected recyclable material. The more a product is purchased, the more competition improves. As competition increases, more jobs are created and more resources are saved. As a result, people produce less waste and pollution.

Made in North Carolina can be found online at <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/41/40994.pdf>. For more information, please contact Scott Mouw at (919) 715-6512.

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Easy as 1-2-3: Recycling at Bars and Restaurants

by Scott Mouw, Community & Business Assistance Section Chief

In less than eight months, practically every restaurant and bar in North Carolina with an alcoholic beverage permit should be recycling. That's the goal of legislation passed in 2005 to push the recovery of bottles and cans by ABC permit-holders around the state.

The ABC legislation offers a tremendous opportunity to recycling companies and haulers to expand services to North Carolina's restaurant and bar sector. Although some local governments are planning to offer recycling programs to permit-holders (and some already do), most bars and restaurants will have to rely on private firms for collection services to comply with the law.

Glass is the majority material in most ABC permit settings, with some PET and aluminum to be collected. In some parts of the state, particularly where there is access to MRFs, commingling of material will be possible, which will help the typical space constraints for most establishments. However, others may have to separate materials by type and color. With the heaviness and nominal market value of glass, it is likely that service providers will need to find ways to charge enough for collection to cover costs. To some degree, recycling service providers will be able to help permit-holders control the financial impact by taking advantage of cost avoidance opportunities in reduced solid waste collections. Bundling container collections with fiber collections (e.g., corrugated cardboard) could help defray costs.



Photo courtesy of Owens-Illinois.

Enforcement of the new law is up to the ABC Commission and to some extent local ABC Boards. Although the lack of a recycling program will be minor compared to other possible violations of ABC law, in recent workshops put on by NC SWANA and DPPEA, commission staff laid out the probability of a system of fines for non-compliant permit-holders.

DPPEA has assembled important information about the ABC law on its Web site at:

<http://www.p2pays.org/BannedMaterials/ABCcontainer/>.

For more information, feel free to contact DPPEA at (919) 715-6500.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

- What are North Carolina state agencies and universities doing in green procurement?
- Where can local governments, schools and businesses find examples of policies, specifications and studies on recycled content and environmentally preferable products and services?

www.p2pays.org/epp

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cific funding for the program through a fee on the sale of new mobile homes.

Tire Fee Distribution

S1472 makes changes to the distribution of proceeds from the state advanced disposal fee on tires. The bill would give a bit more money directly to county tire programs and also increase the portion going to the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund, which DPPEA uses for funding recycling grants. The bill would slightly reduce the money going to tire dump cleanup as that problem has largely been addressed.



Phone Book Delivery Opt-out

One Senate bill, S591, would provide relief to households and businesses wanting to receive fewer phone books. The proposed legislation would require phone directory producers to provide distribution opt-outs to the public. In addition, it encourages the companies to support local directory recycling programs.

Drink Container Deposits and Others

Also stirring things up this session is S215, which would

establish a California-style deposit program on drink containers in North Carolina. Entitled the "Litter Reduction Act," the bill seeks to both reduce container litter and increase container recovery rates.

A few other solid waste bills have been introduced, including S1133 and H1134, which would require cities and counties to provide the same solid waste services to multi-family dwellings as they do for single-family units.

As of the deadline for this article, the House due date for proposed bills had not yet passed, so more legislation may yet be introduced. Anyone interested

in specific bills can find them using the "Find Bills By Number" search on the General Assembly's Web site at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homePage.pl>.

DPPEA can also provide some details on the proposed legislation – contact Scott Mouw at (919) 715-6512 or scott.mouw@ncmail.net if you have questions.

NC WasteTrader Updates Site

by Tom Rhodes, Waste Management Analyst

The N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance has added additional features to the N.C. WasteTrader Web site. Now, visitors to the waste exchange page can read about successful trades generated on the site by clicking the new, "NC WasteTrader Successes" link. On the profile pages of those parties listing commodities, you will find a link that allows you to send a message directly to the lister.

Another new feature is the link, "I Made a Trade," an interactive trade reporting form where traders may report their successes.

Other links available on NC WasteTrader's home page include the NC Recycling Markets Directory, NC BiomassTrader, FreeCycle, local government contacts and other waste exchanges.

N O R T H C A R O L I N A
WasteTrader

Many different types of materials have been traded on the site since its debut in 2003. For example, trades include 17,500 pounds of carbon black monthly, two ocean containers of fabric trim scrap, 1,500 pounds of polyurethane casting resin and 20,000 gallons of cutting oil.

To view listings on NC WasteTrader, visit <http://www.ncwastetrader.com>. For more information about NC WasteTrader, its kindred site, [NC BiomassTrader](#), or for assistance with these free services, call Tom Rhodes at (919) 715-6500 or e-mail tom.rhodes@ncmail.net.

CRA 2007 “Recycling: Main Street to Your Street”

by Matt Todd, Recycling Business Development Specialist



The Carolina Recycling Association’s Conference and Trade show held in March included workshops, tours and the CRA golf classic, as well as many informative sessions with plenty of opportunities to network and learn.

Attendees absorbed all they could at the conference and returned home with renewed energy and focus to make recycling work on their “street.”

The concurrent sessions offered a wide variety of topics including composting, buying recycled, green building, electronics recycling, litter prevention, improving existing programs, social marketing, end markets for recyclables and much more.

With more than 400 registered attendees, the trade-show floor was full. A new networking opportunity, called Fast Pitch, made its debut at the conference this year. A close relative to speed dating, Fast Pitch gives vendors and potential clients a chance to interact in three-minute increments to learn about each other’s needs and services. Look for a bigger and better Fast Pitch on next year’s conference agenda.

Climate change was the topic for the keynote address as well as the general session. As recycling professionals, we must continue to emphasize the link between energy, recycling, the economy and the environment and look for ways to reduce our carbon footprint in North and South Carolina.

Next year’s conference will be held in March at Raleigh’s North Raleigh Hilton.

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Thinking Outside the (Recycling Loan Fund) Box

by Matt Ewadinger, RBAC Manager

As a regular reader of this newsletter, you may have noticed our "Loans for Recycling Companies" ad (this page). Many recycling companies take advantage of that program, but other loan programs do exist and may be just what your recycling business is looking for.

The recently renovated RBAC Web site includes a financing page, <http://www.p2pays.org/rbac/financing>, which provides access to a variety of funding programs available to North Carolina recycling businesses (if they meet certain eligibility requirements). One of these programs is the Charlotte Small Business Enterprise Loan Fund Program.

Charlotte Small Business Enterprise Loan Fund Program

The SBE Loan Fund Program is an innovative public/private fund established to assist small businesses in the Charlotte metro area in accessing capital.

Applications for SBE loans are submitted to Self-Help, the loan fund administrator, and all credit decisions are made by Self-Help. A loan from the SBE Loan Fund can be used to finance seasonal working capital, permanent working capital or business expansion.

Eligible Borrowers

- Existing, for-profit small businesses located in Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cabarrus, Union and Anson counties.
- Businesses must meet the eligibility requirements of a SBE as defined by the city of Charlotte.
- Businesses must have been operating for a minimum of 12 consecutive months. Start-up business ventures will be considered on an exception-only basis.
- Eligible businesses must be considered just below "bankable" by traditional commercial lenders.

Recycling Works is published by the N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center, a program of the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information call (919) 715-6500 or (800) 763-0136, or write to DPPEA, 1639 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1639.

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N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance



How does the SBE Loan Fund program work?

- Businesses must demonstrate, among other things, loan repayment ability, collateral availability, adequate good credit history, management history, etc.
- Businesses should contact the technical assistance provider of their choice to determine eligibility for the SBE Loan Fund program.
- Businesses are strongly encouraged to utilize the [SBE Loan Fund Program Self Assessment Test](#) found on the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Web site.
- Complete application packages are submitted to Self Help for review.
- The timeline for closing an approved loan is approximately two months.

There is no minimum or maximum loan amount and the term of a loan can be from one to 10 years, depending on the use of loan fund proceeds.

Additional information and program details are available at <http://businessassistance.charmeck.org>.

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N.C. Environmental Loan Fund: Self-Help established the N.C. Environmental Loan Fund to provide financing to small businesses and other organizations that preserve our natural resources. Projects that are targeted for financing include recycling firms, land conservancies, environmental consulting and services, environmental equipment firms, and sustainable development products and services. Self-Help has extended more than \$6 million in financing to this growing and important segment of our economy.

N.C. Food Diversion Task Force Steams Ahead

by Brian Rosa, Organics Recycling Coordinator

North Carolina generates 800,000 tons of food waste a year. A paltry six percent of the state's food waste is currently diverted from landfills.

The N.C. Food Diversion Task Force aims to increase that percentage. The group sees food waste as the next big recycling target.

Since its inaugural meeting last December, the N.C. Food Diver-



sion Task Force has grown to more than 20 members, with many more expressing interest in joining.

The task force meets again June 12 in Pittsboro. Contact DPPEA's Brian Rosa at (919) 715-6524 or brian.rosa@ncmail.net, if you'd like to join the task force and be on the cutting edge of North Carolina's food diversion future.



The Recycling Business Assistance Center is a program of the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

Call (919) 715-6500 or (800) 763-0136 for free technical assistance and information about preventing, reducing and recycling waste.



North Carolina market prices for recyclables

Prices current as of April 13, 2007

Item	Western Region	Central Region	Eastern Region
METALS			
Aluminum Cans, lb. loose	\$0.925	\$0.92	\$0.95
Steel cans, gross ton baled	\$170	\$170	\$93
PLASTICS			
PETE, lb. baled	\$0.18	\$0.17	\$0.15
HDPE, lb. baled	Natural	\$0.335	\$0.295
	Colored	\$0.20	\$0.175
PAPER			
Newsprint, ton baled	\$120	\$115	\$122.55
Corrugated, ton baled	\$130	\$120	\$120
Office, ton baled	\$170 (SOP)	\$160 (SOP)	\$235 (white ledger)
Magazines, ton baled	*	\$85	**
Mixed, ton baled	\$90	\$80	\$90
GLASS			
Eastern Region sells glass F.O.B. origin			
Brown, ton crushed delivered	\$15	\$16	\$21
Clear, ton crushed delivered	\$25	\$26	\$17
Green, ton crushed delivered	(\$7)	\$0	(\$9)
*Markets with mixed paper. **Markets with newsprint. Note: Prices listed above are compiled by RBAC and are for reference only. These prices are not firm quotes. RBAC obtained pricing information from processors for each category and developed a pricing range.			

Visit RBAC online at <http://www.p2pays.org/rbac>