

FAQ for Recycling

- 1. Are there Environmental Statues and Executive Orders for State Agencies regarding Recycling?** Yes. Several Environmental Statues and Executive Orders have been issued regarding the Recycling Program for the State of North Carolina and its agencies. [Executive Order 156](#) State Government Environmental Sustainability, Reduction of Solid Waste, and Procurement of Environmentally Preferable Products [Executive Order 26](#) Water System Protection § 130A-309.09A. Local government solid waste responsibilities [§ 130A-309.14](#). Duties of State agencies (establishment of recycling program) [§ 143-58.2](#). State policy; bid procedures and specifications; identification of products (purchase products with recycled content) [§ 143-58.3](#). Purchase of recycled paper and paper products.
- 2. What materials are currently ban from State Landfills?** Aluminum cans, Fluorescent light blubs, Used oil, Lead-acid batteries, Antifreeze (ethylene glycol), Mercury thermostats, White goods (major appliances- stoves, refrigerators, etc.), Yard trash, except in landfills approved for the disposal of yard trash ,Oyster Shells, Motor vehicle oil filters, Wooden pallets, except those may be disposed of in a landfill that permits only construction and demolition debris, Recyclable rigid plastic containers that have a neck smaller than the body of the container, and that accept a screw top, snap cap, or other closure. The prohibition on disposal of recyclable rigid plastic containers (Water bottles, Soda bottles, etc.) in landfills does not apply to rigid plastic containers that are intended for use in the sale or distribution of motor oil, Whole scrap tires- The prohibition on disposal of whole scrap tires in landfills applies to all whole pneumatic rubber coverings, but does not apply to whole solid rubber coverings.
- 3. Why should I recycle besides it is the Law?** Recycling is important and helpful to reducing your trash. Reducing, reusing, and recycling trash is critical to create less "stuff" to throw away into the landfill or created as litter on the roadside. First of all **It's EASY**. Recycling in the home, school, and workplace can be easy and convenient Many neighborhoods have convenient curbside recycling programs for paper, cardboard, bottles, and cans, and many retail stores will take back recycling items such as electronic computers, TVs, batteries, florescent light bulbs, and cell phones. **It Saves natural resources**. Reducing, reusing, and recycling materials help prevents the need to cut down new materials such as trees or digging into new mines. Also, it saves natural resources by not creating new landfills to hold new waste. **It Saves and makes money**. You can save money by reducing waste, reusing materials, and buying recycled products. You can also make money by selling many of your recycle materials. **It Creates jobs**. Recycling is big business in N.C. It is a mainstream industry of statewide importance accounting for approximately 14,000 jobs and producing millions of dollars in products and services per year. **It Saves energy**. A lot of energy is needed to make products. Energy is saved by reducing or reusing the amount of products we need to buy. Recycling also frequently saves energy because it can take less energy to clean or convert materials. For example, less energy is required to produce a gallon of re-refined oil than creating new oil.
- 4. Can you give me some specific examples of what recycling saves and what difference each employee makes?** Sure. NCDOT employees combined recycling efforts state wide in 2008-2009 of paper products saved 12,206 trees, 2,872,000 kilowatts of electricity, 5,026,000 gallons of water, 272,840 gallons of oil, and 2,154 cubic land fill space; From the aluminum recycle we saved 1,124 tons of virgin Bauxite, we could run 10,000 NCDOT computers for 5,062 hours, we saved over 10,000 barrels of oil, we saved enough energy to power an average home for 369 years or every single home in Raleigh for one year, and we saved 2810 cubic yards of landfill space. It is estimated less than half of our NCDOT employees recycle. So as you can see, combined, each NCDOT employee recycling efforts makes a huge difference.
- 5. Are there State Contracts available for recycling or buying recycle?** **Yes. NC State Surplus Properties** offers two recycle contracts that pay you money for your recycle material. **Recycle Used Motor Oil & Antifreeze:** *Contract # 0021809 Convenience Contract* State-wide, All Agencies, including Local Governments and Towns *Accepted Storage Storage Tanks*, (under and above ground) and 55 Gallon Drums *Pricing Structure for Motor Oil Only* Sliding Monthly Scale ... as of 3/1/09 projected price = to \$.57 *Vendor Information:* Noble Oil Services, Inc. 5617 Clyde Rhyne Drive Sanford, NC 27330 Telephone Numbers: 919-774-8180 Toll Free 800-662-5364 Emergency # 800-424-9300 Contact: Gary McNeely, National Sales Mgr. Pickup Schedule Maximum Ten (10) working-days from date of request Minimum 100 gallon Pickup of Motor Oil Diluted Antifreeze and Oil/Water Mix is No Cost with Oil Pick-Up. Vendor Provides 24-hour Emergency Spill Service Contractor Information will provide at time of pickup a ticket showing: Date Name of Agency Location Product & Number of Gallons Picked up Signatures of Agents of Contractor & State Government Agency Recycle Wet Cell Batteries *Type of Contract:* State-wide, All Agencies, Everywhere *Price:* \$0.37 per Battery *Vendor Information:* North State Battery, Inc.437 Ward Boulevard Wilson, NC 27893 Telephone Number: (252) 237-3938 EPA Recycling Registration # EPAPAD002330165 The contractor will pick up wet cell batteries, which are not under a trade-in agreement, within ten (10) working days from date of request. Pickup requires 20 or more batteries at each location. For more info contact State Surplus Properties, Stan Black 919-854-2168 stanley.black@doa.nc.gov
NC. Purchase Contract has contracts for purchasing items made of recycle content(615A Recycle Binders, Recycle Filing Supplies, Recycle Office Paper, 645A recycled papers and Envelopes) purchase recycle containers (485F Refuse Containers) and for recycling material (926B Recycling Services for Fluorescent Lamps, Ballasts & Other Mercury Containing Devices, 926A Recycling Services, Electronic Equipment.) For more details go to <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/PandC/keyword.asp#R>

6. **What resources are available for finding places to recycle material?** You can contact John Sharp, NCDOT Environmental Specialist at jsharp@ncdot.gov or 919 715-3708. Additional recycling resources can be found online at www.p2pays.org which is maintained by the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, North Carolina Department of Administration State Surplus Division provides assistance to Agencies with recycling needs. Visit the State Surplus website at www.doa.state.nc.us/ssp for additional information on your recycling needs. Try contacting your current waste hauler, they often offer a recycling service as well. Contact your Local City/ County Waste Management offices for recycling. Also, you can do a "Google Search" on your computer "recycle and Town/County name" or "Google Search", "recycle and zip code number"
7. **What other materials can we recycle and receive revenue from or have no cost involved?** Depending how you collect and process it, you can receive money for or not have to pay for scrap metal, aluminum cans, aluminum signs, office paper, and cardboard.
8. **Where can we find companies that will pay for these materials or not charge us?** Try a Google Search, "Recycle and list you zip code", example, "Recycle 27539"
9. **Are there recycling programs setup within the state to pickup recycle office type materials in buildings occupied by state employees outside of Wake County?** No. It is up to each office outside of Raleigh to hire a vendor or gather the material up and take it to the recycle bins in their County.
10. **What type of container should I use to recycle in my immediate work area?** This could vary depending on how much recycle material you generate and the space you have available for a recycle bin. For the average employee a 7 gallon or smaller container would be sufficient.
11. **Will a cardboard box that held reams of paper work or am I require to have a bin with a recycle system, like a blue bin?** For most employees this would work. No, you do not have to have a specially marked recycle bin. However, special mark bins do help to remind us to recycle.
12. **Can I put mixed materials to be recycled in the same container next to me desk and then separate them at the shared recycling containers?** Yes
13. **Who can I contact to purchase shared recycling containers for my office?** Contact your Supervisor. Recycling containers can be found on State Contract. <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/PandC/keyword.asp#R>
14. **Are the containers free or does my cost center pays for the containers?** No, these containers are not free. Your cost center pays for them.
15. **Will recyclable material be picked up in my building or do I have to take them to a recycling center?** The answer to this question varies widely depending on where you are located in the State and are you in a lease building or a state own building. For example, if you are in a State owned building in Wake County a contractor comes to the buildings and picks up the recycle material. Many of our Division of Highways Units gather the material up and take it to a recycling bin at the landfill. On many of our lease buildings the landlord provides for recycling at the facility, you should check your lease and see if that is included in your lease.
16. **Our State Agency is located in a leased building, are recycling provisions provided?** It very may be. Many our State leases have language in them that the Landlord must provide recycling services. Questions regarding Recycling Services for State Agency located in Leased Property Sites are to be directed to the Department of Administration State Property Office for assistance with recycling service questions. <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/spo/>.
17. **Is it against the law to throw televisions or computers in the landfill?** No, but as a NCDOT employee you should surplus all electronic items. However, effective July 1, 2011 it will be illegal to discard computer equipment and televisions into the landfill. Click for more info. - <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw/electronics>
18. **I am located in a State building in Raleigh, is there a way I can find out when my building is scheduled for recycling pickup?** Yes, the Division of Facility Management provides State Agency access to the Recycling Schedule available online at www.ncfacilitymanagement.net under the Recycling Program, Schedule Section.
19. **I am located in a State owned building in Raleigh and the vendor has not picked my recycle material, who should I contact?** You can contact Dorothy Morgan at dkmorgan@ncdot.gov or John Sharp at jsharp@ncdot.gov or 919-715-3708.
20. **What should I do if I have questions regarding recycling?** You can contact Dorothy Morgan at dkmorgan@ncdot.gov or John sharp at jsharp@ncdot.gov or 919-715-3708 or if you are located at DMVHQ contact Jack Hudson at jfHUDSON@ncdot.gov or 919-861-3518, the Division of Highways, Rail Division, Ferry Division can contact their respective lead recycling coordinators.
21. **I am in Div 5 who is the lead recycling coordinator for Div.5?** Div. 5's Lead Recycling Coordinator (LRC) is Euell Elliott ateelliott@ncdot.gov (919) 220-4600.
22. **Who are the Lead Coordinators in the other Divisions?** The other LRCs are :Div.1- Stephanie Gadd- smgadd@ncdot.gov (252)482-7977, Div.2-Valorie Sullivan- vsullivan@ncdot.gov ,(252) 830-3490, Div.3- Deborah Robertson- dlobertson@ncdot.gov (910)251-5724, Div.4-Charles Cauley- ccauley@ncdot.gov (252)-237-6164, Div.6 Davin Schmidt- dschmidt@ncdot.gov (910)486-1493, Div.7 Leonydas Guy- lguy@ncdot.gov (336) 334-3192. Div.8 Mary Helms- mphelms@ncdot.gov (910)944-2344, Div.9 Kent Boyer- kboyer@ncdot.gov (336)703-6500, Div.10- Barrett Eatman beatman@ncdot.gov (704) 982-0101, Div.11 Joe Laws - jlaws@ncdot.gov (336)903-9138, Div.12 Steve Rackley- srackley@ncdot.gov (704) 480-9027, Div. 13- Josh Wortman - jpwortman1@ncdot.gov (828)251-6171 Div.14 Jeremy Rogers- jdrodgers@ncdot.gov (828) 586-2141

23. **I am located in a State owned building in Raleigh and we are going to do a purge how do I get extra containers or extra pickups for recycling?** You need to notify Dorothy Morgan at dkmorgan@ncdot.gov or John sharp at jsharp@ncdot.gov or 919-715-3708 at least one week in advance to get the containers you need for recycling.
24. **I am located in a Lease owned building and the vendor has not picked my recycle material, who should I contact?** Questions regarding Recycling Services for State Agency located in Leased Property Sites are to be directed to the Department of Administration State Property Office for assistance with recycling service questions. However, if you know who your Landlord or Property Manger of the building is, you can try contact them.
25. **What is recycling contamination?** Recycling Contamination is when unacceptable material is placed in a recycling container or bin. For example, yogurt containers are placed in a plastic bottle bin - the yogurt container is considered a contaminant.
26. **Do I need to wash and squash the plastic and metal containers?** Washing the containers will help reduce odor, flies and rodents. Squashing the containers will free up more space in the recycling bin.
27. **Can I recycle metal tin cans in the same recycle bin with the Aluminum cans?** Yes
28. **Do I need to remove the label from metal tin cans?** Yes. Paper labels on metal cans are relatively easy to remove and can be recycled as mixed paper. If paper is included in the metal stream, it is considered a contaminant. The problem is that during the recycling process, the metal is melted down and if paper is included in the process it can cause flash fires in the furnace, endangering the workers and producing impurities in the end product.
29. **Must I recycle only clear beverage bottles in the recycle bins?** No. All colored beverage containers are acceptable in the recycle bins.
30. **Which plastics can I recycle?** Only beverage bottles with #1 or #2 stamped on the bottom of the container located inside of a triangle at NCDOT. However, all plastics in theory are recyclable. The difficulty is that in order for plastics to be recycled, there must be an end market for the materials and they must be separated into the same resin type. Each different type of plastic is indicated with a number stamped on the bottom of the container inside a triangle. Plastic bottles with the number 2 on the bottom have the strongest markets and therefore are accepted at recycling facilities.
31. **What Office paper can I recycle under the current contract for Raleigh buildings?** You can recycle the following white/color paper, post it notes, envelopes with and without windows, copy paper and copy paper wrapper, calculator tape paper, manuals, reports, manila folders, brochures in the same bin. Newspapers, Magazines, and telephone books can be recycle, but must be in separate containers.
32. **Can I recycle my Office Christmas tree?** Yes. Contact your Town/City/County for the closest recycle center for your trees.
33. **Can I recycle chipboard/ cereal boxes in with my cardboard?** Yes.
34. **Where can I recycle regular alkaline D, C, A, AA batteries?**
At this time, there is not any recycle collection centers for these types of batteries. Regular household (non-rechargeable) batteries are rarely considered to be hazardous since only very small amounts, if any, manufactured today (since 1994) contain mercury. Alkaline batteries are composed primarily of common metals - steel, zinc and manganese - and do not pose a health or environmental risk during normal use or disposal.
I would suggest switching to a rechargeable battery. You pay a little more up front, but in the long run you save money by being able to reuse them over and over again.
Best of all, you can recycle these batteries when they no longer hold a charge at multiple locations within your community.
35. **I work in a Raleigh building, my question is can paper back or hard cover books be placed in the office mix paper recycle bins?**
In many instances "soft back books" can be commingled with the Office fiber-Mixed Grade but it would be best for large quantities of this material to be placed in boxes or stacked next to the recycling bins. Many of the soft back covers have plastic coating that cause the books to be kept separate. Also, hard back books should also be kept separate from soft back books as well as office paper.
36. **Why can't I recycle my telephone book in with the bin for office paper recycling and where can I recycle my telephone book?**
Telephone books are made from recycled materials which contain dyes and adhesives. These recycled products are classified as "end of life" items and cannot be recycle with office paper which can still be used to make new paper. For recycling these books I would suggest contacting your City/Town or County Waste Management Division for telephone book recycling locations. If you work in the the Wake County/Raleigh Area the City of Raleigh has posted a listing of all sites accepting old telephone books at www.raleigh-nc.org and Wake County Convenience Centers are available to State Agencies year round and a listing of sites is available at <http://www.wakegov.com/recycling/business/multimaterialdropoff.htm>
37. **Can photo paper be recycled with office paper?** Technically, no. Photo paper, i.e., paper used to *develop* photographs is not recyclable, due to the chemical content. However, glossy photo paper for inkjet or laser printers is recyclable as glossy paper.
38. **What is the law pertaining to recycling mercury thermostats and florescent light bulbs?** Effective July 1, 2011 the law reads -
G.S. 130A-309.10 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(m) No person shall knowingly dispose of fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury in a sanitary landfill for the disposal of construction and demolition debris waste that is unlined or in any other landfill that is unlined."

"§ 130A-310.61. Removal and recycling of mercury-containing products from structures to be demolished.

Prior to demolition of any building or structure in the State, the contractor responsible for the demolition activity or the owner of the building or structure to be demolished shall remove all fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury from the building or structure to be demolished.'

"§ 130A-310.60. Recycling required by public agencies.

(a) Each State agency, including the General Assembly, the General Court of Justice, universities, community colleges, public schools, and political subdivisions using State funds for the construction or operation of public buildings shall establish a program in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Administration for the collection and recycling of all spent fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury generated in public buildings owned by each respective entity. The program shall include procedures for convenient collection, safe storage, and proper recycling of spent fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury and contractual or other arrangements with buyers of the recyclable materials.

(b) Each State agency, including the General Assembly, the General Court of Justice, universities, community colleges, the Department of Public Instruction on behalf of the public schools, and political subdivisions shall submit a report on or before December 1, 2011, that documents the entity's compliance with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Administration. The Departments shall compile the information submitted and jointly shall submit a report to the Environmental Review Commission on or before January 15, 2012, concerning the activities required by subsection (a) of this section. The information provided shall also be included in the report required by G.S. 130A-309.06(c).