

Recycling in Henderson County  
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This year the Solid Waste Division will see changes in recycling. Preliminary numbers indicate that Henderson County will double their recycling rates this year. Statistics based on fiscal year (July to June) have shown that the rate of recycling was increased by 72% from Fiscal year 2009 to 2010. Perhaps as an indication of the year to come, in the week after last Christmas, paper recycling increased from 28 tons to 39 tons.

In order to further improve solid waste and recycling services in Henderson County, the Board of Commissioners passed a Transition Plan for the solid waste permitting process on October 21, 2010 to assist the haulers in Henderson County with compliance in their business operations. This transition process included the identification of non-compliant trash hauling equipment in Henderson County. Under state mandate, all trash equipment must be leakproof and purpose built for trash hauling. Existing non-compliant equipment have until January 2014 to be replaced or upgraded to comply with state regulations. New this year, all trash haulers, by permit, must incorporate recycling into their existing hauling operations. All residences and commercial business in Henderson County can now recycle with their existing trash hauler.

Expanding recycling throughout Henderson County will also make it easier for residents and commercial businesses to be in compliance with the North Carolina Recycling Materials Disposal Bans. These bans encourage North Carolina residents to do their part to keep motor oil filters, wooden pallets, and plastic bottles out of landfills. Other items currently banned from disposal include used oil, lead-acid batteries, aluminum cans, whole scrap tires, alcoholic beverage containers, antifreeze, appliances, and, as of January 1, 2011, electronics. Haulers will accept banned materials such as plastic bottles and aluminum food and beverage cans in addition to mixed paper, cardboard, and glass containers. Other items such as motor oil filters, wooden pallets, scrap tires, used oil, lead-acid batteries, antifreeze, appliances, and electronics may be recycled at the Stoney Mountain transfer and convenience center.

Enforcement of the disposal bans will chiefly be applied at disposal facilities such as landfills and transfer stations by the N.C. Division of Waste Management. It is unlikely that enforcement will take place at individual businesses or other generating facilities. Depending on the type of violator and the severity of the violation, the Division of Waste Management may, at its discretion, assess a range of administrative and/or civil penalties for violation of the disposal bans. The law does allow for accidental or occasional disposal of small amounts of banned materials. For more information on North Carolina materials ban, please see the full North Carolina general statute <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/38/37984.pdf>.

In addition to materials banned by state statute, the Henderson County transfer and recycling convenience center located at Stoney Mountain also accept items such as used cooking oil and household batteries. Additionally, to keep hazardous household materials such as pesticides, household cleaners, and flammable liquids out of the waste stream, Henderson County schedules household hazardous waste events during the Spring and Summer months.

Please note that residents and commercial residents utilizing trash hauling services should contact their existing trash hauler for more information on recycling as each hauler may have specific requirements for recycling collection. Additionally, the Solid Waste Division may be contacted at 828-697-4505 or Henderson County Recycling at 828-694-6524 for specific questions on if an item is recyclable in Henderson County.

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