

Tour of the Henderson County Transfer Station and Recycling Center
Submitted by Alexis Baker, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Recently, I was requested to write an article discussing how to create an easier and less stressful experience at the Henderson County Transfer Station. Long lines during peak hours can make bringing trash or recycling to the Henderson County Transfer Station at Stoney Mountain frustrating.

First of all, there are two lanes leading into the transfer station. The far left lane is for those with trash or construction waste. Please tarp and tie down your loads. A minimum fee of \$10 is incurred for loads under 400 pounds regardless of the number of bags of trash you may bring. Heavy loads must be weighed across the scales at \$52 per ton. If you are a frequent visitor of the transfer station and are using the same vehicle, keep your previous receipt. This receipt has your empty truck weight. This will let you pay at the scalehouse window and dump your trash without having to reweigh your empty truck. Another hint is to have your driver's license ready if you have a heavy load, and it is your first visit. You will have it returned to you when you reweigh your empty truck and pay. If you have a small load, have your cash or credit card ready. Cash, check, and mastercard or visa may be used to pay. Finally, please note that all manual loaders are not permitted into the transfer station after 4 pm.

The right lane is for those recycling. Recyclers may use our bag for bag program. That is, if they bring recycling, they may dispose of an equal amount of bagged residential trash for free. Please note: residential trash **must be bagged**. Loose trash, furniture, or construction waste cannot be utilized in the bag for bag program. Violators caught abusing the bag for bag program will be sent back to the scalehouse to pay the appropriate fees. Repeat offenders may be banned from the transfer station or recycling center. Those just bringing recycling may always do so for free.

The recycling convenience center now offers more services. All batteries may be recycled free of charge, provided that they are separated into the appropriate drums for rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries. Electronics (office equipment) may be taken to the blue shed for recycling Wednesdays 9-12pm. Home mercury thermostats may be brought to the gatehouse.

We also have the same services familiar to our devoted Henderson County recyclers. Recycling roll-off bins exist for loose recyclables at the Recycling Convenience Center. Recycling should be separated into the appropriate bins: bottles, cans, jars, and jugs; mixed paper; and cardboard. Please take recyclables out of plastic bags before depositing them into the appropriate bins. Henderson County residents may also bring used motor oil, cooking oil, antifreeze, and metal appliances free of charge.

We will also be holding hazardous household waste events once a month throughout the summer. Residents will be charged \$5 per gallon of paint. Pesticides, insecticides, home thermostats, and cleaning chemicals will be accepted free of charge. Announcements

will be made in the Hendersonville Time-News and on the Solid Waste website at www.hendersoncountync.org/solidwaste.

Other exciting developments are also in the works for the Solid Waste Division and the Transfer Center. Design work for capital improvements began at the end of 2009 for the Henderson County Transfer Station at Stoney Mountain. These improvements will be paid for through an enterprise fund, generated solely from solid waste revenue and not property taxes. The entrance to the scales at the Stoney Mountain facility will be relocated and separated from the Citizen Convenience center. New entrance and exit scales will allow trucks to weigh upon entrance and exit rather than backing up traffic on Stoney Mountain Road. The recycling convenience center will be completely paved with recycling bins, hazardous household waste, and electronics collection positioned to improve traffic flow and providing customers with a more pleasant experience. A separate materials recovery facility will also be built. A material recovery facility (MRF) will collect recyclables, sort them, and ready them for marketing. Haulers will be able to tip their recyclables onto the floor of the MRF rather than wasting time tipping their loads into bins or sorting. The costs of transporting recyclables to South Carolina will be cut and a new source of revenue will be generated to increase solid waste services.

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