



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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### **NORTH CAROLINA RECYCLING PROGRAMS TOP 1.3 MILLION TONS OF RECOVERED MATERIALS**

**RALEIGH** — Total recovery of recycled materials from local government programs grew by more than 6 percent last year, according to a recent analysis conducted by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

According to the annual report, local government recovery of recycled materials grew by more than 77,000 tons, achieving an all-time high recovery of almost 1.35 million tons of material. The analysis also found that almost every major category of materials experienced an increase in recovery.

“We are beginning to see a change in how local recycling programs are managed as well as an improved public awareness of how personal actions impact the environment,” said Scott Mouw, chief of the Community and Business Assistance Section of the state Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. “The opportunities have never been greater for local governments to provide efficient and effective recycling services and they are beginning to adjust recycling services to take advantage of these opportunities.”

Demand for recovered recyclable materials remained strong during fiscal 2006-07, and the infrastructure for processing recovered materials continued to grow. In response, some local governments are modernizing recycling programs by providing larger collection containers, collecting a wider range of materials and putting more emphasis on educating the public about waste reduction.

The average county per capita recovery, which excludes yard waste and scrap tires, remained relatively unchanged at approximately 116 pounds per person per year. The ranking of county performance, which includes recovery from municipal programs, also changed very little. Dare County held onto the top spot once again, with Catawba County taking over second with a recovery of 714 pounds per capita.

For the third year in a row, Iredell County held onto a spot in the top 15 due in part to a unique rigid plastic recycling program that accepts materials such as 5-gallon spackle buckets and plastic outdoor playground equipment. New Hanover County also maintained a spot in the top 15 this year. The county operates a program to recycle construction related debris at the county’s landfill that helped the county achieve a recovery rate of 190 pounds per person.

Another notable on the list is Cumberland County which ranked 69<sup>th</sup> in this year’s rankings. During the past five years, the county has made continual investments in waste reduction, resulting in a steady climb up the list. The county likely will climb farther when the city of Fayetteville implements a planned curbside recycling program this year.

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A list detailing per capita annual recycling rates for each North Carolina county is attached. The totals include tonnage recycled by both county and municipal programs within the county. Yard waste, tires and some special wastes are excluded from the totals to allow consistent comparisons from year-to-year. For more information, contact Jim Hickman, DPPEA local government assistance team leader, at (919) 715-6528.

2006-07

<b>County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Per Capita recovery (lbs.)</b>
DARE COUNTY	34,674	941.63
CATAWBA COUNTY	151,128	713.89
CAMDEN COUNTY	9,284	426.73
BUNCOMBE COUNTY	221,320	422.80
PITT COUNTY	146,403	415.54
MACON COUNTY	33,076	342.56
ORANGE COUNTY	123,766	291.21
SWAIN COUNTY	13,938	285.62
WATAUGA COUNTY	43,410	200.01
GUILFORD COUNTY	449,078	199.03
NEW HANOVER COUNTY	184,120	189.51
MECKLENBURG COUNTY	826,893	174.49
IREDELL COUNTY	145,234	172.15
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	30,360	168.78
DUPLIN COUNTY	52,710	159.83
MCDOWELL COUNTY	43,632	153.87
JACKSON COUNTY	36,312	151.92
POLK COUNTY	19,080	149.51
PASQUOTANK COUNTY	39,956	147.19
ALLEGHANY COUNTY	11,012	145.41
CARTERET COUNTY	63,558	141.32
CRAVEN COUNTY	95,558	135.91
PAMLICO COUNTY	13,097	134.56
PERQUIMANS COUNTY	12,442	132.53
MITCHELL COUNTY	15,906	130.40
CURRITUCK COUNTY	23,518	128.90
BURKE COUNTY	88,663	127.21
CHOWAN COUNTY	14,664	126.24
YANCEY COUNTY	18,368	124.01
BRUNSWICK COUNTY	94,964	124.01
WAKE COUNTY	790,007	122.34
DURHAM COUNTY	246,824	120.65
CLAY COUNTY	10,144	115.04
HAYWOOD COUNTY	56,662	108.69
PENDER COUNTY	48,724	106.52
LINCOLN COUNTY	71,302	106.22
ALEXANDER COUNTY	36,296	106.22

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County	Population	Per Capita recovery (lbs.)
GATES COUNTY	11,602	106.14
BEAUFORT COUNTY	46,346	103.97
FORSYTH COUNTY	331,859	100.56
UNION COUNTY	172,087	99.74
ASHE COUNTY	25,774	99.66
GRAHAM COUNTY	8,109	96.76
WAYNE COUNTY	114,930	92.94
AVERY COUNTY	18,174	92.77
CHATHAM COUNTY	57,707	90.61
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	27,506	82.81
LEE COUNTY	55,282	80.61
DAVIE COUNTY	39,836	80.48
GRANVILLE COUNTY	53,840	80.17
WILSON COUNTY	77,468	78.83
HENDERSON COUNTY	100,107	78.16
RUTHERFORD COUNTY	63,178	77.12
MADISON COUNTY	20,454	76.50
CABARRUS COUNTY	157,179	76.38
YADKIN COUNTY	37,810	75.36
SURRY COUNTY	72,990	74.15
SCOTLAND COUNTY	36,994	74.03
HYDE COUNTY	5,511	73.63
ALAMANCE COUNTY	139,786	73.19
LENOIR COUNTY	58,172	73.12
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	91,830	71.30
MOORE COUNTY	82,292	68.12
JONES COUNTY	10,318	64.88
NASH COUNTY	92,220	60.18
FRANKLIN COUNTY	55,315	57.82
COLUMBUS COUNTY	54,656	57.72
BLADEN COUNTY	32,870	56.10
CUMBERLAND COUNTY	306,545	55.71
VANCE COUNTY	43,920	53.18
CLEVELAND COUNTY	96,714	53.13
CALDWELL COUNTY	79,298	52.96
ROWAN COUNTY	134,540	49.44
ANSON COUNTY	25,371	48.50
DAVIDSON COUNTY	155,348	46.49
MARTIN COUNTY	24,396	44.51
WARREN COUNTY	19,969	43.49
GASTON COUNTY	197,232	42.84
WASHINGTON COUNTY	13,360	42.66
GREENE COUNTY	20,833	41.14
CHEROKEE COUNTY	26,816	40.49
TYRRELL COUNTY	4,240	40.26
STOKES COUNTY	46,335	40.13
EDGECOMBE COUNTY	52,644	38.97

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County	Population	Per Capita recovery (lbs.)
SAMPSON COUNTY	64,057	38.69
HOKE COUNTY	42,202	37.26
HERTFORD COUNTY	23,878	37.12
RANDOLPH COUNTY	138,586	36.93
ONSLow COUNTY	161,212	35.42
HARNETT COUNTY	103,714	30.26
WILKES COUNTY	66,925	29.96
RICHMOND COUNTY	46,700	28.97
PERSON COUNTY	37,448	25.53
CASWELL COUNTY	23,523	23.80
BERTIE COUNTY	19,355	22.99
STANLY COUNTY	59,128	19.92
HALIFAX COUNTY	55,606	19.73
JOHNSTON COUNTY	151,589	19.52
ROBESON COUNTY	129,048	11.45
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	21,524	3.73

Average FY 2006-2007 county recovery: 115.72 lbs. per capita.

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