



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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ONLINE WASTE EXCHANGE FINDS HOMES FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTE

RALEIGH – Created in 2002 through a joint effort between the N.C. Energy Office and the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, NC WasteTrader has achieved success as the state’s virtual marketplace for those looking to buy, sell and exchange industrial “waste” commodities.

NC WasteTrader (www.ncwastetrader.org) is a free, convenient service that helps North Carolina companies find markets for useable industrial scrap materials. To date, commodities kept out of landfills through this service include:

- 698,000 pounds of chicken diapers annually
- 1,600 pounds of stainless steel shelving
- 100 200-meter rolls of polyethylene terephthalate (PET plastic)
- 28,771 pounds of polyester strapping
- 500,000 paperboard tubes annually
- 10,000 pounds polyester fabric
- 180,000 pounds of carbon black annually
- 36,000 pounds of plexco pipe

In all, more than 550 materials have been posted online in the three years since the site’s launch. The equivalent of more than 105 billion BTUs in energy savings has been realized from the reuse and recycling of the traded materials.

Community recycling programs have also found NC WasteTrader to be a helpful and effective service. “WasteTrader is great,” said Eileen Sousley, Cabarrus County recycling coordinator. “Every time I post an item for trade on WasteTrader, it quickly disappears and when I claim an item listed in the ‘available’ section of the Web site, it’s been easy to work with the people trading the item.”

The N.C. Energy Office continues to support NC WasteTrader, and DPPEA staff provides technical assistance for the user-friendly waste exchange by attempting to match a commodity with a company that can use it. Hundreds of businesses and traders consult NC WasteTrader frequently, looking for bargains or for an inexpensive alternative to landfill disposal of items they no longer want or need. By trading their items on the Web site, companies can avoid landfill tipping fees and can sometimes even make a profit in the process.

In case you were wondering, chicken diapers do help prevent messes, but maybe not the ones you think. Chicken diapers are the absorbent pads placed under uncooked chicken in poultry trays. To find out more about NC WasteTrader, log onto the Web site and check it out, or call Tom Rhodes at (919) 715-6516.

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