



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

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### **NORTH CAROLINA'S RECYCLING CHALLENGE: 2 MILLION TONS BY 2012**

RALEIGH— The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources today challenged local governments to dramatically improve the performance of their recycling programs, to “2 Million Tons by 2012.”



This goal urges local governments to accelerate their recent trend toward increasing the recovery of recyclable materials. The term “2 Million Tons by 2012” refers to achieving an annual rate of two million tons of recycling through municipal and county recycling programs. The annual rate of recycling reported for fiscal year 2006-07 rose to a new record of 1.35 million tons. To reach two million tons of annual recovery by 2012, local government recycling programs would need to increase their performance by 48 percent from the July 1, 2007, baseline, which represents about a 10 percent improvement per year.

“We strongly believe that not only can local government recycling programs increase their numbers, but that there are real environmental and economic benefits for communities and for the state in reaching ‘2 Million Tons by 2012,’” said DENR Secretary Bill Ross. “With stable recycling markets, a strong state recycling economy and plenty of communities already improving their programs, this goal is highly achievable.”

A number of key factors will assist in reaching the goal. While municipal and county recycling programs are benefitting from unprecedented domestic and global demand for the paper, metals, glass and plastics typically collected in local programs, access to materials-processing capacity is at an all-time high in the state. Markets for materials such as wallboard and organics are also emerging, offering new opportunities for disposal diversion.

The cost of disposal is also rising incrementally at the same time that a new state disposal tax provides both a higher level of state grants for recycling programs and revenues directly back to communities that they can use to improve recycling. In addition, many communities are already enhancing the scope and efficiency of their recycling collection programs and offering upgrades in service to their citizens and to other waste generators.

“If municipalities and counties take advantage of existing opportunities and look to the excellent examples of many of their own peers in improving recycling services, we will reach the ‘2 Million Tons by 2012’ goal,” said Scott Mouw, state recycling program director with the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. “We’ve already seen that even small communities in the most rural areas of the state can run high-performance recycling programs. If communities set their minds to it, they can make impressive leaps in material recovery.”

It is anticipated that one of the primary benefits of “2 Million Tons by 2012” will be to boost the already expanding state recycling economy. Studies by DPPEA have documented the strong growth in both jobs and the number of recycling companies in the state, including manufacturers who rely on recycled materials to make their products.

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DENR will measure achievement of the goal through an existing statutory process whereby municipalities and counties report annually on the results of their solid waste and recycling programs. These results are in turn reported in the state's Solid Waste Management Annual Report, released to the General Assembly in January of each year.

DPPEA has calculated that reaching the goal will require as many communities as possible to reach a per capita recycling rate of 451 pounds per person. Some counties, in combination with their municipalities, have already achieved that baseline rate of recycling. The list below compares the current recycling rates of North Carolina counties against the 2 million tons by 2012 per capita target and the tonnage increase each county would need to achieve to contribute their share of the state goal.

For more information on the "2 Million Tons by 2012" Initiative, please contact Scott Mouw at (919) 715-6512 or [scott.mouw@ncmail.net](mailto:scott.mouw@ncmail.net) or Jim Hickman at (919) 715-6528 or [jim.hickman@ncmail.net](mailto:jim.hickman@ncmail.net)

<b>County</b>	<b>Per Capita Recovery (including yard waste)</b>	<b>Increase Needed Per Capita</b>	<b>Tonnage Increase Needed</b>
ALAMANCE COUNTY	145.34	306.11	21,394.74
ALEXANDER COUNTY	117.77	333.68	6,055.71
ALLEGHANY COUNTY	244.43	207.02	1,139.86
ANSON COUNTY	212.47	238.98	3,031.61
ASHE COUNTY	103.16	348.29	4,488.47
AVERY COUNTY	92.77	358.68	3,259.35
BEAUFORT COUNTY	112.46	338.99	7,855.48
BERTIE COUNTY	33.74	417.71	4,042.39
BLADEN COUNTY	56.10	395.35	6,497.53
BRUNSWICK COUNTY	280.02	171.43	8,139.92
BUNCOMBE COUNTY	562.94	(111.49)	-
BURKE COUNTY	209.93	241.52	10,707.06
CABARRUS COUNTY	325.41	126.04	9,905.45
CALDWELL COUNTY	106.18	345.27	13,689.71
CAMDEN COUNTY	426.73	24.72	114.73
CARTERET COUNTY	158.36	293.09	9,314.03
CASWELL COUNTY	30.24	421.21	4,954.09
CATAWBA COUNTY	956.25	(504.80)	-
CHATHAM COUNTY	152.67	298.78	8,620.74
CHEROKEE COUNTY	64.02	387.43	5,194.66
CHOWAN COUNTY	221.71	229.74	1,684.43
CLAY COUNTY	140.67	310.78	1,576.25
CLEVELAND COUNTY	354.25	97.20	4,700.52
COLUMBUS COUNTY	77.45	374.00	10,220.80
CRAVEN COUNTY	362.29	89.16	4,260.21
CUMBERLAND COUNTY	315.17	136.28	20,888.74

CURRITUCK COUNTY	277.38	174.07	2,046.92
DARE COUNTY	1,213.09	(761.64)	-
DAVIDSON COUNTY	162.36	289.09	22,454.51
DAVIE COUNTY	120.71	330.74	6,587.62
DUPLIN COUNTY	194.54	256.91	6,770.75
DURHAM COUNTY	120.65	330.80	40,824.96
EDGECOMBE COUNTY	107.98	343.47	9,040.81
FORSYTH COUNTY	574.68	(123.23)	-
FRANKLIN COUNTY	102.54	348.91	9,650.10
GASTON COUNTY	190.91	260.54	25,693.24
GATES COUNTY	156.02	295.43	1,713.76
GRAHAM COUNTY	96.76	354.69	1,438.09
GRANVILLE COUNTY	309.37	142.08	3,824.87
GREENE COUNTY	54.82	396.63	4,131.45
GUILFORD COUNTY	337.18	114.27	25,657.01
HALIFAX COUNTY	194.25	257.20	7,150.98
HARNETT COUNTY	77.51	373.94	19,391.63
HAYWOOD COUNTY	118.22	333.23	9,440.72
HENDERSON COUNTY	231.72	219.73	10,998.48
HERTFORD COUNTY	39.21	412.24	4,921.72
HOKE COUNTY	121.51	329.94	6,962.15
HYDE COUNTY	73.63	377.82	1,041.07
IREDELL COUNTY	323.85	127.60	9,265.75
JACKSON COUNTY	151.92	299.53	5,438.33
JOHNSTON COUNTY	93.64	357.81	27,120.22
JONES COUNTY	74.77	376.68	1,943.31
LEE COUNTY	349.02	102.43	2,831.36
LENOIR COUNTY	117.68	333.77	9,708.12
LINCOLN COUNTY	205.52	245.93	8,767.75
MACON COUNTY	487.44	(35.99)	-
MADISON COUNTY	82.37	369.08	3,774.58
MARTIN COUNTY	48.20	403.25	4,918.89
MCDOWELL COUNTY	193.10	258.35	5,636.16
MECKLENBURG COUNTY	375.95	75.50	31,216.48
MITCHELL COUNTY	142.98	308.47	2,453.28
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	149.20	302.25	4,156.84
MOORE COUNTY	555.01	(103.56)	-
NASH COUNTY	350.00	101.45	4,677.92
NEW HANOVER COUNTY	308.69	142.76	13,142.58
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	3.73	447.72	4,818.40

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ONslow COUNTY	36.25	415.20	33,467.22
ORANGE COUNTY	422.83	28.62	1,771.08
PAMLICO COUNTY	134.56	316.89	2,075.15
PASQUOTANK COUNTY	147.19	304.26	6,078.43
PENDER COUNTY	172.20	279.25	6,803.16
PERQUIMANS COUNTY	226.88	224.57	1,397.07
PERSON COUNTY	57.58	393.87	7,374.87
PITT COUNTY	453.53	(2.08)	-
POLK COUNTY	189.47	261.98	2,499.32
RANDOLPH COUNTY	81.36	370.09	25,644.30
RICHMOND COUNTY	28.97	422.48	9,865.00
ROBESON COUNTY	309.15	142.30	9,181.90
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	287.68	163.77	7,519.40
ROWAN COUNTY	225.79	225.66	15,179.86
RUTHERFORD COUNTY	268.08	183.37	5,792.44
SAMPSON COUNTY	68.43	383.02	12,267.44
SCOTLAND COUNTY	577.60	(126.15)	-
STANLY COUNTY	68.22	383.23	11,329.67
STOKES COUNTY	54.35	397.10	9,199.85
SURRY COUNTY	95.30	356.15	12,997.80
SWAIN COUNTY	291.36	160.09	1,115.68
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	277.87	173.58	2,634.90
TYRRELL COUNTY	40.26	411.19	871.72
UNION COUNTY	146.08	305.37	26,274.95
VANCE COUNTY	99.94	351.51	7,719.07
WAKE COUNTY	284.65	166.80	65,886.98
WARREN COUNTY	43.49	407.96	4,073.27
WASHINGTON COUNTY	42.66	408.79	2,730.69
WATAUGA COUNTY	231.52	219.93	4,773.49
WAYNE COUNTY	275.76	175.69	10,096.01
WILKES COUNTY	93.81	357.64	11,967.45
WILSON COUNTY	323.60	127.85	4,952.03
YADKIN COUNTY	82.56	368.89	6,973.92
YANCEY COUNTY	124.01	327.44	3,007.18

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