



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: Nov. 9, 2007

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CELEBRATE AMERICA RECYCLES DAY NOV. 15

RALEIGH – Residents could be recycling much of the nearly 11 million tons of waste filling North Carolina landfills each year.

For that reason, the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance and the Carolina Recycling Association are using America Recycles Day on Nov. 15 to encourage people to buy recycled products and recycle plastic bottles, newspapers and any other recyclable materials.

“Recyclable paper accounts for more than 20 percent of what is thrown away by the state’s households each year,” said Kelley Dennings, education and outreach coordinator for the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. “If recovered, this paper would return around 500,000 tons of materials to recycling companies struggling for supply.”

America Recycles Day, now in its 10th year, recognizes the importance of recycling, buying recycled products and protecting the nation’s resources. To encourage recycling, events are being held throughout North Carolina and the rest of the nation. In 2006, more than 100,000 individuals signed or e-mailed pledges to step up their recycling efforts. Many of these pledges were signed during the more than 1,000 America Recycles Day events held across the country.

This year’s campaign slogan, “It All Comes Back To You,” presents multiple messages. A recycled product can return to consumers as a new product, recycling comes back to consumers as an improved environment, and it is everyone’s responsibility to recycle.

Recycling saves energy, prevents air and water pollution, conserves natural resources and is increasingly important to the state’s economy. In North Carolina, about 14,000 jobs are tied to the recycling industry. Numerous businesses are involved in the collection of a range of materials such as construction waste, computers and traditionally collected household recyclables.

"In North Carolina, glass collected from recycling programs across the state is transformed into new bottles at manufacturing plants in Wilson and Winston-Salem," said Lisa Velesaris, Carolina Recycling Association. "These bottles find their way back onto grocery shelves and into our homes, where they can again be recycled."

Soda bottles are being turned into new plastic bottles, newspaper into insulation and cardboard into new boxes by North Carolina manufacturers using materials collected from the state’s citizens. A number of facilities are using sophisticated technologies to transform disposables into common consumer products – such as optical sorting of colored plastic chips used in making new detergent bottles.

To learn more about America Recycles 2007 activities happening across the country or to sign an online pledge, go to <http://www.americarecyclesday.org/>. Pledge forms can also be picked up at America Recycles Day events and from participating organizations.

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