

State Name: North Carolina
Agency Name: Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance
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1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

Majority of the state has voluntary recycling. A few communities have made it mandatory.

State Bans for MSW landfills GS 130A-309.10(f) – Used Oil, Yard Trash, White Goods, Antifreeze, Aluminum Cans, Whole Scrap Tires, Lead-Acid Batteries.

*Local Bans – Many communities have disposal diversion ordinances affecting one or more materials, usually OCC. See link for complete list.
<http://www.p2pays.org/ref/20/19002.pdf>*

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

Statutes only encourage governments to maintain waste reduction programs. GS 130A-309.09B

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

State Goal, 40% reduction in per capita disposal by July 1, 2001 from a baseline year of FY 1991-92. Goals was not met, no action has been taken. GS 130A-309.04(c)-(C3)

Local Goals, as part of each local government's 10-year solid waste management plan (which are updated every 3 years), each unit of local government is required to have a per capita waste reduction goal. Most of the burden of planning is on the county level and not the municipal level. Some take their goals seriously, many do not.

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard

waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

All units of local government are required to report annually regarding their waste reduction activities. The reports include tonnages of traditional recyclables and yard waste.

All permitted solid waste facilities are required to report the amount of waste received annually and the county of origin. Out-of-state facilities report voluntarily regarding waste received from NC.

State uses per capita disposal as our official measurement. Wastes counted include: MSW (landfilled or incinerated), C&D and tire derived fuel.

We estimate our recycling rate for the state. It is believed to be between 25% and 30%. However, if we count other “not traditionally landfilled” waste such as primary wood waste, the recycling rate could be greater than 40%. We stick with the 25-30% estimate.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

Although we are able to determine recycling occurring from state agencies, we have no statutory ability to require the commercial or industrial sector to provide recycling tonnages.

Recyclers serving the state are voluntarily surveyed every few years to determine overall recycling activity in the state. Local government data is backed out to obtain private sector estimate of recycling. These activities are factored into our 25% to 30% estimate.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

The 25% to 30% estimate has been relatively constant over the past few years so the rate could be applied to any of the past 3 to 4 fiscal years.

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

Municipal government generally uses curbside collection programs. The majority of these services are contracted – probably around 80%.

County government generally uses drop-off collection systems. The majority of these are publicly operated. About 60% public and 40% contracted.

I wish we had the ability to require different size communities meet different levels of service. Has not happened, yet.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

We have some great small rural recycling programs. Almost all are drop-off systems. A few factors go into the great programs

- *Competent and motivated coordinators*
- *Incentive programs (e.g., PAYT) (16 out of our 100 counties have PAYT but with varying success)*
- *The county's ability to process recyclables (e.g., baling, densification, etc)*
- *Coordination between county and municipal government*

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

Private companies can apply for recycling tax credit certification. With this certification, they receive a local property tax credit for property used for recycling. <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/26/25939.htm>

Our division generally conducts two grant rounds per year. One for local government and one for recycling businesses. Roughly \$250K to \$300K are allocated to each grant round. Maximum awards for local governments are usually between \$20K and \$25K, and for business these awards are usually between \$25K and \$50K.

Revolving Loan Fund – Our Recycling Business Assistance Center has a partnership with the Self Help Credit Union. The Credit Union manages the Recycling loan fund. <http://www.self-help.org/commercialending/sbx3.asp>

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

Recyclables generated within state agencies are generally collected by private contractors under a contract with the state.

Our division employs roughly 25 people. Of these 25 people, approximately 10 are dedicated to expanding recycling businesses in NC and providing technical assistance to local government, state government, institutions, business, industry and citizens.