

Resources for Sustainable Purchasing

Jan Hardin
Solid Waste Manager
Waste Reduction Partners





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North Carolina Purchasing Toolkit: Recycled Content Products (Draft)

NC Purchasing Toolkit

Waste Reduction Partners

- Innovative Partnership between NCDEQ & COGs – Land of Sky Regional Council
- Non-regulatory / no cost
- Solid waste reduction, energy efficiency, and water conservation
- Conducts on-site assessments and provides cost saving strategies and resources



WRP Volunteers

- Retired business professional and staff
- Engineers
- Scientists
- 40 field team members across the state
- Recycling “Brain Power”
- 2,300 years experience



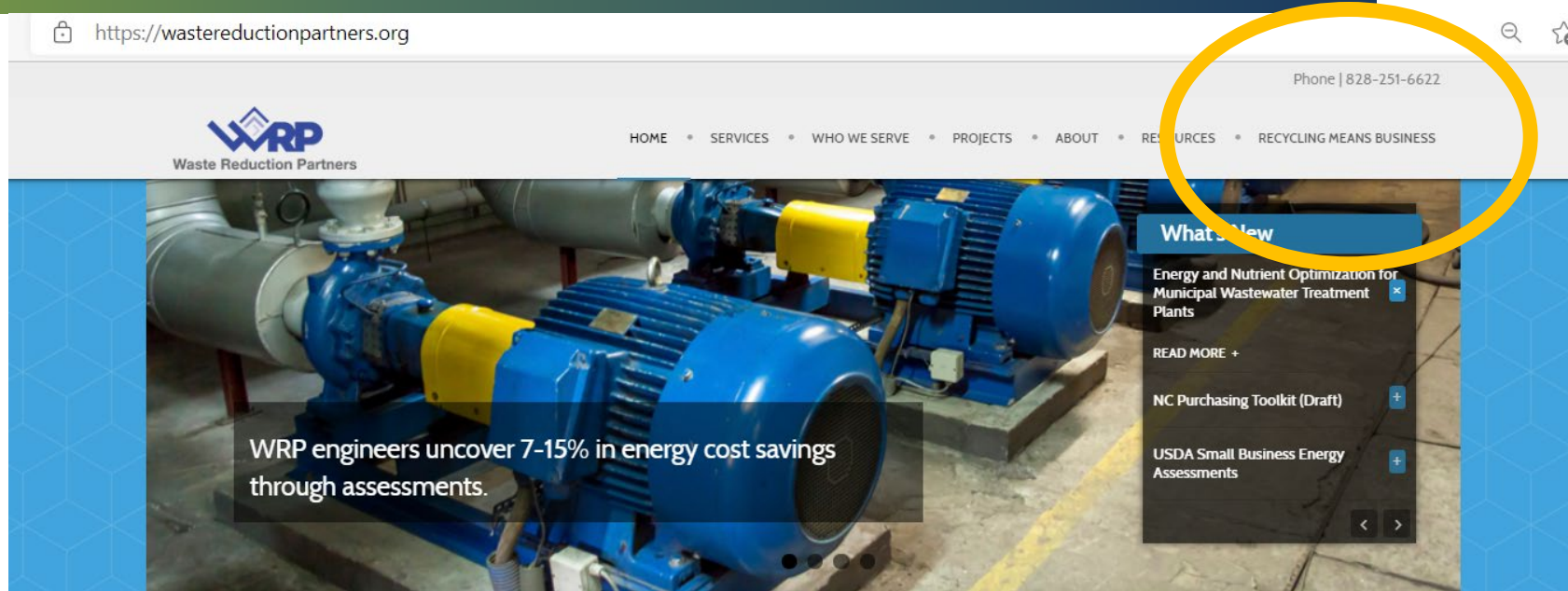
Motivation Behind the Campaign

- Environmental purchasing strategies are often a recommendations in WRP's assessments
 - Energy efficient devices
 - Water efficient devices
- Special push for recycled content to support domestic market development of the recycling industry

Partners in this Project

- NC Recycling Business Assistance Center
- Southeastern Recycling Development Council
- Carolina Recycling Association
- Association of Plastics Recyclers
- Environmental Protection Agency

Where to Find the On-line Toolkit



Waste Reduction Partners Serving You During COVID-19

Waste Reduction Partners helps organizations save money with efficiency techniques to improve environmental and energy management. The WRP team usually provides this technical assistance through on-site assessments. During the pandemic, we are providing remote consulting services via video and conference calls to businesses and public facilities throughout North Carolina. Our highly-experienced volunteer engineers, scientists, architects and staff continue to provide clients with innovative cost-saving strategies and resources to meet their goals during these trying times. Consulting services are non-regulatory and provided at no cost to the client, supported through government and utility-sponsored grants. [Read More](#)

EPA Sustainable Materials Management Grant



Waste Reduction Partners

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RECYCLING MEANS BUSINESS

Recycling conserves natural resources and reduces energy use in production, but recycling also supports the local economy and provides thousands of jobs to North Carolinians. Buying products with recycled content sustains the entire industry and rewards manufacturers who use recyclables in their processes. North Carolina is home to over 600 businesses who collect, process, and manufacture products using recycled material.

www.wastereductionpartners.org



NC Purchasing Toolkit: Recycled Content Products - Draft
A Guide for North Carolina Public and Private Purchasing Agents



Business Leaders Using Recycled Content
NC Manufacturers Using Recycled Content in the Products They Produce



North Carolina Recycling Employment Study
Full Picture of Job Creation and Economic Benefit by NC's Recycling Industry



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North Carolina Purchasing Toolkit:

Recycled Content Products (Draft)

NC Purchasing Toolkit

NC Purchasing Toolkit



Purchasing information and key specifications



Resources for additional information



Statewide contract listing

NC Purchasing Toolkit

Key Products, Purchasing Information, Sample Specifications

- a. Paper Products (Printing and Writing Paper, Coated Paper, Sanitary Paper)
- b. Plastic Products for Administrative Offices (Recycling and Garbage Containers, Trash Bags, Office Products)
- c. Industrial Products (Totes, Bins, Drums, Plastic Pallets, Crates, Slipsheets, Gaylord Liners, Can Liners, Mats, Sorbents, etc.)
- d. Packaging
 - i. Plastic - (Protective, Flexible, Rigid, Food, Labels)
 - ii. Paper – (Paperboard, Corrugated Paper Products)
- e. Interior Building Products
 - i. Carpet, Carpet Backing, Other Flooring and Underlayment,
 - ii. Building Insulation, Shower/Restroom Dividers, Latex Paint
- f. Exterior Building Products
 - i. Plastic Lumber (Decking, Railing, Outdoor Furniture, Landscaping Timbers)
 - ii. Non-pressure Pipe -Drainage or Conduit
- g. Compost and Hydraulic Mulch
- h. Other Parks and Recreation Products (Running Track Surfaces, Playground Surfaces)
- i. Transportation Products (Parking Stops, Traffic Cones, Traffic Barricades, Delineators)
- j. Vehicular Products (Coolant, Rerefined Oil, Remanufactured Parts, Retreaded Tires)

**Sustainable
Purchasing
Links in
the
Resources
Section**

NASPO Green Purchasing Guide

EPA Environmental Purchasing
Program & Sustainable Marketplace

Sustainable Purchasing Leadership
Council

Sustainable Packaging Coalition

Sustainable Purchasing Strategies

Efficient with energy/water/resources

Buying in bulk

Buying from local/domestic suppliers

Returnable shipping containers

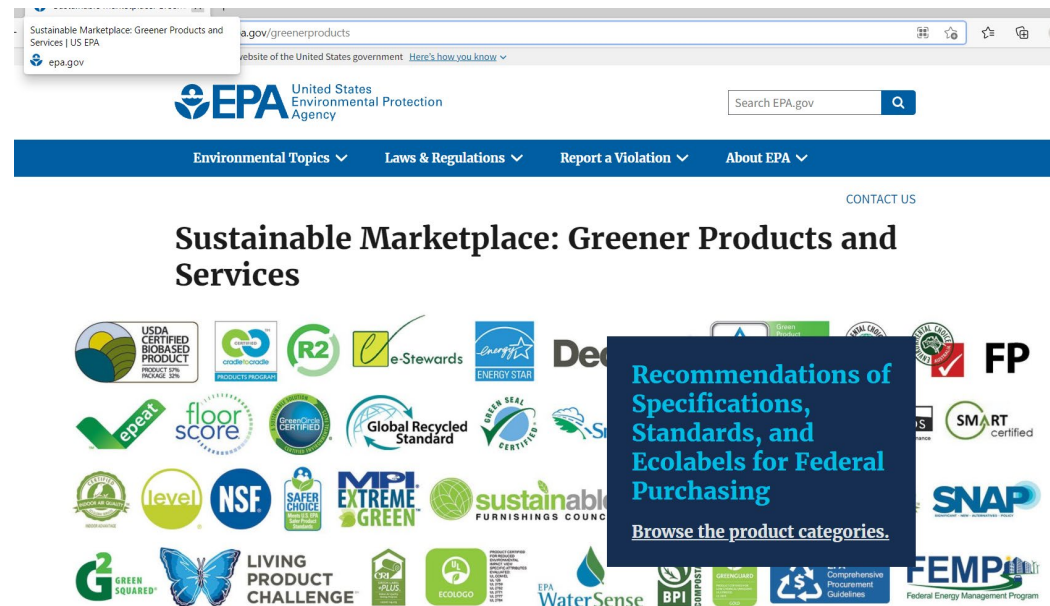
Products with lower toxicity

Eco-labels

Sustainable Purchasing Strategies

EPA has developed a number of ecolabels that can help purchasers identify greener products and services.

In addition, EPA manages the [Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels](#) which includes over 40 private sector standards/ecolabels/certifications across 25 purchase categories.



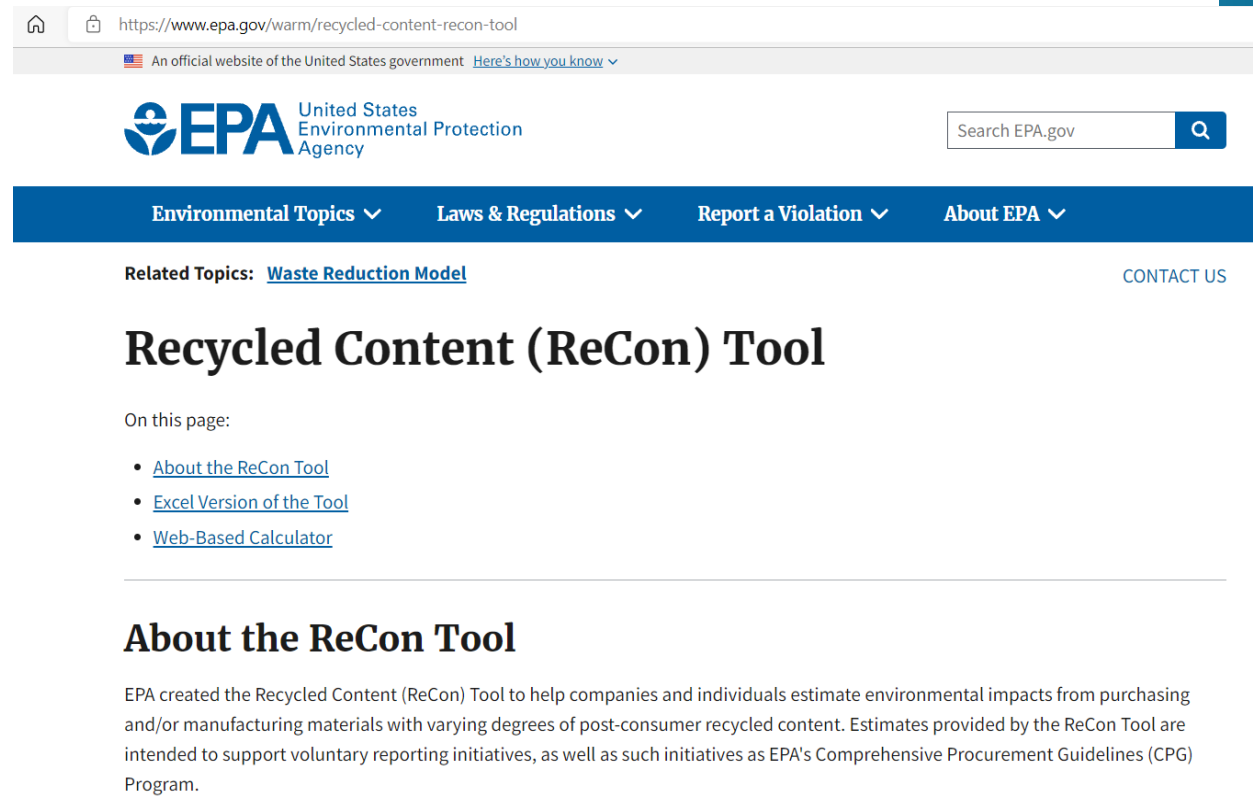
Sustainable Purchasing Strategies

The screenshot shows the SFTool website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SFTool logo and several menu items: LEARN (Sustainability Topics), PLAN (Strategies & Tools), EXPLORE (Virtual Facility), **PROCURE** (Products & Services), APPLY (Case Studies), and TRAIN (Career Planning). A yellow circle highlights the 'PROCURE' menu item. Below the navigation bar, a banner features the text 'Sustainable Facilities Tool' and 'Make Effective Decisions' over a background image of a modern building. A search bar is present in the banner. To the right of the banner is a 'Total Workplace Scorecard' card with the text 'Benchmark and measure workplace quality improvements'. Below the banner is a section titled 'Where do I start?' with the subtitle 'Explore resources by role'. This section contains four role-based cards: 'Facility Manager' (blue), 'Procurement Professional' (green), 'Leasing Specialist' (maroon), and 'Project Manager' (blue).

ReCon Tool

[Recycled Content \(ReCon\) Tool](#) [| Waste Reduction Model](#) [\(WARM\) | US EPA](#)

This tool helps businesses and other entities show how recycled content purchasing relates to their greenhouse gas reduction goals.



The screenshot shows the EPA website for the ReCon Tool. The browser address bar displays the URL: <https://www.epa.gov/warm/recycled-content-recon-tool>. The EPA logo and name are visible at the top. A search bar is present with the text "Search EPA.gov". A navigation menu includes "Environmental Topics", "Laws & Regulations", "Report a Violation", and "About EPA". Below the menu, there is a "Related Topics" section with a link to "Waste Reduction Model" and a "CONTACT US" link. The main heading is "Recycled Content (ReCon) Tool". Underneath, it says "On this page:" followed by three links: "About the ReCon Tool", "Excel Version of the Tool", and "Web-Based Calculator". A section titled "About the ReCon Tool" follows, with a paragraph explaining that EPA created the tool to help estimate environmental impacts from purchasing and/or manufacturing materials with varying degrees of post-consumer recycled content. Estimates are intended to support voluntary reporting initiatives, such as EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) Program.

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BUSINESS LEADERS

Using Recycled Content




Fiberon Composite Decking

New London NC , Stanly County



PRODUCTS
Decking, railing and fencing



MARKET
North America, Europe, Asia, Australia and South America



DIVERSION
Diverts over 50,000 tons from landfills and incinerators each year

THE BUSINESS STORY

Founded in 1997, Fiberon is a leading U.S. manufacturer of wood-alternative decking, railing, cladding, and fencing distributed worldwide. Fiberon products are available in a wide range of styles and price points, all providing the warmth and beauty of natural wood without the costly, time-consuming maintenance. Fiberon products are free of toxic chemicals and contain up to 94% recycled content.

PROCESS DETAILS

Plastic film is recycled at the New London recycling plant. The plastic pellets generated by this recycling process are sent to the profile extrusion plant. The profile extrusion plant combines the recycled pellets with recycled wood flour to create decks, railing and fencing sold under the brand names Veranda and Fiberon.

MATERIAL RECOVERED

Fiberon products consist of locally-sourced recycled wood fibers and plastic. Fiberon diverts over 50,000 tons from landfills and incinerators each year. The recycled plastic content comes from film recycled through grocery and retail store collection programs. The recycled wood fibers are from ground window trim, doorframes, lumber and cabinet pieces. Fiberon products deliver long-term performance and require no chemical preservatives, paint or stains that are common for wood decks, rails and fencing.

“We think trees should give our backyard’s shade, not flooring.”

North Carolina
BUSINESS LEADERS
Using Recycled Content




Mills River and Fletcher, N.C. — Henderson County

PRODUCTS
Sustainable labels from recycled materials

MARKET
More than 8,000 brand customers across the globe

DIVERSION
Diverts more than 10,000 tons of label liner waste from the landfill each year

BUSINESS LEADERS
Using Recycled Content




Sylva NC , Jackson County

PRODUCTS
100% recycled and Forest Stewardship Certified (FSC) paper

MARKET
Corrugated box makers throughout the United States

DIVERSION
diverts approximately 109,000 tons of cardboard from the landfill every year

North Carolina
BUSINESS LEADERS
Using Recycled Content




Waynesville, N.C. — Haywood County
Wilson, N.C. — Wilson County

PRODUCTS
Recycled resin-based consumer packaging

MARKET
Major food manufacturers and the fruit and vegetable industry

DIVERSION
Diverts more than 45,000 tons of plastic per year

North Carolina
BUSINESS LEADERS
Using Recycled Content




Pilot Mountain, N.C. — Surry County

PRODUCTS
Sports floors, acoustical underlayment and multi-purpose flooring products

MARKET
48 states and Canada

DIVERSION
More than 45,000 tons recycled per year

North Carolina
BUSINESS LEADERS
Using Recycled Content




Lexington, N.C. — Davidson County

PRODUCTS
Bottles for the food and beverage industry

MARKET
The world's leading manufacturer of glass packaging

DIVERSION
Nearly 68,000 tons of glass recycled annually

BUSINESS LEADERS
Using Recycled Content




Conover NC, Catawba County

PRODUCTS
Solutions for your Environment
Hydraulic mulch and soil conditioners

MARKET
World's largest producer of hydraulic mulch and the industry leader in technology development

DIVERSION
3.5 billion pounds of wood and paper (among all 3 US facilities)

www.wastereductionpartners.org

WRP's No-Cost, Customized Assistance

- **To manufacturers seeking recycled feedstock**
 - Cellulose by-products from one NC manufacturer to a NC molded pulp manufacturer will keep 30 tons per month from the landfill
 - Also, recently worked with a composite lumber manufacturer to acquire NC ag plastic test material
- **To sourcing departments and purchasers seeking recycled content products or otherwise sustainable products**



Best Way to Implement a Sustainable Purchasing Program

- Make sure your sourcing/purchasing department is represented on your green team.



For more information and technical assistance:

Jan Hardin

Waste Reduction Partners

jhardin@wrpnc.org

