



# Recycling Works

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A cooperative effort of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

## New website for Agricultural Plastics Recycling in NC

by *Bev Fermor, Waste Reduction Partners*

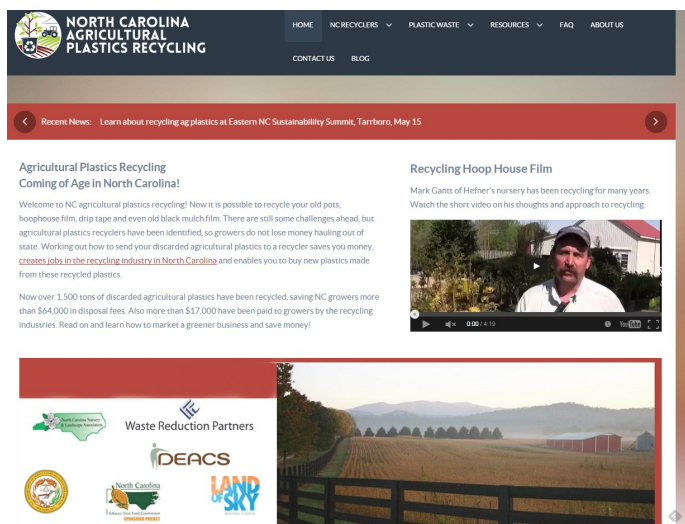
Many N.C. growers reuse their old agricultural plastics such as pots, flats, overwintering films, growing media bags, drip tape and black mulch. But for some materials and items, reuse is not an option. Now some growers are recycling their agricultural plastics, saving on tipping fees as well as benefiting from marketing a greener business.

Increased recycling of agricultural plastics has been the focus of a joint effort of the Waste Reduction Partners (WRP), Division of Environmental Assistance & Customer Service (DEACS), N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs), N.C. Nursery and Landscape Association (NCNLA) and the N.C. Tobacco Trust

Fund Commission. As part of these efforts, WRP developed a new website [ncagplastics.org](http://ncagplastics.org) as a resource for growers and recyclers to find solutions for agricultural plastics. The site includes:

- An interactive map of N.C. recyclers
- Information on how to collect different agricultural plastics for recycling and where to find consolidation sites
- Tips on how to collect different plastic wastes for recyclers
- Frequently Asked Questions on agricultural plastics recycling
- Success stories from growers
- A blog that shares the latest information and further insights on this issue

For more information, contact Bev Fermor with the Waste Reduction Partners program at [bfermor@tjicog.org](mailto:bfermor@tjicog.org) or 919-597-0698.



New website [ncagplastics.org](http://ncagplastics.org) offers resources and solutions for NC growers looking to recycle agricultural plastics including pots, flats, films, drip tape and black mulch.

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# 2015 RBAC Grant Awards Spur Growth of NC Recycling Economy

by Wendy Worley, *Recycling Business Development Specialist*

The N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center projects that state recycling business grants awarded this spring should generate approximately 84 jobs, more than \$2 million in new, private business investments and a reduction in the state's dependence on landfill disposal.

DENR's Recycling Business Assistance Center awards small grants to North Carolina recycling businesses to reduce solid waste disposal and encourage growth of the state recycling economy. RBAC staff issue a request for proposals once a year, seeking proposals from recycling businesses to start-up or expand recovery efforts. Recipients provide a minimum cash match of 50 percent of the grant award. Among other information, respondents are asked to estimate how many jobs their project will create. RBAC announced that 30 companies will receive \$700,000 in funds this fiscal year. Examples of projects include:

- Grants will support food waste collection projects with companies such as Coastal Ladies Carting (Wilmington), Danny's Dumpsters (Leicester), and Food FWD (Durham).
- Compost processing capacity will be expanded through projects with Full Circle Recycle (Zebulon), Gallins Family Farm (Mocksville), and McGill Environmental Systems (New Hill).
- Three material recovery facilities (MRFs) – Republic Services (Conover), Sonoco Recycling (Onslow), and Wagram Paper Stock (Wagram) – will expand and improve single-stream operations with the purchase of additional processing equipment.
- Grants will spur additional construction and demolition waste recycling through projects by Antique Reclaimed Lumber (Nebo), DSR Investors (Gatesville), Earth Stone Products (Reidsville), and Green Recycling Solutions (Maysville).
- Additional end-use market capacity will also be expanded for asphalt shingles and drywall with projects by A.L. Baucom Family Farms (Monroe), Handle Safe Systems (Asheville), and Johnson Brothers Paving (Lillington).
- New River Tire (Pilot Mountain) and Roll-Tech (Hickory) will expand production of recycled crumb rubber from used tires.
- Plastic recycling capacity will also get a boost with projects to increase recovery of plastic PET bottles, processing of contaminated plastic scrap, processing of rigid plastics and collection and processing of C&D and agricultural plastics from Clear Path Recycling (Fayetteville), Plastic Materials (Lowell), Plastic Revolutions (Reidsville) and Verity Recycling (Asheboro) respectively.

Additional information about the Recycling Business Development grant program and the 2015 awards can be found at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/deao/2015-rbac-grant-winners>. For questions, please contact Wendy Worley, RBAC Grant Manager, at 919-707-8136 or [wendy.worley@ncdenr.gov](mailto:wendy.worley@ncdenr.gov).

## 2015 Recycling Business Development Grant Awards

GRANTEE	GRANT AMOUNT	COMPANY MATCH	JOBS CREATED FROM PROJECT	COUNTY	PROJECT SUMMARY
A.L. Baucom Family Farms	\$40,000	\$65,604	1	Union	A.L. Baucom Family Farms will purchase and put into use a semi-truck and belt-floor trailer to transport drywall for recycling.
All Green Recycling	\$20,000	\$27,270	13	Mecklenburg	All Green Recycling will purchase and put into use a hammermill for the purpose of grinding leaded glass for processing.
Antique Reclaimed Lumber	\$10,000	\$6,800	2	McDowell	Antique Reclaimed Lumber LLC will perform electrical upgrades to facility and purchase a rip saw to increase material handling capacity of reclaimed building materials.
Carolina Wood Products	\$30,000	\$242,037	2	Union	Carolina Wood Products will purchase and put into use a wood fiber processor to expand the company's pallet recycling program.
Chowan Metal Recycling	\$7,500	\$10,342	0	Chowan	Chowan Metal Recycling will construct a processing building and purchase a telescoping forklift for metal recycling.
Clear Path Recycling	\$30,000	\$570,000	0	Cumberland	Clear Path Recycling will purchase, install, and put into use a dirty flake unloading system to increase the yield of clean PET.
Coastal Ladies Carting	\$20,000	\$20,000	3	New Hanover	Coastal Ladies Carting will purchase commercial 4YD food waste dumpsters to provide food waste collection for residential and commercial clients.
Danny's Dumpster	\$30,000	\$15,000	1	Buncombe	Danny's Dumpster will purchase a roll off truck to expand food waste collection and compost transportation.
DSR Investors	\$5,000	\$17,000	1	Gates	DSR Investors will purchase a tracked excavator to expand deconstruction services and increase recycling capacity of construction and demolition materials.
Earth Stone Products	\$7,500	\$3,750	1	Rockingham	Earth Stone Products will purchase and put into use a forklift to expand the company's processing capacity of reclaimed granite.
Food FWD	\$30,000	\$17,400	1	Durham	Food FWD will purchase and put into use a collection truck with tipper to increase food waste collection capacity.
Full Circle Recycling	\$25,000	\$48,194	3	Wake	Full Circle Recycling will build a processing and receiving shelter to expand the company's food waste composting operations.
Gallins Family Farm	\$30,000	\$15,000	0	Forsyth	Gallins Family Farm will construct a processing shed and purchase a cart washing trailer for food waste collection.
Greasecycle	\$20,000	\$18,500	2	Wake	Greasecycle will purchase, install and put into use a dewatering box to increase recycling capacity of grease trap waste.
Green Recycling Solutions	\$30,000	\$98,300	10	Jones	Green Recycling Solutions will purchase, install and put into use an apron conveyor to feed materials onto processing line to increase the company's mixed construction and demolition debris processing capacity.
Handle Safe Systems	\$30,000	\$63,688	2	Buncombe	Handle Safe Systems will purchase and retrofit a horizontal grinder to process recycled asphalt shingles.

## 2015 Recycling Business Development Grant Awards *(cont.)*

GRANTEE	GRANT AMOUNT	COMPANY MATCH	JOBS CREATED	CITY	PROJECT SUMMARY
Hatteras Recycle	\$10,000	\$20,000	2	Dare	Hatteras Recycle will purchase a 4-wheel-drive recycling collection vehicle for coastal area public and residential recycling.
Johnson Brothers Paving Co.	\$30,000	\$20,158	1	Harnett	Johnson Brothers Paving Co. will construct a structure to protect processed recycled asphalt shingles from moisture.
McGill Environmental Systems	\$40,000	\$327,044	1	Wake	McGill Environmental Systems will purchase, install and put into use a custom screening plant to improve end-product and compost production efficiency.
New River Tire Recycling	\$30,000	\$15,000	3	Surry	New River Tire Recycling will purchase and put into use a shredder/granulator to process a wider variety of recycled crumb rubber products.
North Davidson Garbage	\$5,000	\$5,000	4	Davidson	North Davidson Garbage will purchase 65-gallon recycling carts to increase recovery rates of curbside residential collection program.
Plastic Materials	\$20,000	\$60,000	3	Gaston	Plastic Materials will purchase a granulator to increase processing capacity of contaminated plastic scrap materials.
Plastic Revolutions	\$30,000	\$50,000	12	Rockingham	Plastic Revolutions will purchase a blade sharpener to improve the processing of mixed rigid plastic bales.
Reflective Recycling	\$40,000	\$84,148	4	Wilson	Reflective Recycling will purchase, construct, and put into use a preprocessing size-separation system and a vacuum system to remove contaminants from the glass recycling process.
Republic Services of North Carolina	\$20,000	\$11,150	1	Catawba	Republic Services of North Carolina will purchase, install and put into use a film sorting line for the company's material recovery facility in Conover.
Roll-Tech	\$15,000	\$18,805	4	Catawba	Roll-Tech will purchase and put into use a screener to enhance the processing of recycled crumb rubber.
Sonoco Recycling – Onslow	\$30,000	\$52,300	0	Onslow	Sonoco Recycling – Onslow will purchase, install, and put into use a metering bin to increase single-stream recycling capacity at the Onslow material recovery facility.
Stoney Creek Lumber	\$15,000	\$7,500	2	Hertford	Stoney Creek Lumber will purchase and put into use dry van trailers to increase pallet recycling capacity in northeastern North Carolina.
Verity Recycling	\$30,000	\$109,830	3	Randolph	Verity Recycling will purchase and put into use an extruder to improve processing of dirty polyethylene greenhouse film and dirty 5-gallon bucket waste from C&D sites.
Wagram Paper Stock	\$20,000	\$20,000	4	Scotland	Wagram Paper Stock will purchase, install, and put into use a new baler to increase material processing capacity at the company's material recovery facility.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>\$2,039,819</b>	<b>84</b>		

# Contamination a Costly Problem for NC's MRFs

by Mike Greene, Recycling Business Development Specialist

Recycling contamination is a costly, time consuming and sometimes dangerous problem for North Carolina materials recovering facilities, or MRFs. While the majority of contamination comes from residential collection, haulers and processors of recycled material also contribute to the issue throughout the materials stream. By targeting the problem from the collection and handling sides of material generation, improvements in quality, safety and market value can be achieved at North Carolina MRFs.



Line workers at the Charlotte Sonoco MRF work to separate contaminants from recyclable commodities.

According to Mary McClellan, the Recycling Program Coordinator for ReCommunity Greensboro, plastic bags, film, cords, hoses, fabric and other types of long and clingy material are the most problematic items at many of ReCommunity's facilities. "Film in particular hinders recovery by covering up recyclables, or becoming entangled as items attempt to travel through the system," said McClellan. "Bags drag the good recyclables down with them into the residue."

2.5 hours per day on cleaning."

McClellan states that clearing debris from the equipment can be costly. "We stop the whole system in Greensboro at least five times per day for the sole purpose of removing contamination. It takes at least a half-hour each time we clean out the equipment, so we're losing around

For Kenny King, Regional Manager for Sonoco Recycling in Charlotte, the problem goes further than plastics bags, beginning with the recent shift toward single stream collection. "In the past two-and-a-half years, we have seen an increase to as much as 10-12 percent contamination levels," said King. "And it's all trash, just trash."

King points out that a MRF has to pay to process contaminated material as recycling and then pay a second time to have said contamination disposed of as landfill-bound material. The high cost of processing the material twice has a direct effect on profitability. Contamination also negatively impacts the quality of recyclable material, leading to lower value in the marketplace.

THANKS FOR RECYCLING

**Plastic Bags and Wrap Are Not Recyclable at the Curb.**



Bags can stop a processing facility for an entire day.  
Find drop-off location:  
[plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org)



photo courtesy Waste Connections

[\(MRF CONTAMINATION](#) continued on page 6)

Do you know what is currently recyclable in your program?



## ***MRF CONTAMINATION*** *continued from page 5*

In addition to the high cost of recycling contaminated material, MRFs are also faced with serious safety concerns affecting employees who handle the hazardous contaminants. Plants have been shut down due to fires caused by propane tanks and batteries found on facility conveyor belts. Additionally, hazardous or biological wastes requiring professional clean-up pose serious health risks to exposed employees.



***NC MRFs face the challenge of ensuring employee safety from contaminants including chemicals, flammables and biohazards.***

Addressing the risk that contaminants pose to MRF employees, Will Herzog of ReCommunity states, “Virtually all contaminants require a person to sort them out of the stream, presenting health and safety risks to our staff. These may include biohazards or chemicals, and there are physical risks to removing overly heavy items or items that wrap into the system.”

Herzog continues, “The steps required to clean the equipment present hazards as well. So not only are there direct costs to contamination, but it is important to remember that contamination also raises employee safety risks that can be overcome by keeping the stream clean.”

When asked about the solution to contamination, LaDonna Bolton, Division Manager for Republic Services in Conover gives an immediate answer, “Education. It has to be education.”

Mary McClellan concurs, adding, “We recognize that recycling as a whole works much better when MRFs and haulers agree that education and enforcement of program rules are worthwhile investments. When the industry invests resources into effective communication with thorough education and enforcement, we spend fewer financial and human resources than when we wait until contamination is already at the MRF.”

In addition to the contamination prevention educational programs supported by MRFs and haulers, non-profits and state agencies including DENR’s Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) can assist recycling collection companies across the state with customized educational materials for residents.

Publications like the recent DEACS [fact sheet for community programs on improving material quality](#) and the Recycling Partnership’s [downloadable digital cards](#) displaying top quality concerns highlight the connection between strong recovery practices and long-term program sustainability, safety and profitability.



***Education materials like the Recycling Partnership’s [downloadable digital cards](#) illustrate the importance of a clean and safe recycling stream for MRFs and employees.***

For more information, please contact Mike Greene with RBAC at 919-707-8137 or by email at [mike.greene@ncdenr.gov](mailto:mike.greene@ncdenr.gov).

# Verity Resins: Closing the Loop on Difficult Plastics

by Stacy J. Smith, Recycling Business Development Specialist

As the plastics recovery market grows in North Carolina, the need for infrastructure to process a wide variety of difficult-to-recycle resins grows alongside it. There to help close the loop is Verity Resins, a plastics recycler dedicated to providing clients with green solutions for their changing needs.

Established in 2005 with operations in Asheboro and Forest City, Verity Resins provides a diverse range of recycling services including grinding, reprocessing, washing, lab testing and



*Diversification has been essential to Verity Resins' success in the realm of difficult-to-recycle plastic resins.*

bulk hauling. Verity currently employs 25 people at each of its facilities who specialize in full-service recycling programs, certified destruction reprocessing and compounding services.

Deriving its name from the Latin word for "true," Verity Resins remains committed to a business model centered on high-quality products and customer service. "We've experienced success due to our ability to diversify and to respond to shifts in the market," said Darren D. Lynch, Verity's Director of Operations.

"We've survived the market ups and downs by responding to the needs of our clients."

Verity's Forest City 60,000-square-foot facility focuses primarily on the compounding and testing of post-industrial plastic resins including polypropylene, polyethylene and polystyrene. Additionally, the company is able to conduct size reduction and extrusion processes at the site with a production capacity totaling more than 30 million pounds per year. Other features of the Western North Carolina plant include three extrusion lines comprised of two twin-screw extruders and one single-screw.

Verity's Asheboro location processes both engineered and commodity grade resins. The primary activities at that facility are sorting, grinding, baling and washing.

After conducting a number of equipment upgrades, the company has been able to significantly increase its processing capacity while adding to its menu of services. "With assistance from our recent

Recycling Business Development Grant," said Lynch. "Verity has been able to establish a sizable footprint in Western North Carolina for processing clean plastic materials."

Verity Resins received Recycling Business Development Grants in 2014 and 2015.

For more information, please contact Gina Allred, at (336)465-2053 or visit <http://www.verityresins.com>.

# Trade Association Lends Support to Improve Recovery of Cartons

by Jan Foster, Waste Reduction Partners

*This is the second article in a two-part series about assistance that recycling trade associations can provide to recycling businesses for commodities on the cusp of becoming mainstream recyclables. These extra measures go beyond creating awareness and into the tasks of market development and finding solutions to recycling barriers. The first article, which focused on rigid plastics, appeared in the winter edition of [Recycling Works](#). The focus of this second article is on cartons.*

In 2009, only 18 percent of households in the U.S. were able to recycle cartons through curbside or drop off programs. 2009 was also the year that the Carton Council of North America was established. The Council is a collection of carton manufacturers who share the goal of improving access to carton recycling and diversion of cartons from landfills. Since the Council's establishment, carton recycling has increased by 180% and now 53% of American households have access to carton recycling.

There are two types of recyclable cartons. Gable-top cartons are used for refrigerated products such as milk, cream and juice. Aseptic, or shelf-stable cartons are used for products such as soups, broth and soy milk. The Carton Council recommends that recycling businesses sort these cartons into their own grade, "PSI Grade 52." According to the Carton Council's Carla Fantoni, "When baled as Grade 52, cartons can be shipped to paper mills that have the proper equipment to both extract all of the fiber and potentially capture the poly and poly/aluminum residuals." There are nine mills in North America that accept and process cartons and the domestic and international markets for recovered cartons continue to grow.

## Tools and Technical Support

To tap into this growing recycling market, recyclers can access tools and technical support

through the Carton Council's website at [www.CartonOpportunities.org](http://www.CartonOpportunities.org). The tools include step by step guidelines for establishing collection programs in communities as well as a "Carton Recycling Briefing Packet for Solid Waste and Industry Professionals." The Carton Council also offers customized technical support to recycling businesses that are ready to add cartons to their program.



## Financial Assistance

Because the Carton Council knows successful recovery also requires outreach, the council offers matching recycling outreach grants, designed to help recycling programs across the country promote carton recycling. Through a grant match program, the Carton Council is able to offer a dollar-to-dollar match to recycling programs that meet the criteria. Grants are open to any public or private curbside recycling or drop off program accepting cartons from single-family households. Participants must also plan to conduct an educational campaign about carton recycling.

In some cases, financial support can also be offered to recycling facilities to meet specific infrastructure needs. Facilities that have a need and can make a strong case for their recovery potential should inquire about this potential opportunity.

[\(CARTON COUNCIL, continued on page 9\)](#)



**CARTON COUNCIL** continued from page 8

### Other Services

Other services the Carton Council offers include:

- Offering counsel and sharing best practices of successful efforts in other communities
- Supporting communities and school districts in recycling cartons from school lunch and breakfast programs
- Adding communities to the Carton Council's national online zip code locator at: [RecycleCartons.com](http://RecycleCartons.com).

For more information, visit the Carton Council's website at [www.CartonOpportunities.org](http://www.CartonOpportunities.org) or email [info@recyclecartons.com](mailto:info@recyclecartons.com).

*Jan Foster is a Solid Waste Manager with Waste Reduction Partners. Waste Reduction Partners (WRP) works in special partnership with RBAC and the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) to help businesses with solid waste reduction and recycling market development. For more information on how WRP can help your business, please visit [www.wastereductionpartners.org](http://www.wastereductionpartners.org).*

## It was Twenty Years Ago Today... Happy Anniversary to RBAC!

*by Matt Ewadinger, RBAC Manager*

Well, maybe not exactly 20 years ago today as the Beatles sang in Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, but RBAC made its first public appearance at the 1995 North Carolina Recycling Association Conference on April 3, 1995 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. RBAC staff led a workshop at the Conference entitled "17 Trees and Beyond: Recycling as an Economic Development Strategy," followed by a similar workshop three weeks later for a gathering of economic development professionals in New Bern.

A few months later, the first issue of Recycling Works introducing RBAC was distributed. The cover story included the quote: "RBAC's mission is to promote sound economic development through reuse and manufacturing of recyclable materials." Although we have come a long way since those early days, I would venture to say that that the quote is just as relevant today.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the dedicated people who have worked, and are work-

ing so diligently to make RBAC a success, including my original colleagues, Jay Tilley and John Nelms, and the first RBAC Manager, Bobbi Tousey. Over the years, a number of other valued RBAC staff members have come and gone including Diane Minor, Kathleen Gray, John Blaisdell, Jason Hale, Craig Coker, Matt Todd, Ben Rogers and Brian Rosa.

Today, the highly capable RBAC team includes Mike Greene, Stacy Smith and Jorge Montezuma, as well as esteemed veterans Wendy Worley and Sherry Yarkosky. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Mary Beth Powell, the founder of RBAC, and Scott Mouw, whose vision and guiding hand have played and continue to play a primary role in RBAC's success.

I consider myself fortunate to have worked with this group of highly motivated, energetic, and personable professionals, who have made significant contributions to recycling economic development here in North Carolina and throughout the country. More importantly, however, I consider myself even more fortunate to call them my friends.

# Carolina Recycling Association Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*by Mike Greene, Recycling Business Development Specialist*

The Carolina Recycling Association celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show and Conference March 22–26 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The theme for this year’s event was “Making Waves in Recycling” and was attended by more than 500 recycling professionals from North Carolina and South Carolina as well as different parts of the Southeast.

The week began with opportunities to tour Coastal Carolina University, the Horry County landfill and recycling facility as well as the Conbraco foundry plant in Conway. General session presentations throughout the week included the Curbside Value Partnership’s support for local recycling programs, the packaging industry’s efforts in recycling and recycling policy at both the state and national level. The sessions featured a wide range of national recycling experts.

Daily breakout sessions featured diverse topics ranging from organics and electronics to recycling markets and recycling education. Each breakout session was moderated and presented by professionals on the front line of recycling issues in North and South Carolina.



*Conference participants visit one of 100 vendors exhibiting at the Carolina Recycling Association 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show and Conference exhibit hall.*

The exhibit hall was as active as ever with almost 100 vendors that covered virtually any service or equipment need in the recycling industry. In addition to one-on-one time with a wide variety of vendors from across the country, the exhibit hall provided an excellent opportunity to network with other recycling professionals.

The highlight of the conference was 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner which ended with a champagne toast. During the celebration, founding members of the Carolina Recycling Association reflected on the history of the organization and told the stories of how CRA became the organization that it is today.



*Representatives from across the industry celebrate 25 years of recycling in the Carolinas at the Gala and Awards Dinner.*

The final day of the conference featured a new session called “Conversations Café.” This fast-paced program allowed attendees to visit several of 12 stations, each with their own timely topic. Discussion included topics such as education and outreach, hard to recycle items, organics and single stream automation.

The conference returns to North Carolina in 2016 and will take place in Wilmington.

For more information, please contact Mike Greene with RBAC at (919)707-8137 or by email at [mike.greene@ncdenr.gov](mailto:mike.greene@ncdenr.gov).

# DEACS Welcomes New Staff Member: Jorge Montezuma

by Scott Mouw, Section Chief, CBAS

DEACS is proud to announce the addition of Jorge Montezuma to the recycling business assistance team. Jorge fills the Organics Recycling Specialist position previously held by Brian Rosa.



Jorge will provide technical and business assistance to organic waste generators, processors, composters, haulers and compost users in North Carolina. Prior to joining RBAC, Jorge worked as a solid waste

engineering consultant with Smith Gardner, Inc. Jorge also serves on the board of the North Carolina Composting Council.

Jorge received his bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and is working on a master's degree in agricultural engineering from NC State University.

Jorge can be reached at our Green Square office in Raleigh at 919-707-8123 or [jorge.montezuma@ncdenr.gov](mailto:jorge.montezuma@ncdenr.gov).

## Does Your Waste Have a Home?

Find one at...

NORTH CAROLINA  
**WasteTrader**

[www.ncwastetrader.org](http://www.ncwastetrader.org)

**N.C.'s Industrial Waste Exchange**

North Carolina's marketplace for discarded or surplus materials and products.

This free, waste exchange service is designed to divert recoverable materials from disposal while providing feedstocks and supplies to potential users.

**For more information, call  
Tom Rhodes, 919-707-8140**

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