



N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

Recycling in North Carolina



The Recycling and Materials Management Section (RMMS) helps expand and improve recycling infrastructure and programs in North Carolina. Waste reduction and recycling provide tremendous benefits to North Carolina's economy and environment by creating jobs and private investment, providing critical material supply to manufacturers, reducing dependence on landfills and saving natural resources.

Technical Assistance

Local Governments: Municipal and county governments provide essential recycling services to residents statewide. RMMS supports local programs with training, expert advice and grants to expand services, increase material recovery and improve efficiency.



Recycling Businesses: More than 600 recycling companies in North Carolina help move recovered commodities from collection through processing and on to manufacturing new products. RMMS provides technical, business, and financial assistance to recycling companies, helping to grow jobs and private investment in NC.

Waste Generators: Commercial, institutional and industrial generators are striving to reduce waste to operate more sustainably and meet zero-waste-to-landfill goals. RMMS assists generators in implementing waste reduction efforts and finding recycling services and markets.

State Agencies: State departments, public universities and community colleges are significant waste generators. RMMS assists these agencies in optimizing their recycling efforts.

Grant Assistance

RMMS provides matching grants in annual cycles open to local government recycling programs and recycling businesses. Learn more by visiting:

- deq.nc.gov/conservation/recycling/programs-offered/grants-local-governments
- deq.nc.gov/conservation/recycling-business-assistance/financing/grants

Recycling Outreach

North Carolina manages dedicated recycling outreach campaigns to help build public commitment to recycling and provide support to local recycling education efforts.

www.recyclenc.org



Contact:

Wendy Worley
RMMS Section Chief
Wendy.Worley@ncdenr.gov
919-707-8136





N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

Recycling in North Carolina

Recycling in NC By the Numbers

1.6 Million tons of materials recycled annually by local government programs.

15,712 North Carolinians directly employed by the private recycling industry.

2.17 Million households served by 312 curbside programs.

612 Recycling businesses in North Carolina.

Based on 2021 data

Recycling Markets Directory

The North Carolina Recycling Markets Directory lists recycling markets and service options for nearly 200 specific materials. It allows generators to connect with nearby recyclers to keep materials out of the landfill and advance the state's circular economy.



www.recyclingmarkets.deq.nc.gov

Recycling Economic Development

RMMS collaborates with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, the Department of Commerce and local economic developers to recruit new recycling businesses to the state and help existing companies succeed and expand. This work improves local economies and creates high-quality jobs while improving the state's environmental and carbon footprint.

Special Focus on Food Waste

RMMS facilitates collaboration and provides educational resources through the Use the Food NC campaign which promotes ways to eat, donate, compost or anaerobically digest food before landfilling. Grant funding and technical assistance from RMMS continue to build the state's infrastructure for donation and composting to make diversion opportunities more widely available.



NC Landfill Bans:

- Plastic bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Oil
- Oil filters
- Televisions
- Computer equipment
- Appliances
- Wooden pallets
- Antifreeze
- Lead acid batteries
- Yard waste
- Tires

Related Services

RMMS works closely with Waste Reduction Partners to identify and implement waste reduction and recycling efforts by commercial, institutional and industrial generators.



The NC GreenTravel Initiative recognizes commitments to sustainability by North Carolina's tourism industry.

