



STATE OF THE STATE RECYCLING REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024–2025

NC Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
Recycling and Materials Management Section

INTRODUCTION

The State of the State Recycling Report presents data for North Carolina's recycling, composting, and waste reduction efforts for fiscal year (FY) 2024–25. NC Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) compiled and analyzed annual report data from each town, city, and county to assess tonnages of materials collected, recycling market trends, and various collection styles. DEACS uses this information to promote effective recycling and composting strategies and inform future program development. This report summarizes Chapter 5, Section C of the [FY 2024–25 NC Solid Waste and Materials Management Annual Report](#), and the topics covered include:

- ◆ [Traditional recycling materials](#);
- ◆ [Traditional recycling collection methods](#);
- ◆ [Impacts from Hurricane Helene on solid waste](#);
- ◆ [Yard waste management](#);
- ◆ [Food waste diversion](#);
- ◆ [Special recyclables](#);
- ◆ [Electronics recycling](#);
- ◆ [Markets and material recovery facilities](#);
- ◆ [Financial trends in local recycling programs](#); and
- ◆ [Grant programs](#).

Of the 651 local governments in North Carolina, all 100 counties and 51 percent of municipalities operated or contracted for recycling programs in FY 2024–25.

In addition to the tonnages recovered as seen in Table 1, local governments collected:

2.21 MILLION TONS of material for recycling or composting

WHICH EQUATES TO

402 POUNDS recovered per capita.

TABLE 1. NC LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECOVERY TONNAGES, FY 2020–21 THROUGH FY 2024–25.

MATERIAL RECOVERED	FY 2020–21	FY 2021–22	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25
Paper	311,703	291,418	280,440	266,301	256,203
Glass	91,164	85,865	74,866	65,633	65,545
Plastics	38,185	36,993	34,148	39,754	39,615
Metal*	91,515	82,153	80,174	86,269	85,887
Organics**	828,155	786,205	866,600	934,425	1,486,908
Specialty Wastes	9,693	8,839	9,990	8,676	9,245
Electronics	10,624	8,908	8,172	8,175	7,792
Construction and Demolition Debris	90,586	98,165	104,330	102,989	111,475
Tires	118,165	97,899	110,475	137,694	144,866
Other	961	1,078	1,073	1,273	1,271
Total	1,590,751	1,497,522	1,570,268	1,651,190	2,208,806
Population	10,587,440	10,556,299	10,705,403	10,842,949	10,978,531
Per Capita Recovery (lbs)	300	284	293	305	402

* Includes white goods, aluminum cans, steel cans, and other metals.

** Includes yard waste, pallets, wood waste, and food waste.

TRADITIONAL RECYCLING

Traditional recyclables are materials that are widely accepted by household curbside programs and drop-off locations, including plastic, glass, and metal containers; mixed paper; and cardboard. **North Carolina's local government recycling programs collected a total of 373,365 tons of traditional recyclables in FY 2024-25.** This represents a 3 percent decrease from the previous year. Material recovery facilities reported a slight increase in contamination, or non-recyclable materials, for a state average of 21 percent, estimated at 70,527 tons for FY 2024-25. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of material reported recycled by category for this fiscal year excluding the estimated amount of contamination.

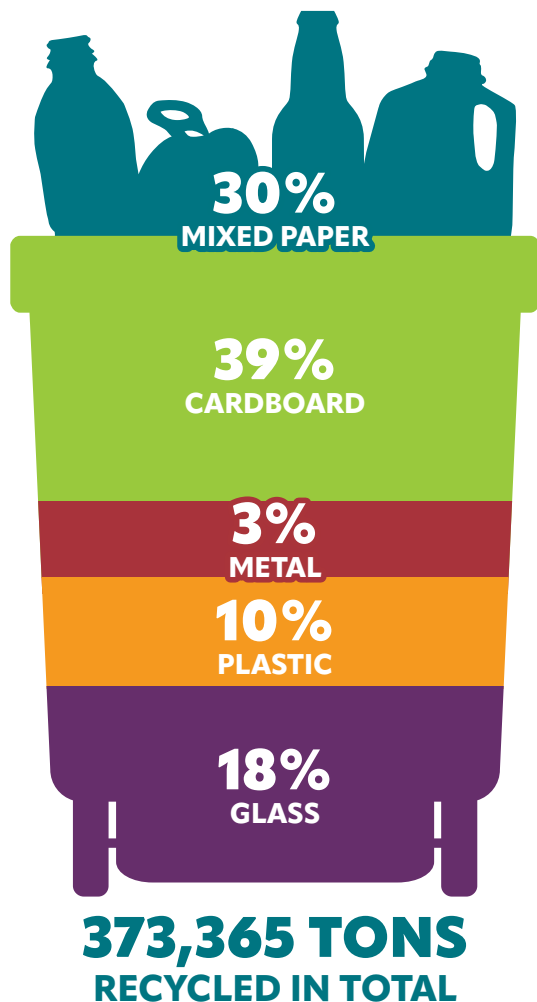


FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE RECYCLED BY MATERIAL IN FY 2024-25.

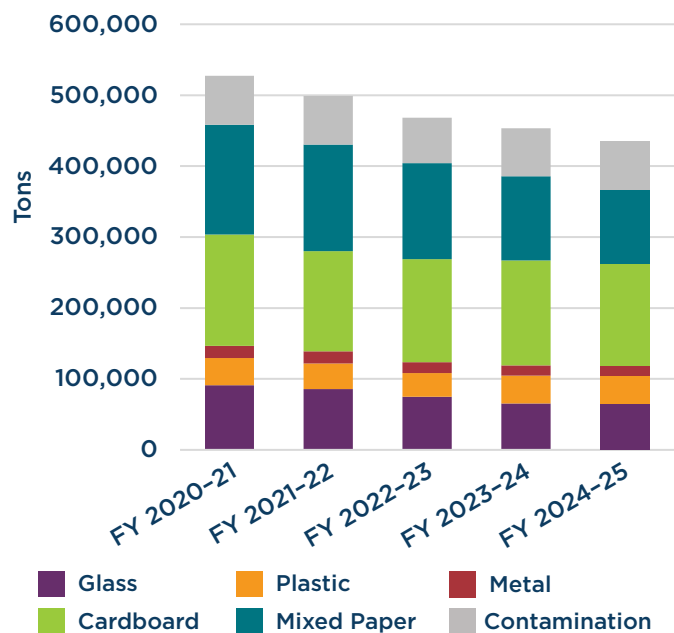


FIGURE 2. TRADITIONAL HOUSEHOLD RECYCLABLES COLLECTED IN TONS, FY 2024-25.

From FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25, recovery of mixed paper and cardboard (known collectively as fiber) decreased by 1.6 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, with a total fiber recovery decrease of 4 percent. In addition, the recovery of glass bottles and jars; plastic bottles, jugs, and jars; and, aluminum and steel cans (known collectively as containers) each decreased slightly from the previous year. The recovery of the total amount of containers decreased by 2 percent.

As seen in Figure 2, tonnages have consistently decreased during the past five years. This reduction may be in part due to lightweighting, the practice of optimizing packaging with lighter materials, allowing manufacturers to use fewer resources to ship more products, saving money and reducing energy required for shipping and processing. The gradual decline in traditional recyclables may also be attributed to the loss of convenient access to recycling. The state saw a net loss of 26 residential curbside recycling programs since FY 2020-21, requiring more effort from residents to recycle instead at drop-off sites.

COLLECTION METHODS OF TRADITIONAL RECYCLING

Curbside commingled recycling collection continues to provide the most convenient method for residents to recycle traditional materials and yields the highest amount recycled, compared to other collection methods.

During FY 2024-25, 401 local governments reported residential recycling programs and of those, 293 offered curbside recycling. On average, curbside programs collected 264 pounds of traditional recyclables per household during FY 2024-25, compared to 44 pounds per household collected through drop-off programs. Some drop-off programs, particularly county-operated sites, also serve residents with curbside recycling, which can result in lower reported drop-off tonnages.

According to The Recycling Partnership, it is estimated that the average American household (four-person) generates an annual total of 768 pounds of traditional recyclable material.¹ This finding highlights the large gap between the amount of recyclables generated and the tonnage that is collected.

TABLE 2. RECYCLING COLLECTION METHODS FOR TRADITIONAL RECYCLING MATERIALS, FY 2024-25.

METHOD	COUNTIES	MUNICIPALITIES
Curbside Only	3	235
Drop-off Only	79	28
Curbside and Drop-off	17	39
Total Recycling Programs	99	302
No Recycling Program	1	249



FIGURE 3. A GREENSBORO RECYCLING TRUCK PICKS UP A CURBSIDE RECYCLING CART.

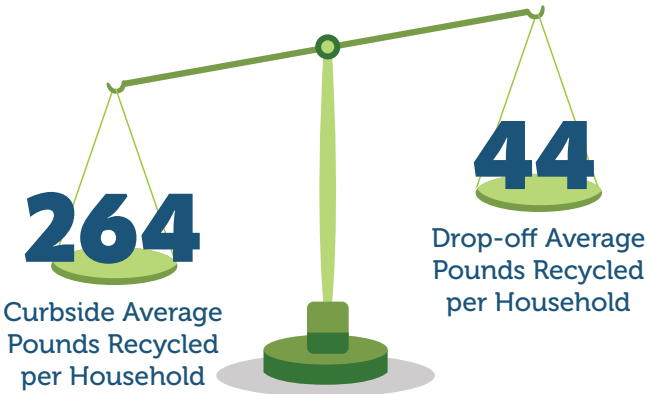


FIGURE 4. AVERAGE POUNDS RECYCLED PER HOUSEHOLD FROM CURBSIDE COLLECTION AND DROP-OFF COLLECTION, FY 2024-25.

Approximately 53 percent of NC households have curbside recycling available through the state’s 294 programs. Local government curbside recycling programs account for 70 percent of the total traditional recyclable materials collected in FY 2024-25. Seventy-eight percent of local governments with curbside programs contract with a private hauler or have a franchise agreement for collection while 22 percent provide the service in-house.

Despite the convenience and popularity of curbside recycling programs, the number of local governments offering curbside recycling collection has decreased in recent years after peaking at 329 programs statewide in FY 2017-18. Challenges related to funding and contamination have steadily brought the number of curbside programs down to 294, though 477 local governments offer curbside solid waste collection. Recycling is an essential part of integrated solid waste management, redirecting materials back into beneficial economic use, conserving limited landfill space, and providing residents the opportunity to comply with state landfill bans on aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

¹ 2020 State of Curbside Recycling, The Recycling Partnership.

IMPACTS FROM HURRICANE HELENE ON SOLID WASTE

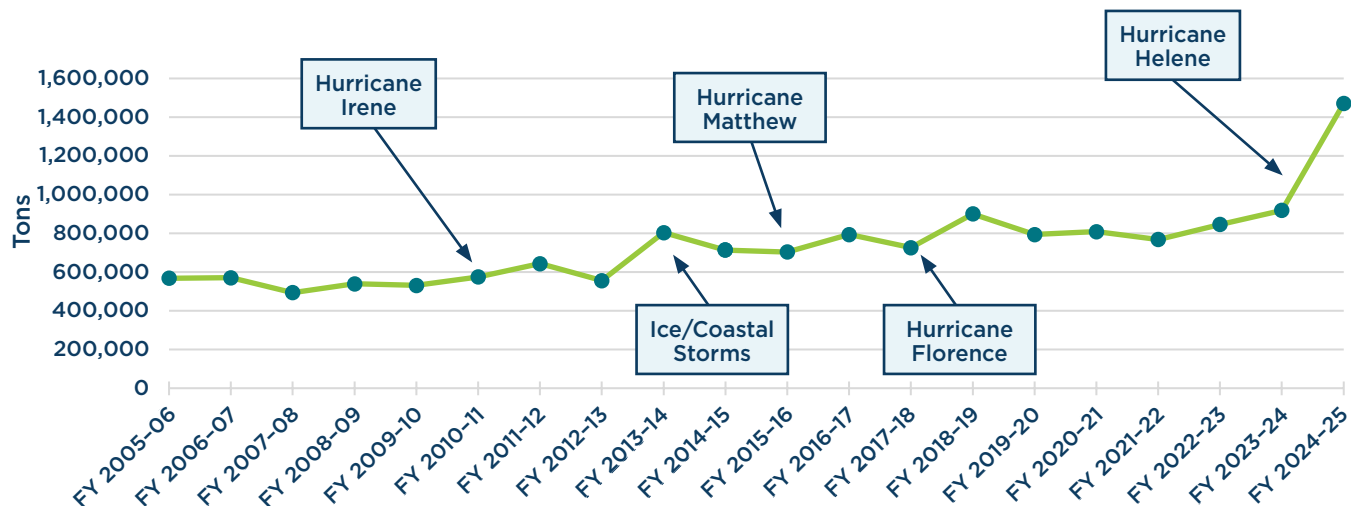


FIGURE 5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVERSION OF YARD WASTE FROM DISPOSAL, FY 2005-06 THROUGH FY 2024-25.

Hurricane Helene made landfall in western North Carolina on September 27, 2024, and the resulting devastation created an unprecedented amount of debris and other solid waste for local governments to manage throughout FY 2024-25. Recycling programs were paused for periods of time due to equipment damage and a focus on household trash and yard waste collection. Local governments dealt with immense amounts of waste from storm debris and destroyed physical infrastructure.

As reported in the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Consolidated Solid Waste Report in FY 2024-25, North Carolina generated and disposed of a total of 16,188,508 tons of waste into municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition (C&D) landfills. **This represents an almost 12 percent increase (1,688,029 tons) of waste from the previous fiscal year, making it the largest increase since FY 2018-19.** Much of this increase can be attributed to Hurricane Helene's impacts on western North Carolina. The 39 North Carolina FEMA-designated Helene disaster counties generated an extra 1,505,463 tons of waste above expected generation based on last year's per capita rates.

The annual recovery of organic materials is typically erratic because yard waste generation can vary due to changing weather conditions and large storm events. This is particularly evident during FY 2024-25, as **organics constituted 66 percent of the total local government recovery, mainly due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina and the subsequent amounts of yard waste created.** For comparison, in FY 2023-24, organics constituted almost 57 percent of the total recovery by weight with yard waste making up 98 percent of this category.

Though challenging, communities identified opportunities to divert debris from landfill disposal. For instance, scrap recyclers like Biltmore Iron and Metal helped recover metal scrap, white goods, and autobody parts destroyed by the storm. Temporary debris sites found success in creating double-ground mulch that could be used for landscaping, and other communities sought boiler fuel markets to divert woody debris. However, both markets need clean, dry material which limits how much debris-derived wood they can take.

YARD WASTE MANAGEMENT

In 1989, North Carolina banned yard waste from landfill disposal except in landfills approved for yard trash, known as land clearing and inert debris (LCID) landfills per G.S. 130A-309.10. Some locally managed yard waste is disposed of in LCID landfills, allowable under the yard waste disposal ban. However, not all material delivered to LCID facilities is disposed of as some may be converted by operators into mulch, compost, or biomass fuels, though these activities are not included in this report. For information about permitted landfills, see the full [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Consolidated Waste Management Report](#).

Of the 2,792,452 tons managed by local governments during FY 2024–25, **1,470,074 tons of yard waste were diverted from disposal** in four main ways:

- delivery of materials like leaves to gardeners and farmers;
- processing by local government mulching and composting operations;
- mulching and composting of locally collected materials at private facilities;
- and sale of yard waste materials to boiler fuel and other energy markets.

Of the 651 incorporated local governments, 428 reported having a yard waste management program for residents. Of these 428 reporting, 344 local governments reported providing curbside yard waste collection programs, with 80 percent being in-house collection.

The overall amount of yard waste managed by local programs in FY 2024–25 increased by about 165 percent from FY 2023–24. The dramatic increase was primarily attributable to the impacts of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina. As seen in the Hurricane Helene Impacts on Solid Waste on page 4, 86 local governments indicated operations were affected by storm events compared to 23 reported in FY 2023–24. While there have been sharp increases in yard waste tonnages following other large storms such as Hurricanes Irene, Matthew, and Florence, the impacts due to Hurricane Helene were significantly larger in scale. **The significant amount of yard waste debris increase from the previous fiscal year caused the per capita recovery rate jump from 305 lbs to 402 lbs** as seen in Table 1 on page 1. This is an increase of almost 32 percent.

Due to the impacts on yard debris from Hurricane Helene, some municipalities and counties were authorized to stage or stockpile material for future diversion or incinerate excessive material. Stockpiled material may lead to increased diversion tonnages in the next fiscal year once processed.

TABLE 3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT YARD WASTE MANAGEMENT IN TONS, FY 2020–21 TO FY 2024–25.

DESTINATION OF MATERIALS	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
End Users (direct delivery)	46,976	34,823	54,259	70,201	40,637
Local Mulch/Compost Facility	589,553	595,178	608,686	657,719	736,310
Local Government Yard Waste Diverted to Private Mulch and Compost Facilities	138,345	108,771	148,556	119,385	650,747
Wood/Yard Waste Fuel Markets	33,966	29,632	34,003	70,666	42,380
TOTAL DIVERSION FROM DISPOSAL	808,839	768,404	845,504	917,972	1,470,074
LCID Landfill*	146,437	121,807	129,942	136,174	513,402
Stockpiled/Staged	-	-	-	-	797,506
Incineration (e.g., air curtain incinerator)	-	-	-	-	11,470
YARD WASTE TOTALS	955,276	890,211	975,446	1,054,146	2,792,452

*Note: Yard waste tons delivered to LCID landfills, stockpiled/staged, or incinerated are not included in diversion calculations.

FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

According to the recent [North Carolina Waste Characterization Study](#), **food waste accounts for approximately 22 percent of landfill disposal in the state**. Across the country more than one-third of food goes uneaten each year. When North Carolina individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local governments reduce food waste, they feed people, save money, and reduce environmental impacts. Preventing wasted food helps to feed people, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve valuable landfill space, and create economic growth for North Carolina communities.

Local governments play a critical role in advancing food waste reduction efforts across North Carolina through education and infrastructure development and management to collect and process this material into valuable compost. **Food waste collected by local governments increased by 17 percent in FY 2024–25**. Local governments recovered 1,469 tons of food waste in FY 2024–25, compared to 1,253 tons the previous year. Table 4 breaks down the amount of food waste collected in tons by participating local governments.

Residential food scrap drop-off programs have become an increasingly popular collection method. **As of February 2026, North Carolina had 69 food scrap drop-off sites** located at solid waste facilities, libraries, parks, and farmers markets. As seen in Figure 6, 13 local governments manage 59 sites, either by contracting with private haulers or by processing material through permitted or exempted compost facilities. The other 10 drop-off sites are managed by nonprofits and private compost collection and processing businesses. [NC DEQ's Residential Food Scrap Drop-Off Map](#) was developed to help residents locate available these sites and is updated regularly as new programs become operational.

Orange County currently leads the state in organics diversion by providing commercial food waste collection to 83 participants. In addition, the City of Durham was the first local government in the state to provide residential curbside food waste collection, currently serving 80 households.

- Buncombe County
- City of Asheville
- City of Belmont
- City of Durham
- Henderson County
- Mecklenburg County
- New Hanover County
- Orange County
- Town of Black Mountain
- Town of Cary
- Town of Davidson
- Town of Morrisville
- Wake County

FIGURE 6. THIRTEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF PROGRAMS, FY 2024–25.

TABLE 4. FOOD WASTE COLLECTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN TONS, FY 2024–25.

Orange County	602
New Hanover County	327
Buncombe County	259
Cary	100
Durham	70
Wake County	57
Henderson County	26
Davidson	21
Morrisville	6
Mecklenburg County	2
TOTAL	1470

Local governments also continue to promote composting through educational outreach, demonstration sites, and backyard compost bin sales. **In FY 2024–25, 19 compost demonstration sites were maintained statewide, and 15 local governments sold 1,336 backyard compost bins to residents**. DEACS continues to offer the Food Waste Reduction Grant as a key strategy to strengthen North Carolina's food system and recycling infrastructure. See Grant Programs - Food Waste Reduction Grant on page 13 for more information.

SPECIAL RECYCLABLES

Residents recycle a wide range of additional materials beyond the traditional recyclables and outside of curbside programs. These materials include used motor oil and other automotive fluids, cooking oil, varying types of batteries, household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, pesticides, propane tanks, and more.

Local governments have the option to operate either temporary or permanent HHW events/sites. Temporary HHW programs are designed to collect HHW at a temporary location approved to be used for a single specific date. Permanent HHW programs are for the collection of materials year-round at a facility permitted by DEQ's Division of Waste Management. Figure 7 shows the number of county programs compared to municipal programs collecting various materials.

In FY 2024-25, there were 62 local governments collecting HHW, 30 permanent HHW sites from 25 different local governments (some programs managed multiple sites), and 60 temporary HHW events hosted by 40 different local governments. Figure 8 shows the tonnage breakdown of each material collected, totaling 9,245 tons of special recyclables collected in FY 2024-25.

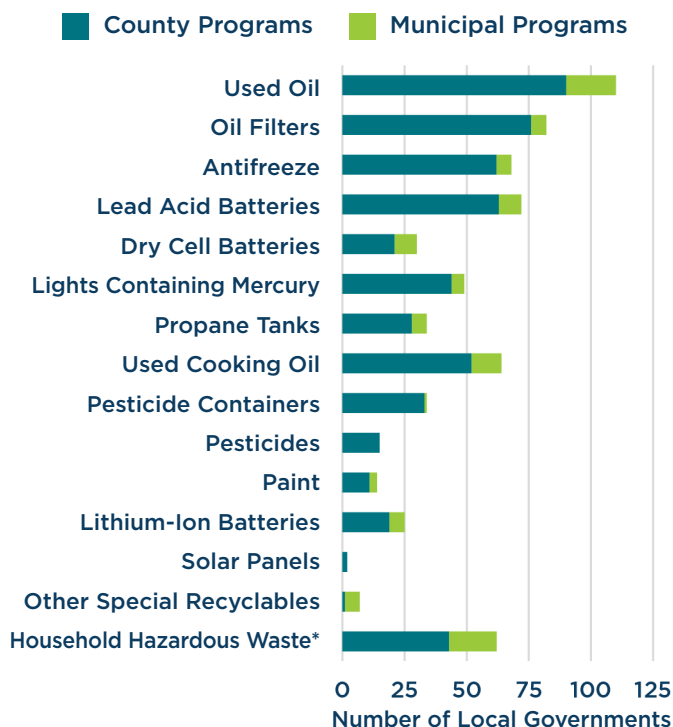


FIGURE 7. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH SPECIAL RECYCLABLE PROGRAMS BY TYPE OF MATERIAL, FY 2024-25.

- Used Oil
- Oil Filters
- Antifreeze
- Lead Acid Batteries
- Dry Cell Batteries
- Lights Containing Mercury
- Propane Tanks
- Used Cooking Oil
- Pesticide Containers
- Pesticides
- Paint
- Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Other Special Recyclables
- Household Hazardous Waste

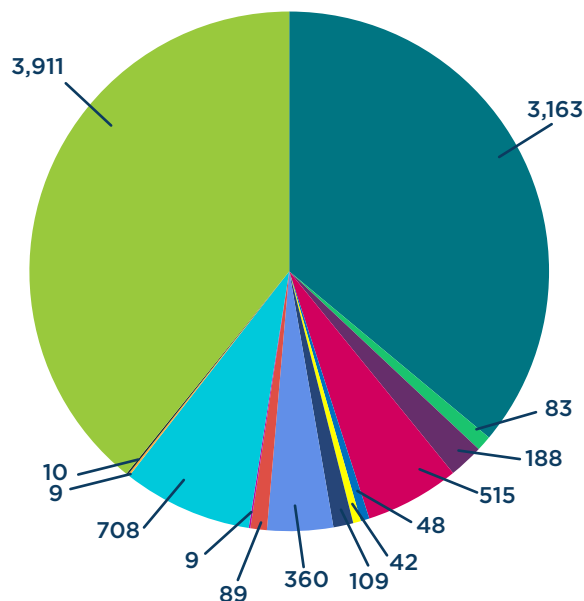


FIGURE 8. SPECIAL RECYCLABLE MATERIALS RECOVERED IN TONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FY 2024-25.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

North Carolinians have wide access to electronics recycling programs, helping to satisfy public demand for responsible e-waste management options and helping residents comply with the state disposal ban on computer equipment and televisions.

During FY 2024-25, 159 local governments operated electronics recycling programs and collected 7,790 tons of material. While this tonnage reflects an almost five percent decrease from the previous fiscal year, it continues the trend of reduced electronics tonnages beginning in FY 2016-17, when recovery of Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) televisions began to decline.

North Carolina's decline in electronics tonnage is consistent with national data and reflects the

changing material stream of smaller electronics devices and more lightweight models, which is particularly true with televisions. The average 20-inch LCD television weighs between 7-20 lbs, compared to the average 20-inch CRT television at 40-55 lbs.

Local governments that use a certified electronics recycler with the e-Stewards or R2 certification can apply for Electronics Management Fund distributions from DEQ on an annual basis. **Fifty-seven local governments applied and received a total of \$486,000 in distributions.** The average electronics recycling cost was \$0.35 per capita while the average Electronics Management Fund distribution was \$0.06 per capita.

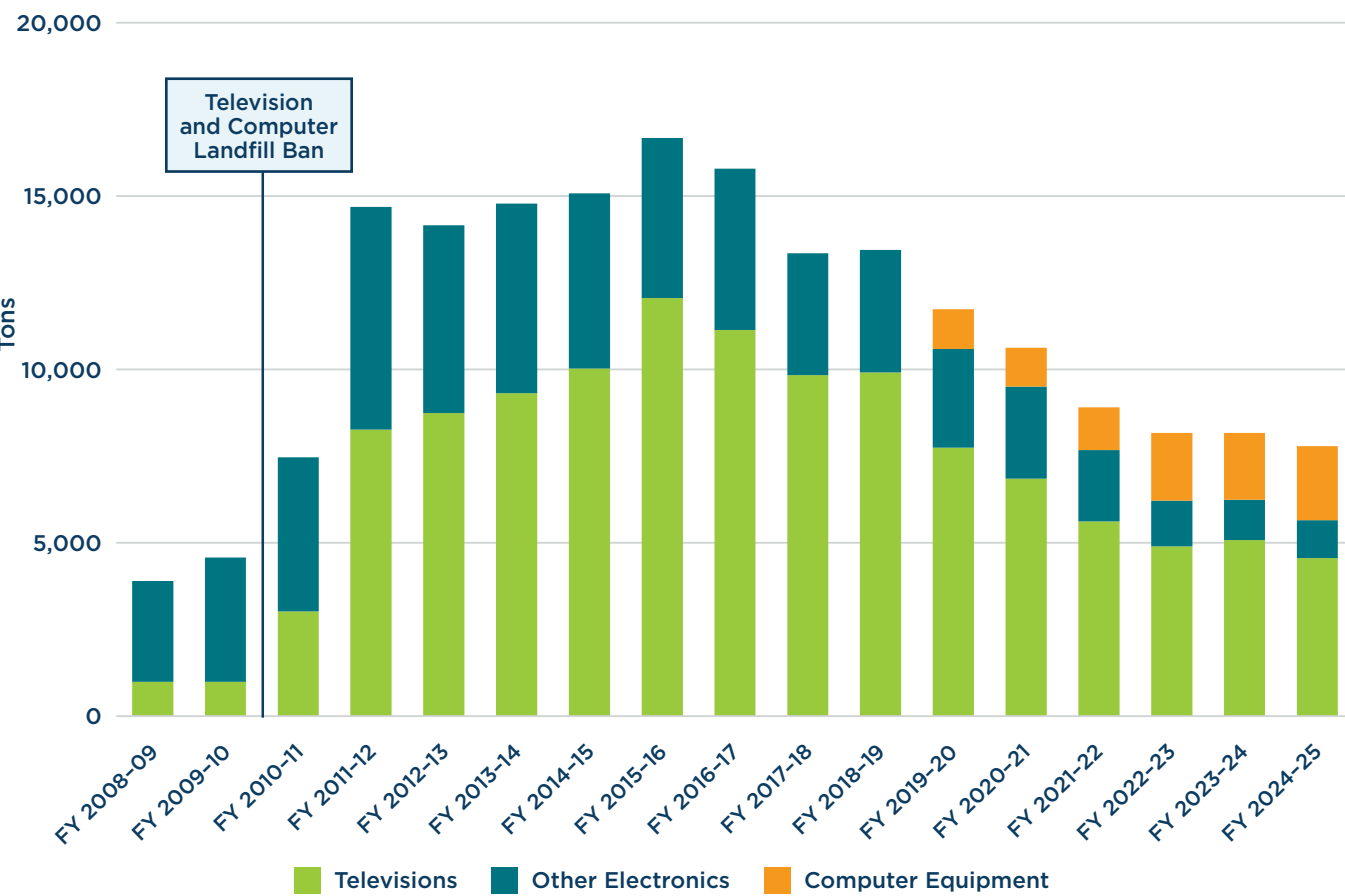


FIGURE 9. ELECTRONICS COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING IN TONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FY 2024-25.

MARKETS AND MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES

The commodity pricing of markets and material recovery facilities (MRFs) recyclables in North Carolina depends on several factors, including material quality, manufacturer demand, and the cost of virgin raw materials. **In FY 2024–2025, the blended value trend showed movement over the year, with stronger conditions from late summer through winter, followed by softer pricing in spring and a sharp decline by summer 2025.**

Recyclable commodities make up the majority of the incoming MRF stream. Contamination remains a major contributor to higher processing costs. In addition, glass can also add to processing costs even though it is an important recyclable to keep in the stream. Glass helps to complete the recycling system as it is a common household material and is important in the manufacturing of recycled-content glass containers. At the same time, the revenue generating commodities are a small share by weight of the overall mix, showing higher handling costs can impact the average blended value of household recyclables.

North Carolina started FY 2024–25 in a relatively favorable pricing environment. Blended values increased into early fall and stayed fairly strong through winter, which gave programs and facilities

a period of better commodity revenue support than many have seen in recent years. However, this did not last through the full fiscal year. These fluctuations in value are a reminder that recycling markets rise and fall, and stronger commodity markets can help offset operating costs.

Commodity revenue alone often does not cover the full cost of processing commingled recyclables. Contamination remains a major contributor to high processing costs and continues to present operational challenges. To meet stricter quality expectations in domestic and international markets, MRFs have added labor, adjusted line operations, and invested in equipment to remove contaminants and produce higher-quality outgoing bales. While those improvements help with marketability and reduce the risk of rejected loads, they also increase per-ton processing costs that are ultimately passed on to customers, including local governments.

Continued education efforts for clean, high-quality recyclables can improve the economics of recycling for everyone. Over time, clear messaging, better sorting habits, and more consistent collection standards can help strengthen commodity quality, support end-market confidence, and improve the resilience of North Carolina's recycling system.

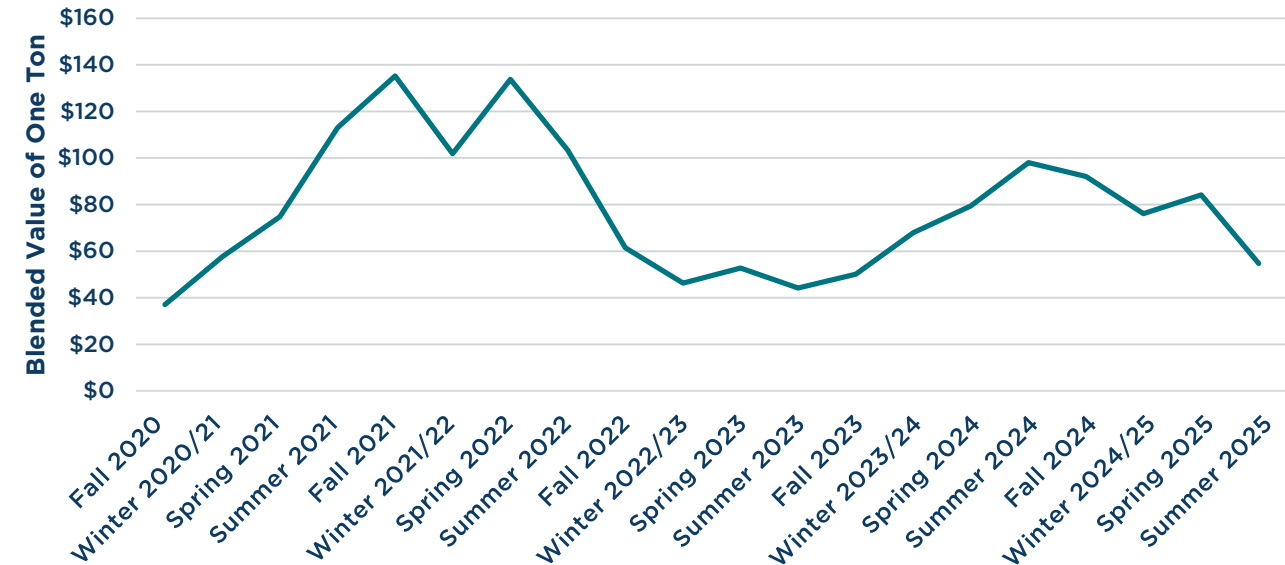


FIGURE 10. BLENDED VALUE OF ONE TON OF COMMINGLED RECYCLING BY SEASON, FALL 2020 THROUGH SUMMER 2025.

SOLID WASTE FEES IN LOCAL PROGRAMS

HOUSEHOLD FEE ADOPTION AND GROWTH

Household fees play an increasingly significant role in funding local solid waste programs. Over the past five fiscal years, **the number of local governments charging household fees increased by 29, bringing the total to 411 jurisdictions, or 72 percent of the 573 who provided solid waste services in FY 2024–25.** In addition to broader adoption, fee levels have risen. Figure 11 shows average annual fee growth based on 371 local governments that maintained household fees throughout the five-year period. The average cumulative increase was 21 percent.

Fee levels and growth vary between counties and municipalities. Among jurisdictions that consistently reported fees from FY 2020–21 through FY 2024–25, municipal fees rose by 22 percent, compared to a 16 percent increase for county fees. Considering all fees reported in FY 2024–25, the average annual household fee was \$140 across 63 counties (median: \$125) and \$219 across 348 municipalities (median: \$218). Higher municipal fees reflect the broader range of services typically provided by cities and towns. Figure 12 shows the distribution of municipal and county fees in FY 2024–25.



FIGURE 11. AVERAGE ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD FEES, FY 2020–21 TO FY 2024–25.

Combined fees (single charges covering multiple solid waste services) have become increasingly common relative to separate, service-specific charges. **In FY 2024–25, 178 municipalities and 40 counties reported combined fees. All combined fees included garbage service, 83 percent included recycling, 63 percent yard waste, and 46 percent bulky waste collection.** Combining services into one fee can streamline administration and simplify billing, while also spreading costs across services to reduce pressure on individual program rates.

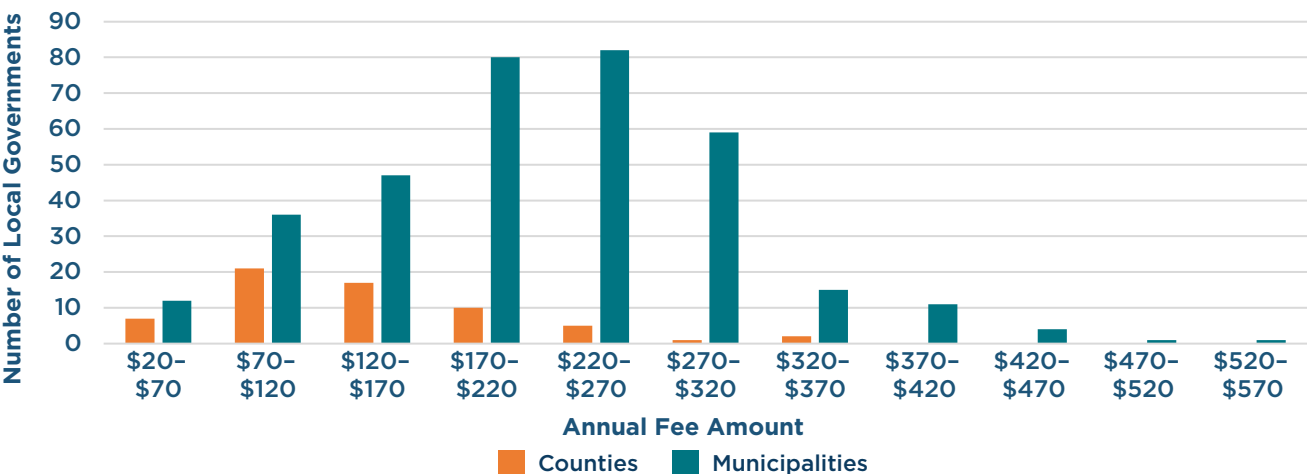


FIGURE 12. NUMBER OF COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES BY AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD FEES, FY 2024–25.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL: IN-HOUSE VERSUS CONTRACTED

Rising contract costs have prompted many local governments to reassess how services are delivered. While drop-off programs are more commonly operated in-house due to lower operational complexity, a meaningful share of curbside programs is also government-run. See Tables 5 and 6 for detailed breakdowns.

TABLE 5. PERCENTAGE OF SERVICE DELIVERY BY MODEL FOR DROP-OFF PROGRAMS, FY 2024–25.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL	RECYCLING	GARBAGE
In-house	51%	49%
Private contractor	48%	47%
Franchised hauler	0%	0%
Hybrid	1%	5%
Other	1%	0%

TABLE 6. PERCENTAGE OF SERVICE DELIVERY BY MODEL FOR CURBSIDE PROGRAMS, FY 2024–25.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL	RECYCLING	GARBAGE
In-house	21%	31%
Private contractor	69%	60%
Franchised hauler	10%	8%
Hybrid	0%	1%
Other	0%	0%

Among local governments that charge household fees, in-house programs generally report lower averages than outsourced programs. For county drop-off services, 26 counties operating both garbage and recycling in-house reported an average annual fee of \$123 (median: \$115), compared to \$137 (median: \$125) among 23 counties who outsourced both services. For municipal curbside services, 50 in-house programs had fees averaging \$215 annually (median: \$203), while fees for 131 outsourced programs averaged \$231 (median: \$240).



FIGURE 13. TRUCK PURCHASED BY CONCORD WITH RECYCLE RIGHT ADVERTISEMENT ON THE SIDE.

These patterns suggest that in-house models may offer modest cost advantages, along with enhanced operational oversight and budget flexibility. However, transitioning services in-house requires upfront capital investment and sustained internal operational capacity. By contrast, outsourced programs can simplify administration and shift certain risks to vendors but may limit flexibility and contribute to higher long-term costs as contract terms evolve and prices escalate over time.

The City of Concord provides a strong example of how in-house service delivery can improve operational performance. In FY 2023–24, Concord brought its curbside garbage and recycling programs in-house, giving the city greater control over waste streams and enabling new initiatives to improve residents' waste-sorting behaviors, increase diversion, and reduce contamination. By year two of in-house service, Concord achieved a 58 percent increase in annual recycling tons and a 68 percent decrease in customer complaints compared to FY 2022–23. The city also realized \$2 million in annual budget savings in year one and \$1 million in year two compared to FY 2022–23.

For more information and detailed analyses, see the latest household fee study on [DEACS' Data, Annual Reports and Publications](#) page.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In FY 2024-25, DEACS administered three grant programs, made possible through the Solid Waste Outreach Program with funding from annual appropriated legislative funds, to support waste reduction activities across the state: the Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant (CWRAR); the Recycling Business Development Grant (RBDG); and the Food Waste Reduction Grant (FWR). **DEACS received a total of 61 proposals across all three grant programs and awarded funding for 47 projects.**

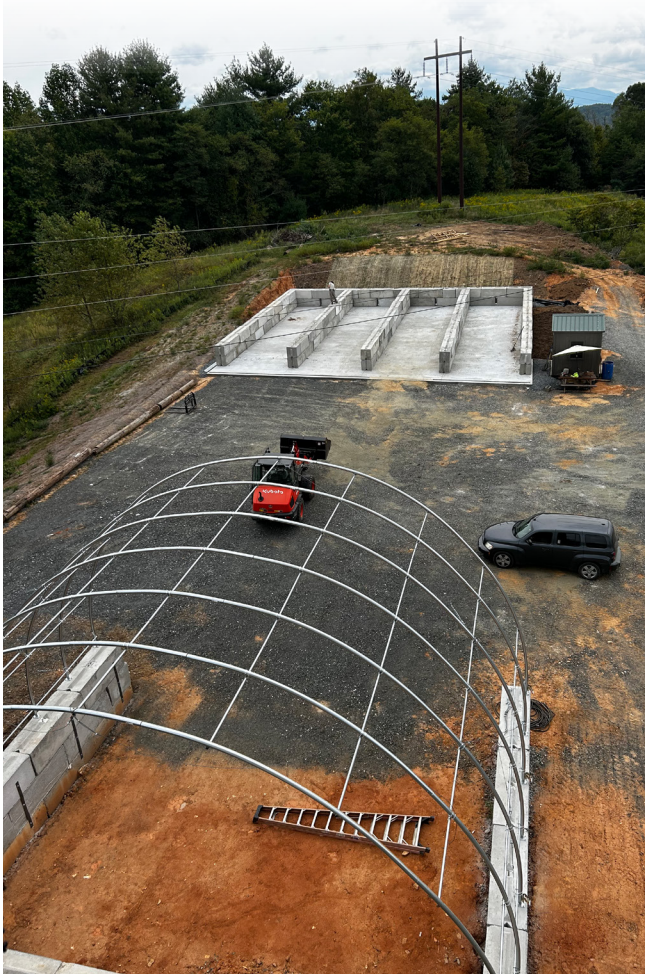


FIGURE 14. DIRT-CRAFT ORGANICS USED FWR GRANT FUNDS TO PURCHASE CONCRETE SLABS, A ROOFING SYSTEM, DIVIDER WALLS, AND A WATER COLLECTION TANK FOR A NEW TYPE 2 AERATED STATIC PILE COMPOST FACILITY.

COMMUNITY WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING GRANT (CWRAR)

ELIGIBILITY:

North Carolina local governments may apply for either a standard or priority funding with a cash match of 20 percent of the grant award.

PURPOSE:

Build lasting capacity to divert materials from the waste stream and/or increase public awareness of recycling.

FY 2024-25 PRIORITY PROJECTS:

Projects implementing new or expand existing curbside recycling programs or transitioning a curbside recycling program from bin or blue bag collection to a cart-based collection system; projects implementing a new or expand an existing HHW program; or projects implementing a new or expand an existing recycling program targeting lithium-ion batteries, solar panels, or other electronics.

DEACS awarded funding to 26 local governments. These projects were expected to help divert an estimated 1,432 tons of material from landfill and impact an estimated 747,582 households.



FIGURE 15. WAKE FOREST TRUCK WRAP ADVERTISING THE RECYCLING CONTAMINATION REDUCTION CAMPAIGN PURCHASED WITH CWRAR GRANT FUNDS.

RECYCLING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT (RBDG)

ELIGIBILITY:

Recycling businesses, for-profit or non-profit, may apply for either a standard or priority funding with a cash match of 50 percent of the grant award.

PURPOSE:

Invest in equipment, buildings and infrastructure to increase the capacity of a recycling business to divert more materials from disposal and into economic use.

FY 2024-25 PRIORITY PROJECTS:

Projects that expand, upgrade, or improve the capacity and/or efficiency of a single-stream MRF; or projects that establish or expand recycling processing capacity for solar panels, electric vehicle batteries, or lithium-ion batteries.

DEACS awarded funding to nine recycling businesses. These projects are expected to generate more than 30 jobs, catalyze new private investment, and reduce reliance on landfill disposal by expanding in-state processing capacity.

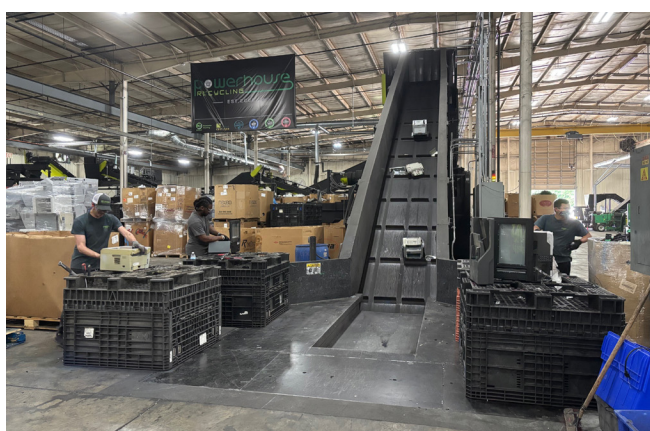


FIGURE 16. POWERHOUSE RECYCLING'S NEW GLASS REMOVAL SORTING LINE TO INCREASE SOLAR PANEL RECYCLING CAPACITY, PURCHASED USING RBDG GRANT FUNDS.

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANT (FWR)

ELIGIBILITY:

Compost facilities, compost haulers, local governments, anaerobic digestion facilities, and food recovery organizations may apply for either standard or priority funding with a cash match of 20 percent of the grant award.

PURPOSE:

Develop food waste reduction infrastructure by expanding food donation networks or organics recycling operations, including collection and hauling.

FY 2024-25 PRIORITY PROJECTS:

Projects that result in edible food destined for landfill being recovered and distributed to people, and projects for the construction, expansion, or renovation of organics recycling facilities and/or hauling operations that were new or in operation for less than five years.

DEACS awarded funding to 12 entities including three local governments, three food recovery organizations, and six composting businesses. Collectively, these projects are projected to divert 4,315 tons of food waste and recover 43,400 meals.



FIGURE 17. FOOD WASTE COLLECTION CONTAINER AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE PURCHASED BY MECKLENBURG COUNTY USING FWR GRANT FUNDS.



The North Carolina Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) is a non-regulatory division of North Carolina DEQ offering technical and financial assistance to businesses, manufacturers, local governments, institutions, economic developers and the general public in environmental management. For questions, call 1-877-623-6748.