



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CASE STUDY: NEW HANOVER COUNTY – PALLET RECYCLING

Population:
Contact:

202,667
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In July 2005, New Hanover County began offering pallet recycling services as part of its C&D recycling efforts. Pallets are accepted at the C&D recycling area at the New Hanover County Landfill. There is signage at the landfill's entrance and a concrete pad located on the back side of the landfill where mixed C&D can be dumped. Customers are charged \$59 per ton to dump mixed C&D material, including pallets. Small amounts of pallets & lumber can be dropped off at the customer convenience site in the front of the landfill rather than having residential vehicles travel to the back of the landfill where the C&D pad is located.

Pallets and clean wood waste are sorted from the mixed C&D material and stacked until approximately 800 tons accumulate. A contract grinder, A-1 Sand Rock, grinds and markets the mulched wood material as boiler fuel. New Hanover negotiated a highly competitive rate for the contract grinding services.

Other costs to run the program are embedded in the total cost to manage a low-level C&D recycling operation. Supplies represent a nominal cost, as old equipment from the landfill are used. The C&D pad is operated with two landfill employees.

In fiscal year 2010-11, New Hanover recycled 3,911 tons of wood waste. Of that total, approximately 20 percent (or 782 tons) is estimated to be pallets.

New Hanover also reuses pallets for special projects like Household Hazardous Waste and E-waste collection events. It is estimated that 1 ton of pallets are recovered for use during those events.



Lumber and pallets are stored on one corner of the New Hanover County landfill C&D pad until the material is scheduled for grinding.