North Carolina County Recycling Program Performance for Fiscal Year 2023-24

DEACS uses data from the Solid Waste and Materials Management Annual Reports completed by each local government in the state to assess county and municipal public recycling efforts.

DEACS uses this public recycling program data to produce per capita recycling rates for counties across the state. This analysis combines municipal and county recycling tons and then ranks counties based on total recycling tons per capita. Counties, including the municipalities within them, are ranked in two ways: the recycling rate for common household materials and the overall recycling rate.

The per capita recovery rate for common household materials compares the effectiveness of programs recovering cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard. The total public recovery includes additional materials such as food waste, concrete, shingles, scrap metal, white goods, wood wastes (excluding yard waste), televisions, computer equipment, used oil, and household hazardous waste.

Although these metrics represent one of many ways to measure the effectiveness of recycling programs, local governments regularly at the top of both lists are assumed to have strong and well-rounded public recycling systems.

Common Household Recyclables Per Capita			Total Public Recycling Per Capita		
Rank	Area Name	Pounds per Person	Rank	Area Name	Pounds per Person
1	CRAVEN COUNTY	187.6	1	BRUNSWICK COUNTY	328.8
2	CATAWBA COUNTY	175.4	2	CAMDEN COUNTY	278.4
3	ORANGE COUNTY	160.9	3	MACON COUNTY	272.8
4	ALEXANDER COUNTY	149.6	4	SWAIN COUNTY	259.3
5	GUILFORD COUNTY	146.4	5	RUTHERFORD COUNTY	257.1
6	HAYWOOD COUNTY	145.0	6	CATAWBA COUNTY	244.0
7	DARE COUNTY	141.9	7	ALEXANDER COUNTY	224.0
8	WATAUGA COUNTY	140.8	8	PITT COUNTY	216.1
9	TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	132.2	9	WILSON COUNTY	212.8
10	MACON COUNTY	126.8	10	PASQUOTANK COUNTY	209.7
11	BUNCOMBE COUNTY	124.7	11	CRAVEN COUNTY	208.3
12	CABARRUS COUNTY	121.3	12	CURRITUCK COUNTY	198.2
13	DURHAM COUNTY	117.7	13	HENDERSON COUNTY	196.3
14	CURRITUCK COUNTY	115.2	14	ORANGE COUNTY	195.4
15	MECKLENBURG COUNTY	115.1	15	DARE COUNTY	187.0
16	RUTHERFORD COUNTY	112.9	16	HAYWOOD COUNTY	182.5
17	DAVIE COUNTY	112.4	17	BUNCOMBE COUNTY	177.1
18	ONSLOW COUNTY	111.2	18	HYDE COUNTY	168.4
19	UNION COUNTY	109.5	19	WATAUGA COUNTY	167.8
20	BRUNSWICK COUNTY	108.9	20	TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	158.1

21	HENDERSON COUNTY	100.6	21	GUILFORD COUNTY	157.2
22	NEW HANOVER COUNTY	96.6	22	NEW HANOVER COUNTY	156.6
23	JACKSON COUNTY	96.4	23	MECKLENBURG COUNTY	149.2
24	ALAMANCE COUNTY	95.7	24	CHATHAM COUNTY	135.3
25	LEE COUNTY	90.6	25	JACKSON COUNTY	133.9
26	WAKE COUNTY	87.9	26	ASHE COUNTY	132.8
27	MADISON COUNTY	85.9	27	MADISON COUNTY	131.9
28	MOORE COUNTY	83.8	28	ONSLOW COUNTY	130.3
29	MCDOWELL COUNTY	81.9	29	DURHAM COUNTY	128.9
30	NASH COUNTY	80.3	30	WAYNE COUNTY	128.7
31	CARTERET COUNTY	79.3	31	FORSYTH COUNTY	127.5
32	GRANVILLE COUNTY	78.1	32	CABARRUS COUNTY	126.7
33	CHATHAM COUNTY	77.3	33	DAVIE COUNTY	123.3
34	FORSYTH COUNTY	75.5	34	PERQUIMANS COUNTY	123.2
35	WILSON COUNTY	72.4	35	IREDELL COUNTY	120.4
36	PENDER COUNTY	71.6	36	CARTERET COUNTY	119.8
37	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	71.4	37	MCDOWELL COUNTY	118.9
38	ASHE COUNTY	69.3	38	UNION COUNTY	117.8
39	PERQUIMANS COUNTY	69.3	39	GRANVILLE COUNTY	113.6
40	SWAIN COUNTY	69.1	40	MOORE COUNTY	113.4
41	CUMBERLAND COUNTY	68.7	41	PENDER COUNTY	113.3
42	CAMDEN COUNTY	68.4	42	STANLY COUNTY	112.2
43	SURRY COUNTY	66.7	43	LEE COUNTY	110.4
44	POLK COUNTY	65.2	44	WAKE COUNTY	108.3
45	BURKE COUNTY	62.0	45	ALAMANCE COUNTY	106.2
46	PAMLICO COUNTY	60.9	46	AVERY COUNTY	104.7
47	STANLY COUNTY	55.7	47	CLAY COUNTY	99.3
48	AVERY COUNTY	55.3	48	NASH COUNTY	95.1
49	CALDWELL COUNTY	51.9	49	BURKE COUNTY	90.4
50	DAVIDSON COUNTY	50.6	50	POLK COUNTY	89.7
51	PITT COUNTY	50.6	51	CALDWELL COUNTY	89.0
52	HERTFORD COUNTY	48.9	52	PAMLICO COUNTY	88.0
53	IREDELL COUNTY	46.5	53	SURRY COUNTY	84.8
54	VANCE COUNTY	46.3	54	CUMBERLAND COUNTY	80.5
55	WILKES COUNTY	46.0	55	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	80.2
56	CHEROKEE COUNTY	45.6	56	CLEVELAND COUNTY	79.2
57	WARREN COUNTY	45.4	57	LINCOLN COUNTY	77.8
58	HALIFAX COUNTY	44.0	58	BLADEN COUNTY	77.7
59	WAYNE COUNTY	43.1	59	GATES COUNTY	75.1
60	HYDE COUNTY	42.9	60	CHOWAN COUNTY	73.0
61	BLADEN COUNTY	42.5	61	MITCHELL COUNTY	68.0

62	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	41.2		62	COLUMBUS COUNTY	65.7
63	CHOWAN COUNTY	40.3		63	YANCEY COUNTY	63.4
64	COLUMBUS COUNTY	38.9		64	CHEROKEE COUNTY	62.4
65	CLAY COUNTY	37.2		65	DAVIDSON COUNTY	60.4
66	NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	34.9		66	HERTFORD COUNTY	60.2
67	PERSON COUNTY	33.9		67	VANCE COUNTY	59.0
68	LENOIR COUNTY	33.5		68	WILKES COUNTY	58.3
69	GASTON COUNTY	32.9		69	GRAHAM COUNTY	57.7
70	GATES COUNTY	32.6		70	DUPLIN COUNTY	55.1
71	ROWAN COUNTY	31.8		71	WARREN COUNTY	52.6
72	MITCHELL COUNTY	31.6		72	ALLEGHANY COUNTY	51.6
73	JOHNSTON COUNTY	31.4		73	LENOIR COUNTY	51.4
74	RANDOLPH COUNTY	30.2		74	HALIFAX COUNTY	50.5
75	FRANKLIN COUNTY	30.0		75	JOHNSTON COUNTY	48.4
76	TYRRELL COUNTY	29.6		76	NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	45.4
77	LINCOLN COUNTY	29.4		77	STOKES COUNTY	44.4
78	STOKES COUNTY	28.0		78	FRANKLIN COUNTY	43.9
79	YADKIN COUNTY	27.9		79	SCOTLAND COUNTY	43.5
80	GREENE COUNTY	27.7		80	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	42.7
81	HARNETT COUNTY	26.2		81	MARTIN COUNTY	41.8
82	DUPLIN COUNTY	26.1		82	YADKIN COUNTY	41.7
83	YANCEY COUNTY	26.0		83	PERSON COUNTY	40.7
84	SAMPSON COUNTY	25.3		84	HARNETT COUNTY	40.2
85	MARTIN COUNTY	23.5		85	GASTON COUNTY	39.3
86	SCOTLAND COUNTY	22.1		86	ROWAN COUNTY	36.8
87	ALLEGHANY COUNTY	21.3		87	RANDOLPH COUNTY	35.7
88	CLEVELAND COUNTY	16.3		88	GREENE COUNTY	32.7
89	WASHINGTON COUNTY	14.5		89	BEAUFORT COUNTY	32.6
90	BEAUFORT COUNTY	14.3		90	TYRRELL COUNTY	32.4
91	CASWELL COUNTY	12.7		91	EDGECOMBE COUNTY	28.5
92	PASQUOTANK COUNTY	12.2		92	SAMPSON COUNTY	28.3
93	GRAHAM COUNTY	11.5		93	HOKE COUNTY	25.1
94	HOKE COUNTY	9.6		94	ROBESON COUNTY	21.1
95	EDGECOMBE COUNTY	7.8		95	CASWELL COUNTY	21.0
96	ANSON COUNTY	5.1		96	RICHMOND COUNTY	18.7
97	BERTIE COUNTY	5.0		97	WASHINGTON COUNTY	17.0
98	ROBESON COUNTY	4.2		98	JONES COUNTY	10.7
99	JONES COUNTY	4.0		99	ANSON COUNTY	8.2
100	RICHMOND COUNTY	2.8		100	BERTIE COUNTY	6.8