



# North Carolina State Agency Waste Reduction and Purchases of Recycled Products

Reduce Reuse Recycle

## Fiscal Year 1994-95 Report Highlights

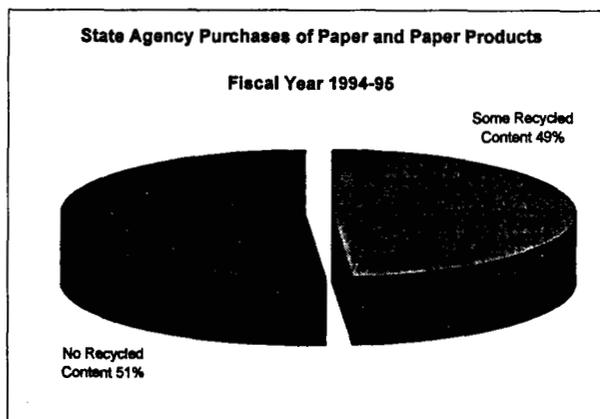
State agencies are directed by North Carolina law and Governor Hunt's Executive Order #8 to reduce their disposal of solid waste, and to purchase and use products made from recycled materials when feasible and practicable. Reports on waste reduction and recycling are required by Executive Order #8 from 26 departments and offices of North Carolina state government, 18 units of the state university system, and 58 community colleges. Reports on purchases of recycled products are required by state statute from the same agencies and also 119 local public school administrative units.

Fiscal Year 1994-95 (July 1, 1994-June 30, 1995) was the second year the reports were required. The Office of Waste Reduction has compiled the reports submitted by agencies and will publish a summary report in May 1996. The following are highlights from preliminary calculations for the summary report; therefore, the final report may differ somewhat from quantities reported here. Note that not all agencies are able to report quantitative data on materials recycled and composted or solid waste disposed.

### Purchases of Recycled Products

**Purchases of paper and paper products with recycled content:** Paper and paper products containing at least some recycled content constituted 49% of total purchases of paper and paper products reported by state agencies in Fiscal Year 1994-95. By type of agency, the percentages achieved were: departments and offices, 52%; state universities, 52%; community colleges, 53%; and local school administrative units, 44%.

For the second consecutive year, state agency purchases of recycled paper and paper products far exceeded goals established by Governor Hunt and the General Assembly for purchases of paper and paper products having recycled content as a percentage of total purchases of paper and paper products. For Fiscal Year 1994-95, the goal established by Governor Hunt's Executive Order #8 was 35%, and the legislative goal was 20%.



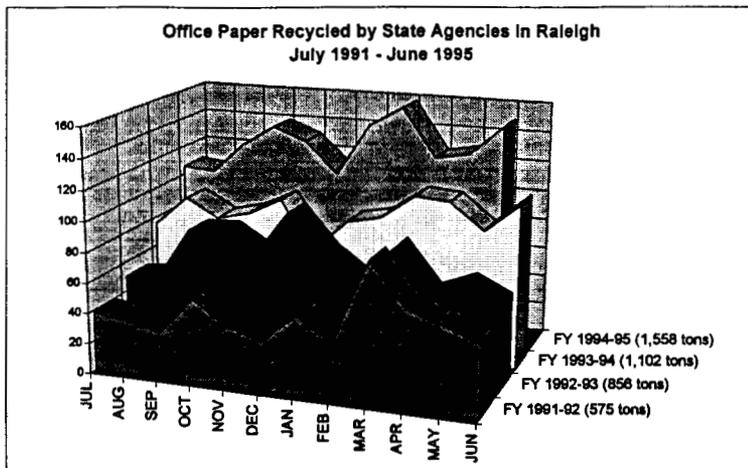
**Purchases of other (non-paper) products with recycled content:** State agencies reported buying at least \$3.6 million of non-paper items made from recycled materials in Fiscal Year 1994-95, up from \$2.4 million reported in the previous fiscal year. These included recapped tires, remanufactured laser toner cartridges, recycled plastic lumber, and recycled plastic trash can liners, among others. A separate report produced by the Department of Transportation details the many recycled products used in highway construction and maintenance.

### Recycling and Composting

#### 1. Raleigh-area state offices

**Office paper:** Approximately 1,558 tons of high-grade office paper were recycled in Fiscal Year 1994-95 by state agencies located in Raleigh. This is a 41% increase over the previous year, and a 171% increase since Fiscal Year 1991-92, the first year records were kept. Office paper was recycled by most state agencies in Raleigh for several years prior to Fiscal Year 1991-92.

Other materials: At least 300 tons of corrugated cardboard, 100 tons of newspaper, 40 tons of telephone books, and 10 tons of aluminum cans were recycled by state agencies in the Raleigh area in Fiscal Year 1994-95. These figures are based on reported quantities, and do not capture 100% of the materials recycled. Other materials recycled by at least some Raleigh-area state agencies during Fiscal Year 1994-95 for which quantitative records are not available include: wooden pallets; glass and plastic beverage containers; magazines and other glossy publications; steel cans; and used cooking grease.



## 2. State Agency Operations Outside Raleigh

Many functions are performed by state agencies in addition to those that are mainly office-oriented. State parks, correctional facilities, historic sites, psychiatric hospitals, and highway construction and maintenance operations are a few examples of the diverse services provided by state agencies.

In Fiscal Year 1994-95, non-office state agency operations at the largest state agencies, mainly outside Raleigh, reported a combined total of 10,853 tons of materials recycled or composted. This was an increase of 10% as compared with Fiscal Year 1993-94. Included in the reported total were 2,279 tons of paper (corrugated cardboard, office paper, newspaper, telephone books, magazines, and mixed paper); 2,227 tons of metal (aluminum cans, steel cans, and scrap metal); 39 tons of glass containers; 28 tons of plastic; 5,667 tons of organic materials (wooden pallets, other wood, yard waste, and food waste); and 613 tons of other materials (batteries, tires, motor oil, and asphalt, among others).

## 3. State Universities and Community Colleges

North Carolina community colleges made dramatic progress in establishing or expanding recycling programs during Fiscal Year 1994-95. The 58 community colleges together reported 1,195 tons of materials recycled or composted and 5,627 tons disposed, for a 44% increase in materials recycled or composted as compared with the previous fiscal year. The calculated recycling rate for the community colleges together is 18%, down from 23% reported in the previous fiscal year. The reported increases in solid waste disposed and materials recycled are due at least in part to improved record-keeping in the second year of required reporting. However, those familiar with community college programs concur that significant expansion in recycling programs did occur throughout the system during Fiscal Year 94-95.

Recycling and other waste reduction programs have been relatively well established for several years at most state universities in North Carolina. During Fiscal Year 1994-95, the 16 state universities, UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham (18 total institutions) reported a combined total of 7,564 tons of materials recycled or composted and 27,989 tons disposed. The reported quantity of materials recycled or composted by the state university system is 6% greater than reported for Fiscal Year 1993-94. The calculated recycling rate for state universities together is 21%, about the same as in the previous fiscal year.

***The full state agency report will be published in May 1996. Please call the Office of Waste Reduction to request a copy of the report, or with questions about state agency waste reduction.***



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*The North Carolina Office of Waste Reduction provides free, non-regulatory technical assistance and education on methods to eliminate, reduce, or recycle wastes before they become pollutants or require disposal.*



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