

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUY RECYCLED RESOLUTIONSRECYCLING
ASSOCIATION

In recent years, heightened public awareness and the passage of state and federal regulations have significantly increased the amounts of recyclable materials collected from North Carolina consumers. However, for the recycling circle to be complete, it is not enough to simply collect these materials, they must be processed into new materials then purchased and reused.

This guide includes a list of North Carolina local governments which have passed resolutions to encourage the purchase and use of recycled products for performing government functions. To find out more about a particular agency's "buy recycled" policies, call the contact person listed below.

A model buy-recycled ordinance is also included in this guide which can serve as the basis for a buy-recycled resolution in your city or county. This model ordinance is only a guide to help you get started. You can add, delete, or change any item in the model ordinance to suit your city's or county's specific needs and concerns.

To find out more about purchasing recycled products, call the North Carolina Recycling Association at (919) 851-8444 or the North Carolina Office of Waste Reduction (OWR) at (919) 571-4100 or (800) 763-0136. The OWR offers a pamphlet, called *Setting Up A Buy Recycled Program For Local Governments And Businesses*, which contains helpful step-by-step information on establishing buy recycled programs.



ASHEVILLE

Date Effective: April 23, 1991
Contact Person: Vicki Heidinger (704) 259-5629

The resolution declares the Town's support of: a) the United States Council of Mayors "Buy Recycled" campaign and the 1991 Earth Day Challenge to United States cities and towns; b) section 130A-309.14 (f) of Senate Bill 111 which sets forth an example of preferential purchasing for recycled compost products; c) the concept that for recycling programs to be effective, markets must be developed for products that incorporate post-consumer materials in their manufacture, are reusable, or are designed to be recycled; d) an effective recycling program for the City which translates into savings to the taxpayers of the City when compared to landfilling.



BELMONT

Date Effective: September 9, 1991
Contact Person: Mozelle Lingafeldt (704) 825-5586

The resolution sets a precedent and directs the City to purchase recycled products when possible, as long as the products are cost competitive.





BURKE COUNTY

Date Effective: April 5, 1994
Contact Person: Tom Rhodes (704) 433-9500

The resolution states that the Board of Commissioners supports waste reduction, increased recycling, and manufacture and use of products made with recycled materials. The County will seek to buy and use products needed for County services which are made with recycled materials if the recycled items meet minimum standards for their particular function and so long as the cost of the products made from recycled materials does not exceed the cost of non-recycled products. The County will continue to adhere to statutory requirements regarding purchasing procedures.



CHAPEL HILL

Date Effective: July 10, 1989
Contact Person: Blair Pollock (919) 968-2788

The resolution supports and encourages the use of paper products made of recycled paper fiber and directs the purchase of such products by the Town when feasible. The resolution specifies that it is the intent of the Town to commit to the use of recycled paper products by setting the goal of having a minimum of 75% of the Town's paper product purchases contain recycled paper. It is a goal of the Town to become a leader in the State and the nation in percent of recycled paper products used in a municipality. The resolution authorizes the Town Manager to develop and implement a policy by which the Town may purchase paper products containing recycled paper fiber and to begin said purchases as the products are needed.



CARRBORO

Date Effective: August 15, 1989
Contact Person: Sarah Williamson (919) 968-7705

The resolution authorizes the Town Manager to support and encourage the use of paper products made of recycled paper fiber and to direct the purchase of such products by the town when feasible. Town Manager is also authorized to develop and implement a policy by which the town may purchase paper products containing recycled paper fiber and to begin said purchases as the products are needed.



CARY

Date Effective: June 14, 1990
Contact Person: Kim Fisher (919) 469-4092

In order to complete the Town's commitment to recycling and to help create a market for the materials that the Town is committed to recycle, the resolution establishes a requirement that all Town stationery, all copier paper, and all other printing done by the Town be done on recycled paper. The Town Stockroom stocks all recycled items available on State contract and will continue to replace items with recycled products whenever possible.





CHATHAM COUNTY

Date Effective: February 19, 1990
Contact Person: Matthew Young (919) 542-8255

The resolution directs the County to: 1) use recycled paper for its letters, copying, reports, other publications, and computer paper; 2) use recycled paper products for the maintenance department, i.e. paper towels; and 3) have the Interim Manager write the School Board asking it to do the same.



GREENSBORO

Date Effective: April 29, 1993
Contact Person: Jerry Bulla (919) 373-2787

The resolution, "Recycling and Waste Reduction Policy", supports and encourages the development and implementation of practices and policies which further the aims of recycling and waste reduction within City operations. The City is directed to maximize procurement of recycled products and to purchase and use recycled paper for all documents whenever possible. The policy directs the Purchasing Department to identify products made from recycled materials that meet appropriate standards for use by City Departments, and to annually publish a list of recycled products available on City contract. The policy authorizes departments to request purchases of recycled products if the cost of the recycled product does not exceed the cost of the virgin product by more than 10%.



LINCOLN COUNTY

Date Effective: June 28, 1993
Contact Person:

The County Solid Waste Ordinance (Section XIV) provides direction on recycling of solid wastes. All businesses, corporations, and public entities shall be encouraged to submit to the County a written recycling plan which addresses purchasing of recycled materials, recycling programs, and other recycling reduction initiatives.



PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Date Effective: November 5, 1990
Contact Person: Maureen Colwell (919) 335-9079

The resolution urges the County to purchase recycled products as long as their price does not exceed the price of non-recycled products. (Amended earlier resolution, passed September 17, 1990, which resolved to purchase recycled materials so long as the cost of products made from recycled materials does not exceed the cost of virgin products by 10%)





WAKE COUNTY

Date Effective: December 7, 1992
Contact Person: Phil Carter (919) 856-6835

The resolution states that the County shall seek to buy and use products needed for County services that are made with recycled products. The County has the option, on a case-by-case basis, to consider purchasing recycled products with up to a 10% premium over virgin products. Special emphasis shall be given to products with post-consumer content. The County will seek to coordinate purchasing activities with other governments to promote recycled product purchasing. County Manager will review the County's purchasing needs and specifications to identify new opportunities to specify and purchase items with recycled material content and to establish administrative policies and procedures regarding purchase of these items.



WAKE FOREST

Date Effective: September 15, 1993
Contact Person: John Johnson (919) 556-2024

The Town supports waste reduction, increased recycling, and manufacture and use of products made with recycled materials. The Town will seek to buy and use products needed for Town services which are made with recycled materials and that are reasonably cost competitive. Cost competitive is defined as products that are no more than 10% more expensive than the virgin alternative. Preference will be given to products containing post-consumer materials. The Town will seek to coordinate purchasing activities with other governments to promote recycled product purchasing. Town Administrator will review the County's purchasing needs and specifications to identify new opportunities to specify and purchase items with recycled material content and to establish administrative policies and procedures regarding these items.



**MODEL NORTH CAROLINA ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A RECYCLED PRODUCT PROCUREMENT POLICY**

WHEREAS, 83% of the 9.5 million tons of solid waste generated in 1993 in North Carolina was disposed of in landfills, and

WHEREAS, sanitary landfill space is at a premium and it is becoming increasingly difficult to site new landfills, and

WHEREAS, much of the material that enters the waste stream can be recycled, reused, or incorporated in the manufacture of new products, and

WHEREAS, (city/county) participation in and promotion of recycling programs can significantly reduce the volume of material entering the waste stream thereby extending (city/county) landfill life expectancy and reducing expenses, and

WHEREAS, for recycling programs to be effective, markets must be developed for products that incorporate post-consumer materials in their manufacture, are reusable, or are designed to be recycled.

WHEREAS, other state and local governments have enacted cost-effective recycled product procurement policies, and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has already made a commitment to purchasing recycled products by adopting Senate Bill 58 and Executive Order 8, which establish purchasing policies, programs, and goals for the State and its university system, community colleges, and public schools to implement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the (Council/Board of Supervisors) of the (City/County) of _____ as follows:

That _____ is hereby amended by adding Section _____ to read as follows:

1. All (city/county) departments, agencies, offices, boards, and commissions shall, to the extent economically practicable, purchase and use or require the purchase and use of products with recycled content.
2. All (city/county) departments, agencies, offices, boards, and commissions shall track, to the extent feasible, the amount and types of recycled products purchased by the department, agency, office, board, or commission to assist in assessing policy effectiveness.
3. Within twelve months subsequent to the effective date of this section, all (city/county) departments, agencies, offices, boards, and commissions shall conduct a review of existing product and service specifications to determine whether existing specifications contain overly restrictive language or other barriers to purchasing recycled products, unless such specifications are necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.



MODEL NORTH CAROLINA RECYCLED PRODUCT PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE

4. Based on the findings pursuant to paragraph 3, all (city/county) departments and agencies shall recommend to the (city manager/county administrator/etc.) changes to performance standards and specifications, wherever possible, which incorporate requirements for the use of recycled materials, reusable products, and products designed to be recycled. These changes shall be adopted if economically practicable and if the changes do not jeopardize product performance nor negatively impact health, safety, or operational efficiency.
5. When recycled products are used, reasonable efforts shall be undertaken to label the products to indicate that they contain recycled materials.
6. Recycled paper shall be purchased, when economically practicable, and used in all copy machines that will accept it. Also, when economically practicable, new photocopiers purchased by the (city/county) shall have the ability to create duplexed copies and to use paper having at least 50% recycled content.
7. (City/County) departments and agencies shall use for their mast-head stationery and envelopes recycled paper that includes post-consumer recycled content and indicate on the paper and envelopes that they contain recycled material.
8. The (city/county) shall attempt to meet the following goals for the percent of the total dollar value of all paper and paper products purchased having recycled content:

by June 1995	at least 20%
by June 1996	at least 35%
by June 1997	at least 50%

These goals are based on the goals for State departments and agencies established by Senate Bill 58 on July 1, 1993.

9. The (city/county) will cooperate to the greatest extent feasible with the State and with neighboring city and county governments in an effort to develop a comprehensive, consistent, and effective procurement effort, including purchasing off State contracts, intended to stimulate the market for recycled products, reusable products, and products designed to be recycled.
10. All related (city/county) departments and agencies shall work cooperatively, to the greatest extent feasible, to further the purposes of the ordinance. The (city/county) economic development process shall incorporate the goal of stimulating the market for recycled material.

