



News Release

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Landfill Bans Take Effect October 1: Plastic Bottles, Motor Oil Filters and Wooden Pallets Added to List

FAYETTEVILLE – Starting Oct. 1, the Cumberland County Solid Waste Management will enforce a state statute banning the disposal of plastic bottles, oil filters and wooden pallets in North Carolina’s landfills.

Jan Albert, recycling coordinator for the county’s Solid Waste Management, encourages residents and businesses to work with the department and do their part to keep plastic bottles, motor oil filters and wooden pallets out of the landfill.

“North Carolina is taking the bans seriously, and Cumberland County Solid Waste Management personnel have been instructed to closely monitor disposal practices,” Albert said. Recyclable rigid plastic containers that have a neck smaller than the body of the container and that accept a screw top, snap cap, or other closure are banned from going into the landfill.

According to the [N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#), North Carolina recovers less than one out of every five plastic bottles generated in the state, despite hosting some of the largest processors of these materials. The new ban is intended to boost the recovery of bottles, in large part to meet the growing demand for these materials. Moreover, recycling the bottles is good for the environment.

An example of the appetite for recovered plastic bottles is the Clear Path facility being built in Fayetteville, which will have the capacity to use 280 million pounds of polyethylene terephthalate (PET #1) bottles annually.

“Widespread compliance with the plastic bottle disposal ban will ensure a flow of plastic bottles to meet market demand for the materials and will result in additional job creation through the expansion of recycling collection companies,” said Scott Mouw, environmental supervisor for

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the state Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. “The law represents a major growth opportunity for the state’s recycling businesses and for local government recycling collection programs as well.”

Data from the 2007-2008 N.C. Solid Waste Annual Report shows that the average county per capita recovery rate is 3.81 pounds of plastic bottles per person. The report showed that Cumberland County had a rate of .57 pounds.

Albert hopes to see that rate greatly increase as residents and businesses learn to recycle their bottles.

Individual residents can sort the plastic bottles and motor oil filters from their garbage and place them in labeled bins at the Ann Street Recycling Center or any county container site.

Commercial businesses cannot use the container sites and must take these items to the Ann Street Landfill.

If a load is found to have banned items in it, the driver of the vehicle will be required to remove those items from the load before leaving the landfill. If items are not removed, a fine of \$100 for the first offense will be imposed; second offense will be a \$300 fine plus \$100 special handling; third & subsequent offense(s) will be \$500 fine plus \$100 special handling.

Oil filters, pallets and plastic bottles join a list of previously banned materials and other items (computer equipment and televisions) with disposal ban dates approaching on Jan. 1, 2011. The full list of banned materials can be found in the North Carolina General Statutes at <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/38/37984.pdf>.

For more information, you can visit the Cumberland County Solid Waste Web site at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/solid_waste.aspx.

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