

Henderson County's Haulers Ordinance

A Problem Identified

When NC DENR passed legislation banning plastic bottles from landfills, Henderson County solid waste staff knew they had to work with the private sector to ensure the highest level of compliance within the county. However, county staff recognized some members of its hauling network didn't have the capacity to collect recycling. In fact, county staff also suspected some of them weren't complying with state regulations specifying the equipment used to haul solid waste, such as using leak-proof containers. The County recognized measures must be taken to ensure compliance with all state regulations, including recycling.

Implementation

The County passed an ordinance requiring all waste haulers to be compliant with state law, specifically targeting updating their equipment and requiring them to offer recycling services to their clients. Since haulers would need time to update their equipment, 3 permitting cycles were allowed before the ordinance would be enforced in 2012.

Keys to Success

Henderson County's approach to resolving the problem allowed for local, state and private sector goals to be met. One solution may have been franchising solid waste service throughout the county, but this would have left many of its haulers out of business. Implementing a county-wide ordinance defining standards by which haulers would need to comply, allowed many of them to remain in business. Further, requiring all its haulers to provide recycling service significantly increased the volume of material recovery.

Recycling Program Results

Since the ordinance was approved, recycling has increased 1000 tons and is growing rapidly. This increase in recycling is due primarily from residents and businesses who now have access to recycling service through their haulers.

Type of Facility:

Local Government

Present Owners Recycling Since:

The haulers ordinance was crafted in 2009-2010. Haulers have 3 years to comply with the ordinance.

Recycles:

Henderson County recycles all materials commonly accepted in local government recycling program: paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, steel, plastic, tires, etc. This program focuses on increasing the County's capacity to collect recycling through its waste hauling network.

Cost of Recycling

Services vs. Disposal Costs:

The solid waste department did not incur additional expenses as a result of the ordinance.

Contact Information:

Marcus Jones, County Engineer

828-694-6560

majones@hendersoncountync.org

