



Public Schools of North Carolina  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# 2005 Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

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Strengthen Littering Laws  
SL2001-512

*Senate Bill 1014, Section 11*

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**Due Date: December 15, 2005**  
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# 2005 RECYCLING SURVEY

In September and October, 2005, the School Planning Section in the Department of Public Instruction conducted a survey to assess the recycling efforts of each school system in North Carolina. This survey is in response to Senate Bill 1014<sup>1</sup>, which directs the State Board of Education to report on the recycling efforts on a yearly basis. Out of the 115 individual school systems in NC (LEAs), all 115 systems<sup>2</sup> responded to the survey, for a response rate of 100%.

Survey results will be sent to, and used by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee and The Environmental Review Commission to determine recycling status and trends from year to year. Results will be tabulated annually through the year 2007, for an accurate longitudinal assessment of the recycling program in North Carolina Public Schools.

## Results

### Does your LEA have a recycling program?

	# Recycle (2005)	% 2005	% 2004
Yes	107	93.0	85.2
No	8 <sup>3</sup>	7.0	14.8
Total	115	100.0	100.0

### Is the recycling program organized at the school or LEA level?

	# Recycle (2005)	% 2005	% 2004
LEA	40	34.8	27.8
School	37	32.2	25.2
Both	30	26.1	32.2
None	8	7.0	14.8
Total	115	100.0	100.0

When asked if a recycling program is in place within the 115 school systems the response was overwhelmingly positive, with almost all (93%) of LEAs having a program in all or at least some of the schools in their system. This resulted in a percent increase of 9.2% from 2004/2005. Additionally, the vast majority of *individual schools* in the North Carolina School System (81% or 1,832 schools)<sup>4</sup> report they recycle at least one item.

<sup>1</sup> SECTION 11: The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Environmental Review Commission by December 15 of the years 2003 through 2007, on the recycling efforts of the public schools in the State. These reports shall include information provided by local school administrative units on the number of public schools that have recycling programs and the types of recyclable materials that are collected. If the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee or the Environmental Review Commission determines that sufficient progress in establishing recycling programs in the public schools of the State has not been made by January 1, 2008, the Committee or Commission shall recommend legislation to the 2008 Regular Session of the General Assembly to continue the reporting requirement established by this section.

<sup>2</sup> North Carolina Charter Schools are not included in this assessment.

<sup>3</sup> This figure represents counties with no recycling efforts, and refer to Anson, Bladen, Hyde, Jackson, Madison, Montgomery, Sampson, and Warren Counties.

<sup>4</sup> Please note: This percentage may be greater because not all school systems reported the exact number of participating schools.

## Summary of Recycled Items

### What items does your school system recycle?

	# Recycle (2005)	% 2005	% 2004
Cardboard	85	73.9	73.9
Cans	83	72.2	74.8
Motor oil	82	71.3	68.7
Paper	78	67.8	61.7
Newspapers	77	67.0	61.7
Tires	75	65.2	60.9
Cooking oil	62	53.9	53.9
Computer hard drives	57	49.6	56.5
Computer keyboards	54	47.0	47.8
Printers	51	44.4	36.5
Plastic bottles	51	44.4	43.5
CRT monitors	47	40.9	40.0
Fax/printer ink cartridges	44	38.3	36.0
Glass bottles	27	23.5	25.2
Plastic cafeteria plates and cups	13	11.3	10.4
Plastic cafeteria utensils	11	9.6	4.3
Other glass containers	17	14.8	17.4
Other <sup>5</sup>	48	41.7	47.8

Approximately three-fourths (74%) of LEAs recycle cardboard, making it the most recycled item. Cans and motor oil also rank high, with seven out of ten (72% and 71%) school systems recycling these items. The least recycled items reported are plastic cafeteria utensils (10%) and plastic plates and cups (11%).

Although plastic cafeteria utensils ranked lowest, the recycling of these items more than doubled—from 4% in 2004 to 10% in 2005. Other items with a significant increase include recycled printers, ink cartridges, and paper, with percent increases of 21%, 10%, and 10% from 2004 to 2005.

Only eight school systems have no recycling program intact. These are Anson, Bladen, Hyde, Jackson, Madison, Montgomery, Sampson, and Warren Counties. These school systems are all smaller than average and list cost, reliance on other counties, and manpower as huge factors and for the lack of a recycling system in their county. However most of these systems are currently in the process of trying to implement a recycling program.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Examples include: Cell phones, antifreeze, oil filters, and batteries. For a complete listing, see Appendix.

<sup>6</sup> For complete listing, see Appendix

## Appendix – Written Comments

### PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER ITEMS RECYCLED BY THE LEA

- Computers are reused for parts; Central office recycles paper (not included in school count above) - Ashe County Schools (050)
- Batteries, Cell phones - Brunswick County Schools (100)
- Batteries from Buses – Cabarrus County Schools (130)
- #10 cans from cafeteria – Catawba County Schools (180)
- Batteries (1), catalogs/magazines (5) - Hickory Public Schools (181)
- Old phones - Cherokee County (200)
- Light bulbs and ballast - Columbus County Schools (240)
- Antifreeze, Styrofoam, misc. metals, used kitchen equipment, used lawn/power equipment, used audio visual equipment, used furniture/student desks, used plumbing/electrical fixtures – Dare County Schools (280)
- Antifreeze, Paint - Durham Public Schools (320)
- Batteries - Edgecombe County Public Schools (330)
- Scrap metal - Gaston County Schools (360)
- Cell Phones, batteries, brake shoes - Granville County Schools (390)
- Magazines, computer print outs - Halifax County Schools (420)
- Scrap metal – Roanoke Rapids City Schools (421)
- Batteries, tires, wire, all metal, etc. - Harnett County Public Schools (430)
- Cell phones, digital cameras, PDA's – Haywood County Schools (440)
- Antifreeze, oil filters, grease, beverage tabs, cell phones, pagers - Henderson County Public Schools (450)
- None that we are given of - Hoke County Schools (470)
- Eyeglasses, used computers, other hardware to be refurbished by a group of students, to be given to needy students. – Iredell – Statesville Schools (490)
- Wooden pallets, cell phones (1) - Mooresville Graded Schools (491)
- Cell phones (3), Magazines (2) - Johnston County Schools (510)
- Batteries and core's on bus parts where applicable - Jones County Schools (520)
- Some computer components (plastic) - Lenoir County Public Schools (540)
- Some construction debris - Macon County Public Schools (560)
- Ink cartridges in all 11 schools, Refrigerants - McDowell County Schools (590)
- Phone books, Magazines, Catalogs, Brochures, post-it notes, file folders, colored paper, stapled paper, junk mail, blueprints, and legal pads. - Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System (600)
- Antifreeze, paint thinner, oil filters - Moore County Schools (630)
- All Computer parts - Nash-Rocky Mount Schools (640)
- Aluminum Foil, Cell phones, kitchen equipment, iron - Nash-Rocky Mount Schools (640)
- Batteries (4), aluminum(1), phone directories (1), scrap metal (2), cell phones (3), and printer cartridges (22). – New Hanover County Schools (650)
- Rechargeable batteries, phone books - Onslow County Schools (670)
- Antifreeze, batteries, plastic containers - Orange County Schools (680)
- Magazines, phone directories - Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Schools (700)
- Oil Filters - Perquimans County Schools (720)
- Desks, lockers, water coolers. Our Facilities Services Department recycles old, used equipment (holds auctions several times a year). – Pitt County Schools (740)
- Antifreeze, used oil filters, magazines, catalogs, phonebooks – Randolph County Schools (760)
- Magazines (1), Plastic bags (1), Catalogs (1) - Asheboro City Schools (761)

- Richmond County has a contract with Montgomery County to receive all waste and to separate it for recyclables. – Richmond County Schools (770)
- Scrap metal, scrap iron, nuts and bolts - Robeson County Public Schools (780)
- 1 Magazines, 1 school publications, 1 cell phones - Rockingham County Schools (790)
- Computer equipment - Stanly County Schools (840)
- Cell phones, textbooks - Stokes County (850)
- CPUs are recycled but the hard drive is removed first. We also recycle toner and printer cartridges, as well as phone directories. - Surry County Schools (860)
- Batteries - Elkin City Schools (861)
- Some aluminum - Transylvania County Schools (880)
- Cell phones (7) Metal/steel (1) - Union County Public Schools (900)
- Antifreeze, ballasts, batteries, bricks, carpet, compressors, contaminated refrigerant, curb and paving materials, fluorescent tubes, gypsum, light bulbs, metal, polystyrene, printer cartridges, sheet rock, stone – Wake County Schools (920)
- Antifreeze - Wilkes County Schools (970)
- Magazines, catalogs - Yancey County Schools (995)

#### **EXPLAIN PROBLEMS WITH RECYCLING PROGRAM**

- We do not have a program the schools collect and recycle some items. - Anson County Schools (040)
- No one was ever given this project by the Supt. - Bertie County (080)
- Program has not been implemented. - Bladen County Schools (090)
- Other plans are in the works at individual schools. High Fuel costs may hamper short term recycling. - Brunswick County Schools (100)
- Local government has no way to handle recycled materials. Neither does waste management. - Columbus County Schools (240)
- We had an extensive program but the county government did away with the county recycling program. It has cost us over \$23,000 in additional dumping fees for the past 6 months. - Davie County Schools (300)
- It would cost the system approximately \$300/mo extra to rent additional receptacles for separate pickup. This cost is for each school. - Edgecombe County Public Schools (330)
- The recycling program begins with the actions of the LEA. The LEA provides every school 3 different solid waste large containers properly labeled. The containers are for general trash, cardboard and mixed paper. Each school has the responsibility to organize and ensure the proper waste is placed in the appropriate containers. The system has the responsibility to contract with a company to have the different waste types removed appropriately. Some individual schools are recycling other items other than paper and cardboard. - Henderson County Public Schools (450)
- I am looking into other items that we can recycle. I called Mr. Ben Matthews and he has emailed me some information. - Hertford County (460)
- We need additional funds and guidelines to implement based on state requests. We also need plastic containers and each school needs a list of vendors who want recycled products after use. - Hoke County Schools (470)
- Currently, there is no district-wide recycling program. Over the past several years, several programs have been tried by none have been successful. - Hyde County Schools (480)
- New schools have not had time to plan for recycling. No space, not enough room. Not essential and no one to pick-up. Cost the school to have recycling program. – Iredell-Statesville Schools (490)

- We are working with our waste management company to provide recycling containers closer to our schools. Currently, we don't have storage or personnel to do recycling. - Jackson County Schools (500)
- Due to our county being small and rural, we contract with a surrounding County for garbage pick up. At this time, they do not offer a recycling program. – Madison County Schools (570)
- Several schools have not organized recycling programs. Others have new administrators who plan to start recycling efforts in their schools. Collection space is an issue at several schools and cost of an additional dumpster is an issue at another school. – New Hanover County Schools (650)
- I am unsure if the LEA has a recycling program at the LEA level. - Onslow County Schools (670)
- Bell Forks custodians collect cans to recycle. - Onslow County Schools (670)
- Although our recycling program is organized at the school level, schools cite a lack of space as the primary hindrance to recycling. - Onslow County Schools (670)
- 1)space 2)health regulations, cleanliness 3) manpower to supervise - Onslow County Schools (670)
- All tires are delivered to the county recycling center - Pender County Schools (710)
- Computers and cartridges are recycled but there is no organized recycling program. - Polk County Public Schools (750)
- This LEA has a total of 25 schools. We do not have a system-wide recycle program due to the expanse of our County. One Municipality within the County offers recycle pickup of which six schools are eligible to participate in. Sixteen schools participate in a recycling program within their school. Only 3 schools do not recycle due to location from recycle center. Our technology dept participates in the Dell Asset Recovery Program; our Transportation Dept. participates in a program that will pick up motor oil and tires; our School Food Service recycles cooking oil. The District office recycles cans and contracts with a business by the name of "Shred It" that picks up paper. The district office also recycles toner cartridges and printer cartridges as do three of our schools. - Rockingham County Schools (790)
- While we do not have a recycling program, Sampson County Schools does purchase several items thru out our school system that has been recycled. We feel this compares favorably to having the recycling program itself. - Sampson County Schools (820)
- We stopped our recycling of the other items because we could not find anyone to take the items. It was too expensive to transport them. - Vance County Schools (910)
- Manpower - Warren County Schools (930)
- Our county does not offer a recycling program so we would have to transport recycled items and that doesn't seem reasonable to do. – Washington County Schools (940)
- Has never really been discussed as an LEA. Schools use this as an educational piece. - Yancey County Schools (995)

