



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

2006 Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Strengthening Littering Laws

SL2001-512, sec. 11

Senate Bill 1014

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DPI Chronological Schedule, 2006-2007

2006 RECYCLING SURVEY

In September and October, 2006, the Department of Public Instruction, in conjunction with School Planning Section of the School Support Division conducted a survey to assess the recycling efforts of each school system in North Carolina. This survey is in response to Senate Bill 1014, 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 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 (2006)	% 2006	% 2005	% 2004
Yes	108	93.9	93.0	85.2
No	7	6.1 ¹	7.0	14.8
Total	115	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	# Recycle (2006)	% 2006	% 2005	% 2004
LEA	34	29.6	34.8	27.8
School	36	31.3	32.2	25.2
Both	38	33.0	26.1	32.2
None	7	6.1	7.0	14.8
Total	115	100.0	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 (93.9%) of LEAs having a program in all or at least some of the schools in their system. This resulted in a percent increase of 0.9% from 2005/2006. Additionally, the vast majority of *individual schools* in the North Carolina School System (88.7% or 2,051 schools)² report they recycle at least one item.

¹ This figure represents counties with no recycling programs, and refer to Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Hyde, Jackson, Northampton, and Sampson

² 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 (2006)	% 2006	% 2005	% 2004
Cans	88	76.5	72.2	74.8
Cardboard	87	75.7	73.9	73.9
Motor oil	83	72.2	71.3	68.7
Newspapers	77	67.0	67.0	61.7
Paper	76	66.1	67.8	61.7
Tires	71	67.0	65.2	60.9
Computer hard drives	67	58.3	49.6	56.5
Cooking oil	67	58.3	53.9	53.9
Computer keyboards	63	54.8	47.0	47.8
Printers	63	54.8	44.4	36.5
CRT monitors	59	51.3	40.9	40.0
Plastic bottles	53	46.1	44.4	43.5
Fax/printer ink cartridges	42	36.5	38.3	36.0
Glass bottles	30	26.1	23.5	25.2
Other glass containers	19	16.5	14.8	17.4
Plastic cafeteria plates and cups	18	15.7	11.3	10.4
Plastic cafeteria utensils	15	13.0	9.6	4.3
Other ³	40	34.8	41.7	47.8

Slightly more than three-fourths (76.5%) of LEAs recycle cans, making it the most recycled item. Cardboard and motor oil are second and third on the list, with 75.7% and 72.2% of school systems recycling these items. The least recycled items reported are plastic cafeteria utensils (13.0%) and plastic cafeteria plates and cups (15.7%).

Although plastic cafeteria utensils ranked lowest, the recycling of these items more than tripled — from 4% in 2004 to 13% in 2006. The largest increases since 2005 were with computer equipment. There were 10.4% more LEAs that recycled printers and CRT monitors in 2006 compared to 2005. Computer hard drives and keyboards also saw significant increases of 8.7% and 7.7% respectively.

Only seven school systems have no organized recycling program intact. These are Anson, Bertie, Bladen, Hyde, Jackson, Northampton, and Sampson Counties. These school systems are all smaller than average and list cost, reliance on other counties, reliance on recycling companies, 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.⁴

³ Examples include: Cell phones, antifreeze, oil filters, and batteries. For a complete listing, see Appendix

⁴ For complete listing, see Appendix

Appendix A– Written Comments

PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER ITEMS RECYCLED BY THE LEA (in order by LEA #)

- 030 Alleghany County Schools - Aluminum
- 080 Bertie County Schools - Batteries, metal
- 100 Brunswick County Schools - Old brake drums, radiators, brake shoes, discarded metal, batteries, computer equipment
- 110 Buncombe County Schools - Cell phones, books, digital cameras, magazines, laptop batteries
- 132 Kannapolis City Schools - Fluorescent light bulbs
- 180 Catawba County Schools – Mixed paper
- 181 Hickory Public Schools - Catalogs (1), library books (10), text books (10)
- 190 Chatham County Schools - Vehicle batteries, scrap metal (steel & copper), aluminum soda can tabs
- 200 Cherokee County Schools - Phones (1)
- 230 Cleveland County Schools - Computer towers, televisions, overhead projectors
- 250 Craven County Schools - Antifreeze
- 280 Dare County Schools - Antifreeze, Styrofoam, misc. metals, used kitchen equipment, used lawn/power equipment, used audio visual equipment, used furniture/student desks, used plumbing/electrical fixtures
- 300 Davie County Schools - Cell phones (1)
- 330 Edgecombe County Public Schools – Batteries
- 390 Granville County Schools – Batteries, pull tabs (2), tool cleanser
- 440 Haywood County Schools - Phones
- 470 Hoke County Schools - Bus batteries
- 480 Hyde County Schools - Textbooks
- 490 Iredell-Statesville Schools - Cell phones, textbooks
- 491 Mooresville Graded Schools - Cell phones
- 510 Johnston County Schools - Magazines (5)
- 540 Lenoir County Public Schools - Cell phones
- 590 McDowell County Schools - Cell phones, magazines, PDAs
- 600 Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System - Phonebooks, magazines, catalogs, brochures, Post-It Notes, file folders, colored paper, stapled paper, junk mail, blue prints, legal pads
- 630 Moore County Schools - Engine fluids, paints, vehicle parts, paint thinner, Freon, metal, phone books, batteries
- 650 New Hanover County Schools - Batteries (6), aluminum (1), phone directories (1), scrap metal (1), cell phones (3), plastic bags (2), antifreeze (1)
- 740 Pitt County Schools – Desks, lockers, water coolers
- 760 Randolph County Schools - Antifreeze, oil filters
- 761 Asheboro City Schools - Magazines (1), plastic grocery bags (1), catalogs (1)
- 780 Robeson County Public Schools - Cell phones, tin, aluminum steel, cast iron, general metals, stainless steel, copper, drink tabs
- 790 Rockingham County Schools - Antifreeze (1)
- 830 Scotland County Schools - Batteries, Styrofoam plates and cups
- 850 Stokes County Schools - Cell phones, textbooks
- 860 Surry County Schools - Batteries, cell phones, magazines, telephone directories, textbooks, workbooks
- 861 Elkin City Schools - Scrap metal, wood pallets, appliances, batteries
- 870 Swain County Schools - Oil filters, vehicle batteries, UPS batteries
- 900 Union County Public Schools - Cell phones (7), metal/steel (1)
- 920 Wake County Schools - Antifreeze (148), ballasts (148), batteries (148), bricks (148), carpet (148), cell phones (4), compressors (148), contaminated refrigerant (148), curb & paving materials (148), fluorescent tubes (148), gypsum (148), light bulbs (148), metal (148), phone books (148), polystyrene (148), sheet rock (148), stone (148), textbooks (148)
- 930 Warren County Schools - Batteries, scrap metal
- 970 Wilkes County Schools - Antifreeze (1)

() represents the # of schools that recycling the item listed

EXPLAIN PROBLEMS WITH RECYCLING PROGRAM (in order by LEA #)

- 040 Anson County Schools - We do not have an organized program. The schools collect and recycle some items.
- 050 Ashe County Schools - Computers are reused for parts in some cases
- 080 Bertie County Schools - The Child Nutrition Department found it to be an too much of an added expense. They are charged to have the cooking oil picked up.
- 090 Bladen County Schools - Program has not yet been implemented
- 120 Burke County Schools - All schools send computer type items to a central department for recycling; tires and motor oil also.
- 130 Currently, gathering information on recycling glass and plastic bottles. Computer hard drives, keyboards, and monitors are sold at auctions.
- 180 Catawba County Schools - Hopefully light bulbs in the future.
- 181 Hickory Public Schools - Computer hard drives, keyboards, printers, and monitors are sold through state surplus auctions. Test materials, student data, and finance records are shredded for recycling at least once during the fiscal year.
- 270 Currituck County Schools - Any aluminum parts from bus repairs are also recycled.
- 300 Davie County Schools - We changed our recycling program and a lot of items are no longer accepted. Cost is another reason for not recycling some items.
- 370 Edgecombe County Public Schools - Main reason for entire LEA not participating is the cost factor. It would require renting additional receptacles for separate pick-up; estimated cost of \$300 per month for each school.
- 370 Gates County Schools - We are working on a plan to start recycling plastics, cans, and cardboard milk cartons.
- 480 Hyde County Schools - This program is being looked into. We are looking at recycling programs at other LEAs to gain more info.
- 490 Iredell-Statesville Schools - Inadequate transportation; Recycling company doesn't pick up for a couple of schools; Bi-weekly pick up not successful; Time, space, and money; No curbside recycling pickup.
- 491 Mooresville Grade Schools - We are working to expand our program.
- 500 Jackson County Schools - Currently, we do not have the personnel to handle taking the recyclables to the recycling centers.
- 590 McDowell County Schools - There has been no specific decision at the system level not to promote a recycling program. The survey results from the schools indicate someone has promoted and encouraged the schools to conduct recycling efforts. Our system has numerous new staff in key positions. As a system we will reassess our central efforts for recycling.
- 610 Mitchell County Schools - This is left to the discretion of each local school in Mitchell County. Our schools do a good job with individual school recycling plans.
- 650 New Hanover County Schools - A few schools do not know how to organize recycling programs. Lack of storage space and funding for bins and pickup are issues at several schools. A recycling company removed an outdoor dumpster from one school because the public used it for trash. Two schools have committees that have not met yet to consider a recycling program.
- 660 Northampton County Schools - Waste providers are limited in our area. When checking on why recycling program was avoided, found that it was too costly for the school system.
- 700 Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Schools - Most paper, aluminum, and plastic items are handled by the Pasquotank County Recycling Coordinator.
- 720 Perquimans County Schools - All four schools were involved at one time. The school that is not organized now will be in the near future.
- 740 Pitt County Schools - Our Facilities Services Department recycles used equipment. Auctions are held throughout the year.
- 820 Sampson County Schools - While we do not have a recycling program, we do purchase items that have been recycled.
- 840 Stanly County Schools - Schools are encouraged to participate in beautification and recycling efforts as often as possible.
- 861 Elkin City Schools - We do this because it saves the system money.
- 890 Tyrrell County Schools - Pickup for recycled products is not available to us. We do all we can and we purchase recycled items often.
- 910 Vance County Schools - All computer equipment is handled throughout the LEA. All other items are handled by the individual schools.