



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

2007 Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Strengthening Littering Laws

SL2001-512, sec. 11

Senate Bill 1014

Due Date: December 15, 2007

Report #: 21

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2007-2008

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

HOWARD N. LEE
Chairman :: Raleigh

KATHY A. TAFT
Greenville

ROBERT "TOM" SPEED
Boone

WAYNE MCDEVITT
Vice Chair :: Asheville

KEVIN D. HOWELL
Raleigh

MELISSA E. BARTLETT
Raleigh

BEVERLY PERDUE
Lieutenant Governor :: New Bern

SHIRLEY E. HARRIS
Troy

JOHN A. TATE III
Charlotte

RICHARD MOORE
State Treasurer :: Kittrell

EULADA P. WATT
Charlotte

PATRICIA N. WILLOUGHBY
Raleigh

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., State Superintendent

301 N. Wilmington Street :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

In compliance with federal law, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to:

Associate State Superintendent :: Office of Curriculum and Instructional Services
6307 Mail Service Center :: Raleigh, NC 27699-6307 :: Telephone 919-807-3761 :: Fax 919-807-3767

Visit us on the Web:: www.ncpublicschools.org.

2007 RECYCLING SURVEY

In September and October, 2007, 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

Do any of your schools have a recycling program?

	# Recycle (2007)	% 2007	% 2006	% 2005	% 2004	% 2003
Yes	110	95.7	93.9	93.0	85.2	88.0
No	5	4.3 ¹	6.1	7.0	14.8	12.0
Total	115	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	# Recycle (2007)	% 2007	% 2006	% 2005	% 2004	% 2003
LEA	9	7.8	29.6	34.8	27.8	18.7
School	25	21.7	31.3	32.2	25.2	38.5
Both	76	66.1	33.0	26.1	32.2	30.8
None	5	4.3	6.1	7.0	14.8	12.0
Total	115	100.0 ²	100.0	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 (95.7%) of LEAs having a program in all or at least one of the schools in their system. This resulted in a percent increase of 1.8% from 2006/2007. Additionally, the vast majority of *individual schools* in the North Carolina School System (88.6% or 2,086 schools)³ report they recycle at least one item.

¹ This figure represents LEAs with no recycling programs, and refer to Anson, Bladen, Haywood, Moore, and Sampson.

² Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

³ 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 (2007)	% 2007	% 2006	% 2005	% 2004	% 2003
Cardboard	89	77.4	75.7	73.9	73.9	62.4
Paper	88	76.5	66.1	67.8	61.7	68.4
Newspapers	85	73.9	67.0	67.0	61.7	62.4
Cans	83	72.2	76.5	72.2	74.8	76.9
Ink/toner cartridges	83	72.2	36.5	38.3	36.0	⁴
Computer hard drives	76	66.1	58.3	49.6	56.5	36.7
Computer keyboards	72	62.6	54.8	47.0	47.8	35.0
Motor oil	72	62.6	72.2	71.3	68.7	65.8
Tires	65	56.5	67.0	65.2	60.9	61.5
Cooking oil	64	55.7	58.3	53.9	53.9	48.7
CRT monitors	64	55.7	51.3	40.9	40.0	25.6
Plastic bottles	64	55.7	46.1	44.4	43.5	41.0
Printers	63	54.8	54.8	44.4	36.5	34.2
Glass bottles	35	30.4	26.1	23.5	25.2	19.6
Other glass containers	16	13.9	16.5	14.8	17.4	13.7
Plastic cafeteria plates and cups	16	13.9	15.7	11.3	10.4	12.8
Plastic cafeteria utensils	9	7.8	13.0	9.6	4.3	8.5
Other ⁵	35	30.4	34.8	41.7	47.8	54.7

Paper based items are the top three most recycled items by school systems. Slightly more than three-fourths (77.4%) of LEAs recycle cardboard, making it the most recycled item. Paper and newspaper are second and third on the list, with 76.5% and 73.9% of school systems recycling these items respectively. The least recycled items reported are plastic cafeteria utensils (7.8%), which may be contributed to the difficulty of separating smaller items.

Once again, all computer equipment showed significant increases in the number of LEAs recycling these items. The largest increase was in ink/toner cartridges, which almost doubled from 36.5% in 2006 to 72.2% in 2007.

Only five school systems (Anson, Bladen, Haywood, Moore, and Sampson) have no organized recycling program intact. These school systems are average to smaller than average and list cost, reliance on recycling companies, and no interest as huge factors for the lack of a recycling program in their school system. However most of these systems are currently in the process of trying to implement a recycling program.⁶

⁴ Data was not collected for ink/toner cartridges in 2003

⁵ Examples include: Antifreeze, batteries, cell phones, and textbooks. For a complete listing, see Appendix A

⁶ For a complete listing of comments, see Appendix B

Appendix A– Other Recycled Items

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

- 050 Ashe County Schools - Central office recycles paper and cans; large tires are recapped
- 070 Beaufort County Schools - cell phones, diskettes, CDs, DVDs, video
- 130 Cabarrus County Schools - books, office paper
- 132 Kannapolis City Schools - cell phones
- 180 Catawba County Schools - cell phones, CPU, speakers
- 182 Newton Conover City Schools – batteries, cell phones
- 200 Cherokee County Schools – industrial metal, textbooks, wooden pallets
- 240 Columbus County Schools - ballasts and fluorescent lamps
- 280 Dare County Schools - boat (1)
- 300 Davie County Schools - cell phones (5)
- 350 Franklin County Schools – antifreeze, cell phones
- 460 Hertford County Schools - cell phones
- 491 Mooresville City Schools - cell phones
- 510 Johnston County Schools - can tabs
- 560 Macon County Schools - computer hardware, paper products
- 590 McDowell County Schools - cell phones, magazines, PDAs
- 620 Montgomery County Schools - can liners, carpet, custodial items, VCT flooring
- 670 Onslow County Schools - cell phones, clothing, eye glasses, textbooks
- 680 Orange County Schools - batteries
- 681 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools - batteries
- 700 Elizabeth City / Pasquotank County Schools - office paper
- 740 Pitt County Schools - desks, lockers, used equipment, water coolers
- 760 Randolph County Schools - antifreeze, rechargeable batteries
- 770 Richmond County Schools - batteries (bus garage)
- 780 Robeson County Schools - cell phones, milk cartons, scrap metal, tabs
- 790 Rockingham County Schools - catalogs
- 840 Stanly County Schools - plastic bags (1)
- 850 Stokes County Schools - cell phones, textbooks
- 860 Surry County Schools - cell phones, magazines, telephone directories, textbooks, workbooks
- 900 Union County Public Schools – antifreeze (1), cell phones(4), scrap metal(1)
- 910 Vance County Schools - plastic bags (1)
- 920 Wake County Schools – ballasts, batteries, carpet, sheet rock, textbooks
- 950 Watauga County Schools - antifreeze, batteries, scrap metal
- 960 Wayne County Public Schools - metals
- 970 Wilkes County Schools – batteries, cell phones, scrap metal

() represents the # of schools that are recycling the items listed

Appendix B– Written Comments

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

- 040 Anson County Schools - We used to have one, but it was too much work for the amount of money that we got in return for it.
- 090 Bladen County Schools - Do not have enough participation and interest.
- 300 Davie County Schools - Each school has there own system and some use this as fund raisers.
- 390 Granville County Schools - No recycle pick-up.
- 440 Haywood County Schools - Our maintenance director is presently working with the county to develop a recycling program.
- 480 Hyde County Schools - Lack of recycling collection.
- 590 McDowell County Schools - Presently working with Cooperative Extension Service to develop system wide program.
- 610 Mitchell County Schools - At this time our central office administration and board of education is updating our system wide policy manual. Providing a policy concerning recycling is a high priority for development. Currently our system allows recycling to be an individual school's decision.
- 620 Montgomery County Schools - We recycle some supplies and buy some recycled products. However, this has not been a point of concern over the last few years.
- 681 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools - We do not recycle glass as we do not purchase or supply products in glass containers.
- 730 Person County Schools - We have several organizations helping us to develop a consistent recycling program. Our problem is limited resources.
- 790 Rockingham County Schools - We do not have a system-wide recycle program due to the expanse of our County. Our technology department is responsible for recycling computer equipment at all of our schools. Our school food service participates in recycling of cooking oil at all of our middle and high schools. Our elementary schools do not use cooking oil. We have two elementary schools that do not participate in additional recycling of some kind.
- 820 Sampson County Schools - Sampson County Schools does not have a recycling program at this time but we do purchase recycled products whenever possible.
- 840 Stanly County Schools - The schools participate on an individual basis in recycling efforts.