

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



**Buncombe County Solid
Waste Department**
828-250-5460
Fall 2005



Buncombe County residents recycle 77 tons of HHW and electronics

From July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, Buncombe County residents recycled a whopping 154,000 pounds of household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics (e-waste). This total included 2,000 pounds of pesticides, 47,000 pounds of other HHW, and 105,000 pounds of e-waste. On average, 3,080 pounds of HHW and e-waste came into the Landfill each Friday.

For over a year now, Buncombe County has been accepting HHW and e-waste every Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at a special drop-off area at the Landfill (see map on the back page).

Each week, e-waste, which includes computers and related equipment, is accepted from residents at no charge. Businesses are also able to drop off electronics, but they will be charged a fee of 30 cents per pound.

HHW is accepted for \$2 per gallon for paint-related material, such as paint thinner, kerosene, gasoline, and paint. Other materials, such as lawn and garden chemicals, are accepted at no charge.

For more information, call 250-5460 or the Landfill at 645-5311.



New rates in effect

As of September 1, new rates are in effect at the Buncombe County Transfer Station and Landfill. For a list of which materials are accepted at the Transfer Station and which are accepted ONLY at the Landfill, please refer to the back page.

There are two rate schedules in effect—one for residents (“private citizens”) and a second for businesses. This was the first rate adjustment since 1999.

Landfill Rates for Private Citizens

Category	Rate
33-gallon bags of household waste with recyclables removed	\$1 per bag
Pick-up trucks, vans or small trailers	\$40 per ton at Transfer Station \$12 minimum
	\$36 per ton at Landfill \$10 minimum
Recyclables in Blue Bags	No charge
Newspapers, cardboard, or magazines prepared for recycling	No charge
Household Hazardous Waste	No charge
Paint and paint-related materials	\$2 per gallon
Electronics recycling	No charge
Tires (maximum of 4 per trip and 10 per year)	No charge
Untreated wood, limbs, yard wastes (suitable for mulching; no non-organic debris or trash)	\$20 per ton
Dead farm animals	\$50
Mulch purchase (2 cubic yard bucket)	\$10

Landfill Rates for Commercial and Franchised Haulers

Category	Rate
All trucks, roll-offs, or flat beds of solid waste which contain less than 5 percent of any of the following: corrugated cardboard, untreated wood products suitable for mulching, concrete, cinder blocks, brick, concrete with steel, or any type of metals	\$40 per ton at Transfer Station \$36 per ton at Landfill
All trucks, roll-offs, or flat beds of solid waste which contain more than 5 percent of any of the following: corrugated cardboard, untreated wood products suitable for mulching, concrete, cinder blocks, brick, concrete with steel, or any type of metals	\$72 per ton — First violation (load above 5% limit) \$108 per ton — Second and subsequent violations (load above 5% limit)
Untreated wood, limbs, yard waste, or other materials suitable for mulching	\$20 per ton
Semi-liquid non-hazardous food waste	\$20 per ton
Friable asbestos	\$100 per ton \$100 minimum
Tires with original scrap tire certification form ONLY	No charge
Tires without certification form	\$2 per tire
Electronics recycling (limit 5 units)	\$0.30 per pound
Mulch purchase (2 cubic yard bucket)	\$10

10 Tips for Reuse

Here are some easy ways to increase your reuse of items. By reusing, you'll reduce your waste and use both your personal resources and our natural resources more wisely.



1. Use the library. Your local library is a treasure trove of books, videos, CDs, magazines, and much more. Why buy what you and your fellow taxpayers have already paid for? Be a borrower! If you are looking for something the library doesn't have, ask a librarian to help you arrange for an "inter-library loan." This allows your library to borrow the item from another library and then loan it out to you. Don't forget college and university libraries. Often all you need to borrow materials from these libraries is a valid in-state driver's license. Check their websites or call for details.
2. Have you ever watched people go in and out of the library? If so, you know that library regulars are "bag people." The vast majority of people coming in and out of the library are carrying canvas bags, backpacks, or totes. Become a bag person. Carry your own bags—and not just to and from the library. They are great for small purchases when you are running errands.
3. Become a renter. No, you don't need to sell your house and move! We're talking about renting things that you don't need to own, such as new release movies, a lawn edger, or a party tent. If you don't want to worry about buying, maintaining, and storing something that you need now but only need to use once or twice, rent it!
4. Borrow items that you need, loan what you have, or share seldom-used equipment with friends and family members. This is much like renting—you get what you need now—but it is cheaper, of course. Need a crib for a short period of time while a young child visits? Borrow one from a neighbor who has one in the attic. Enjoying a great new game? Loan it to a friend after you've played it several times. Do you and your best friend share a hobby? Then, share a magazine subscription, too. Maybe you could each order a different magazine on the topic and trade them each month.
5. Avoid "use & toss" products. Use and toss products include disposable "wipes" for house cleaning, hand wiping, and more. You might think that a few wipes here or there don't mean much. But by 2008, \$3.1 billion worth of disposable wipes, weighing more than 100,000 tons, will be sold each year. In most of the situations where wipes are being used, rags, washable cleaning cloths or sponges, or washcloths and towels would be just as easy to use and more environmentally friendly. Think before you buy wipes. Wipes are handy on-the-go (in the car or at a soccer game). However, if you are at home cleaning the kitchen or bathroom, reusable rags are your best bet—plus, you have more control over the type and amount of cleaning products that you use.
6. Create a "fun box." Old crayons and markers (the ones that have long since lost their own boxes), sheets of stickers with most of the stickers used, scraps of fabric from a second-grade science project, and more can go into your family "fun box." Keep your scraps together so that when you want or need craft supplies, you can hit your fun box rather than head to the mall.
7. Wrap it up! Empty shoe boxes wrapped in reused wrapping paper, calendar pages, old photo collages, or magazine pages make decorative and useful storage boxes. Gift-giving time? Make a basket or lunch box part of the gift and you've created a gift and wrapper in one. Use paper or fabric gift bags. Wrap gifts in reused newspaper, wallpaper scraps, or other "recovered" materials. To see more gift wrapping ideas, visit www.boakart.com/wrap/WrapArt.html.
8. Remember "hand-me-downs"? Used clothes, which are now sometimes called "pre-worn" clothes, often have a lot of life left in them. If you are cleaning out your closet, don't head for the trash. Instead, pass the clothes along to a friend or family member who will wear them, sell them at a garage sale or to a reuse shop, or donate them to a charity. If you are looking for clothes, shop reused first. Secondhand stores are full of fantastic finds and durable duds.
9. Fix 'er up! When you repair what you already have, you usually save money and always ensure that the things in which you have already invested last longer. For instance, a home computer can be a large investment. If the DVD drive quits working, it is a simple (and inexpensive) fix to get it up and running again. *Voilà*—like new! Shoes are another good example. Each year, about 62 million pairs of sturdy shoes and boots are repaired.
10. Maintain what you have. Maintenance may not seem to be related to reuse, but it is. The better care that you give to durable items, from home appliances to tires, the longer they will last. Follow manufacturer's recommended guidelines for the use and care of things you buy. You'll be able to use and reuse your own stuff for much longer!



The long and rewinding road

Are you a frequent traveler? Whether you are flying or driving, you can read, enjoy, and reuse!

At about 60 airports across the country, travelers can purchase a book from one of Paradies Shops' 200 participating stores and return it along with the original receipt for a partial refund to any of the participating Paradies stores within six months. That means you could pick up the book at the Reno airport, read it while you're traveling in New York, and return it to the Albany airport before your return flight.

When you return the book, you'll be refunded half of the original price. (You must have your receipt, but when you buy the book, the clerk will either tape it into the book or staple it to a free bookmark.) Your book will in turn be sold as a "pre-read" book. Only pre-read books in good condition are sold; however, the company reports that almost all of the returned books are in resalable condition. Those that are not are donated to local charities.

Paradies Shops' stores operate under several different names. The next time you travel and are purchasing a book, ask whether the store participates in the Paradies "Read and Return" program. If it does, read, enjoy, and return!

Not flying? You can still "read" and return through the "Books-on-Audio" program at Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, which dot the landscape at interstate exits throughout the U.S. You buy the audiobook on cassette tape or CD at the list price and enjoy it as you travel. Prices range from \$9.99 to \$48. When you are done, you stop by another Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and return it. You'll be refunded the purchase price minus a rental fee of \$3.49 per week. Just as with the Paradies Read and Return program, you can buy the book at one Cracker Barrel

Old Country Store and return it to another in a different city or state. So read and reuse!

QUOTES REQUOTED

We are aware that our children and the future generations have a right to a world which will also need energy, should be free of pollution, should be rich with biological diversity and should have a climate which will sustain all forms of life.

Wangari Maathai, Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize

In 1977, Wangari Maathai founded the "Green Belt Movement," which has helped African women plant 30 million trees, providing fuel, food, shelter, and income to support their families.



Photo credit: Martin Rowe

Living more lightly

E Magazine recently published *Green Living*, a handbook for living lightly on the earth. From food and health care to personal care and clothing, from gardening to eco-travel, this guidebook is designed to help you make informed choices.

Each of its 14 chapters explains the contents and effects of products that are commonly used, outlines alternatives, and provides a long list of resources. For instance, Chapter 9, "Kids' Stuff: Starting Them Young, from the Nursery to the Bookshelf," explores topics including the impact of various types of media on children and toxins often found in the home. Then, a



"what you can do" section describes simple steps that can make a positive difference on children's lifestyles and health. Finally, an eight-page resource section shows you where to find products, information, and more.

Look for *Green Living: The E Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth* (Plume, 2005) at your library or bookstore. Remember—check the used bookstore first!

If you enjoy this book, you might also look for *The Newman's Own Organics Guide to a Good Life: Simple Measures That Benefit You and the Place You Live* by Nell Newman (Villard, 2003).

When is bulk packaging right for you?

Buying in bulk can reduce the amount of packaging waste that you throw away or recycle. Often buying in bulk (buying a large container with multiple servings or multiple items) is also cheaper on a per-unit basis. However, is buying in bulk always the best choice? That depends. Before you buy in bulk, consider what you need and how you will use the product.

Buying a huge container of something you are sure to use and which won't "go bad" is almost always your best bet. For example, laundry detergent doesn't spoil and will still be useful in six months, so pick up the larger container.

Choosing the super-size jug of milk is a good idea if you have a large family and will consume the milk before it

spoil. If you have only two people in your household and don't use much milk, a small bottle or even powdered milk might be a better option. In other words, think about the potential product waste, especially when looking at perishable food and beverages.

The huge container also may not be the best choice when you are buying hazardous products. Will you use up the product you are buying? Or will you end up disposing of it at a hazardous waste collection? If you aren't sure, buy the smaller container.

As you shop, look for containers that are the right size for your family and your needs, while creating the least amount of waste possible.



Bulk buy your water

"Tap water" costs many times less per gallon than bottled water. In fact, a gallon of municipal tap water costs a penny or less in most places, while the same amount of water in individual, single-serve bottles may cost \$10. Rather than buying expensive, pre-filled bottles that you carry home and then need to recycle, purchase water "in bulk" by using your own tap water. You can fill reusable bottles. Be sure to wash them thoroughly between uses.

Read more about drinking water in *Plain Talk About Drinking Water: Questions and Answers About the Water You Drink* by Dr. James M. Symons (American Water Works Association, 2001).



Gas prices got you down?

Fuel prices, which have shot up this year, are affecting everything from weekend trips to car sales to home heating and air conditioning costs. With prices high and no relief in sight, consider ways to reduce your use of fossil fuels. When you reduce your use, you save money, cut harmful emissions, and eliminate waste (some of which is hazardous). Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Turn off lights and appliances when they aren't in use. While your refrigerator does need to run all the time, your TV doesn't.
- Plan your errands to reduce the number of trips you make, as well as to eliminate unnecessary "backtracking."
- Walk or bike instead of driving. You can improve your health, lower your fuel use, and cut down on pollution.
- Buying a new vehicle? Consider a hybrid. Hybrids, which draw part of their power from a battery, reduce your use of gasoline and have lower emissions. Unlike older electric vehicles, hybrids do not have to be plugged in. The gasoline engine and energy recaptured during braking recharge the battery during use.
- Choose alternative fuels, when available. Ethanol is a mixture of gasoline and a crop such as corn or a crop waste such as corn stalks or sugar can stalks. Biodiesel is a mixture of diesel fuel and vegetable oil. These fuels reduce your use of non-renewable resources and may increase your use of a recaptured waste product.
- Talk to your electric utility provider about "green energy" from renewable sources, including wind and solar power. Find out how much of your utility's electricity comes from renewable sources.
- Rake your leaves or sweep your driveway instead of using a leaf blower. A gas-powered leaf blower used once a month for half an hour emits as much pollution as a car driven more than 175 miles. Also, when you use the rake or broom, there is no chance of spilling or needing to dispose of hazardous gas or oil.
- Insulate around doors and windows to eliminate heating and cooling losses. If you can feel air blowing in, you need to insulate. An old, rolled towel can keep your valuable heated or cooled air from escaping around doors.

Look for more energy-reducing tips at these U.S. Department of Energy websites: www.energy.gov (click on "Energy Saving Tips") or www.EnergyHog.org.



WHAT'S UP?

! SLOW DOWN
TO GET AROUND



You've seen the "Give 'em a brake" signs encouraging you to slow down in road construction zones. You know what the flashing lights on a school bus mean. But what happens when you see a trash or recycling truck at the side of the road?

For too many people, the answer is to race the engine and speed around, without paying attention to where workers are located or what they might be doing. As a result, there are many near misses and several serious accidents each year, a few of which involve fatalities.

When you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed, don't hurry up. Instead, sit up and pay attention. Use caution. Avoid accidents. Protect those who must work in the streets to do their jobs and yourself—*slow down to get around!*

Making lighter work of fall leaves



The leaves are beginning to change colors, showing off bright yellows, oranges, and reds. Enjoy! Before long, those leaves will be brown and spread over the ground.

Now is a great time to think about the ways that you can reuse fall leaves in your own yard. Here are our suggestions:

- Shred the leaves with a mulching mower (or a mower with the bagger removed) and let them stay on the grass. These shredded leaves will provide a protective winter cover and decompose by spring. If you have a lot of leaves, you'll need to mow often during the weeks with the heaviest leaf-fall.
- Pick up leaves with your bagging mower. The mower will shred the leaves as it picks them up, creating a great mulch. Use the leaf mulch in your gardens or flower beds.
- Add shredded or whole leaves to your compost pile. Shredded leaves will decompose faster, but whole leaves will also break down into nutrient-rich compost. Mixing fall leaves with over-ripe fruit and vegetables and grass clippings will help the material decompose more quickly.
- Don't burn your fall leaves! Leaf burning releases many pollutants into the air. Smoke from just 5 pounds of burning leaves creates a full pound of pollution. Leaf burning can create health hazards for children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties. Burning can also put nearby properties at risk.

Transfer Station offers nearby recycling

The Transfer Station, which is located on Brevard Road, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During all open hours, residents can drop off these recyclables at no charge:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Corrugated cardboard
- "Blue Bag" or commingled recyclable containers, including #1 & #2 plastic; aluminum cans; clear, green,

and brown glass; and steel cans

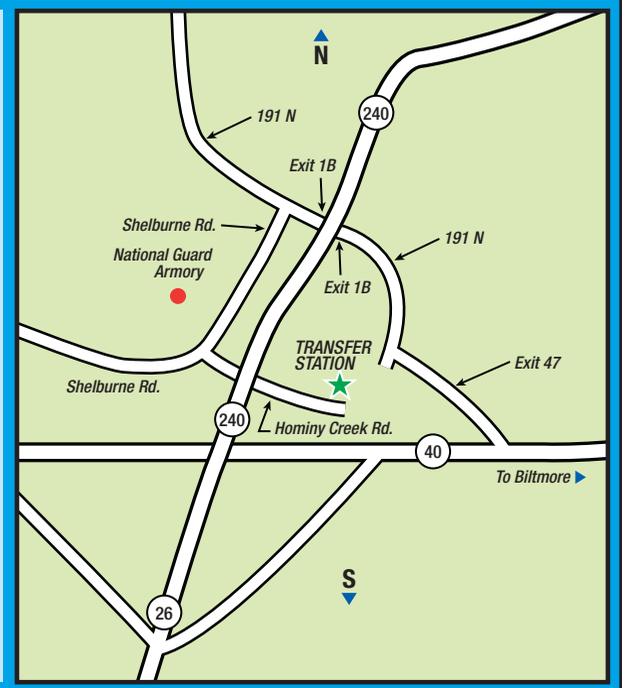
We also accept reusable corrugated cardboard moving boxes and shipping cartons. Please break down and flatten the boxes for storage.

Plus, you can drop off "sharps," such as needles and lancets, used at home for personal medical care. Place your sharps in a puncture-proof, labeled container. At the front gate, tell the attendant that you have sharps for disposal.

Directions to the Transfer Station:

From I-240, take exit 1B (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. Turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.

From I-40, take exit 47 (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. After crossing I-240, turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.



Landfill offers drop-off for residents' trash, recyclables, and more

You can drop off all of these items for recycling at the Buncombe County Landfill at no charge:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Corrugated cardboard
- Commingled recyclable containers, including #1 & #2 plastic (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- Yard waste, including fall leaves
- Motor oils
- Tires

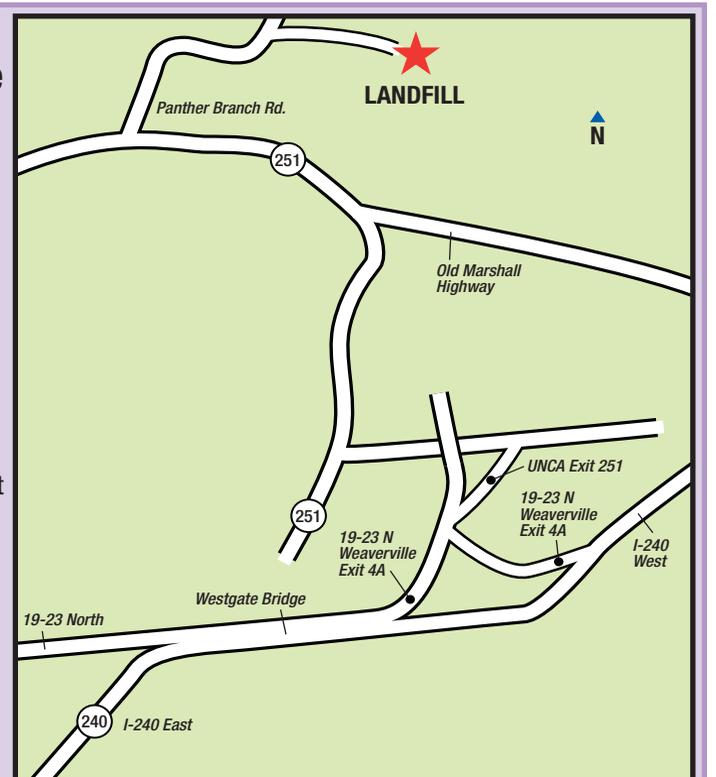
- White goods, including stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, and all metals
- Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers
- Empty propane tanks (20-pound, gas grill type ONLY)

You can drop off household trash at the Landfill. There is a fee to dispose of trash (see rates on front page).

The Landfill is open to accept trash and recyclables Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Directions to the Buncombe County Landfill:

From I-240 East or West, take Exit 4A to 19/23 North. Travel 1 mile and then take UNC-A exit. At the end of the exit, turn left. Go to traffic light and turn right onto 251 North. Continue on 251 North for 9 miles to Panther Branch Road. Turn right onto Panther Branch Road and travel 1/10 of a mile to the Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.



Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

Junk Motor Vehicle Officer — Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Environmental Control Officer — Rick Ramsey	828-250-5471
Environmental Control Officer — Jane Cole	828-250-5472
Hazardous Waste Officer — Denese Ballew	828-250-5425
Buncombe County Landfill	828-645-5311
Buncombe County Transfer Station	828-250-6205

CLIP & SAVE

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to your club or class about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

Buncombe County Solid Waste Department
2229 Riverside Drive
Asheville, NC 28804
828-250-5460

Web: buncombecounty.org

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