



**Buncombe County Solid Waste Department**  
**828-250-5460**  
Winter 2010



## Residential Garbage Franchise Awarded

After receiving competitive bids for the residential garbage franchise, the Buncombe County Commissioners awarded the franchise to Waste Pro USA. This company will be locating their North Carolina headquarters in Buncombe County.



Waste Pro service in Buncombe County will begin on January 1, 2010. The base rate will be \$14.20 per month (\$42.60 per quarter), which includes once-per-week garbage and once-per-week recycling collection. Billing will be done quarterly in advance.

- **Garbage:** Service frequency remains the same with once-per-week garbage service of a combination of up to five 32-gallon garbage cans or 32-gallon garbage bags. (Yard waste is not included.)

As an option, a 95-gallon cart for garbage will be provided by Waste Pro for an additional \$3.50 per month. Otherwise, customers can only use a combination of 32-gallon sized

containers and/or bags.

- **Recycling:** Service frequency remains the same with once-per-week collection of an unlimited amount of recycling materials. Customers will have three choices of how to store and set out recycling materials:
  - ❖ Continue to use the blue bags at no additional cost.
  - ❖ Waste Pro will provide 18-gallon plastic recycling bins for \$0.35 each per month.
  - ❖ Waste Pro will provide a 64-gallon recycling cart for \$3 per month.
- **Additional Services:**
  - ❖ Back door service is available for an additional \$12 per month (long driveways would be extra).
  - ❖ Bulky item pick-up – \$25 minimum charge
  - ❖ White goods pick-up – \$35 minimum charge
  - ❖ A new service for electronic waste recycling (TVs, old computers, etc.) will be provided at no additional charge on a call-in basis.

For more information about Waste Pro, call (828) 684-7790, or check out [www.wasteprousa.com](http://www.wasteprousa.com).

## Stimulus monies benefit Buncombe County

Buncombe County will receive \$3 million in federal stimulus funds through the NC Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The funds will be used to expand the County's wastewater pre-treatment and renewable energy system at the County Landfill. The landfill program is a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The current project will expand recirculation of leachate (the liquid that migrates through, or out of, the waste within a landfill) as a means of reducing wastewater flow to the Metropolitan

Sewerage District (MSD). The funds will enhance the existing recirculation system, which eliminated 38 days of leachate hauling to MSD during 2008 at a typical rate of six tanker loads per day.

In addition, expanding the existing pre-treatment system will increase the amount of methane gas generated, making renewable energy (electricity) from the gas viable. An electric generator will be installed to supply enough renewable energy to power 1,100 homes.

## Medical Waste Disposal Guidelines

Throwing out syringes is a little more complicated than pitching them in the



nearest trash bin. Needles can accidentally cut whoever takes out the trash or collects your family's garbage. To protect others, it's

important to dispose of syringes carefully. An easy way to get rid of used syringes, as well as lancets and other skin-puncturing medical devices, is to put them into a heavy-duty plastic or metal container with a tight-fitting lid. An empty laundry detergent bottle with a tight-fitting lid should do the trick. Once it's filled and you're ready to get rid of it, just tape the lid shut and label the container "Sharps," and take it to Buncombe County's Solid Waste Transfer Station. The Transfer Station accepts syringes from Buncombe County residential *HOUSEHOLDS* only.

## Less waste, more savings

At work, home, and school, paper is everywhere. We often hit "print" without thinking, only to sit right in front of the computer to read the document on paper that we could have just read on-screen. What a waste! Did you know that 48% of all the garbage in all of the landfills across this country is paper and paper products that people throw away instead of recycling?

Rethinking how we use paper can go a long way in reducing the amount of paper that we have to recycle or dispose. It can also save us money because the less paper we use, the less we need to buy. As an added bonus, when we print and copy less, we also use less ink and toner, creating even

more savings and conserving additional resources!

Here are some simple ideas for creating less paper waste and more savings:

- ◆ Communicate as much as possible by email.
- ◆ Don't print out emails. If you need to save a message, create an electronic folder for it. If you must print a hard copy, print only the page(s) you need to file.
- ◆ Remind others not to print your emails by adding a note to your signature line. You might recommend, "Consider the environment before printing this email," or a similar message.
- ◆ Print and copy on both sides of the paper whenever possible.
- ◆ Set aside unneeded paper that is printed on only one side to be reused. You can use the back side to print drafts or as scratch paper.
- ◆ Print out only the portion of a document that you need by highlighting the text and printing "selection only."
- ◆ Bookmark websites and create favorites folders by category or topic. Don't print information that you can easily retrieve on the Internet.



### Attention, All Medical Facilities

Infectious waste is not permitted to be dumped at the Buncombe County Landfill. Infectious waste includes: discarded sharps (broken bottles, needles, lancets, scalpels, etc.), human blood and blood products, isolation waste, pathological waste, and contaminated animal waste. These items CANNOT be disposed of at the Buncombe County Landfill or the Transfer Station. Please contact Stericycle to handle that waste for you at (704) 795-1125.

- ◆ Edit and review documents on-screen. If you need to check the formatting before you print, use the print preview feature.
  - ◆ Reduce the width of your margins to get more text on a single page of paper.
  - ◆ When possible, print your files to PDF and email them, rather than printing hard copies.
  - ◆ For group editing projects, learn to use the "track changes" or "edit and comment" features built into your programs.
  - ◆ Choose recycled-content paper. Don't just assume that all printer and copier paper is recycled content, because it isn't. Look for "post-

- consumer recycled-content paper." When you purchase it, you help create markets for recyclable paper.
- ◆ Reuse envelopes by placing a label over the original address. (If you will be mailing the envelope, be sure to cover any bar code by blacking it out with a permanent marker or putting a label over it.)
- ◆ Reuse file and pocket folders. Just add new labels.
- ◆ Break down and flatten boxes for future use. Keep packing material, such as packing paper or peanuts, in a box or bag for use when you ship packages.
- ◆ Share magazine subscriptions with friends, co-workers, classmates, and family members. Subscribe to newsletters online whenever possible. Recycle your unneeded paper (see box).

### Christmas "Treecycling"

If your family enjoyed a fresh-cut holiday tree this year, be sure to recycle it after the holiday season. By now, your tree is probably beginning to get dried out and is losing its needles more rapidly. That's a sure sign that it's time to take down the tree. Remove all of the decorations, ornament hooks, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand. We'll be accepting Christmas trees at the Buncombe County Landfill. These trees will be chipped and turned into mulch. Please make sure that your tree is totally bare.

This collection is for "real" Christmas trees only. Please place broken artificial trees into your trash.

# No Impact Man

Colin Beavan had written two books of history when he decided he'd like to write about the environment. But rather than a how-to book, he chose a lifestyle experiment. He set out to answer the question, "Could I, at least for one year, live my life doing more good than harm?" So he, his wife, their baby daughter, and the family dog began their "No Impact" year with the goal of creating as little negative environmental impact as possible. Garbage was the first thing to go, followed by automated transportation, non-local food, new products, and, eventually, most electricity.

Throughout the year, Beavan wrote a blog following the ups and downs of the family's experiment, from giving up shopping to living without elevators (the family lives on the ninth floor of a New York City apartment building). Beavan and his wife, Michelle Conlin, found unexpected pleasure in giving up TV for more reading, outings in the city, and family time with little Isabella. However, trying to do laundry without using the automatic washing machine was a less welcome change. After finishing the No Impact year, the family kept many of the new habits. For instance, they have continued to frequent the farmers market to purchase in-season, regionally-grown foods, and they still use their bikes for much of their transportation. Other habits they have given up. They did switch the electricity back on, but they waste less of it today.

During the project, Beavan struggled to find a way to get what he and his family needed in the most sustainable way possible. Throughout, he continued to ask how he could make a difference. In the book, *No Impact Man*, which records the family's experiment in low-impact living, Beavan concludes, "The job is simply this: to live our lives as though we make a difference. Because, paradoxically, when we imagine we don't make a difference, that is when we do the most harm." In the end, he found that perhaps he had been asking the wrong question. The question is not, is he the type of person who can make a difference, but rather, "whether I'm the type of person who wants to try."

The family's year is also the subject of a

documentary film, also titled *No Impact Man*, which was released in the fall.

Learn more about the project at [www.noimpactman.com](http://www.noimpactman.com).



Photos courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories

## Conscious Consumption

No Impact Man's experiment was a bit extreme. However, learning to be a more conscious consumer can be good for your family, your bank account, and our economy. Colin Beavan's wife, Michelle Conlin, who is a writer and editor at *BusinessWeek*, recently wrote in the magazine's blog, *The Case for Optimism*: "So much talk of sustainability hinges on being less bad. Less plastic. Less packaging. Less resource use. But less bad isn't the answer. The true value comes from delivering more good."

Conscious consumption is about this process of creating "more good." For you, it might be about mak-

ing things with your own hands or moving yourself from place to place with your own human-powered legs. It might be about enjoying the beauty and craft that have gone into creating a lovely and well-designed object. It might be about recycling and reusing more of what you need and use. It might be about understanding how things are made and where the resources originated that are needed to make them. It might be about finding quiet and enjoying the company of the people you love.

For more information, visit [www.newdream.org/consumption/](http://www.newdream.org/consumption/).

## Plenty of projects with "plarn"

RecycleCindy, owner of My Recycled Bags, creates bags and many other clever items from "plarn," which is yarn made from plastic. The plastic comes from old grocery bags, bread wrappers, cassette tapes, and VHS videotapes. She sometimes uses scrap fabric from denim, bed sheets, and rags, as well. Whatever the material, Cindy crochets clever purses, shoulder bags, totes, and water bottle holders. She also makes dishcloths, pot handle covers, and a variety of other items. She sells many of these items through her website. Each item is one of a kind.

Not content to crochet only her own plarn, RecycleCindy also posts patterns and instructions so that her readers can learn to make their own bags, doll clothes, baby bibs, and much more. Her website includes a step-by-step guide for making your own plarn.

To learn more about making your own plarn creations (or to buy one of RecycleCindy's), visit [www.myrecycledbags.com](http://www.myrecycledbags.com).



## A Care Tag for Our Planet

Proper care can extend the life of everything from your refrigerator to your favorite pair of jeans. That's why Goodwill has teamed up with Levi Strauss & Co. on an initiative to promote longer use and more reuse of jeans. The program, A Care Tag for Our Planet, offers consumers instructions for washing less frequently in cold water and line drying to keep the jeans looking and feeling great longer. When the items are no longer wanted, the tag reminds consumers not to throw away the jeans but to donate them to Goodwill for reuse by another consumer.

Washing clothes only when they are dirty and using proper temperature settings and mild detergents will help your clothes last longer. A commitment to reuse by selling or donating unneeded clothes can dramatically reduce the amount of clothing waste headed to landfills. Textile waste, including clothing and other fabric items, tops 12 million tons each year in the U.S. Of this, only about 15% is being recycled.



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# Recycling holds steady

## Did you know?

Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.

Recycling just 1 ton of aluminum cans conserves the equivalent of 1,665 gallons of gasoline.

By recycling and composting 83 million tons of municipal solid waste, we reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount equivalent to removing more than 33 million cars from the road, and we saved an amount of energy equivalent to 10.2 billion gallons of gasoline.

Source: *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released its annual report, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States," for 2008. Not surprisingly, as the economy slid into recession last year, the total volume of waste generated declined, coming in at just under 250 million tons. This was the first significant decline in nearly 50 years.

Per capita waste generation, or the average amount of waste created per person per day, fell to 4.5 pounds. Per capita generation had already been on the decline before the recession, but fell more substantially in 2008. The pre-2008 decline had been credited to waste reduction and reuse activities, but the 2008 change can most likely be linked to the recession. The per capita waste generation rate has not been this low since 1990.

At the same time, recycling held steady as a percentage of total waste generation, with 33.2% of all waste either recycled or composted. Since 1980, the percentage of waste landfilled has dropped from 89% to just over 54%.

National recycling rates by material were also included in the report. Auto batteries continue to top the list with a recycling rate of 99.2%, followed by office-type papers at 70.9%, yard trimmings at 64.7%, steel cans at 62.8%, and aluminum beverage cans at 48.2%. Other containers, including glass and plastic bottles, jugs, and jars, were recycled at a rate of about 27 to 29%.

The EPA has been collecting and reporting on solid waste annually for more than 30 years. To see the 2008 report, visit [www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm).

# fast facts

## Here's an "app" for you!

Earth911.com has launched a new app for iPhone users. iRecycle is a free mobile version featuring Earth911's helpful information and designed to assist users in finding recycling and event information on the go. To learn more, visit <http://earth911.com/products-overview/iphone/>.

If you are out and need information, but you don't have the app, call 1-800-CLEANUP to reach Earth911. You can also use your smart phone or PDA to access the website, [www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com).

Earth911 provides useful background information on reducing, reusing, and recycling and maintains a database featuring more than 100,000 recycling locations around the country.



## Keep it or toss it?

How many times have you stood at the refrigerator asking yourself this question? Now, an easy-to-use website has answers for you. Whether you are wondering how long you can keep opened cheese, if the milk is still good, or what to do with the crisper full of veggies that you really meant to eat, this is the website for you! You'll find it particularly helpful when you face the dreaded condiment shelf in your fridge. Learn more at [www.stilltasty.com](http://www.stilltasty.com).



## Hitting the right notes

So you are a music lover? And you also want to take good care of the planet? Easy. Download music and put it directly onto your computer and portable music player, such as an iPod, MP3 player, or Zune. A recent study compared the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of buying CDs at the store or from an online retailer, downloading music and burning it onto CDs at home, and downloading for digital use on the computer and portable player. Not surprisingly, the digital download had the lowest energy use and emissions, as well as the least amount of potential waste from packaging.

## Recycling on a roll

The average person in the U.S. uses more than 20,805 sheets of toilet paper annually. Unfortunately, recycled-content paper makes up less than 2% of the toilet tissue used each year. Recycled-content tissue products, including toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues, are readily available at grocers, pharmacies, and national retail chains. Not only does recycled-content tissue reduce the demand on forests and tree farms, but it also provides an essential market for our recyclable mixed paper. Next time you shop, give recycled-content tissue a try.



## QUOTES REQUOTED

I shall walk softly there,  
And learn by going where I have to go.  
Theodore Roethke, 1908-1963  
*American poet*

**Less waste, more savings**  
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Make sure the recycling bin for paper is located near a trash can or where paper is often used. People are more likely to recycle when it is convenient.

To learn more, visit [www.paperrecycles.org](http://www.paperrecycles.org), [www.environmentalpaper.org](http://www.environmentalpaper.org), or [www.stopwaste.org/paperless](http://www.stopwaste.org/paperless).

**Recycle these paper products!**  
Corrugated Cardboard • Newspaper and Inserts  
Mixed Paper  
Catalogs • Junk mail • Magazines • Cereal boxes • Egg cartons (paper) • Envelopes • Manila envelopes • Office paper • Paper • Phone books • Glossy paper • Post-It Notes • Brown paper bags • Paper towel rolls (empty) • Shredded paper (place in paper bag with top rolled down)



## Fast Facts

Consumption of paper per person per year in the U.S. ....	592 pounds
Paper recycled per person per year in the U.S. ....	340 pounds
Paper recycling rate in the U.S. (2008).....	57.4%
Number of sheets of paper used each year by the average U.S. office worker.....	10,000
Share of printed-on office paper that is discarded within one day.....	45%
Share of newsstand magazines that never reach consumers.....	70%
Average recycled content in printing and writing papers.....	6%

*Sources: American Forest & Paper Association, Environmental Paper Network, Conservatree*

## Buncombe County Landfill

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

- ❖ Oil filters
- ❖ Wood pallets
- ❖ Newspaper and brown paper bags
- ❖ Magazines and catalogs
- ❖ Office paper and mail
- ❖ Corrugated cardboard
- ❖ Co-mingled recyclable containers, including plastic bottles (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs, and shampoo bottles); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- ❖ Lead-acid batteries
- ❖ Motor oil
- ❖ 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 may also recycle tires. Each year, residents may recycle 10 tires without rims at no charge. After that, tires may be recycled at \$2 per tire. All tires on rims (even the first 10) are \$2 per tire.

You can drop off household trash, as well as bulky waste, construction and demolition waste, and yard waste, at the Landfill. There is a fee to dispose of trash, bulky waste, and yard waste.

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 12:30 p.m.

If you have questions, call the Landfill at 250-5462.

**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.

You can recycle household electronics every Friday at the Buncombe County Landfill's Household Hazardous Waste Building. Electronics are accepted on Fridays only, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except on weeks with holidays. No appointment is necessary, but you must be a Buncombe County resident and be able to provide proof of residency.

Electronics are accepted free of charge for recycling. However, there is a limit of three computer monitors or televisions. If you have more than three monitors or TVs, you will be charged for the additional items at the rate of \$8 for monitors or TVs or \$10 for wooden console televisions. Electronics accepted include computer monitors, televisions, computer towers, laptops, hard drives, printers and other peripherals, DVD/VCR/DVR players, cell phones, portable music players, and similar items.

The recycling charge for the first three household computer monitors and televisions only is covered by the Solid Waste Department. Any commercial, business, church, or school products will be assessed the charge listed above, and prior arrangements must be made.

Household Hazardous Waste is also accepted on Fridays only. No hazardous wastes from businesses will be accepted. Bio-hazardous materials, radioactives, and explosives are NOT accepted at any time.

If you have questions about fees or limitations, or need other information, please call 250-5462.

## Buncombe County Transfer Station

The Transfer Station now accepts only residential household waste, which must be bagged. There is a fee for household trash disposal. The Transfer Station also accepts these recyclables at no charge:

- ◆ Newspaper and brown paper bags
- ◆ Office paper and mail
- ◆ Magazines and catalogs
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ "Blue Bag" or co-mingled recyclable containers, including plastic bottles and

jugs; aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass; and steel cans

◆ Appliances  
In addition, you can drop off reusable corrugated moving boxes and shipping cartons for reuse. (Please break down and flatten the boxes.) We also accept medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and crutches, for reuse. Plus, you can drop off "sharps," such as needles and lancets, and noninfectious medical waste from in-home

care. Please place sharps and other medical waste in an approved sharps container (available at pharmacies) or in a sturdy, thick-walled plastic jug.

The Buncombe County Transfer Station's hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All other garbage items, including bulky waste, construction and demolition debris, mattresses, wood, and other oversized items, will need to be disposed of at the Buncombe County Landfill.

If you have questions, call the Transfer Station at 250-6205.

**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.

**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

**Buncombe County  
Solid Waste Department  
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[www.buncombecounty.org](http://www.buncombecounty.org)**

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CONTENT, USING SOY INKS**

**Important Phone Numbers for County Residents**

Junk Motor Vehicle Officer – Roger Presley .....	828-250-5470
Mobile Home Removal – Roger Presley .....	828-250-5470
Environmental Control Officer – Rick Ramsey.....	828-250-5471
Environmental Control Officer – Jane Cole.....	828-250-5472
Bioreactor Manager – Kristy Smith.....	828-250-5473
Buncombe County Landfill.....	828-250-5462
Buncombe County Transfer Station.....	828-250-6205
Waste Pro – Residential Trash Pick-up.....	828-684-7790

**Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents**

Asheville City Sanitation – Trash Pick-up.....	828-259-5857
Curbside Management – Recycling.....	828-252-2532
Asheville City – Recycling Division .....	828-259-5936

**CLIP & SAVE**