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County and municipality recycling numbers show 5 percent increase from last year

RALEIGH – The state’s Recycling and Materials Management Section today released recycling numbers for all 100 counties and municipalities, showing a 5.3 percent increase in paper and container recycling as compared to the previous year. Local recycling programs collected more than 1.7 million tons of traditional and non-traditional materials last year.

“Recycling collection in North Carolina has expanded alongside increasing demand for recyclable material by in-state manufacturers,” said Wendy Worley, Recycling and Materials Management Section chief in the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service. “Counties and municipalities are targeting much more than paper, cans and plastics. There are so many more materials that can be recycled, like construction debris, wood and electronics, and kept from going into the landfill. This puts value-added material back into the North Carolina economy and preserves the state’s important natural resources.”

Recovery of paper and metal also has continued to rise. North Carolina recovered almost 27,000 more tons of paper than the previous year and 8,000 more tons of metal. Plastics and glass tonnages remained essentially unchanged. Counties that ranked higher have implemented programs to collect non-traditional materials, like asphalt singles, scrap metal, construction debris, electronics and wood waste.

Counties are ranked in two different ways: their total recycling of all materials and recycling of common household recyclables. In each case, data on the recovery of yard waste and tires is excluded from the totals because tire and yard waste generation can vary widely from year-to-year and by region.

The Recycling and Materials Management Section collects recycling and disposal data from local governments through an annual reporting cycle each year. It is used to profile public recycling efforts and measure the per capita recycling rates for each county in the state. The per capita recovery rate for common household recyclables helps compare the relative effectiveness of residential recycling services, while total recycling measures broader community efforts. Counties are then ranked based on their program performance.

A copy of the rankings for FY 2016-17 list is provided below.

The FY 2016-17 North Carolina Division of Waste Management Consolidated Annual Report, <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/sw/data/annual-reports>, contains information on recycling and solid waste disposal throughout North Carolina.

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Total Public Recycling Per Capita Recovery		
Rank	County	Lbs./person
1	IREDELL COUNTY	488.95
2	CATAWBA COUNTY	482.55
3	PITT COUNTY	389.65
4	ORANGE COUNTY	323.83
5	MACON COUNTY	320.98
6	BRUNSWICK COUNTY	303.78
7	DARE COUNTY	263.64
8	CUMBERLAND COUNTY	260.08
9	NEW HANOVER COUNTY	253.71
10	PASQUOTANK COUNTY	238.75
11	CURRITUCK COUNTY	238.56
12	WATAUGA COUNTY	201.22
13	FORSYTH COUNTY	194.97
14	ALEXANDER COUNTY	192.29
15	MECKLENBURG COUNTY	183.29
16	SWAIN COUNTY	182.03
17	PAMLICO COUNTY	180.00
18	CABARRUS COUNTY	174.89
19	GUILFORD COUNTY	170.93
20	BUNCOMBE COUNTY	161.50
21	HAYWOOD COUNTY	161.48
22	CRAVEN COUNTY	155.04
23	MCDOWELL COUNTY	153.03
24	JACKSON COUNTY	150.37
25	TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	148.84
26	GRANVILLE COUNTY	146.77
27	DURHAM COUNTY	146.04
28	MOORE COUNTY	144.62
29	WAKE COUNTY	143.09
30	ALLEGHANY COUNTY	139.38
31	ONSLOW COUNTY	135.12
32	CAMDEN COUNTY	132.61
33	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	130.63
34	MADISON COUNTY	128.65
35	HENDERSON COUNTY	124.74
36	WILSON COUNTY	124.01
37	ASHE COUNTY	122.94
38	CHOWAN COUNTY	122.32
39	POLK COUNTY	120.88
40	LEE COUNTY	120.56
41	LINCOLN COUNTY	113.73
42	DAVIE COUNTY	109.29
43	CARTERET COUNTY	108.29
44	PENDER COUNTY	105.40
45	ALAMANCE COUNTY	104.65
46	MARTIN COUNTY	104.08
47	PERQUIMANS COUNTY	101.01
48	GASTON COUNTY	99.21
49	MITCHELL COUNTY	98.35
50	CHATHAM COUNTY	96.47
51	HYDE COUNTY	93.67
52	CLEVELAND COUNTY	93.29
53	NASH COUNTY	91.66
54	TYRRELL COUNTY	91.25
55	AVERY COUNTY	90.79
56	WAYNE COUNTY	90.56

Common Household Recyclables Per Capita Recovery		
Rank	County	Lbs./person
1	CATAWBA COUNTY	269.44
2	DARE COUNTY	226.31
3	ORANGE COUNTY	220.74
4	PITT COUNTY	196.61
5	CURRITUCK COUNTY	188.60
6	WATAUGA COUNTY	177.00
7	CABARRUS COUNTY	165.43
8	GUILFORD COUNTY	162.60
9	PAMLICO COUNTY	158.54
10	MECKLENBURG COUNTY	149.49
11	MACON COUNTY	145.10
12	MCDOWELL COUNTY	143.41
13	BRUNSWICK COUNTY	138.40
14	DURHAM COUNTY	137.28
15	CRAVEN COUNTY	136.49
16	BUNCOMBE COUNTY	134.82
17	HAYWOOD COUNTY	128.53
18	TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY	128.32
19	ONSLOW COUNTY	124.37
20	WAKE COUNTY	121.84
21	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	121.48
22	ALLEGHANY COUNTY	120.65
23	MOORE COUNTY	120.59
24	SWAIN COUNTY	113.95
25	JACKSON COUNTY	109.62
26	FORSYTH COUNTY	109.23
27	NEW HANOVER COUNTY	107.33
28	POLK COUNTY	104.23
29	DAVIE COUNTY	101.41
30	LEE COUNTY	97.81
31	CHOWAN COUNTY	97.41
32	HENDERSON COUNTY	92.64
33	ALAMANCE COUNTY	90.93
34	PENDER COUNTY	90.44
35	GASTON COUNTY	89.52
36	TYRRELL COUNTY	86.43
37	ALEXANDER COUNTY	85.98
38	MADISON COUNTY	85.65
39	CARTERET COUNTY	80.38
40	UNION COUNTY	79.96
41	PASQUOTANK COUNTY	79.59
42	NASH COUNTY	76.65
43	CUMBERLAND COUNTY	73.06
44	MARTIN COUNTY	69.95
45	SURRY COUNTY	67.93
46	CAMDEN COUNTY	67.66
47	CHATHAM COUNTY	67.09
48	GRANVILLE COUNTY	66.40
49	WILSON COUNTY	65.86
50	PERSON COUNTY	65.11
51	ASHE COUNTY	64.63
52	PERQUIMANS COUNTY	64.55
53	YADKIN COUNTY	63.89
54	IREDELL COUNTY	61.61
55	MITCHELL COUNTY	61.25
56	SCOTLAND COUNTY	61.09

57	UNION COUNTY	86.76	57	HYDE COUNTY	60.13
58	PERSON COUNTY	83.31	58	DAVIDSON COUNTY	59.63
59	SURRY COUNTY	81.40	59	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	57.85
60	RUTHERFORD COUNTY	80.92	60	CLEVELAND COUNTY	57.67
61	CLAY COUNTY	78.91	61	WARREN COUNTY	57.66
62	NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	77.78	62	RUTHERFORD COUNTY	56.19
63	YADKIN COUNTY	76.18	63	FRANKLIN COUNTY	54.16
64	CALDWELL COUNTY	75.70	64	CALDWELL COUNTY	52.06
65	DAVIDSON COUNTY	75.18	65	WILKES COUNTY	49.32
66	FRANKLIN COUNTY	74.23	66	ROWAN COUNTY	47.71
67	SCOTLAND COUNTY	72.33	67	WAYNE COUNTY	47.57
68	HERTFORD COUNTY	70.26	68	RANDOLPH COUNTY	46.99
69	YANCEY COUNTY	68.54	69	SAMPSON COUNTY	45.37
70	STANLY COUNTY	67.46	70	STANLY COUNTY	42.94
71	BLADEN COUNTY	64.88	71	BEAUFORT COUNTY	42.90
72	LENOIR COUNTY	64.01	72	YANCEY COUNTY	40.59
73	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	62.12	73	AVERY COUNTY	39.86
74	WARREN COUNTY	61.79	74	CLAY COUNTY	39.22
75	GATES COUNTY	59.56	75	LINCOLN COUNTY	38.28
76	BEAUFORT COUNTY	59.18	76	HALIFAX COUNTY	37.04
77	SAMPSON COUNTY	57.62	77	NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	36.57
78	JOHNSTON COUNTY	56.45	78	JOHNSTON COUNTY	36.52
79	RANDOLPH COUNTY	53.42	79	GATES COUNTY	35.15
80	WILKES COUNTY	52.46	80	HERTFORD COUNTY	32.86
81	ROWAN COUNTY	50.53	81	LENOIR COUNTY	32.32
82	DUPLIN COUNTY	49.90	82	STOKES COUNTY	31.42
83	BURKE COUNTY	47.91	83	CHEROKEE COUNTY	31.22
84	HARNETT COUNTY	46.47	84	BLADEN COUNTY	30.08
85	STOKES COUNTY	43.67	85	EDGECOMBE COUNTY	28.14
86	CHEROKEE COUNTY	41.55	86	DUPLIN COUNTY	28.03
87	HALIFAX COUNTY	41.25	87	VANCE COUNTY	27.94
88	VANCE COUNTY	40.08	88	BURKE COUNTY	27.30
89	GRAHAM COUNTY	39.55	89	GRAHAM COUNTY	22.37
90	HOKE COUNTY	35.65	90	HARNETT COUNTY	21.46
91	ROBESON COUNTY	33.75	91	HOKE COUNTY	20.44
92	EDGECOMBE COUNTY	32.24	92	ROBESON COUNTY	19.65
93	RICHMOND COUNTY	29.89	93	GREENE COUNTY	16.27
94	COLUMBUS COUNTY	27.61	94	WASHINGTON COUNTY	14.71
95	WASHINGTON COUNTY	22.12	95	COLUMBUS COUNTY	14.48
96	GREENE COUNTY	19.69	96	RICHMOND COUNTY	9.68
97	ANSON COUNTY	19.00	97	JONES COUNTY	8.62
98	CASWELL COUNTY	14.12	98	CASWELL COUNTY	8.01
99	BERTIE COUNTY	11.95	99	BERTIE COUNTY	6.98
100	JONES COUNTY	10.84	100	ANSON COUNTY	5.38