

New Laws Pertaining to Landfills and Tarps Set for Oct. 1

Department of Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley recently spoke before the Ashe County Board of Commissioners concerning changes in policy for accepting certain types of materials in the county landfill and new state laws pertaining to covering loads for transport with tarps on private vehicles.

Effective Oct. 1, according to Hurley, all used motor oil filters, recyclable rigid plastic containers and wooden pallets will be banned from landfills in the state.

"These are additions to the list of items already banned from landfills such as white goods [appliances], tires and aluminum cans. The list will grow moving into the future as more items with some use in recycling are identified," Hurley said.

"One thing I would want to mention is that at each one of our convenience centers as well as the landfill, already have this in action. We are already accepting the used oil filters recyclable rigid plastic containers and so on. Our plastic recycling is moving forward and pallet recycling will probably be done at the landfill, due to the space needed."

Signs indicating changes residents need to know will be posted at all locations.

The changes, according to Hurley, will extend the life of the landfill.

Next, Hurley covered the new state Tarp Day that is to take place, on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the landfill from 8 a.m. to noon.

"Tarp Day is an event held each year throughout the state that promotes the use of tarps to cover loads while traveling on North Carolina roads, and will include Ashe County in 2009 for the first time 2009. Tarp Day is to help county residents to remember that tarping the loads on their vehicles, is a state law and can be enforced by any law enforcement official.

"On Tarp Day at the county landfill a free tarp will be awarded to any vehicle coming across the scales with their loads already tarped. Citizens without a tarp can purchase one at a reduced rate. The rate has not been set," Hurley said.

-Ron Fitzwater