

OUR VIEW: Recycling proposal is a winner

Jun 14, 2009

Go for it! A recommendation in High Point's budget calls for city residents to trade in their city-supplied 18-gallon green recycling bins for city-supplied 95-gallon recycling carts and an every-two-weeks pickup schedule that should increase recycling efforts and save the city \$500,000 annually.

If approved, the change would be phased in over a two-year period, part of the shift to an automated collection system for the city's solid waste and recycling programs. Residents would be assessed a \$1 monthly fee to finance debt for equipment and new containers that would be phased out once the new program is fully implemented.

Why is recycling important?

The National Recycling Coalition tells us that we are responsible for preserving and protecting our resources for ourselves and for future generations, that recycling is just common sense, that more garbage is generated than ever before and that recycling is one of the easiest ways you can help slow climate change and global warming. .

The coalition also noted that last year the amount of energy saved from recycling aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to:

The amount of electricity consumed by 17.8 million Americans in one year.

29 percent of nuclear electricity generation in the U.S. in one year.

7.9 percent of electricity generation from fossil fuels in the U.S. in one year.

11 percent of the energy produced by coal-fired power plants in the U.S.

The amount of gasoline used in almost 11 million passenger automobiles in one year.

Also, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA) reports that, between 1994 and 2004, recycling jobs have increased from 8,700 to 14,000. Recycling works - for all of us.

Remember, though, we'll have to hold city leaders' feet to the fire to eliminate the \$1-a-month fee once the program is up and running. That will be recycling our money.

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