

Upcoming bottle ban aims to increase recycling

Throwing soda bottles in trash will soon be illegal

By Philip Meilleur, Correspondent

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It will be against the law to throw away recyclable plastic containers beginning Oct. 1. Other banned items on the original bill include yard waste, aluminum cans, tires, antifreeze and used oil. According to the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance Act, in North Carolina only 18 percent of recyclable plastic bottles are recycled, but 95 percent of residents have access to plastic bottle recycling programs. DPPEA said the bill is a way to encourage people to recycle materials instead of sending them to a landfill.

Actual enforcement of the bill will be carried out at disposal facilities and transfer stations.

“It is unlikely that enforcement will take place at individual businesses or other generating facilities,” Diana Kees, director of the Office of Public Affairs, said in a press release.

Tom Rhodes, an environmental specialist with the DPPEA, said that “it's the landfill inspector's responsibility to ensure that plastic bottles aren't going into the landfills.”

Rhodes said that this ban should make sure the



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Molly Tilson, a senior in nutrition science, drinks from a disposable plastic bottle while waiting for her bus Thursday. Tilson was unaware that such bottles would be banned from landfills beginning Oct. 1. “It’s going to

materials don't go into landfills. "We want to make sure people are not putting bottles in the landfill," he said.

be difficult with recycling," she said. Despite such concerns, Tilson, who estimated that she uses a couple bottles a day, approved of the ban. Photo by Jeffery Fowler

According to the bill, bottles are containers "that have a neck smaller than the body of the container, and that accept a screw top, snap cap or other closure." This does not include yogurt containers, buckets, plastic containers used to hold oils or pesticides, or similar items.

In a press release given by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources this August, the DENR encouraged people to help initiate recycling efforts.

"Recycling is a proven job creator in North Carolina," Dee Freeman, secretary of DENR, said. "If we do our best to recycle the newly banned materials, we will not only grow businesses in the state, but also protect disposal capacity, recover valuable resources, save energy and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Freeman said.

The N.C. State University Waste Reduction and Recycling Department encourages residents without recycling pick-up to contact their apartment manager to request recycling igloos. The department also said there are several local drop off centers, the closest of which is Jaycee Park.

The bill will be getting additional restrictions in 2011 on computer equipment and televisions. The bans are planned to reinforce DENR's "2 Million Tons by 2012" goal to recycle two million tons of material yearly by 2012.

Many students don't seem to be aware of the ban. Cameron Stringfellow, a junior in engineering, said he wasn't aware of the bottle ban. "I haven't even heard about all that," he said.

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