

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WHY SHOULD I RECYCLE?

BECAUSE OCTOBER 1ST, 2009, IT IS THE LAW.



Effective October 1st, 2009, HB 1465 bans the disposal of rigid plastic bottles from NC landfills. The bill describes a rigid plastic body as having a “neck smaller than the body of the container”, and that accepts a screw top, snap top or other closure. The prohibition of recyclable rigid plastic containers in landfills does not apply to rigid plastic containers that are intended for use in the sale or distribution of motor oil, oil or pesticides. The majority of the plastic containers banned include plastic water, juice and soft drink bottles.

If you have been keeping up with what is going on in the world you will already know that plastics are creating more and more problems in the solid waste stream.

Plastic containers are taking up valuable space in our landfills. It takes many, many years for them to break down in the landfills. This is the reason this new law was passed. They are unsightly along our highways, beaches, forests and other recreation areas.

There is a solution. **RECYCLING**. Most plastic items are recyclable. The Town of Beaufort has operated a recycling program for a number of years, either curbside in containers furnished by the Town or at our recycling site on Hedrick Street. Our recyclables are currently transported to a transfer site in Jacksonville where they are sorted and stored until a market is available.

Points to remember when recycling:

- 1) If you are using one of the containers furnished by the Town, please place it curbside on Thursday or Friday when you put out your trash.
- 2) There can be **NO TRASH** mixed in with the recycles. This becomes a contaminated batch and has to be dealt with accordingly.
- 3) It is extremely important to remember **NO TRASH** at our recycle site as the entire container becomes contaminated.
- 4) If you have any questions call the Town's Public Works office at 728-7166 and ask to speak with Johnny O'shall, the Town's solid waste coordinator.

What will happen if I put plastic bottles in my household trash? Your container or trash bag will not be picked up by the Town. It will be tagged with a label stating that it is improperly sorted and YOU will have to correct the problem.

Other laws may soon be coming on plastics for everyone in North Carolina.

Recently a new law was passed for Dare County that will require stores to use some type of bag other than plastic for purchased items. This law will likely become effective statewide in the near future.