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Next?: Hope Mills takes nice step toward recycling

Hope Mills has taken the next step in what should be a countywide movement. The town is moving toward starting a recycling program.

As commissioners heard Monday night, the town has invited proposals from private waste-hauling contractors for a curbside recycling program. Deadline for bid submissions is Nov. 6, and by the commissioners' Nov. 16 meeting, there may be a recommendation ready for discussion.

This is quick and commendable progress on an issue every North Carolina community needs to act on, if they don't already have a recycling program.

A law that took effect Oct. 1 bans disposal of plastic bottles in landfills. Since the 1990s, an earlier version of that law also banned dumping of aluminum cans and other items that are easily recyclable. But until this fall, counties had taken little action to enforce compliance. That has changed, and Cumberland County is prepared to fine waste haulers who violate the law.

But responsibility for compliance shouldn't rest with waste haulers. It's up to individual households to do it right and it's up to government to encourage them - by providing an easy-to-use recycling program.

Fayetteville took that step last year, for single-family residences. Now it appears Hope Mills will join the city. Good. Let's get the whole county there.

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