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## Landfill changes accepted waste

By [Donna Swicegood](#) | Statesville R&L

Starting Oct. 1, oil filters, wooden pallets and plastic bottles cannot be buried in North Carolina landfills, Iredell County Solid Waste Director David Lambert said.

Instead, those items need to be separated and brought in to be recycled.

"The aim is to reduce the amount of waste going into the waste stream," Lambert said Monday. In an effort to answer questions and educate citizens about the new regulations, Iredell Solid Waste officials will stage a meeting July 30 at the Iredell County Public Library on Water Street. The meeting will take place from 9-11 a.m.

There will be a speaker from Universal Oil and a representative from FCC Environmental on hand to offer information on the proper way to dispose of oil filters.

Tom Rhodes, waste management analyst from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will also answer questions.

Businesses that generate any of these materials are encouraged to attend.

Lambert said the main emphasis will be on trash brought into the landfill rather than through commercial haulers.

"We're not going to go look in people's trash at their house," he said. "Some people choose to recycle; some don't."

While the regulations won't go into effect for a few more months, Lambert said, the solid waste department is already taking steps to reduce the volume of the soon-to-be banned items in the landfill.

Recycling coordinator Diane Lewis set up an oil filter drop-off spot a couple of months ago.

There are also containers at all five of the Solid Waste locations across the county to dispose of used oil and oil filters.

"We're trying to encourage recycling," Lambert said.

That's something the State of North Carolina is also working on as well.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said its annual report from 2007-08 indicated there are positive trends in recycling.

"If you look at materials commonly accepted in curbside recycling programs, such as paper and beverage containers, you'll actually find that the tonnage continued to climb," said Jim Hickman, local government assistance team leader for the state Division of Pollution Prevention and

Environmental Assistance. "The decline in yard waste recovery is most likely due to the drought - in normal years, yard waste would be 10 to 15 percent higher."

The annual report concluded that Iredell County recycled 10,420 tons.

"Improving the performance of local recycling programs has never been more important to North Carolina, especially when it comes to economic development," said Scott Morrow, chief of the Community and Business Assistance Section of the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. "We have companies in this state that rely on the flow of materials from recycling programs to sustain and create new jobs."