

# N.C. Bans Plastic Bottles From Landfills

By Steve Sbraccia 13 hours, 47 minutes ago

North Carolina's became the first state in the country to ban plastic bottles from landfills when a new law went into effect on Oct. 1.

The law bans plastic bottles, oil filters and wooden pallets from landfills.

State officials say the ban on plastic bottles will not only save landfill space, but will help create lots of new jobs in the recycling industry.

Although tons of plastic are already is recycled in this state, officials think we can do better.

"There's a big economic development push behind this landfill ban, especially for plastic bottles," Matthew Todd of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.

Todd explains there's a huge demand for plastic and the state's growing recycling industry can fill that need.

Although the law would make it illegal to place plastic bottles in your trash, state officials say it is aimed at large users of plastic like sports arenas and large trash haulers.

State officials say they won't be sending inspectors to look into individual trash cans outside of home.

Instead, they're hoping the law encourages the average consumer to recycle.

But, recycling programs don't exist in every community, so some folks have to take extra steps to comply with the new law.

"I normally take them to the dump where they recycle them there I guess," said Andre Moore, who lives in a Johnston County neighborhood where there is no curbside recycling program.

Others say it's about time plastics like this were officially banned from landfills.

It's part of our times. We have to recycle, it's necessary," Princeton resident Donald Weaver said. "We're running out of landfill space, and we have to do something to correct the problems."

State officials say up to 70,000 tons of plastic bottles end up in landfills every year here in North Carolina.

The new law calls for fines of up to \$15,000 dollars for violations; but state officials readily admit the average consumer shouldn't worry about the fine because the focus is on educating folks about recycling if they're not already doing it.