



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Sharon Gladwell, (919) 715-6514
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State is national leader in environmental stewardship efforts

Raleigh – N.C. State Government has begun to take the first major steps toward environmental sustainability and has become a national leader in its efforts. To date, 14 state agencies and 16 state university campuses have joined this effort, known as environmental sustainability. To showcase its successes, state government will host a celebration Friday, April 28, on the Halifax Mall, downtown Raleigh. This event, N.C. Clean and Green 2000: Celebrating Environmental Sustainability in Government, will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

In September 1998, Gov. Jim Hunt issued a challenge to state government to set an example of environmental stewardship in the way it conducts operations and business. Throughout state government this challenge was heard, and very quickly many agencies and universities discovered they already were engaged in numerous activities to reduce the negative impacts their operations have on the environment as well as to reduce their use of natural resources. Some projects to date include:

- Alternative fuel vehicles (more than 1,000 currently in state service)
- Rebuilding vehicles (\$2+ million saved)
- Wetlands restoration on state properties
- Composting / vermiculture of food wastes
- Recycled materials in highway construction
- Recycled office paper, metals, and glass (136 million pounds last year)
- Buy recycled (nearly 70% of all paper products purchased with recycled content)
- Sustainable disaster debris management from hurricanes Fran and Floyd

These projects are just a few of the nearly 75 to be on display at the April 28 N.C. Clean & Green 2000 celebration.

There are several reasons that make it important for state government to practice environmental sustainability:

1. As the state's single largest organization and employer it consumes energy and natural resources and creates waste and other environmental impacts.
2. State Government is a highly visible role model for the state's citizens, businesses, industries, and local governments.
3. State Government creates laws and policies that shape the economic growth of the state.

Although much has been accomplished, state agencies and universities plan to continue sharing innovative technologies and concepts as they continue to be a leader in environmental protection and natural resource conservation.

"It is good business to respect and protect the earth," said Ray Anderson (keynote speaker for the event, co-chair of the President's Council on Sustainability, and Chairman and CEO of Interface Inc, of Atlanta, Ga.). "The business paradigm for success in the twenty-first century is doing well by doing good."

The afternoon agenda features Anderson and N.C. State University Chancellor Marye Anne Fox.

For more information, visit www.sustainableNC.org.

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