

## Recycling is not just good for the environment. It's good for business.

*Recycling plays a critical role in the circular economy by delivering valuable materials to the manufacturing supply chain.*

*These activities create sustainable jobs and grow local economies.*



Private sector recycling businesses employ 15,700 people in North Carolina.



Annually, North Carolina's recycling industry creates a \$3.2 billion economic impact in the state. And, there is plenty of room to grow.



North Carolina is home to more than 540 recycling businesses that recycle materials ranging from plastic bottles to paper, tires, metals, food waste, and electronics.



North Carolina manufacturers rely on recycled materials to make new products like packaging, textiles, compost, and construction products.



Recycling lowers the environmental footprint of new products, saves energy, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and conserves limited landfill space.

## MORE PLASTIC BOTTLE RECYCLING LOOPS

Once a plastic PET drink bottle is placed in the recycling bin, it may go to one of these NC businesses:



UNIFI's facilities in Reidsville and Yadkinville to be turned into recycled PET yarn that is made into products like jeans, jackets, shoes, or car interiors.



Clear Path Recycling in Fayetteville to be turned into recycled PET flake that can be made into carpets or processed into pellets for food packaging including drink bottles.

Read about more recycling examples at [deq.nc.gov/recyclingloop](http://deq.nc.gov/recyclingloop)



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This profile was created by the state's recycling office in the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS), a nonregulatory division of the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

# North Carolina RECYCLING LOOP



When you recycle, you contribute to North Carolina's circular economy.

# BOTTLE TO BOTTLE RECYCLING

Recycling doesn't end at the cart. See an example of how your drink bottle becomes a new bottle in North Carolina's circular economy.

## 1. RECYCLING

### Recycling Cart at Home

Resident of Asheville puts an empty PET plastic drink bottle in their curbside recycling cart.\*



## 2. COLLECTION

### Curbside Management

Curbside Management employees empty the cart into a recycling truck and haul the bottle to the material recovery facility (MRF) in Woodfin.



## 3. SORTING

### Curbside Management Woodfin MRF

Staff and machinery sort the bottle with other PET plastic bottles and compact them into a bale.\*\*



## 4. PROCESSING

### Indorama Ventures Athens, AL and Asheboro, NC

PET bale is sold to Indorama's Athens, AL facility where recycled bottles are washed and chopped into clean food-grade flake. The flake is turned into pellets at StarPet in Asheboro, NC.



## 5. MANUFACTURING

### Southeastern Container Enka and Kings Mountain, NC

Pellets are melted and molded into plastic preforms in Enka, then sent to Kings Mountain where they are blown into new PET bottles.



## 6. CONSUMPTION AND USE

### Coca-Cola Consolidated Charlotte, NC

Bottles are filled with beverages and distributed to retail locations throughout the state.



\* Asheville is one of 422 local government recycling programs in the state.

\*\* North Carolina is home to 16 material recovery facilities like Curbside Management.