

## Plastic Bottle Statistics:

**Legend:**

**Orange Text = Stats based on bottles lined up side-by-side (standing up)**

**Blue Text = Stats based on bottles lined up end-to-end (lengthwise)**

If all of the plastic drink bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. were lined up side-by-side, they would extend more than 106,250 miles.

If all of the plastic drink bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. were lined up end-to-end, they would extend more than 301,366 miles.

Every week, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the Outer Banks 10 times.

Every week, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the Outer Banks 28 times.

(Outer Banks length=200 miles)

In a year, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the Blue Ridge Pkwy 227 times.

In a year, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the Blue Ridge Pkwy 642 times.

(BRP length= 469 miles)

In a year, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the length of I-40 (in N.C.) 252 times.

In a year, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the length of I-40 (in N.C.) 715 times.

(I-40 length in N.C.=421 miles)

Every hour, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the length of Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte 8 times.

Every hour, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to line the length of Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte 22.9 times.

(Lowe's length=1.5 miles)

Every 4 minutes, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the distance of the first Wright Brothers' flight.

Every 1.3 minutes, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the distance of the first Wright Brothers' flight.

(First Orville and Wilbur Flight = 4,080 ft)

Every 49 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of the Bank of America Building in Charlotte.

Every 17.3 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of the Bank of America Building in Charlotte.

(Bank of America building = 871 ft)

Every 30 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of the RBC Center in Raleigh.

Every 10.6 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of the RBC Center in Raleigh.

(RBC building = 538 ft)

Every 11 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Every 3.9 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

(Cape Hatteras Lighthouse = 198 ft)

Almost every minute, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of U.N.C.'s Tyler Hansbrough.

(Tyler Hansborough = 250 lbs)

Every 1.15 minutes, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of Julius Peppers.

(Julius Peppers = 283 lbs)

Every 50 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of Rod Brind A'mour.

(Rod Brind A'mour = 205 lbs)

Every 75 minutes, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of a Fort Bragg F16 fighter plane.

(Fort Bragg F16 fighter plane=18,280 lbs)

Every 8.5 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of the Stanley Cup.

(Stanley Cup = 34.5 lbs)

Every 1.05 hours, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of an elephant.

(15,400 lbs = the average weight of an elephant)

Every 1.7 hours, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of a school bus.

(25,000 lbs = the average weight of a school bus)

Every 7 months, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of one USS N.C. Battleship.

(74,968,000 lbs (37,484 tons) = the standard weight on unloaded USS N.C. Battleship)

Every 7 minutes North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to equal the weight of a soccer team.

(Average weight of soccer player = 155 lbs; 11 players on field;  $11 \times 155 = 1705$  lbs)

In the time it takes you to brush your teeth (2 minutes), North Carolinians send 4,657 PET bottles to landfills.

In the times it takes you to watch the Super Bowl (3.5 hours), North Carolinians send 978,092 PET bottles to landfills.

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## Plastic Bottle Statistics Sources, Resources, Math:

Weight of empty 20 oz. PET water bottle = 23.83 grams

This is the average of the three 20 oz. water bottles listed in Appendix B of this report:

<http://www.asyousow.org/publications/2008/WasteAndOpportunity2008.pdf>

453.59237 grams = 1 lb

1 lbs of water bottles = 19.0345 bottles ( $453.59237/23.83$ )

1 ton of water bottles = 38,069 bottles ( $19.0345 \times 2,000$ )

PET bottles generated in U.S. in 2007 = 2,841,500 tons

PET bottles collected for recycling in U.S. in 2007 = 698,000 tons

Taken from [http://www.americaN.C.hemistry.com/s\\_plastics/sec\\_content.asp?CID=1593&DID=9180](http://www.americaN.C.hemistry.com/s_plastics/sec_content.asp?CID=1593&DID=9180)

PET bottles generated in N.C. in 2007 = 85,245 tons ( $2,841,500 \times .03$ )

(N.C. is 3% of the total U.S. population)

PET bottles recovered in N.C. in 2007 = 20,940 tons ( $698,000 \times .03$ )

PET bottles sent to landfills in N.C. in 2007 = 64,305 tons ( $85,245 - 20,940$ )

Monthly: 5,358.75 tons

Weekly: 1,236.6346 tons

Daily: 176.178 tons

Hourly: 7.34075 tons (or 14,681.5 lbs)

Every minute: 0.12234589 tons (or 244.69 lbs)

Every second: 4.078196 lbs

64,305 tons x 38,069 bottles/ton = 2,448,027,045 bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C.

Diameter of 20 oz. PET water bottle = 2.75 inches

Length of 20 oz. PET water bottle = 7.8 inches

**Orange Text = Based on bottles lined up side-by-side (using diameter)**

**Blue Text = Based on bottles lined up end-to-end (using length)**

Inches of bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. = 6,732,074,373.75 (2,448,027,045 x 2.75)

Inches of bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. = 19,094,610,951 (2,448,027,045 x 7.8)

Feet of bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. = 561,066,197.8 (6,732,074,373.75/12)

Monthly: 46,750,516.48 feet

Weekly: 10,788,580.73 feet

Daily: 1,537,003.282 feet

Hourly: 64,041.8034 feet

Every minute: 1,067.36339 feet

Every second: 17.789389 feet

Feet of bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. = 1,591,217,579.25 (19,094,610,951/12)

Monthly: 132,601,464.9375 feet

Weekly: 30,600,338.0625 feet

Daily: 4,359,500.217 feet

Hourly: 181,645.842 feet

Every minute: 3,027.431 feet

Every second: 50.457 feet

**Inches in mile = 63,360**

Miles of bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. = 106,251.173828125 (6,732,074,373.75/63,360)

Monthly: 8,854.26 miles

Weekly: 2,043 miles

Daily: 291 miles

Hourly: 12.125 miles

Miles of bottles sent to landfills annually in N.C. = 301,366.97 miles (19,094,610,951/63,360)

Monthly: 25,113.91 miles

Weekly: 5,795.52 miles

Daily: 825.66 miles

Hourly: 34.40 miles

Every Minute: 1.43 miles

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