



## “All Bottle” Best Management Practice: Rowan County Solid Waste and Recycling

**All Plastic Bottles Recycling since:** 2008

**Plastic Recycles:** #1, #2 natural, #2 colored, #1-7 mixed

**Message used:** newspapers, information at convenience sites, convenience site attendants, school presentations

### **Description**

Rowan County started collecting #1-7 plastic bottles in 2008. It already had in place a company that would take its mixed plastic. Residents can separate materials into different plastic categories at the county convenience sites or staff will do it for them. The convenience site has separate bins for #1 and #2 natural and #2 colored and then also has a #1-7 mixed plastic.

### **Implementation**

The recycling center is owned and operated by the county, so it was just a matter of showing staff that instead of three types of plastic to bale, there now would be four (#1, #2 natural, #2 colored, #1-7 mixed plastic).

An article appeared in the newspaper about the switch and the county placed signs at the sites about the types of plastic it could take. Its main education technique was through the attendants talking to customers. The county recycling coordinator also added information on recycling “all bottles” to presentations.

All municipalities were contacted and told that the new change needed to be included in their recycling contracts or, if collection is done by town employees, they needed to start picking this material up.

The recycling coordinator spent the entire first part of the school year getting plastic bottle recycling in every school in Rowan County, educating the kids on the importance of recycling this material and the new law. The coordinator says that it is much easier to educate with “all bottles” since no one has to read a number anymore. However, she does still have to explain the difference between a bottle and a tub.

### **Results**

The county has not seen a huge change in tonnage numbers, but the coordinator believes that after a year of the schools using the program and increased public education the results will be positive. She also notes that there are not that many #3-7 bottles to be collected, so that affects the numbers as well. The response from citizens was overwhelmingly positive.

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