



A cooperative effort of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Recycling Works

Volume 17, Number 1

Winter 2011

Clear Path Recycling LLC Celebrates Grand Opening

by Scott Mouw, Community and Business Assistance Section Chief

On Dec. 8, 2010, Clear Path Recycling LLC celebrated the grand opening of its polyethylene terephthalate (PET) recycling facility in Fayetteville. A joint venture of DAK Americas LLC and Shaw Industries, Clear Path produces clean clear and color flake from post-consumer PET bottles, such as soda and water bottles.

The event, attended by local and state elected officials, economic development staff (including Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco) and executives from the two parent companies, Shaw Industries and Mexico's ALFA Group (with its U.S. subsidiary, DAK Americas), represented the culmination of an intense period of implementation following the announcement of the plant in mid-2009. ([See cover story Recycling Works' Fall 2009 issue.](#))

Winding through a veritable canyon of PET bales in Clear Path's massive staging yard to the production facility at the back of the property, event attendees were treated to a glimpse of the high-tech operation that turns plastic bottles into resin for carpet polyester and new bottles. DAK CEO Hector Camberos and Shaw CEO Vance Bell then took the opportunity to talk about each firm's commitment to the new venture, driven in large part by their corporate commitment to sustainability but also by the advantages of using a recycled feedstock to meet growing material and product demand.

Clear Path has opened an initial processing line with a capacity to recycle 160 million pounds of PET bottles and has hired more than 80 full-time employees. Employment

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Clear Path, DAK and Shaw officials cut the ribbon at the facility's official grand opening in December, 2010.

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State Study Shows Strong Growth in NC Recycling Jobs

by Sherry Yarkosky, *Recycling Business Development Specialist*

Recycling businesses continue to show strong growth in recycling jobs in the state despite the effects of the recent recession according to a newly-released study by the Recycling Business Assistance Center.

The study's major findings include:

- There are currently almost 15,200 private sector recycling-related jobs in North Carolina
- Private sector recycling jobs have increased 4.8 percent since 2008.
- The total annual payroll for North Carolina recycling businesses is \$395 million.
- Forty-eight percent of recycling businesses surveyed anticipate creating more jobs during the next two years.
- Twenty-five percent of businesses surveyed report manufacturing a product using recycled materials.

Recycling businesses target a wide variety of recycla-

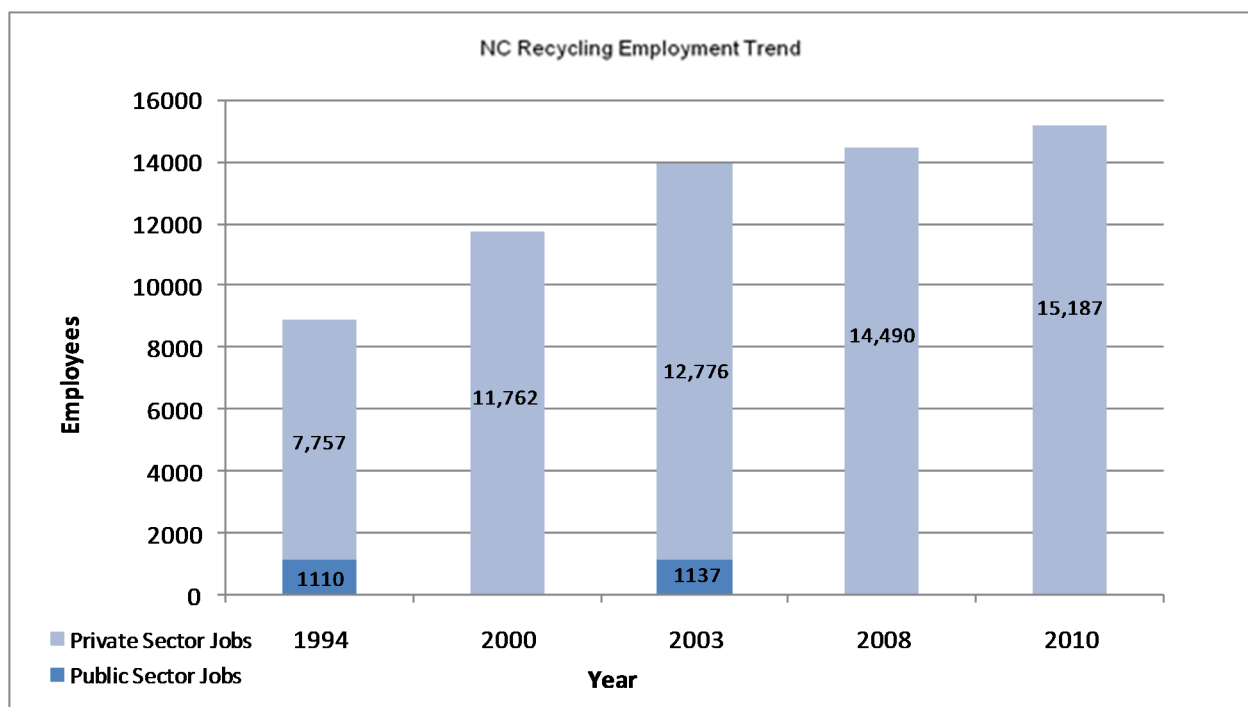
bles for collection, processing or use in manufacturing. No single recycling commodity dominates the market.

The research is the latest in a string of studies demonstrating the ongoing contribution of recycling to the state's economic growth. More than 630 North Carolina-based recycling businesses listed in the state's free, online [Recycling Markets Directory](#) received an invitation to participate in the 2010 Recycling Business Employment Study update. Additional recycling employment data from the N.C. Employment Security Commission and Harris Info-source was included in the study.

As the graph below indicates, results published in 1994, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2010 have each documented increases in recycling employment in North Carolina over time.

"We are pleased to see that recycling remains a dynamic source of green jobs in North Carolina," said

([JOBS](#) continued on page 3)



JOBS continued from page 2

DENR Secretary Dee Freeman. “The study shows that recycling not only helps us reduce our dependence on landfills, save energy and prevent pollution, but that it also boosts the economy at a critical time.”

RBAC periodically conducts recycling business studies to gauge the health of the recycling economy. In 2010, it is estimated that there are nearly 15,200 private sector recycling jobs involved in the collection, processing, manufacturing, reuse or com-

There are nearly 15,200 private sector recycling jobs in NC, up from 14,490 in 2008.

posting of post-consumer and post-industrial materials. North Carolina’s recycling businesses are strong, diverse and utilize a variety of recycled or discarded materials that become feedstock for a variety of products.

“North Carolinians have a real opportunity to contribute to our economic recovery by recycling at home, at work and on-the-go,” said Scott Mouw,

Thanks, Recyclers!!



Thank you to the recycling businesses that participated in the recent recycling employment study.

director of the state’s recycling programs. “By diverting recyclable materials out of the waste stream and back into the stream of commerce, we can grow the over 900 recycling businesses across the state who are making key investments in the collection, processing and end-use of those commodities.”

A complete copy of the *Employment Trends in North Carolina’s Recycling Industry—2010* study can be found online at <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/53/52107.pdf>

For more information, contact Sherry Yarkosky at (919) 715-6511 or sherry.yarkosky@ncdenr.gov.

SERDC Maps Recycled Material Manufacturers

by Scott Mouw, Community and Business Assistance Chief

Which region of the country has the best end-use recycling infrastructure? A recently completed project of the Southeast Recycling Development Council demonstrates that the states south of the Mason-



Dixon line have a lot to brag about on that score. Manufacturers who rely on recycled feedstocks – paper fiber, metals, plastics, glass – to run their plants and make their products are well represented in the Southeast. This rich

presence of recycled commodity end-users bodes well for efforts to increase the collection of materials in North Carolina and surrounding states.

In total, SERDC documented more than 200 manufacturers in the Southeast supporting 47,525 jobs and with an estimated annual sales volume of \$29.4 billion.

For more information on SERDC’s study, which includes an interactive map of recycled material manufacturers across the region, visit: <http://www.serdc.org/regionalresources>.

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could increase to 125 after a second planned expansion. Many of those workers have gotten or will get customized training at Fayetteville Technical Community College. The second planned phase will push annual capacity to 280 million pounds, making

the plant one of the largest of its kind in the world, with an appetite for 5 billion plastic bottles each year.

For more information, contact Ken Prevette, Clear Path Recycling's procurement manager, at (877) 387-3738, KPrevette@clearpathrecycling.com, or <http://www.clearpathrecycling.com/>.



An aerial view of the Clear Path site in Fayetteville is seen here prior to construction.



Employees operate machinery and equipment at the initial in-feed of PET bottles in the Clear Path recycling plant.



Supplies of PET bales are staged for processing on Clear Path's massive staging yard.

TOGETHER

Through shared effort we can provide a foundation of targeted advertising that "brands" recycling with the public in every community.

Contact Scott Mouw for sponsorship information at Scott.Mouw@ncdenr.gov

Inaugural SE C&D Recycling Conference a Success

by Matt Todd, Recycling Business Development Specialist

The Carolina Recycling Association hosted the inaugural Southeast Construction & Demolition Recycling Conference, Dec. 7-9, 2010, in Charlotte at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. The final stats told the story: 221 registered attendees, sold out hotel, 17 exhibitors, eight conference sponsors, well-attended tours, full rooms for educational sessions, attendees taking advantage of the many networking opportunities, and continuing education credits available for SWANA, USGBC LEED, and NAHB professional certifications.

Highlights from the Southeast C&D Recycling Conference include:

- **Conference tours** illustrated three major conference topics: material diversion, material reuse opportunities and shingle recycling.



Workers clean up minor debris from an incoming asphalt shingle load at Boggs Paving, one of the conference tour sites.

- The **opening general session** gave perspective by providing data on what the composition of C&D waste is, how much is being disposed and where the opportunities for reduction and recycling are.
- Other **general sessions** included presentations on regulatory issues and lively panel discussions

on both traditional and emerging recycling markets for C&D materials.

- **Builder and recycler track breakout sessions** focused on how to increase C&D diversion. Sessions covered topics such as green building programs, case studies, resources for green building compliance, material processing and handling options and C&D recycling incentive programs, among others.

Attendees were surveyed for feedback on the conference and to assist in planning future events. An overwhelming majority (more than 97 percent) of respondents rated the conference content as either good or excellent in terms of usefulness to them in their profession. Approximately 95 percent of respondents indicated that the sessions were well-balanced. In addition, more than 97 percent of respondents indicated that they would attend another C&D conference like this one in the future.

“This was the inaugural Southeast C&D Recycling Conference,” said Conference Committee Co-Chair Michael Talbert of Mecklenburg County, “but others are sure to follow.”

Thanks to the attendees that came out to learn and network, speakers that helped make the program top-notch and the exhibitors and sponsors for their support.

For more details about the conference program or to view speaker presentations, visit http://www.cdrecyclingconference.com/index_files/schedule.htm.

SWANA— Solid Waste Association of North America
 USGBC— U.S. Green Building Council
 LEED — Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design
 NAHB — National Association of Home Builders



Self-Help, NCIF Breathe New Life into Plastics Recycling

by Tom Rhodes, Environmental Specialist

New Life Plastic Recycling Inc., located in Burlington, recently received a loan through RBAC partners Self-Help Credit Union and the Natural Capital Investment Fund for building improvements and working capital. A portion of the funds were made available through the Golden Leaf Tobacco Settlement funds.

New Life works with industry, providing a market for plastic scrap commodities by taking rejected plastic parts and scrap by-products from a wide variety of industries. This material is shredded, ground or baled, then sent to an end-user who recycles it into a new product.

A portion of these funds facilitated building repairs on one of two New Life facilities located in Burlington. The loan balance is being used for working capital.

Self-Help Credit Union often partners with other lending organizations to better accommodate clients' financing needs. In this case, NCIF agreed to participate in this loan package as green organizations are, in part, its target market.

"The plastics recycling market is beginning to improve from the recent financial downturn and manufacturers are generating product again," Susan Newman, president of New Life Plastic said. "Lesson learned? Tighten your belts, become more efficient and watch every dime. Hat's off to Self-Help and NCIF for their support during these difficult financial times."

For more information, contact Susan Newman at newman@newlifeplastics.com, (336) 222-7775, or visit <http://www.newlifeplastics.com/>.

N.C.'s Environmental Stewardship Initiative

by Stacy Givens, EMS Specialist

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resource's Environmental Stewardship Initiative (www.p2pays.org/esi) is a nationally recognized program that promotes superior environmental performance and helps the regulated community of North Carolina meet and exceed regulatory requirements. The ESI program is administered by DENR's Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach.

This effort strives to reduce environmental impacts beyond those requirements set forth in regulations or laws.

The ESI offers three levels of participation: Partner, Rising Steward and Steward.



Organizations joining this voluntary program receive the following benefits:

- recognition for environmental accomplishments;
- free technical, compliance and environmental management assistance; and
- training and networking opportunities.

To learn more about the ESI program, contact an ESI staff member at (919) 733-1398 or esi@ncdenr.gov.

Charleston Hosts CRA's 2011 Annual Recycling Conference

by Scott Mouw, Community and Business Assistance Chief

The Carolina Recycling Association's 21st annual conference is rapidly approaching and offers numerous opportunities for recycling companies, local recycling programs and equipment vendors to do business, network and learn from experts on the latest in recycling issues in the Carolinas and beyond.

The event will take place on March 29 – April 1, 2011, in North Charleston, S.C., at the Embassy Suites. The annual CRA conference is traditionally one of the largest state recycling organizations trade shows in the United States, with a full exhibit hall and participation of more than 400 recycling professionals.

This year's conference agenda will feature many

timely and important topics, including:

- What the future holds for recycling markets;
- Advances in local government curbside and drop-off programs;
- Electronics collection and upcoming disposal bans;
- C&D material diversion and green-building;
- Composting and organics diversion;
- Recycling at commercial, multi-family and away-from-home locations

Exhibit, registration, hotel and sponsorship details for the conference are available at www.cra2011.org.



Wesbell Moves to Larger Facility, Keeps on Rolling

by Matt Todd, Recycling Business Development Specialist

Wesbell Technologies, an asset-management and electronics recycling company, recently moved to a new location. Previously located in Durham in an 80,000 square foot facility near Research Triangle Park, Wesbell relocated about 30 minutes north on NC-501 to Roxboro.

The new facility at 555 Lucy Garrett Road is 114,000 square feet, sits on 31 acres and allows for an expansion of processing and warehousing capabilities. The move began in July 2010. The transition to a new

location has allowed Wesbell to construct its e-scrap processing line. The new processing line is now complete and operational as of January 2011.

Wesbell primarily handles equipment removal, repair, refurbishment, testing, asset resale and recycling of electronic material coming from the telecom industry, business, government and consumer markets.

Contact John Parks at (336) 322-0600 ext. 247, john.parks@wesbell.com, or visit www.wesbell.com.

New 2011 Fluorescent Light and Mercury Thermostat Rules for Contractors Go into Effect This Year

by Joseph Fitzpatrick, Environmental Specialist

Legislation requiring contractors or owners of buildings or structures to remove all fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury *prior to the demolition* of that building or structure goes into effect July 1, 2011. In addition, Session Law 2010-180 also bans these items from disposal in unlined North Carolina landfills. It states:

“No person shall knowingly dispose of fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury in a sanitary landfill for the disposal of construction and demolition debris waste that is unlined or in any other landfill that is unlined.”

View the [full text of the law](#) here.

The possible release of mercury into the environment from the disposal or mishandling of fluorescent lights and mercury-containing thermostats is a serious concern to the state. If mishandled, mercury contained in these products is likely to be released into the environment. Any mercury spill can involve serious liability issues since proper cleanup procedures are expensive.

Disposal of mercury-containing devices in municipal solid waste collection is forbidden by state and federal law. Mercury-containing thermostats are regulated as universal waste and are the responsibility of the generator at the time the device is considered a waste material. Generators should contact the N.C. Division of Waste Management at (919) 508-8546 with all questions related to the regulatory status of fluorescent lamps.



N.C. DENR strongly encourages all generators, including households, to recycle all fluorescent lights and thermostats containing mercury, regardless of the regulatory status of the item.

Contractors are encouraged to start their own recycling program for fluorescent lights and mercury thermostats. A recycling program can be as simple as collecting, packing and accumulating intact materials for shipment. The intact lights and thermostats can be picked up by or shipped to any recycler. Recycling markets for these materials can be found at: www.p2pays.org/dmrm. Participating with the Thermostat Recycling Corporation is another cost-effective option for contractors to recycle mercury thermostats.

(MERCURY LAW continued on page 9)



N.C. DENR strongly encourages the recycling of all fluorescent lights and thermostats containing mercury, like those shown above.

California First to Pass Carpet-Related Product Stewardship Legislation

by Matt Ewadinger, RBAC Manager

On Sept. 30, 2010, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the nation's first, carpet stewardship-related legislation (AB 2398). The bill represents a new approach to product stewardship in that it incentivizes carpet recycling by rewarding those entrepreneurs and inventors who process post-consumer carpet.

The bill generates revenue through an initial assessment of 5 cents per square yard of carpet sold in California. Further, manufacturers - either singly or as a group - will be required to establish a stewardship plan with the state for implementing carpet recycling. Stewardship plans will encompass consumer education efforts, the assessment of fees and progress measurement and reporting.

To develop their required stewardship plan, manufacturers will work with California regulatory agencies with the help of the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). Founded in 2002, CARE is a non-

profit organization that includes carpet manufacturers, recycling entrepreneurs and government environmental agencies working to find market-based solutions for recycling carpet. CARE is listed in the legislation as the carpet industry's designated stewardship organization.

CARE, in conjunction with the Calif. Department of Resources and Recycling (CalRecycle), is working to develop a stewardship plan that will increase carpet recycling through the funding mechanism that is established in the bill.

"AB 2398 is unique from other extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation in that it will provide monetary incentives directly to entrepreneurs and investors that process post-consumer California carpet," commented Georgina Sikorski, CARE executive director.

Contact Georgina Sikorski at (706) 428-2128 or gsikorski@carpetrecovery.org.



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For information on this industry-funded nonprofit organization, visit <http://www.thermostat-recycle.org/pages/faqs>.



Recycling Works is published by the N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center, a program of the Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information call (877) 623-6748, or write to DEAO, 1639 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1639.

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor, North Carolina
Dee Freeman, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach

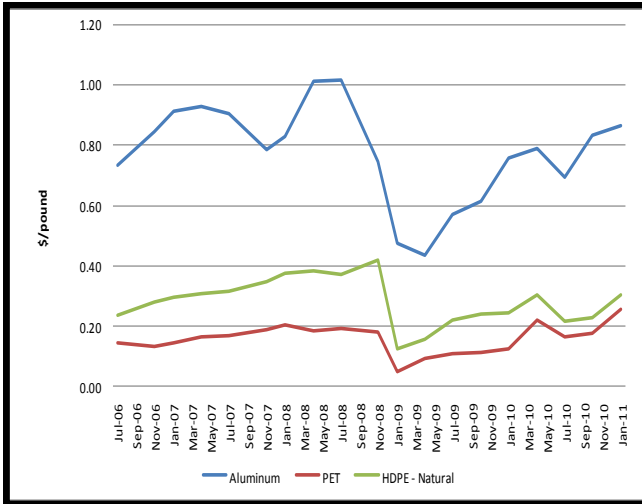
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Additional resources and information on managing [mercury thermostats](#) and [fluorescent lights](#) can be found at the N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach's websites linked above.

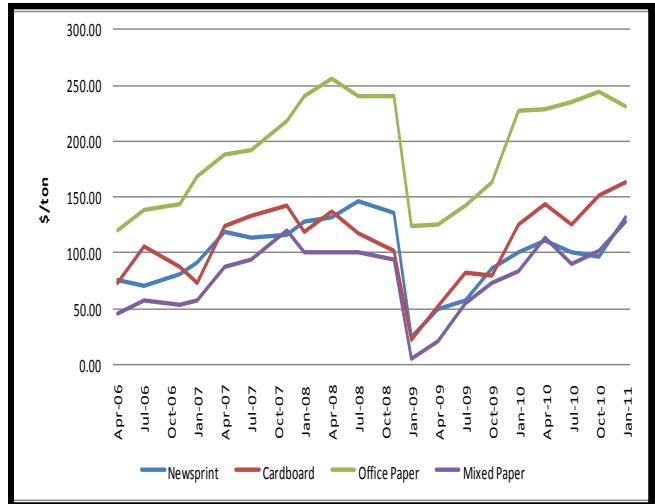
If you have any questions regarding HB1766 or fluorescent light recycling programs, contact Joseph Fitzpatrick at joseph.fitzpatrick@ncdenr.gov or (919) 715-6499.

Container Price Trends



Quarterly prices for aluminum cans (loose), PET (baled) and HDPE natural (baled) in dollars per pound.

Paper Price Trends



Quarterly prices for newsprint, cardboard, office paper and mixed paper in dollars per ton, baled.



The Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) is a program of the N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach.

Call (877) 623-6748 for free technical assistance and information about preventing, reducing and recycling waste.



North Carolina Market Prices for Recyclables

Prices current as of January 20, 2011

Item	Western Region	Central Region	Eastern Region
METALS			
Aluminum Cans lb. loose	\$0.86	\$0.885	\$0.855
Steel Can, gross ton baled	\$333.00 gt	\$276.78	\$280.00
PLASTICS			
PETE, lb. baled	\$0.275	\$0.23	\$0.26
HDPE, lb. baled	Natural	\$0.35	\$0.305
	Colored	\$0.23	\$0.19
PAPER			
Newsprint, ton baled	\$135	\$125	\$135
Corrugated, ton baled	\$160	\$150	\$180
Office, ton baled	\$220 (SOP)	\$200 (SOP)	\$275 (white ledger)
Magazines, ton baled	*	\$140	**
Mixed, ton baled	\$130	\$125	\$125
GLASS			
Brown, ton crushed delivered	\$18	\$19	\$17
Clear, ton crushed delivered	\$25	\$29	\$21
Green, ton crushed delivered	\$3	\$2	(\$7.50)

*Markets with Mixed Paper

**Markets with Newsprint

Note: Prices listed above are compiled by RBAC and are for reference only. These prices are not firm quotes. RBAC obtained pricing information from processors for each category and developed a pricing range.

Visit RBAC online at www.p2pays.org/rbac