

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

North Carolina Circular Economy Council Charter

1. Purpose, Membership, and Leadership

1.1. Purpose

The North Carolina Circular Economy Council (CEC) was convened by North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Secretary Elizabeth Biser in Spring 2023 to identify ways to expand and accelerate beneficial impacts to the state's natural resources and economy through recycling and effective waste management.

In North Carolina, more than 15,700 individuals are employed by private recycling businesses. Continued investment and growth within the recycling sector stimulate the economy of the state and Southeast region at large, providing jobs and supporting domestic manufacturing. As of 2023, more than 60 manufacturers within North Carolina rely on recycled content for a growing number of products. Having reliable access to recycled feedstock allows manufacturers to decrease dependence on imported materials and ensure a stable supply chain.

Moreover, reuse of existing materials for manufacturing reduces the need to extract raw materials and, in most cases, uses less energy to create the same products. In turn, natural resources that would otherwise be used to harvest virgin material are conserved. Recycling also reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills for disposal, preserving space and extending the life of existing landfills. Statewide landfill disposal capacity is rapidly decreasing. NCDEQ estimates that two of the state's largest landfills will reach capacity in the next ten years.

The mission of the CEC is to provide guidance on how North Carolina can create a more resilient materials management system, strengthen the economy, and protect the environment through collaboration and innovative solutions.

1.2. Membership

The NCDEQ Secretary establishes a Circular Economy Council not to exceed 20 members, all of whom are appointed by the Secretary. Member organizations of the CEC will serve for a term of two years and may be reappointed. These members include recycling leaders from across the industry, which represent recycling companies, non-profit organizations, industry associations, and product manufacturers, many of which have a national or global reach. Members may be appointed on an individual as well as an organizational basis, with the above criteria to otherwise apply. Membership will reflect a balanced group across sectors and the materials supply chain.

Organizations may send a single representative to Council meetings and may, with approval from the Secretary of NCDEQ and the Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) representative, allow additional organization representatives when appropriate.

If a member organization is unable to complete their term, they may submit a notification letter to the Secretary of NCDEQ, DEACS Division Director, and DEACS Council Representative to withdraw from the Council. The NCDEQ Secretary may revoke participation by a member if it fails to attend or to communicate with NCDEQ staff for over two quarters or otherwise fails to comply with the Council requirements.

Representatives from NCDEQ to the CEC include, among others:

- Secretary of the Department
- Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Economic Development
- Director of Legislative Affairs
- DEACS Division Director
- DEACS Representative appointed by DEACS Division Director
- Representatives of the Recycling Business Assistance Center

1.3. Leadership

The CEC is chaired by the Secretary of NCDEQ, who convenes the meetings of the Council. The appointed DEACS Representative convenes the CEC in the absence of the Secretary. Member organizations are encouraged to be active members and engage with NCDEQ leadership and other CEC Members.

2. CEC Roles and Responsibilities

2.1. Council

The Council functions in various capacities, and each member is responsible for acting in a collaborative and positive manner as part of the whole:

- Maintain an active awareness of the circular economy at large.
- Work collaboratively to establish and highlight recommendations for increasing and improving recycling capacity and infrastructure in North Carolina.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration among Council members and with NCDEQ to support recycling infrastructure in the state.
- Provide feedback to NCDEQ on related efforts as needed to support an accurate reflection of and positive impact on the state of materials management and the circular economy in North Carolina.
- Promote the awareness of recycling within North Carolina's public and private sectors through tours, events, and other outreach to the public and to the legislature.

2.2. CEC Members

Individually, member organizations and their representatives may contribute to the Council in different ways, but all share a set of foundational duties:

- Approach contributing to the operations of the Council in a collaborative manner.
- Provide updates to the Council on significant, upcoming changes, and/or needs within the Council members' sector of interest related to the circular economy.
- Support the effectiveness of the Council through regular engagement, including preparation for and attendance at meetings and events.
- Communicate with NCDEQ Secretary and/or DEACS Council Representative about any concerns or conflicts of interest that may arise.

3. CEC Operations

3.1. Agenda

The NCDEQ Secretary's Office and DEACS Council Representatives develop the CEC meeting agendas with input from CEC members as solicited. When possible and subject to change, the agenda and background



documents will be provided to the CEC members in advance of the meeting. NCDEQ's Secretary and DEACS Council Representatives determine topics to be included in the agenda based on Department needs, input received from Council members, and issues of public or legislative interest.

3.2. Council Meetings

The CEC will meet on a quarterly basis as set by NCDEQ staff. Meetings may be held in conjunction with other relevant events and may be added or cancelled as deemed necessary by NCDEQ or as requested by CEC members. CEC members are expected to attend meetings in-person when able, and hybrid meeting options will be available whenever possible. Meetings may be supplemented by tours and other related events.

The Council will work toward consensus on agenda issues that require action from the CEC. Decisions internal to the CEC shall be made by a majority of those present and participating. Council recommendations on programs, policy, and/or regulations will be considered by the Secretary and NCDEQ staff with final decision-making authority maintained by the Secretary.

3.3. Council Support

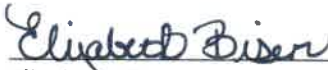
NCDEQ staff support the work of the CEC by creating and reviewing documents, coordinating meetings and events, preparing communications and other follow-up items from meetings, and conducting other support functions as appropriate.

3.4. Workgroups

The CEC and NCDEQ may develop options, recommendations, reports, and plans for consideration by Council members. In addition, the Council may establish workgroups as necessary to focus on issues requiring broader input over a sustained period. Workgroups may be formed on an *ad hoc* basis, operating temporarily until resolution of the goal(s) or completion of the task(s) established by the Council. Each workgroup will maintain a general record of their work to be shared with the Council.

3.5. Implementation and Duration

This charter, effective immediately, may be amended jointly by the CEC and NCDEQ and shall be reviewed every three years.



Elizabeth Biser
Secretary, NCDEQ

9/11/24

Date

Appendix: Circular Economy Council Member List (2023-2025)*

The member organizations of the CEC for 2023-2025 are as follows:

- Alpek Polyester/Clear Path Recycling
- Association of Plastic Recyclers
- Carolina Recycling Association
- Coca-Cola Consolidated
- Liberty Tire
- McGill Environmental
- North Carolina Chamber of Commerce
- North Carolina Beverage Association
- O-I Glass
- PepsiCo
- Powerhouse Recycling
- Recycled Materials Association (formerly known as Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries)
- Resource Recycling Systems
- Sonoco Recycling
- Southeast Recycling Development Council
- Synergy Recycling
- The Recycling Partnership
- Unifi

*Current membership is subject to change.

Revision History

Revision Number	Comments	Date
0	CEC Draft Charter Established	6/25/24
1	Modifications made following Council Review	8/21/24