

## 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:



Southeastern Container in Kings Mountain to become a new plastic drink bottle.



Clear Path Recycling in Fayetteville to be washed and turned into flake so it can become recycled carpet.

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.

# PLASTIC BOTTLE TO FABRIC

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

## 1. RECYCLING

### Recycling Cart at Home

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



## 2. COLLECTION

### City of Greensboro Collections

City employees empty the cart into a recycling truck and haul the bottle to Republic Services Greensboro Recycling Center.



## 3. SORTING

### Republic Services Greensboro Recycling Center

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



## 4. PROCESSING

### UNIFI® Reidsville Bottle Processing Center

PET bale is sold to UNIFI's Bottle Processing Center in Reidsville where recycled bottles are sorted, washed, and chopped into clean PET flake.



## 5. MANUFACTURING

### UNIFI Yadkinville REPREVE® Recycling Center

Flake is transported to the REPREVE Recycling Center in Yadkinville to be blended, melted, and extruded into REPREVE fiber. Fiber is dyed and textured to create yarn.



*REPREVE® is a registered trademark of Unifi, Inc.*

## 6. CONSUMPTION AND USE

### Textile Manufacturers in NC and Beyond

Finished yard is sold to brands to make new fabric for t-shirts, jackets, shoes, or car interiors.



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

\*\* North Carolina is home to 16 recycling sorting centers like Republic Services Greensboro.