



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CASE STUDY: CATAWBA COUNTY – PALLET RECYCLING

Population:
Contact:

157,034
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Catawba County began offering pallet recycling services to the public in 1989 at the Blackburn Landfill. A designated area with appropriate signage is dedicated to pallet recycling. Scale attendants give customers directions to the pallet area. Area industries and commercial companies bring pallets to the site for recycling and are not charged a tipping fee for clean pallet loads. The disposal fee for municipal solid waste or mixed loads is \$31.00 per ton + \$2.00 per ton state tax = \$33.00 per ton, giving a strong financial incentive to separate and recycle the pallets.

All pallet recycling operations are managed internally by Catawba County. Mixed with other clean wood waste, pallets are ground and used with dirt as daily cover for the county's landfill. In addition, Catawba also uses some of the ground wood on roadways in rainy weather for traction. Pallets comprise approximately 21 percent of the total wood waste stream in the county.

A grinder, front loader and labor represent the major costs for the program. Pallets are managed with other wood waste and, therefore, costs for the two are combined at approximately \$30,000 per year.

Approximately 2,826 tons of pallets are recycled each year through the county's program.



Area industries and commercial companies bring pallets to Catawba County's designated area at the Blackburn Landfill for recycling.