

Executive Summary

Pursuant to NC General Statute 130A-309A(b), each unit of local government is required to develop a Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan and update the Plan every three years. In Cabarrus County, the original plan was adopted in 1997 and had been updated every third year since. This 2009 Plan Update, completed in cooperation with all four local municipal governments, was prepared in accordance with the latest Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan Guide. The Plan presents a progressive vision for managing solid waste in Cabarrus County through the development of intended actions for solid waste planning elements which include: reduction; collection; recycling and reuse; composting and mulching; incineration; transfer; disposal; education; special wastes; illegal disposal/litter; purchasing of recycled products; disaster response; collection of discarded electronics; and management of abandoned manufactured homes.

Accomplishments

Over the past three years, the jurisdictions of Cabarrus County have individually and collectively made improvements to elements of their own solid waste programs and the County's shared solid waste system. The most notable accomplishments born from previous intended actions include the following:

- Cabarrus County implemented a curbside recycling program in January 2008.
- The Town of Midland implemented a curbside recycling program in April 2008.
- The County has formed a partnership with City of Concord Environmental Service and the Cabarrus County School District to bring mixed-paper recycling to each school in the district. The program is sponsored in part by the NC

Department of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance through a grant that funded the purchase of recycling bins for each of the district's 2000 school classrooms.

- The County, in partnership with the City of Concord, is currently evaluating the development of a materials recovery facility or transfer station capable of reducing operating costs, managing the long-term disposal needs of the area and increasing diversion of materials from landfills.
- Cabarrus County and other local jurisdictions continue to provide collection and drop-off opportunities for special wastes that are not appropriate for landfill disposal, or may be beneficially reused or recycled. During FY 2008,

the County collected 32 tons of household hazardous waste; 512 tons of white goods; 60 tons of tires; 8,300 gallons of used oil; 2 barrels of used oil filters, 310 gallons of antifreeze; 711 lead-acid batteries; and 32 tons of electronic equipment from its' drop-off program.

- The County C&D landfill expansion began accepting waste in December 2006.
- The City of Kannapolis has hired a Community Outreach Coordinator to speak at community meetings and other events upon request.
- An Environmental Stewardship Committee was established by the City of Kannapolis in the spring of 2008 to assist with environmental issues, education, storm water, and curbside recycling.



Current and Future Actions

Over the last three years, Cabarrus County and the municipal governments have taken actions to increase residential recycling rates, lower collection service costs, expand commercial recycling opportunities, evaluate additional revenue sources to fund solid waste programs, and improve upon many other elements. Nevertheless, the local jurisdictions recognize that additional effort is needed in virtually all areas in order to achieve their established vision and goals. In this regard, the four local governments have developed an updated list of intended actions that may result in additional improvements to the jurisdictions solid waste programs and the County's overall system. The intended actions support a shared vision for the 2009-2019 planning period that:

- Is integrated, efficient, and effective;
- Provides disposal capacity, waste collection services, and waste reduction programs at an equitable price;
- Includes the elimination of improper disposal of waste and the reduction of illegal dumpsites;
- Provides waste reduction opportunities that are convenient for residents; and
- Educates the community to increase the understanding of the environmental benefits of waste reduction and proper waste disposal.

Some of the current activities that are already underway and actions on the horizon are summarized below:

- The City of Kannapolis is evaluating implementing a curbside recycling program;
- Cabarrus County is attempting to establish a bottle and can recycling program with Cabarrus County Schools; and
- Cabarrus County is in the process of evaluating a future C&D expansion.
- This Plan was amended in 2010 to include more detail on electronics recycling to comply with State requirements to qualify for funding.

Solid Waste Contacts

The solid waste representatives and contacts for the local governments in Cabarrus County are:

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City Manager

Midland
Nancy Boyden phone: 704-888-2232
Town Clerk

Town of Mount Pleasant
Cathy Whittington phone: 704-436-9803
Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Cabarrus County
Rick Payne phone: 704-920-2955
Solid Waste Manager