



## Event and Venue Recycling

### Case Study: **N.C. Amateur Sports**

**Recycling since:** 2008

**Type of Events:** Cycling  
Event and Multi-Sport  
Competition

**Recycles:** plastic bottles and  
aluminum cans

**Cost of Recycling:**  
60 ClearStream Containers +  
100 bags: \$2,840; material pick-  
up done by municipal workers  
and event volunteers

**Interviewed:**

Ragan Williams, Cycle North  
Carolina Director

**Phone:** (919) 361-1133, ext. 6

**E-mail:**  
[ragan.williams@ncsports.org](mailto:ragan.williams@ncsports.org)

#### **Description**

North Carolina Amateur Sports is host to a number of annual sporting events, including two cycling events and the N.C. State Games. The week-long cycling events draw more than 1,000 participants and run through 15 North Carolina counties, while the State Games attracts 13,000 athletes each June in Charlotte. A large number of beverage containers, including water bottles and aluminum cans, are consumed at these events.

#### **Implementation**

The 2008 annual Cycle North Carolina fall ride was the pilot recycling program for NCAS. ClearStream containers were used, since locations changed daily and these containers are compact and can travel well.

Sixty containers, placed with stickers reading “Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans Only,” were placed near the trash cans during each rest stop throughout the event. Rest stop volunteers were asked to monitor the disposal of recyclables and encourage the participants to place their waste in the correct receptacle. CNC staff officials (the “sweep team”) collected full ClearStream bags and N.C. DPPEA assisted CNC officials in partnering with local waste management representatives along the cycling route to locate recycling drop off locations. Recycling was stressed throughout the event, often using RE3.org educational materials.



The State Games event, held in June 2009, focused its recycling efforts mainly on a selection of youth sports during lighter weekends, where educating participants on the importance of recycling could occur during competition. The 60

ClearStream containers were placed throughout the venue during game days. For this event, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation Department staff set up the bins and transported the recyclable materials to the appropriate recycling centers.

NCAS encountered some logistical problems during the events. At times during the cycling event, convenience centers were closed, did not accept commingled recycling, or were too far away for staff to effectively visit. Also, 20 ounce cans of cola were distributed during the cycling event and participants often only consumed half the beverage and disposed of the other half when tossing it in the ClearStream bin. This not only added weight to the bags, but also attracted insects and bees making the collections difficult, messy, and at times too heavy for some volunteers.

### **Results**

The NCAS staff collected, on average, a total of 10-15 bags of commingled beverage containers each day during the fall ride making the combined total of 70+ bags of recyclable material collected throughout the event. The recycling initiatives were very popular with participants, as the staff received many e-mails and phone calls thanking them for offering recycling during the event.