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For more information, contact:

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**STATEWIDE LANDFILL BAN
ON PLASTIC BOTTLES, OIL FILTERS AND WOODEN PALLETS
BEGINS OCTOBER 1**

BOONE, NC (August 26, 2009) -- The Watauga County Recycling Office reminds the public of three new statewide landfill bans on motor oil filters, wooden pallets and plastic bottles that officially prohibit these items from entering any North Carolina landfill beginning on Thursday, Oct. 1.

“Watauga County residents are already doing a good job of recycling plastic bottles as more than 143 tons of plastic were collected last year,” says Recycling Coordinator Lisa Doty. “But these bans provide the opportunity to keep even more items out of the waste stream and put them into the recycling loop.”

Following is information on what to do with items banned from the landfill:

- **Plastic bottles:** There are ten convenience centers located throughout the county where residents can take plastic bottles for recycling. For locations and hours, go to www.wataugacounty.org and click on “Recycling”.
- **Oil filters:** There are containers for recycling oil filters and used oil at the Watauga County Transfer Station and at the Recycling Center located at 336 Landfill Road, off of Hwy. 421 behind the Nissan Dealership. (*Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8 am – 4 pm and Sat. 8 am – 12 pm*).
- **Wooden Pallets:** All pallets must be placed in the yard waste/brush pile at the Watauga County Transfer Station located at 336 Landfill Road, off of Hwy. 421 behind the Nissan Dealership. (*Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8 am – 4 pm and Sat. 8 am – 12 pm*). The yard waste is chipped into mulch and offered back to residents free of charge.

Watauga County provides recycling containers for plastic bottles and aluminum cans at county recreational facilities and the Recycling Office has bins that can be checked out to use for recycling at special events and festivals.

“I am happy to help event planners and businesses set up a recycling program and encourage those people in charge of waste collection to get in touch with our office,” says Doty.

The N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance created a Web site about the upcoming landfill bans (<http://p2pays.org/BannedMaterials/>). The site contains a wealth of information specifically for plastic bottles, which will more likely affect North Carolinians in their day-to-day lives. This site provides citizens and businesses with information

on how, where and why to recycle plastic bottles. The site also contains information about how to recycle wooden pallets and motor oil filters.

Every year, North Carolinians recycle more than 480 million plastic bottles. While that sounds like a large number, compare that to the more than 2.4 billion plastic bottles North Carolinians throw away each year. The discarded plastic bottles could line the Blue Ridge Parkway 642 times or the Outer Banks 28 times.

Other items that are banned from North Carolina landfills include: aluminum cans, lead-acid batteries, antifreeze, motor oil, appliances, oyster shells, beverage containers from ABC permitted facilities, scrap tires and yard waste. In January 2011 televisions and computer equipment also will be added to the “banned” list in order to combat the increase of electronic waste in our landfills. Watauga County already provides recycling for all electronics at the Recycling Center, located at 336 Landfill Road, off of Hwy. 421 behind the Nissan Dealership. (*Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8 am – 4 pm and Sat. 8 am – 12 pm*).

For more information on banned items or for any questions about the recycling program, please call Lisa Doty at 828-265-4852.

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