

'A recycling town'

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Private area trash haulers are jumping on the recycling bandwagon.

Following the Oct. 1 state mandate that rigid plastic containers are no longer allowed to be discarded in regular trash bins, trash haulers in Onslow County are stepping up to the plate to provide recycling services for their customers.

Maysville resident Kelly Collins led the charge in September when she started Onslow Recycling — a business that provides curbside recycling to Onslow County residents who don't live in a municipality that provides curbside recycling or who live outside municipality city limits.

Collins said she already has more than 100 customers.

"Pretty much everybody was excited that there was an option available," she said. "They were just glad the service was made available to them in Onslow County. Like I've said before, not everybody has time to take their recyclables somewhere."

At least two private haulers in Onslow County will have curbside recycling programs in December.

Ray's Rural Garbage Collection out of Richlands will begin curbside recycling for all its customers on Dec. 7. The company received a large shipment of recycling bins on Friday that it will be providing to customers.

Currently, Ray's picks up trash from its customers twice a week. Once curbside recycling begins in December, trash and recycling will each be picked up once a week.

"In order to get all the customers situated and get all of this ironed out it's probably going to take at least six months," said Rodney Humphrey, vice president of Ray's. "It's not going to happen on day one."

Although customers' trash pickup will decrease to once a week, Humphrey said it should not impact customers too drastically, as the recyclable items removed from the trash will decrease the amount of trash.

"That's going to knock back the trash," he said.

Because recycling does not need to be separated, Humphrey said Ray's will be able to use the same trucks that pick up trash to also pick up recycling which won't require them to increase their truck fleet. Rates at Ray's will not increase due to the institution of the recycling program, Humphrey said.

"I think once it gets started and you get all the wrinkles ironed out, I think it will be a good thing," Humphrey said. "I'd say the majority of the people are happy and they like the idea."

M and W Hauling in Hubert is also stepping up to the recycling plate and will also begin a curbside recycling program for its customers in December.

Like Ray's, M and W will also provide the recycling bins.

"It's something that's coming. It's been going on all across the country," said Manager Jeff Lambert. "It was more or less mandatory ... If the law says you can't put (rigid plastic containers) in the landfill then you can't put it in the landfill."

M and W's monthly rates will increase from \$18 to \$21.50 due to the recycling program.

"You can't hardly do it any cheaper than that," Lambert said.

Collins said she's glad to see local haulers joining in the recycling effort.

"Onslow County went from a town that doesn't recycle up to a recycling town," she said. "It's working — people are recycling."

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