Area prepares for area recycling

MOLLY K. DEWITT 2009-09-14 17:13:43

With the deadline approaching quickly that requires North Carolina residents to begin recycling certain types of plastic bottles, there is relief in sight for Onslow County residents.

Beginning Oct. 1, rigid plastic containers — bottles with a neck smaller than the body of the container, such as shampoo and water bottles — will no longer be allowed to be discarded in regular trash bins as the state of North Carolina becomes one of the first in the nation to ban the practice. Consumers can also identify rigid plastic containers because they have either 1 or 2 printed on the bottom of the container.

While many municipalities in Onslow and Carteret Counties provide curbside recycling service to their residents, those who live in the county but cannot receive services from a municipality must visit the various convenience centers to drop off recycling.

In Onslow County, that's about to change.

Maysville resident Kelly Collins, who works for Keep Onslow Beautiful, is starting a curbside recycling business for Onslow County residents and small businesses called Onslow Recycling Services.

Onslow Recycling will offer weekly curbside pickup to county residents and small businesses for items such as broken down cardboard, glass containers, plastic bottles and containers, steel and aluminum cans and all types of paper including magazines, paperback books and mail.

"I'm excited. There's a need and I'm going to fill it," Collins said. "Most of the municipalities have their own recycling service; but those that don't in the area, I'd be more than happy to pick it up."

Onslow Recycling will not provide customers with curbside containers but instead will provide waterproof stickers to put on containers purchased by customers.

"Everybody has different needs as far as recycling. A family of five needs a larger container, one individual might need a small one," Collins said.

Customers will be able to place all recyclables into one container.

Onslow Recycling charges \$7 per month for residential pick up and \$10 a month for office and small business service. Pick up will be Monday through Saturday with the day for each customer determined by location. Pick up will start Oct. 5 and will be no earlier than 8 a.m. and no later than 8 p.m.

"I've just been wanting to do it for about two years and it finally came together," Collins said. "I've been on both sides. Living in Onslow County in the county and not having it and then living in Maysville and having it."

Collins said she is starting out small with two employees and one pickup type truck but has several vehicles and personnel on standby if the demand for Onslow Recycling services picks up dramatically.

"I at least want to go a few months and assess what's going on then and make another decision if we need to upgrade our trucks or add more people," she said.

The truck will also be able to serve customers who have white goods that need to be removed and recycled, Collins said.

All materials collected by Onslow Recycling will be taken to the Materials Recovery Facility in Jacksonville operated by Coastal Enterprises. Once the material is received by Coastal Enterprises it is sorted and shipped to be recycled into new products.

"When you recycle items it goes to help our economy, it goes to give people jobs and it lets you use materials that have already been used as opposed to using virgin materials so it's a good situation all around," Collins said.

For more information or to register for curbside recycling pick up with Onslow Recycling Services call 910-358-4511 or visit www.onslowrecycling.com.

A-1 Marine Sanitation, a solid waste collection service serving Onslow County residents, said there continues to be a possibility that the company will provide recycling services to its customers.

"Right now it's still in the works," said Office Manager Irene James. "They are looking into doing a little bit more."

None of the other private trash haulers that serve Onslow County residents contacted by The Daily News have plans to institute a curbside recycling program for their customers.

Bill Zaist, Carteret County engineer, said the county has no plans to institute curbside recycling for residents not served by a municipality.

"In order to do curbside collection and make it cost effective you would have to have high density, and we try not to charge the residents more than is necessary to provide adequate service," he said.

Carteret County has 12 solid waste convenience sites located throughout the county, 11 of which accept recycling.

Richards Sanitation, a solid waste collection service serving Carteret County residents, has considered instituting a recycling program but has yet to do so.

"We've been looking at it but we're not definite yet," Office Manager Doris Richards said.

In addition to rigid plastic containers, motor oil filters and wooden pallets will also be banned from landfills in North Carolina beginning Oct. 1.

However, the Onslow County landfill will accept motor oil, motor oil filters and wooden

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