



## Plastic Bottle Recycling Case Study: Capital Area Soccer League & WRAL Soccer Complex, Raleigh

**Recycling since:** June 2008

**Type of Facility:** Soccer complex featuring a 3,200 seat, lighted soccer-specific stadium as well as 25 pitches/fields

**Recycles:** Primarily water bottles and beverage containers

**Average Cost of Service:** \$370 per month plus a 13-20 percent fuel surcharge

**Interviewed:**

Ben Woltz, WRAL Soccer Complex Facilities Manager

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**Location:** 770 Perry Creek Rd., Raleigh N.C.

**Description:**

The Capital Area Soccer League, with the financial support of the Wake County Solid Waste Reduction Grant Committee, successfully began a recycling program at the WRAL Soccer Complex in Raleigh, N.C. The complex is home to over 800 teams, including 20,000 individual users.



**Implementation:**

In accordance with the grant, CASL purchased 125 Clear Stream™ containers (with bags) and ground anchors at a total cost of \$7,300. For the most part, there is a container for every trash can and the grounds staff empties the containers when full. The bags have recycle arrows indicating their purpose and have “cans and bottles here” printed on them. The containers have held up well since their purchase, with wind being the only deterrent since the bags are thin and the container itself is light.

CASL selected a waste-removal service based on the ability to commingle plastic with other materials and whether or not additional fees would be charged. Four days prior to the start of a regional tournament held at the complex (that included 184 youth soccer teams from 11 states), two eight-cubic yard dumpsters were delivered. The monthly recycling cost for the two dumpsters is \$370 a month (plus a fuel surcharge).

During the tournament, both recycling dumpsters had to be emptied twice in a span of less than a week. Conversely, the normal waste dumpsters, which ordinarily would need to be emptied at least once during the week, did not need to be emptied throughout the entire tournament.

**Results:**

The majority of recyclables generated at the complex are plastic water bottles and aluminum cans. CASL found that the accessibility of the recycling containers meant that the amount of trash left on the fields was reduced considerably. CASL estimates that the recycling program will



reduce the volume of normal trash collected by a minimum of 50percent and more likely by 70-80 percent. CASL also hopes its recycling program will encourage its members to become more conscious of every individual's responsibility to be a good steward of the environment.