Whether you are a long-term Mecklenburg County resident, or new to the area, it’s important to know exactly how your local solid waste program operates.

What You See at the Curb...

Typically, your curbside collection is managed and funded by your local municipality through local tax dollars or solid waste fees. If you live in a single-family household, your municipality supplies you with carts for garbage and recycling and likely offers additional services for other types of waste removal and recycling.

Multi-family housing is addressed on page 19. Unincorporated areas are addressed on page 11.

A detailed list of the services offered by each municipality can be found starting on page 11.

What Happens Beyond the Curb...

Mecklenburg County does not collect your waste or recycling, however we do operate four Full-Service Drop-off Centers and five self-service “recycling only” centers (map on page 8.)

In addition, Mecklenburg County Solid Waste:

- Owns and oversees the Metrolina Recycling Facility, where the vast majority of the recyclables collected within the county are processed, sorted, and prepared for market.
- Owns and operates the Foxhole Landfill, a facility focused on the disposal of construction and demolition materials.
- Owns and operates Compost Central, a mulch and composting facility where the vast majority of Mecklenburg County’s yard waste is stored, processed, and offered for sale.
- Produces county-wide solid waste educational efforts and marketing.
- Coordinates programs that promote and establish recycling and waste reduction programs in local businesses, schools, colleges and universities, faith-based organizations, and county facilities.

Mecklenburg County, in contrast with the municipal programs, operates as an “enterprise fund”. This means that tax dollars are not used for programs or operations. All of MCSW’s funding comes from direct disposal fees and revenue from the sale of recyclable and reusable materials.

The Entry Sticker System

All residential and non-residential vehicles that utilize Mecklenburg County’s Full-Service Drop-off Centers must display a sticker that will determine the payment level for services such as the disposal of bulky items, tires, yard waste, construction and demolition materials, and certain bagged trash.

Stickers are available at the cashier’s booth at each Full-Service Drop-off Center.

Stickers are free for Mecklenburg County residents and business/commercial vehicles. A sticker fee is required for non-Mecklenburg County residents.