WipeOutWaste.com

WIPE OUT WASTE GUIDE

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Who Do I Call?

Visit Mecklenburg County's Web site at www.wipeoutwaste.com, or call one of these numbers for assistance:

General Inquiries (24-hour, automated line)	311 or 980.314.3867 (DUMP)

Recycling and Garbage Collection Numbers

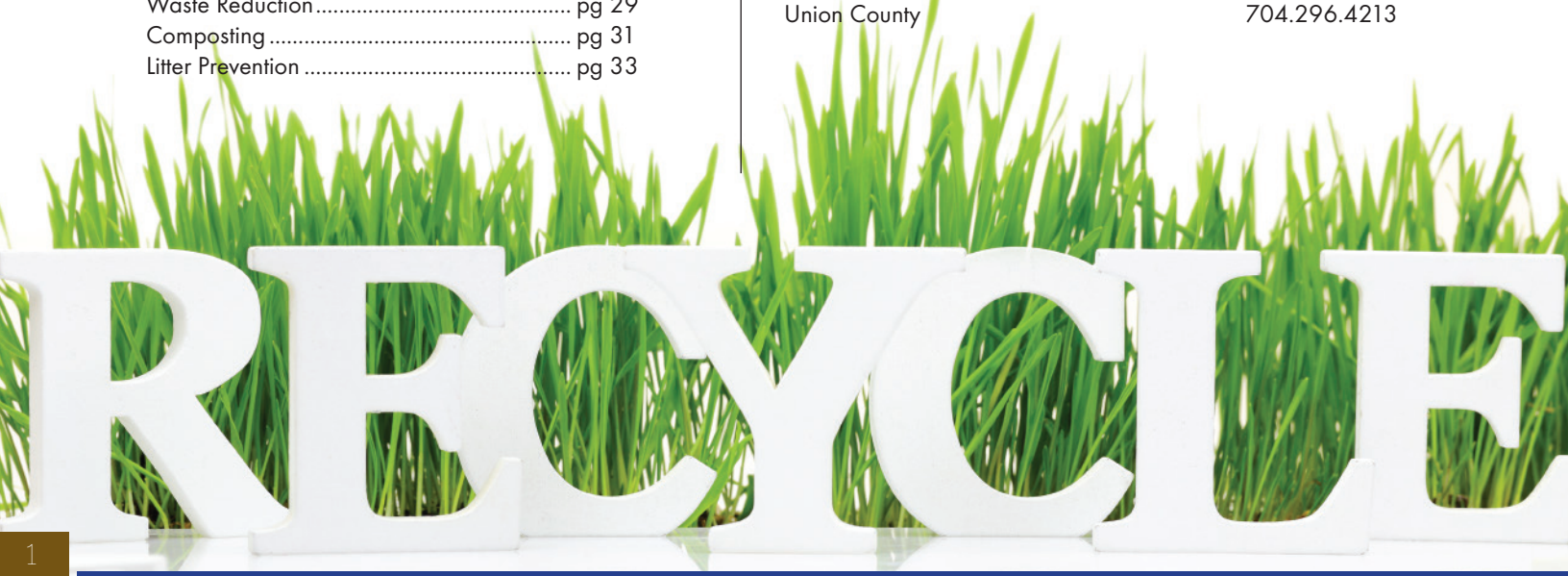
City of Charlotte	311 or 704.336.7600
Town of Cornelius	704.892.6031
Town of Davidson	704.393.6900
Town of Matthews	704.393.6900
Town of Mint Hill	704.545.9726
Town of Huntersville	704.875.6541
Town of Pineville	704.714.9400

Mecklenburg County Program Information

Business Recycling	980.314.3872
Compost & Mulch Sales	980.314.3880
Construction/Demolition	980.314.3868
Event Recycling	980.314.3862
Faith-Based Recycling	980.314.3865
Litter Prevention	980.314.3872
Multi-Family Recycling	980.314.3865
Recycling Center/Yard Waste	311 or 980.314.3867
School Recycling	980.314.3865

Surrounding Counties:

Cabarrus County	704.920.3278
Catawba County	704.462.1348
Gaston County	704.922.7729
Iredell County	704.878.5430
Lincoln County	704.732.9030
Rowan County	704.216.8589
Stanley County	704.986.3698
Union County	704.296.4213



About Us

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.

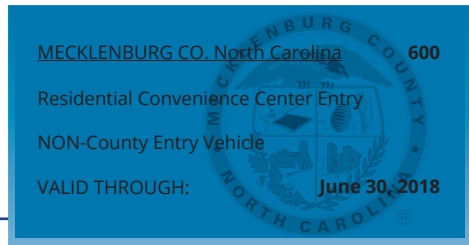
What Happens Beyond the Curb...

To supplement the curbside collection programs and offer waste and recycling options for residents in unincorporated areas, Mecklenburg County operates 4 full-service recycling centers and 7 self-service 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 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 Convenience 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 Recycling Center.

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

How Can I "Recycle Right"?

Know What Can & Can Not Be Recycled in Mecklenburg County

What Can I Recycle?

Mecklenburg County has a robust recycling program that ranks in the top 10 out of 100 Counties in N.C. for the successful recovery of recyclable materials per person. To keep our program a success, the City of Charlotte, and the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville encourage you to follow the disposal guidelines below.

What Can Go In My Curbside Recycling Container?

- Aerosol Cans (empty)
- Aluminum Cans
- Cardboard (flattened)
- Cereal & Food Boxes
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Magazines & Phone Books
- Metal Cans
- Milk & Juice Cartons
- Paper, Junk Mail & Newspaper
- Paperback Books
- Pizza Boxes
- Plastic Bottles & Jugs (Leave the caps on)
- Spiral Paper Cans
- Wide-Mouth Plastic Containers

These items can also be taken to any County Recycling Center, as listed on page 8.

Send to the Landfill

- Shredded Paper
- Paper Plates & Napkins
- Plastic Food Trays & Cups
- Takeout Food Containers
- Styrofoam
- Other Non-Recyclable Household Garbage

Take Back to Retailers or Donate

Auto Parts
Cell Phones
Clothing
Plastic Shopping Bags/Film Plastic
Pots & Pans
Wire Hangers
Ceramics
Shredded Paper

Important Reminder!

Never put electronics or batteries in your curbside recycling containers. They can cause fires. Please dispose of these materials at one of our full-service recycling drop-off facilities.

What Can Be Recycled at Full-Service Recycling Centers?

Anything you can recycle in your curbside container PLUS...

Appliances
Batteries
Computer Equipment
Electronics
Household Hazardous Waste
Light Bulbs (Flourescent)
Automobile Tires
Used Motor & Cooking Oils
Yard Trimmings
Bicycle Tires
Rigid Plastics
(Hickory Grove Recycling Center ONLY)

Locations of Full-Service Recycling Centers listed on page 8.

Household **Hazardous Waste Disposal**

Protect Your Home

Many of the products found in the kitchen, bath, utility and garage shelves contain hazardous or toxic chemicals. The misuse or improper disposal of these products can pose a threat to your health. Long-term or cumulative problems, such as contamination of drain fields, septic systems, and surface and groundwater can also occur. Products containing hazardous substances must include a warning and description of the hazard. **The County only collects HHW from residential customers. No business waste is allowed due to EPA regulations.**

Bathroom:

- Aerosols
- Asbestos Floor Tiles
- Disinfectant
- Drain Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Hair Color
- Hair Permanent
- Hair Spray
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Mildew Remover
- Nail Polish
- Nail Polish Remover
- Pharmaceuticals
- Scouring Powder
- Toilet Cleaner
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Bedroom:

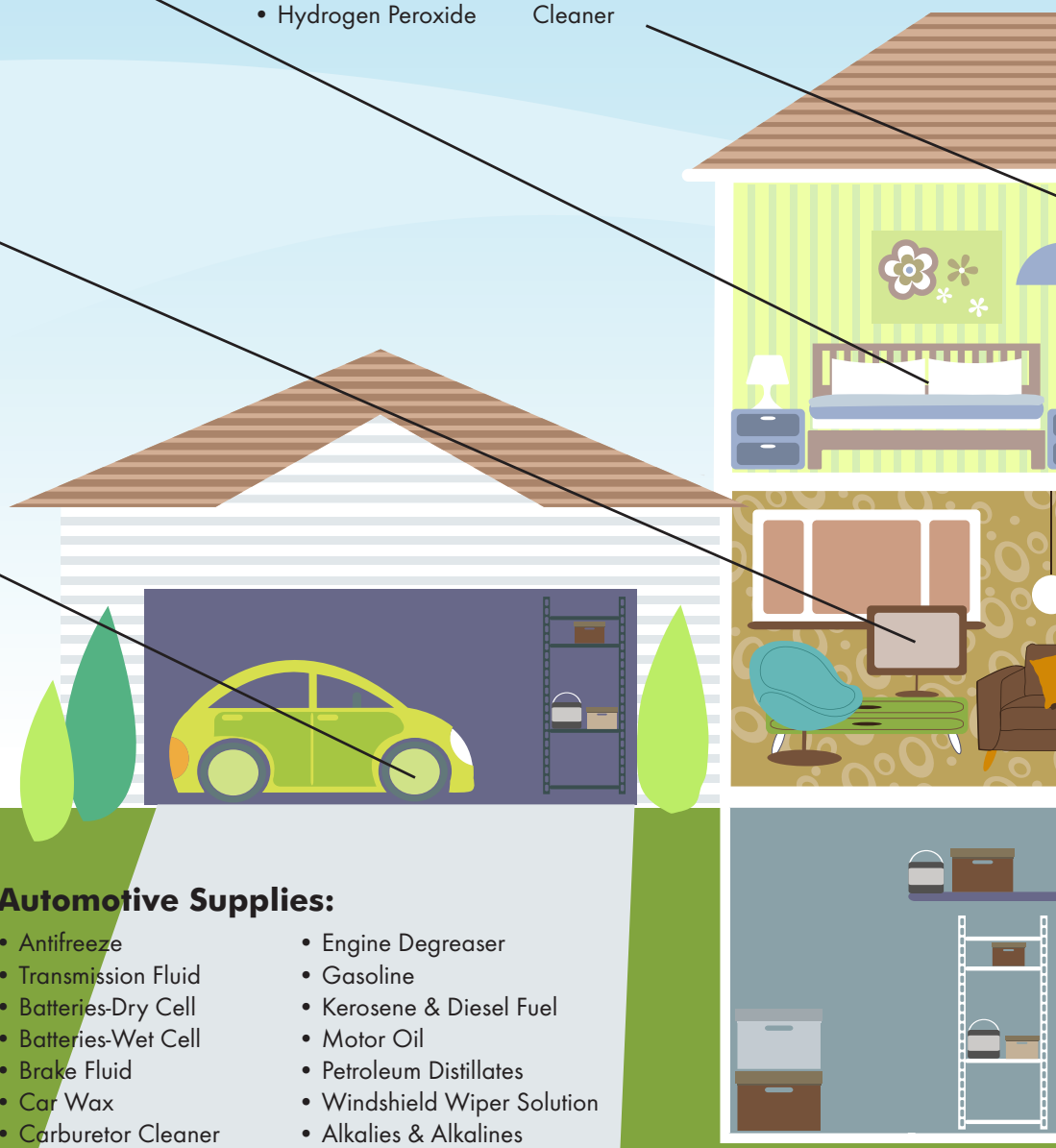
- Carpet Cleaner
- Dry Cleaning
- Furniture Cleaner
- Furniture Polish
- Mothballs
- Shoe Polish
- Smoke Detector
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Living Room:

- Carpet Cleaner
- Fireplace Cleaner
- Furniture Cleaner
- Furniture Polish
- Smoke Detector
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Garage:

- Aerosols
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Aluminum Cleaner
- Ammunition
- Asbestos
- Asphalt/Roofing Tar
- Exhaust Fumes (Carbon Monoxide)
- Glues & Adhesives
- Paint
- Paint Thinner
- Paint & Varnish Remover
- Photography Chemicals
- Plastics
- Pool Chemicals
- Septic Tank Cleaner
- Smoke Detector
- Solvent
- Sulfuric Acid
- Window Cleaner
- Wood Preservatives



Automotive Supplies:

- Antifreeze
- Transmission Fluid
- Batteries-Dry Cell
- Batteries-Wet Cell
- Brake Fluid
- Car Wax
- Carburetor Cleaner
- Engine Degreaser
- Gasoline
- Kerosene & Diesel Fuel
- Motor Oil
- Petroleum Distillates
- Windshield Wiper Solution
- Alkalies & Alkalines

Common Household Hazardous Materials

Even though it's tempting, don't pour grease down the drain of your kitchen sink. It can get in the water system, as well as clog up your drain. Instead, pour grease into a container or coffee can or blot up with absorbent materials like kitty litter or paper towels and place into regular trash.

What is hazardous?

It's not always easy to tell whether or not a material is hazardous. Potentially hazardous materials are commonly stored in almost every room of the house.

Attic:

- Ammunition
- Arts & Crafts
- Asbestos
- Glues & Adhesives
- Mothballs
- Paint
- Paint Thinner
- Paint & Varnish Remover
- Plastics
- Rodent Killer
- Smoke Detector

Closet & General Supplies:

- Aerosols
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Aluminum Cleaner
- Air Freshener
- Batteries - Dry Cell
- Carpet Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Furniture Cleaner
- Furniture Polish
- Insect Repellent
- Shoe Polish
- Pet Supplies
- Window/Glass Cleaner

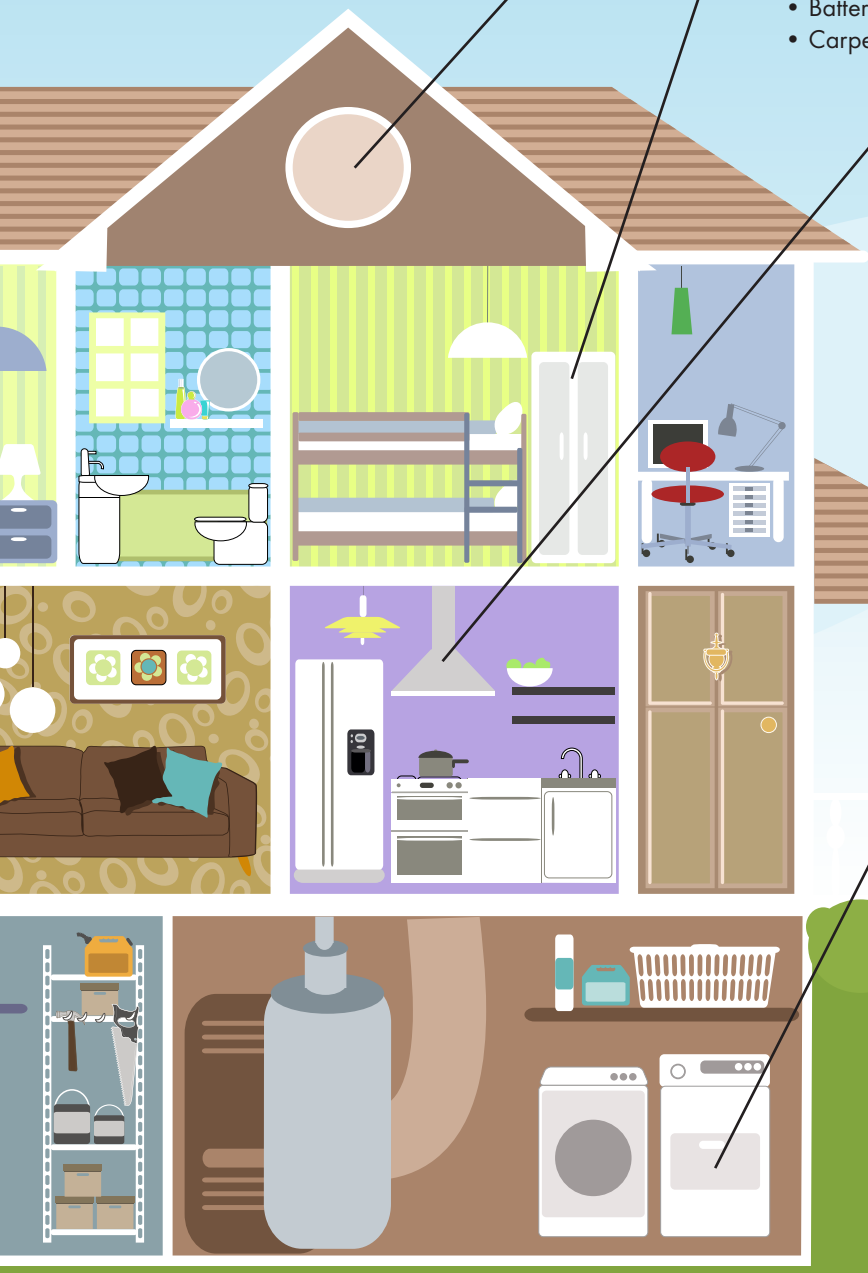
Kitchen:

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Aluminum Cleaners
- Asbestos Floor Tile
- Bleach
- Gas Stove
- Detergent
- Disinfectant
- Drain Cleaner
- Floor Cleaner
- Plastics
- Oven Cleaners
- Roach Killer
- Rodent Killer
- Scouring Powder
- Smoke Detector
- Window/Glass Cleaner

Kitchen grease can be recycled at Full-service Recycling Centers listed on page 8.

Laundry Room / Basement:

- All Purpose Cleaners
- Bleach
- Carpet Cleaner
- Detergent
- Drain Cleaner
- Dry Cleaning
- Dyes
- Floor Cleaner
- Radon
- Shoe Polish
- Smoke Detector
- Spot Remover
- Window/Glass Cleaner



Garden Supplies:

- Arsenic
- Herbicides
- Fertilizer
- Insecticides
- Insect Repellent
- Rodent Killer

Paint Use/Reduction Tips

Buy just what you need. Save money and reduce waste by knowing how much paint you really need before going to the paint store. Painting projects require about one gallon of paint to cover 400 square feet of smooth surface. Choose the correct color before buying a quart of paint. Buying quart after quart of paint in order to find the perfect shade of color wastes paint and money.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Many excess or expired household hazardous waste (HHW) materials can be taken to the Full-service Recycling Centers where it's collected by a licensed, HHW transfer, storage and disposal facility.

A substance is considered hazardous if it is:

Toxic: The product can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed, or inhaled. Examples are: rat poison; weed killers; antifreeze; mercury; and, insect killers.

Explosive: The product is capable of violently bursting when exposed to pressure, heat or other substances. Examples are: pool chlorine; cyanides; and, strong fertilizers.

Flammable: The product can be ignited by a flame, spark, ignition source or hot surface under almost all temperature conditions. Examples are: lighter fluids; turpentine; paint; paint thinner; kerosene; propane and gas cylinders; adhesives, old gasoline, etc.

Corrosive: The product is a chemical or releases vapors that can burn or destroy living tissues at the site of contact and deteriorate or wear away the surface of the material. Examples are: bleach; pool chemicals; strong chemicals; acids; and caustics.

Be Aware!

Read Labels: Consumer products containing hazardous substances must be labeled with a warning and description of the hazards. Make sure you know which products are toxic, how to use them properly, and how to dispose of them responsibly.

Use Alternatives: There are a number of non-toxic product alternatives available for sale, or you can make your own recipes.

Share: Avoid purchasing more product than you can use within a reasonable period of time, but if you do have leftover product, check with friends, neighbors, and community groups to see if they have a need for excess items such as paint, yard products, or solvents.

Recycling **Locations**

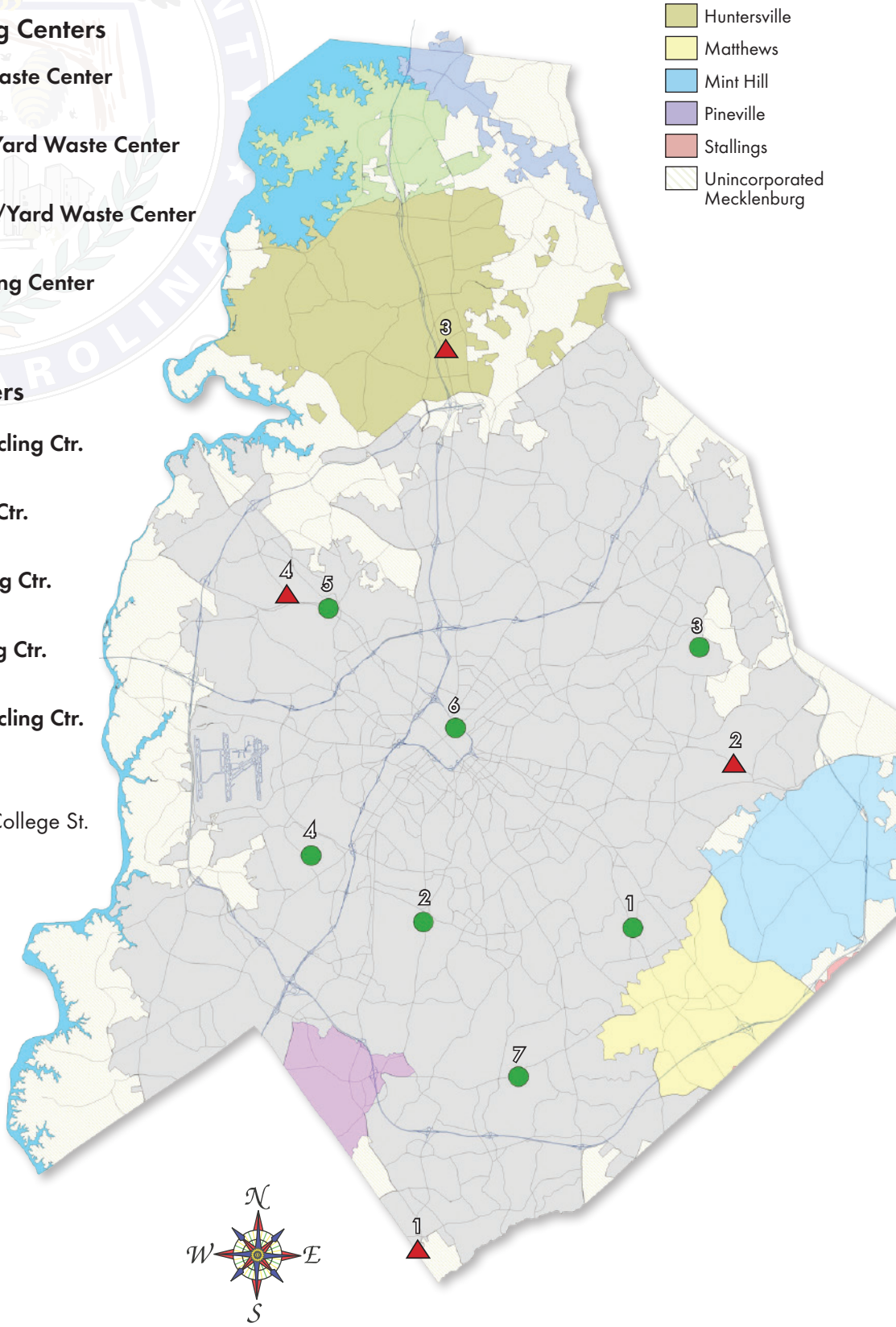
Curbside recycling service is available to all single-family residences in Mecklenburg County. See page three for a list of items accepted curbside. In addition, the County operates other types of Recycling Centers that are conveniently located throughout Mecklenburg County. The list of accepted recyclables, and whether the location is open to residents and/or businesses varies by location. Please call 311 for details.

Staffed, Full-service Recycling Centers

1. **Foxhole Recycling/Yard Waste Center**
   17131 Lancaster Highway
2. **Hickory Grove Recycling/Yard Waste Center**
   8007 Pence Road
3. **N. Mecklenburg Recycling/Yard Waste Center**
   12300 N. Statesville Rd
4. **Compost Central & Recycling Center**
   140 Valleydale Road

Unstaffed, Self-Service Centers

1. **McAlpine Creek Park Recycling Ctr.**
   8711 Monroe Rd.
2. **Park Road Park Recycling Ctr.**
   5300 Closeburn Rd.
3. **Reedy Creek Park Recycling Ctr.**
   2900 Rocky River Rd.
4. **Renaissance Park Recycling Ctr.**
   1536 Tyvola Road
5. **Rozzelles Ferry Road Recycling Ctr.**
   5800 Rozzelles Ferry Road
6. **Uptown Recycling Ctr.**
   11th St. Between Tryon and College St.
7. **William R. Davie Park**
   4635 Pineville Matthews Rd



www.WipeOutWaste.com

Construction & Demolition Recycling

Are you remodeling a home? Do you have a business that's involved in construction, demolition or remodeling? If the answer is yes, you should be aware that many construction and/or demolition waste materials can be recycled.

Here is a list of construction materials that can be recycled locally:

Asphalt Paving Materials

Asphalt Shingles

Carpet and Carpet Pad

Ceiling Tiles

Concrete, Brick, Block and Stone

Corrugated Cardboard

Gypsum "Drywall" (unpainted)

Land Clearing Debris

Metals (steel beams, aluminum gutters, ductwork, copper piping)

Wood Waste (untreated, unpainted)

Asphalt paving material and roofing shingles, concrete, brick and masonry block are processed and used in road construction. Clean wood can be ground and used for mulch or as fuel. The calcium and sulfur in drywall are desirable soil amendments in agriculture. Carpet pad is readily recyclable and some carpet fibers such as nylon and polypropylene can also be recycled.

Recycling at construction/demolition job sites may save you and your contractor money in addition to being good for our environment. Excess materials from construction projects may be used in future projects and many materials can be recovered pre-demolition from existing sites. For example, windows, doors, faucets, cabinets and sinks can be salvaged and re-used. The local Habitat for Humanity accepts donations of new and gently used furniture, home accessories, building materials and appliances and will even pick-up your donation at no cost. Many metals can be sold to local recycling/salvage companies. Even brick and stone can be carefully removed and reused on other projects. If material can't be reused or donated, Mecklenburg County residents can bring their construction and demolition wastes for disposal to any Full-service Recycling Center (see page 8). For information on disposal fees or assistance in reducing or recycling construction/demolition waste, please call **980.314.3868**, or visit **www.WipeOutWaste.com**.

Secure Your Load!

Roughly half of roadside litter is "blown not thrown" from passing vehicles because covers are not used to contain the material. Roadside litter is unsightly and expensive to remove. Other cars on the roadways are at risk when material is blown onto windshields or falls onto the roadways without warning. By requiring that all loads going in and out of your construction site be properly covered, secured and contained to prevent spillage and blowout–whether they are on pickup trucks, dump trucks or material delivery trucks–you'll be doing your part to reduce litter and potential risk to other motorists.

Disposing of Medicines

The following sites within Mecklenburg County are equipped with drop-off boxes for unused medication:

- **Matthews Police Department** 1201 Crews Rd., Matthews.
- **Mint Hill Police Department** 7151 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd., Mint Hill.
- **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Offic**e Jail North location, 5235 Spector Dr., Charlotte.
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department** Main Office, 601 E. Trade St., Charlotte.

Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless the information on the container specifically instructs you to do so.

If you are unable to drop off your excess medication at the aforementioned sites, you should follow the specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information that accompanies the medication. You can also contact local pharmacies to inquire about pharmaceutical take-back programs. Visit **disposemymeds.org** to find a pharmacy near you.

Bottles can now be recycled with caps & labels ON!

Leave caps & labels ON bottles!

WRAP RECYCLING W.R.A.P. plasticfilmrecycling.org ACTION PROGRAM

YOU CAN TAKE IT BACK!

CLEAN & DRY PLASTIC FILM PACKAGING, BAGS & WRAPS

Many local grocery stores and large retailers accept these items in storefront recycling bins.

NO Candy bar wrappers, chip bags, six-pack rings or degradable bags **RecycleTheWrap.com**

How Does My Recycling, Yardwaste & Garbage Program Work?

Home Owners & Renters
If you are a home owner or renter in Mecklenburg County, please check the information for your municipality.

Multi-Family Community (Apartments, Townhomes, Condominiums)
If you reside in a multi-family community that doesn't offer curbside collection, please check our Multi-Family Household Recycling Information on page 19.

Unincorporated Areas of Mecklenburg County
If you live in an unincorporated area of Mecklenburg County, you can take your garbage and recyclables to one of the Full-service Recycling Centers (see map on page 8) or you can contract with a private garbage/recycling hauler. A list of haulers can be found at **www.WipeOutWaste.com**.

Quick Find! Your Municipality

City of Charlotte ..... **page 12**
Town of Cornelius ..... **page 13**
Town of Davidson ..... **page 14**
Town of Huntersville ..... **page 15**
Town of Matthews ..... **page 16**
Town of Mint Hill ..... **page 17**
Town of Pineville ..... **page 18**

Put Only These Items in your Roll-out Bin!

Aerosol Cans (empty)

Aluminum Cans

Cardboard (flattened)

Cereal & Food Boxes

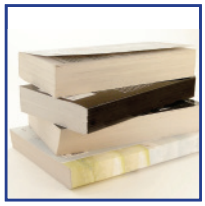
Glass Bottles & Jars

Magazines & Phone Books

Metal Cans

Milk & Juice Cartons

Paper, Junk Mail & Newspaper


Paperback Books

Pizza Boxes

Plastic Bottles & Jugs (Leave the caps on!)

Spiral Paper Cans

Wide-Mouth Plastic Containers

CHARLOTTE
SOLID WASTE SERVICES

City of Charlotte—Curb-It!

Garbage and yard waste collection services are provided weekly. Recycling collection is provided every other week but on the same day as garbage and yard waste collection. Bulky waste collection is provided on the same as other collection services but must be scheduled for collection (see "Schedule it!" below).
To ensure collection, all items must be placed curbside by **6:30 am** on your collection day. **Please do not block the sidewalk**. Garbage and recycling carts must be removed from the curb by midnight on your collection day. For additional information on Curb it! visit **curbit.charlottenc.gov** or call CharMeck **311 (704.336.7600)**.

Need a second garbage or recycling cart? Call CharMeck **311 (704.336.7600)** to order a second cart. The price for the additional cart is $40 each. The second recycling cart will have a different color lid which will easily identify it as a second cart. Collection service for two recycling carts will only be provided to residences with a primary recycling cart and identified second recycling cart.

Recycle it! Recycling Preparation Tips

- Rinse and remove all food/liquid residue from recyclable items.
- Do not bag recyclables.
- Place the recycling cart within six feet of the curb and at least three feet away from other collection items (garbage cart, yard trimmings and bulky waste) and obstacles such as mailboxes, vehicles, telephone poles, etc.

Prep it! Yard Trimmings Preparation Tips

- Trimmings from shrubs and trees must be no longer than five feet in length and no larger than four inches in diameter.
- Cut limbs and logs to four inches in diameter.
- Place leaves and grass clippings in untied plastic bags, untied kraft (brown paper) bags or uncovered trash cans (not City-issued rollout carts). Piles should be separated and sorted by type of yard waste (limbs, loose debris, bagged/container or logs). Separated piles should be no longer than five feet long and three feet high.
- Allow two feet between each pile.
- Place yard waste within six-feet of the curb and at least three feet away from other collection items (rollout carts, bulky waste) and obstacles such as vehicles, mailboxes, telephone poles, etc.

Schedule it! Bulky Waste Preparation Tips

Items such as household furnishings, appliances, mattresses, box springs, lawn equipment and similar items too large to be placed in the garbage rollout cart and not eligible for recycling or yard trimmings collection are considered bulky waste. If the bulky waste is a reusable item, such as furniture or building supplies, consider donating to a non-profit organization. Contact Goodwill Industries, United Way, Habitat for Humanity Restore, the Salvation Army, or Crisis Assistance Ministry for more information.

Bulky waste must be scheduled for collection. Items placed at the curb without scheduling **WILL NOT** be collected. Place bulky waste at the curb no later than 6:30 am on the day you are scheduled for collection. To schedule your bulky waste collection, call CharMeck **311**, visit **curbit.charlottenc.gov** or download the Mobile App from your mobile device app store.

Bag it! Garbage Preparation Tips

- Bag all garbage before placing it in the rollout cart. Garbage only! Recyclables should not be bagged.
- Do not overfill carts.
- Place the garbage cart within six feet of the curb and at least three feet from other collection items (recycling rollout cart, yard waste and bulky waste) and obstacles such as mailboxes, vehicles, telephone poles, etc.

Town of Cornelius

Contact Number
704.892.6031 (Town Hall)

Website
www.Cornelius.org

Service Provided
The Town of Cornelius contracts with Republic Services to provide solid waste collection services to its residents. Currently, over 9,000 households in the Town of Cornelius receive curbside recycling services.

Containers
Republic Services will provide one blue recycling collection cart and one green garbage collection cart per single family household. If residents prefer to have more than this, they must incur the charges themselves and this is the only time they would ever be billed directly.

Collection
Garbage is collected weekly, and recycling is collected bi-weekly on the day of your garbage pick-up. Recycling must be curbside by 6:00 am on collection day. All items must be placed in the collection cart. Recycling week schedule can be found at www.cornelius.org

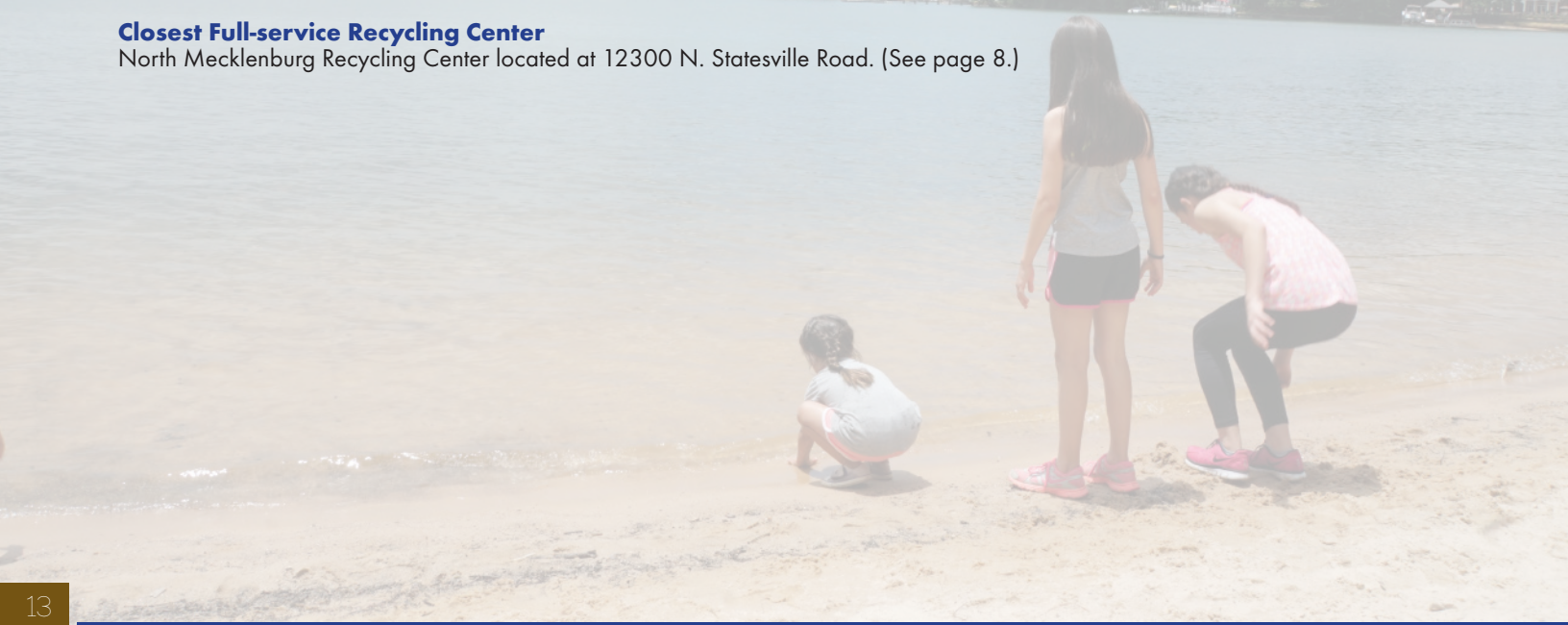
Accepted Recyclables
All recyclables should be placed directly in recycling containers. Please do NOT bag recyclables. See page 2 for acceptable items.

Bulky Waste
Residents can drop off bulky items and recyclables at the North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Road. If you need additional information call 311, or 704.892.6031, or visit www.Cornelius.org.

Residents can also individually contract with a private hauler.

Yard Waste
Cornelius offers weekly service of yard trimmings on the same day as garbage collection. Limbs cannot be any larger than five inches in diameter and no longer than four feet in length. The piles must not be any taller than four feet tall and four feet wide. Bagged leaves are collected year round in either tied transparent bags, or untied opaque bags. Cornelius also offers a leaf vacuuming service for leaves placed at the curb from November 1st until January 15th.

Closest Full-service Recycling Center
North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Road. (See page 8.)



Town of Davidson

Contact Number
704.393.6900 (Republic Services), 704.892.7591 (Town Hall)

Website
www.townofdavidson.org/GarbageSchedule

Service Provided
Recycling is available to all Davidson single and multi-family households through a contract between the town and Republic Waste Services. In addition to recycling, Republic provides garbage, yard trimmings and bulky waste collection.

Containers
Residents are provided 96-gallon collection carts. The red collection cart is for single stream recycling and the black container is for garbage. For collection carts please call Republic Waste Services (704.393.6900).

Collection
The collection schedule varies based on the location in Davidson. Details can be found at www.townofdavidson.org/GarbageSchedule. Garbage is collected Monday through Thursday, and recycling is collected with garbage every other week. To report service problems, call Republic Waste Services (704.393.6900)

Accepted Recyclables
All recyclables should be placed directly in recycling containers. Please do NOT bag recyclables. See page three for acceptable items.

Bulky Waste
Residents may schedule a bulky waste collection of no more than four cubic yards of uncompacted trash by calling Republic Waste Services (704.393.6900).

Items collected, but not limited to, bulky items, boxes, furniture.

Items NOT collected are "white goods" (appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, etc.) These items can be taken to the County's North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Road.

Yard Waste
Bagged leaves will be collected on the same day as garbage collection. All bagged leaves must be free of sticks and other debris. Residents are allowed up to 20 bags per week. Bags cannot be larger than 40 gallons in size and cannot be more than 50 pounds in weight. Limbs cut less than six feet in length and four inches in diameter are also collected. The total amount of yard trimmings cannot exceed four cubic yards.

Closest Full-service Recycling Center
North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Road. (See page 8).

Town of Huntersville

Contact Number
704.596.9428 (Advanced Disposal), 704.875.6541 (Town Hall)

Website
www.huntersville.org

Service Provided
Citizens of the Town of Huntersville who live in a single family house are provided with curbside solid waste services. The Town contracts its garbage collection, yard trimmings and recycling services to a private contractor, Advanced Disposal.

Containers
Residents are given a green cart for yard waste collection, a grey cart for garbage collection and a blue cart for recyclables. Yard trimmings and garbage are collected weekly and recycling is collected bi-weekly. All three containers are provided. Additional carts can be purchased through Advanced Disposal (704.596.9428).

Collection
Since recycling is collected bi-weekly, recyclables are collected on designated pickup days during recycling week one or week two. Recycling week schedule is at www.huntersville.org. Recycling must be curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day. Contact Advanced Disposal to report service issues (704.596.9428). Residents attempting to recycle banned items will be tagged as non-compliant. If brought into compliance, carts will be collected at the next regularly scheduled pick-up date.

Accepted Recyclables
All recyclables should be placed directly in recycling containers. Please do NOT bag recyclables. See page three for acceptable items.

Bulky Waste
Residents must pay a fee and fill out an application for bulky waste removal. Forms, fee schedule, and acceptable items are available at www.huntersville.org. Residents may also haul items to the County's North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Road.

Yard Waste
Residents are provided a yard waste collection cart for weekly collection of small amounts of yard waste. Large amounts of yard waste are collected for fees based on size. Fee schedule and application is available at www.huntersville.org.

Residents may also haul yard waste to the County's North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Road.

Closest Full-service Recycling Center
North Mecklenburg Recycling Center located at 12300 N. Statesville Rd. (See page 8).

Town of Matthews

Contact Number
704.393.6900 (Republic Services)

Contact Email
garbage@matthewsnc.gov

Website
www.matthewsnc.gov

Service Provided
The Town of Matthews encourages all citizens and businesses to recycle. In addition to garbage and yard waste collection, curbside recycling is provided free of charge. The Town has launched a voluntary recycle program for small businesses that are eligible to receive garbage collection in Matthews. It is provided at no cost to participating businesses.

Containers
The Town provides each residence with a 96-gallon green recycling cart, and collects recyclables every other week the same day the blue garbage cart is collected. Additional recycling containers are available for a one time fee, contact the Town of Matthews. One blue 96-gallon can for trash is provided also. Additional trash containers are available for a monthly charge, contact Republic Services at 704.393.6900.

Collection
Garbage and recycling containers must be curbside by 6:30 am on collection day. All carts should be placed three feet away from each other or other obstructions, such as mailboxes. Carts must be placed with the handle facing the residence and the silver bar facing the street. Overflow recyclable items may be placed in a clear plastic bag and placed beside the recycling cart.

Accepted Recyclables
All recyclables should be placed directly in recycling containers. Please do NOT bag recyclables. See page three for acceptable items.

Bulky Waste
Special pick up for white goods and bulky items, such as stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, mattresses, carpet (must be rolled and tied) and furniture can be scheduled by calling 704.393.6900.

Yard Trimmings
Leaves and grass clippings must be bagged in clear bags or other bags left open so the driver can see the contents. Bags must weigh less than 50 pounds each, with a 20 bag limit per week. (Drivers can spend no more than 20 minutes per home collecting yard trimmings). Branches must be cut to no more than 4 feet long and 5 inches in diameter. Stack limbs in small enough piles that an individual is able to handle. Do not block sidewalk or street.

Closest Full-service Recycling Centers
Hickory Grove Recycling Center at 8007 Pence Road
Foxhole Recycling Center at 19131 Lancaster Highway. (See page 8.)

Town of Mint Hill

Contact Number
704.545.9726 (Town Hall), 704.376.9359 (R.C.S. Inc.)

Website
www.minthill.com

Service Provided
Citizens in the Town of Mint Hill receive household solid waste and recycling collection services through a contract between the Town of Mint Hill and R.C.S. Inc., the solid waste service provider.

Containers
Each single family household receives 96-gallon roll-out carts from RCS along with information on provided services. The green cart is for garbage and the blue cart is for recycling.

Collection
Bins should be placed at the curb by 7:00 am on collection day. Holiday schedule is posted at the Town website www.minthill.com

Accepted Recyclables
All recyclables should be placed directly in recycling containers. Please do NOT bag recyclables. See page three for acceptable items.

Bulky Waste
Bulk items and other items not contracted for collection by the Town must be privately hauled to the appropriate facility. "White goods" (Appliances like stoves, refrigerators, wasters & dryers) will be picked up if prearranged by contacting R.C.S. Inc. (704.376.9359)

Yard Waste
Place yard trimmings at the curb by 7:00 am on collection day. Weight should not exceed more than 75 pounds. There is a 10 bag limit on leaves and grass clippings. Limbs and brush must be separated from other waste in one pile; four feet high by four feet wide and five feet in length. Limbs in pile can be no greater than five feet in length and six inches in diameter.

Closest Full-service Recycling Center
Hickory Grove Recycling Center at 8007 Pence Road.
Foxhole Recycling Center at 19131 Lancaster Highway. (See page 8).

Town of Pineville

Contact Number
704.714.9400 (Signature Waste), 704.889.2291 (Town Hall)

Website
www.pinevillenc.gov

Service Provided
Citizens of Pineville receive solid waste and recycling services through a contract between the Town of Pineville and Signature Waste. New residents wishing to establish service, and current residents with service issues should also call Signature Waste directly (704.714.9400).

Containers
Large green rollout containers are used for both regular household trash and recycling. Recycling containers are marked with a sticker of acceptable recyclable materials on the lid.

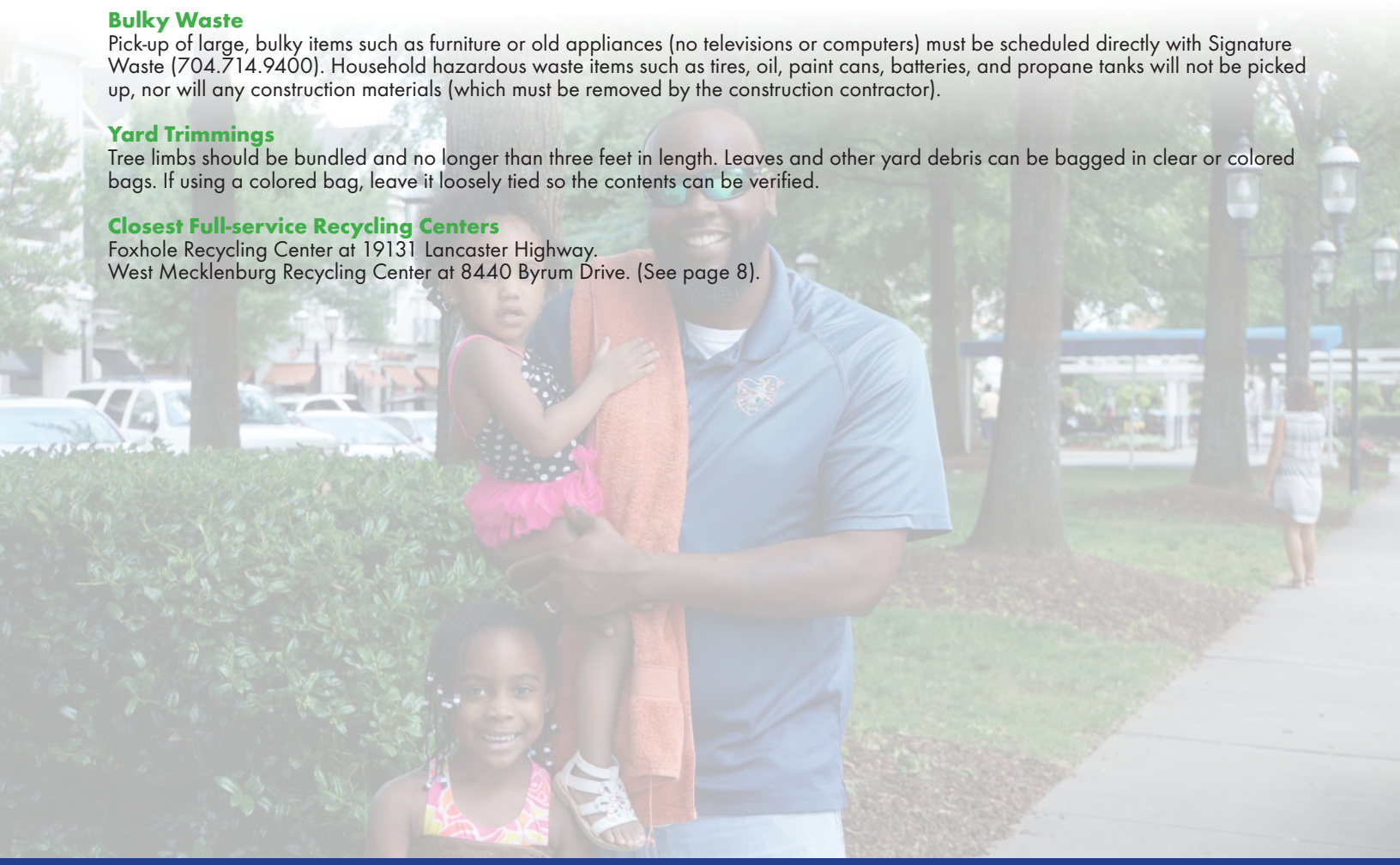
Collection
Recycling is collected every other week on Thursdays, and household garbage along with yard trimmings are collected weekly on Wednesdays. A schedule of holidays and collection news is posted on the Town's website at www.pinevillenc.net. Rollout containers should be placed at the curb no earlier than the night before pickup and removed from the curb by the evening of the pickup.

Accepted Recyclables
All recyclables should be placed directly in recycling containers. Please do NOT bag recyclables. See page three for acceptable items.

Bulky Waste
Pick-up of large, bulky items such as furniture or old appliances (no televisions or computers) must be scheduled directly with Signature Waste (704.714.9400). Household hazardous waste items such as tires, oil, paint cans, batteries, and propane tanks will not be picked up, nor will any construction materials (which must be removed by the construction contractor).

Yard Trimmings
Tree limbs should be bundled and no longer than three feet in length. Leaves and other yard debris can be bagged in clear or colored bags. If using a colored bag, leave it loosely tied so the contents can be verified.

Closest Full-service Recycling Centers
Foxhole Recycling Center at 19131 Lancaster Highway.
West Mecklenburg Recycling Center at 8440 Byrum Drive. (See page 8).



Multi-Family Households

For Residents

Many multi-family communities have privately contracted for recycling services and placed containers on the property for this use. Check with your property management services personnel to understand any requirements on the types of recyclables that are accepted and where the recycling containers are located.

If your complex has not realized the benefit of providing recycling, Mecklenburg County operates four full-service and seven self-service recycling centers for all residents of Mecklenburg County. These centers accept all the recyclables that are collected curbside throughout the County. The full-service recycling centers accept additional materials that cannot be disposed of in regular trash or recycling container. More information is on page 3.

Additional locations for recycling can be found through our Recycling Center Locator on our wipeoutwaste.com website. Please call 311, or your local municipality if you have any additional questions on multi-family recycling.

For Property Managers

Mecklenburg County is committed to supporting multi-family residents and property managers in their recycling programs. Our multi-family "re•learn" campaign is the perfect way to build awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability. The educational pieces encourage residents to make a positive difference in maintaining a sustainable environment by learning the Do's and Don'ts of recycling, and other ways to help ensure sustainability through simple solutions such as, changing their thermostats, water conservation, and much more that benefits the resident, the complex and the greater community!

Mecklenburg County's "re•learn" campaign will provide property managers with educational materials that includes your logo on posters, door hangers, flier, newsletter banners or articles. These materials provide the tools to build awareness and make positive changes in your community.

For more information, contact us at **980.314.3865**.

If your location does not provide recycling service – or if you have recyclable items that are not accepted – you can still participate!

Find your local Recycling Center at WipeOutWaste.com/RecycleCenters

Recycling Centers

Full-Service Recycling Centers

Full-service Recycling Centers accept all items allowed in curbside residential recycling PLUS an extensive list of other items (as listed below), including household hazardous waste. The Centers are funded through the residential solid waste fee, which means County residents are not charged a disposal fee for most items. Full-time staff is available to assist you Monday through Saturday from 7am to 4 pm. Mecklenburg County residents and businesses can bring the following materials to these centers, however, there are limitations as to what businesses are allowed to drop off.

Items Accepted:

- Household garbage
- Appliances
- Tires (Up to 5 accepted at no charge; tires on rims require an additional fee.)
- Scrap aluminum & metal (bed frames, swing sets, metal poles, etc.)
- Foam rubber (carpet padding)
- Electronics (computers and televisions)
- Paper (newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, telephone books, white and colored office paper and flattened cardboard)
- Plastic bottles (those with a number 1-5 or 7 inside the recycling symbol)
- Glass jars and bottles
- Metal cans
- Cooking grease (please place in containers)
- Motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid & oil filters (5-gallon limit)
- Batteries (lead acid car, household, Ni-Cad and rechargeable)
- Paint and oil cans
- Fire extinguishers

OUR CUSTOMERS

Mecklenburg County Recycling Centers receive, on average, 2,000 customers a day.

Yard Trimmings

Yard trimmings are banned from North Carolina landfills so County residents can dispose of yard trimmings through residential curbside collection. Mecklenburg County also accepts yard trimmings at the Compost Central, North Mecklenburg, Hickory Grove or Foxhole Recycling Centers. Businesses can utilize the Centers. A fee is collected for yard trimmings drop-off at the Centers and there are vehicle restrictions; call 311 or visit www.wipeoutwaste.com for details. Yard trimmings consist of unbagged leaves, brush and grass clippings, and limbs less than five feet in length. All collected yard trimmings are processed to produce high quality compost and mulch products that are available for sale at Compost Central.

Self-Service Recycling Centers

Self Service Recycling Centers are not staffed, but offer flexibility as to when you can drop off your recyclable materials. You can drop off all items that are accepted through curbside recycling free of charge (see page 3 for a list of acceptable items).

Construction & Demolition (C&D)

The North Mecklenburg, Hickory Grove, and West Mecklenburg Recycling Centers, as well as the Foxhole Landfill accept C&D waste from household projects. Accepted items include:

- Wood waste (framing timbers, crates, spools, sheathing, treated/lumber/decking)
- Sheetrock
- Plastic pipes, buckets and wrap
- Shingles, fiberglass bath fixtures, tile, ceramic
- Carpet and padding

In addition to the items above, Foxhole accepts for recycling wood waste, unpainted drywall, concrete, brick, asphalt pavement, mortar, rock and gravel. **Visit www.wipeoutwaste.com or call 311 for fees and vehicle restrictions.**

Metrolina Recyling Center

When you put a plastic water bottle, aluminum can, or piece of paper into a recycling container, have you ever thought about where it goes next? Mecklenburg County recyclables are brought to a facility close to downtown Charlotte called The Metrolina Recycling Center. This facility processes the wide range of materials obtained from the single-stream collection in residential, schools and commercial recycling programs in Mecklenburg and neighboring counties.

Recyclables brought to the facility are sorted and prepared for market. After further processing, these recyclables are turned into new products. Although the facility and the processing equipment are owned by the County, the facilities day-to-day operations are managed by ReCommunity; a privately held company with vast experience running Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) such as the Metrolina Recycling Center.

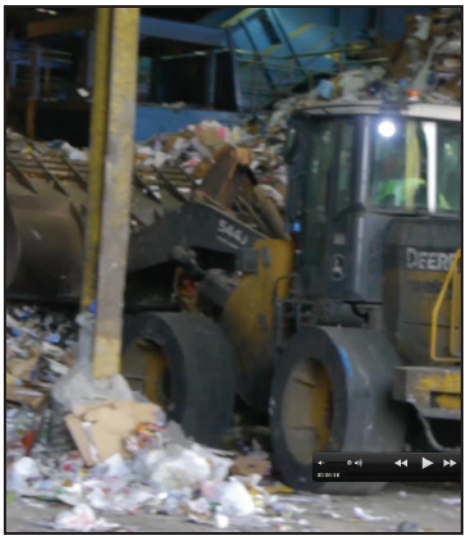
The Metrolina Recycling Center currently processes approximately 280 tons per day, operating five days a week. Of the approximately 80,000 tons of recyclable materials processed annually, 92–93% is able to be recovered at the facility.

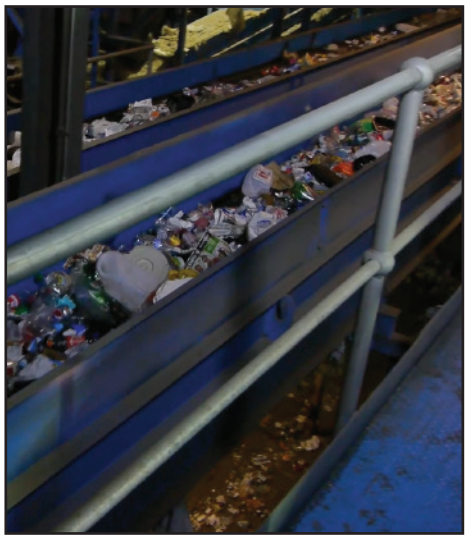
Tours

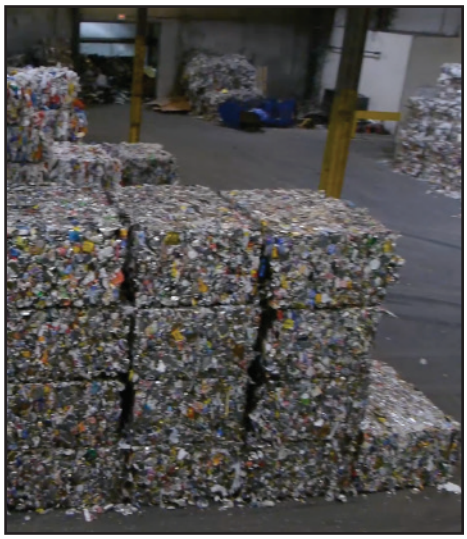
Free tours can be arranged and the content is tailored to fit the age group. Many County schools from elementary to high school levels schedule a yearly visit. The facility has an Environmental Education Center furnished with the latest audio-visual equipment, including a remote control camera that allows visitors a safe and comfortable view of all the operational activities of the facility.

Tours of the facility are available by calling 980.209.8895.

Visit WipeOutWaste.com to see videos of the Metrolina Recycling Facility in action!







Foxhole Landfill

The Foxhole Landfill is located at the border of Mecklenburg County, Union County, and Lancaster County (SC). Presently, the landfill is accepting only construction and demolition waste and houses a full-service, public recycling center. The landfill opened in April of 2000 and receives waste from 150–200 trucks a day.

Location
17131 Lancaster Hwy.
Charlotte, NC

Hours
Monday–Friday, 7am–4pm

Acceptable Materials
- C & D materials
- Untreated* and treated wood
- Shingles
- Sheetrock (gypsum/drywall)*
- Plant-mixed asphalt
- PVC piping
- Plastic buckets (open)
- Brick
- Concrete*

Unacceptable Materials
- Asbestos products
- Metal
- Tires
- Liquids
- Cardboard and paper
- Garbage
- Hazardous Waste
- Appliances
- Household garbage
- Dead animals
- Televisions
- Hazardous Materials

For information about current disposal fees, please call 704.752.5827
For information about Landfill Operations, visit WipeOutWaste.com

Important Reminder!

Your curbside garbage is sent to a local municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill. These are landfills that can accept normal household waste. MSW landfills are built to comply with state and federal regulations, providing protection for ground water, air quality and adjacent properties. As such, there are a number of things that are banned from MSW landfills. These items should never be placed in your curbside garbage container. The banned items and proper disposal methods are listed below:

Items Banned From Disposal in NC Landfills

Put in your curbside recycling container
- **Plastic bottles** that have necks smaller than the body of the container and that accept a screw top, snap cap or other closure, such as water and juice, and laundry detergent bottles
- **Aluminum cans**

Put in brown kraft or untied plastic garbage bags at curbside on collection day
- **Yard trimmings**

Bring to a Full-Service Recycling Center for disposal as Household Hazardous Waste
- Used cooking oil
- White goods such as kitchen appliances
- Electronics including computers and televisions
- Antifreeze
- Whole scrap tires
- Lead acid batteries
- Used motor vehicle oil and oil filters

Compost Central

Yard trimmings that are gathered through residential curbside collection or brought directly to Compost Central or the North Mecklenburg, Hickory Grove, or Foxhole Full-service Recycling Centers, are recycled to produce high quality compost and mulch products that are available for sale at Compost Central to business, commercial and residential customers.

Compost is used in a variety of ways...as a general soil amendment, for erosion control, planting mixes, backfill mixes, lawn/turf top dressing, land reclamation, mulching and in **manufacturing topsoil**.

All compost produced at Compost Central meets the US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program requirements. The STA Seal means that all compost is tested to assure consistency in quality. It can be used in your gardens and on your lawns, increasing the moisture-holding capacity and adding essential organic matter to soils providing beneficial microorganisms to your soil. Compost also contains levels of the most essential plant nutrients so you can reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers.

Compost Central is open Monday through Saturday from 7am to 4pm. Products include screened and aged compost and mulches. Customers can pick-up materials using their own vehicles, or arrange for delivery for a fee.

For deliveries and current pricing information, call 980.314.3880.

Compost Central Has Moved!

The new location for Compost Central and West Mecklenburg Recycling Center operations is a property located at 140 Valleydale Rd. The 50-acre parcel is bounded by Rozzelles Ferry Road, Valleydale Road and Fred Alexander Boulevard. **NOW OPEN!**

How Can I Recycle Away From Home?

School Recycling

Mecklenburg County's Wipe Out Waste in Education Program was established to assist our community's public and private schools, and colleges and universities with implementing a successful recycling program. School recycling programs have changed significantly in the last few years, morphing from accepting only paper and cardboard into a robust and diverse system that accepts a full range of recyclable material.

- All forms of paper and newspaper are being collected in classrooms.
- Backroom kitchen operations are diverting metal cans and cardboard from the landfill.
- Many high school athletic fields have bins to accept plastic bottles and cans.
- Cafeterias feature recycling programs that accept empty milk cartons, juice cartons, water bottles, paperboard, and recyclable 1–5 and 7 plastics.
- Yard trimmings and food waste are being composted and used on-site to enrich school gardens.

The County's "Be Cool! Recycle in School!" program continues to be promoted in our schools and at special events to keep recycling in the minds of educators and students. County staff helps environmental clubs with lesson plans, field trips, presentations, school gardens, composting efforts and obtaining speakers. We also hold informational workshops for school personnel to keep them updated on the latest in recyclable materials, and on programs designed to encourage and reward those schools that excel in their recycling efforts.

For Teachers, Staff & Administration
Please contact our school recycling specialist at 980.314.3865 for assistance with setting up or revitalizing a program at your school.

For Parents
Here's how you can help:
- Pack lunches and snacks in reusable containers and thermoses to reduce the overall amount of trash
- Send cloth napkins instead of disposable ones
- Learn the full list of recyclable materials and place these materials in appropriate recycling containers
- Get involved with your school's recycling efforts and support their programs to "Be Cool! Recycle in School!"

CAFETERIA FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

20 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools are currently collecting food scraps in their cafeterias. In 2015–16, participating CMS schools diverted 111 tons of food waste from the landfill.

CAUSE (Colleges and Universities for a Sustainable Environment)

Most area colleges and universities operate their own recycling and waste reduction programs. For information about those programs, please contact the relevant facility.

CAUSE is our local college sustainability networking group. The group meets at sites around the region and focuses on networking and sharing relevant information between college and university facilities.

Participating members include: UNC-Charlotte, Davidson College, Queens University, Central Piedmont Community College, & Winthrop University.

For more information, please call 980.314.3865.

Faith-Based Recycling

Mecklenburg County is committed to providing faith-based organizations with an opportunity to Wipe Out Waste in and around your facilities. Our faith-based campaigns are the perfect way to build awareness about the importance of recycling. The educational materials encourage members of your organization to make a positive difference in maintaining a sustainable environment with positive messaging and learning the Do's and Don'ts of recycling.

There are two campaigns to choose from, "Recycling Is Heavenly" or "Heaven Holds A Special Place For Those Who Recycle." All campaign material can be customized with your logo to meet the specific needs of your organization. We can also provide you with interior cardboard containers to use for recycling.

For more information, please contact us at 980.314.3865 or at solidwaste@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

- **12 x 18, or 18 x 24 Poster**
- **8.5 x 11 Flier** prints front & back with recycling Do's and Don'ts on the back.
- **3 x 7 Program Insert** prints front & back with Full-service Recycling Centers on the back.

All materials print with your logo

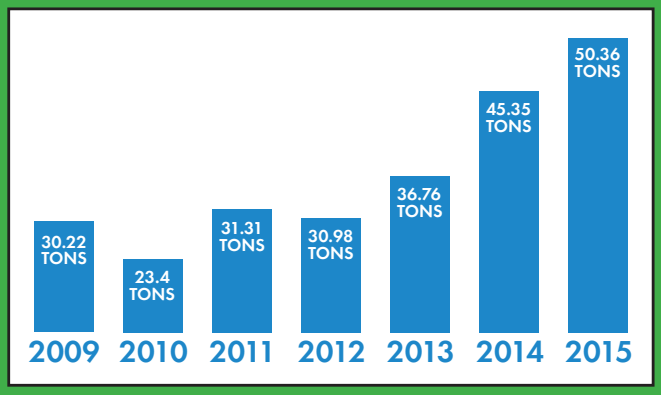
Event Recycling

Mecklenburg County's event recycling program enables event organizers to collect and recycle cardboard, plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminum cans from street fairs, concerts, sporting events, and other community events. The event can be large or small, in your neighborhood or in the greater community.

The Event Recycling Program provides website information, educational materials, presentations, and hands-on training, as well as an Event Recycling Toolkit. A refundable deposit is required for the use of a pre-determined number of Clear Stream upright recycling containers and collections bags.

For more information and to reserve an Event Recycling Toolkit, call 980.314.3862 or visit www.wipeoutwaste.com

PANTHER TAILGATE RECYCLING PROGRAM



The Panther Tailgate Recycling program promotes recycling by giving tailgaters a recycling bag as they enter their chosen parking lot. As fans enjoy their pre-game tailgate parties, they are asked to recycle clean cardboard, bottles and cans. Before heading into the stadium, tailgaters are instructed to leave the recycling bags (and collapsed cardboard if not in the bag) at the curb to be picked up by the City of Charlotte's Solid Waste teams. Overall, according to Charlotte's Solid Waste Services Department, tailgating generates close to 10 tons of waste on most game days. We have recycled a total of nearly 250 tons—That's more than enough to fill Bank of America Stadium!

the RECYCLER

The Recycler

The Recycler is Mecklenburg County's quarterly Solid Waste, Recycling, and Waste Reduction newsletter. It is distributed to over 20,000 individuals, businesses, and community organizations throughout Mecklenburg County.

Please email solidwaste@mecklenburgcountync.gov if you would like to join the mailing list and stay up to date on local recycling news and waste reduction tips.

Business/Commercial Recycling

Businesses in Mecklenburg County are committed to reducing, reusing & recycling

Business Recycling & Source Separation Ordinance

Since 2002, any business that contracts for 16 cubic yards per week or greater must recycle their office paper and cardboard. (A typical commercial garbage bin or "dumpster" has a capacity of eight cubic yards, so the ordinance would most likely affect a business if it has a standard dumpster that's emptied twice a week.)

If an eligible business doesn't participate as required, it will receive a notice of violation. The notice will be accompanied by an offer of technical assistance. A civil penalty will be assessed if a business fails to comply with the Ordinance within 30 days of receiving a third notice of violation.

Commercial Recycling Centers

Located throughout the County, these Centers accept the same list of items as the residential recycling program (see page three for a list of acceptable items). To locate the closest center to you, call 311 or visit www.wipeoutwaste.com. (Look in the upper left hand corner on the website and click on Recycling Centers. Then at the top of that page, click on "Locate a Recycling Center in Your Area".)

If you're interested in hosting a Commercial Recycling Center at your location, please call 980.314.3872. You can also visit WipeOutWaste.com for application information.

reTire

Mecklenburg County Bicycle
Inner-tube & Tire Recycling Pilot Program

RETIRE PROGRAM

Mecklenburg County's Bicycle Tire and Inner-Tube Recycling Pilot Program is designed to divert bicycle tires and bicycle inner-tubes from the landfill. People are encouraged to deposit used bicycle tires and inner-tubes into collection containers furnished by Waste Management at participating locations. **For more information, please call 980.314.3872.**

ABC Recycling (Alcoholic Beverage Containers)

The State of North Carolina requires holders of on-premises malt beverage permits, on-premises unfortified wine permits, on-premises fortified wine permits, and mixed beverages permits to separate, store, and provide for the collection for recycling of all recyclable beverage containers sold at retail on the premises. Violation of this statute could result in fines or possible suspension of a business's ABC Permit.

For more information on compliance and educational assistance, please call 980.314.3872.

KNOW where it goes

WIPE OUT WASTE AMBASSADOR

WIPE OUT WASTE ADVOCATE

WIPE OUT WASTE ASSOCIATE

Mecklenburg County Wipe Out Waste Ambassador Program

The Mecklenburg County Wipe Out Waste Ambassador Business Recognition Program publicly recognizes those businesses that make concerted efforts to reduce their waste.

This program has several goals:

- Build Mecklenburg County businesses' commitment to waste reduction, recycling, stewardship and sustainability
- Foster an environment that provides Mecklenburg County businesses ongoing mentoring, education and networking opportunities
- Drive business community loyalty, promote and reward excellence for recycling and sustainability initiatives
- Develop Measurement Tools to track and ensure efficacy
- Recognize and reward Mecklenburg County businesses that reduce, reuse and recycle workplace waste and purchase recycled products as standard business practice.

Studies show that consumers like to patronize businesses that recycle or offer recycled products. The County has established an online, searchable directory that highlights the waste reduction accomplishments of Ambassador Program members. To view this directly, or for additional information on the program, visit **wowbiz.charmeck.org or call 980.314.3872**.

WOW AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Since its revitalization in 2011, Membership for the Wipe Out Waste Ambassador Program has grown by an average of over 200% per year; Increasing from 23 member businesses in 2011 to 140 member businesses in 2013. A driving factor for the program's success is the unique composition of its members, which range from small "mom and pop" stores to multinational corporations. This diversity, combined with the programs emphasis on environmental stewardship, allows WOW Ambassador Members to learn and network with like-minded businesses while helping to build a stronger community.

Recent Membership Growth

2015	219
2014	177
2013	140
2012	63
2011	23

Need more recycling options? ASK!

Recycling availability is becoming much more common, showing up at local retailers, malls, gas stations, parks, and special events. If you notice a place that produces a lot of waste but offers no discernable waste reduction program, ask them to provide recycling options. That simple request can create a lot of opportunities to eliminate waste and create a safer, more sustainable business environment.

Waste Reduction Programs and Tips

Enviro Shopping

Shop with the environment in mind and chose products that make the best use of energy resources, don't pollute air or water, are reusable or recyclable, are made from recycled material, and use a minimum of materials in design and packaging.

Practice the Five 'Rs' in Selecting Packaging

More than 30% of household waste is packaging. Almost everything we buy has been wrapped in a package – or several layers of packaging – at some point on its way from producer to consumer. While packaging provides many essential functions, it can be excessive. When you're an 'enviroshopper,' you choose products in packages that have the least amount of negative environmental impact.

Reduce the amount of packaging you buy and throw away.

Reuse packaging.

Recycle packaging whenever possible.

Reject packaging that's unsatisfactory.

Respond to producers and retailers to let them know their packaging is unsatisfactory.

Reduce Packaging

- Don't accept a plastic shopping bag when only buying a few items
- Reuse plastic grocery bags for other purposes in your home, or when shopping again
- Take your own cloth shopping bags
- Choose packaging that uses the least amount of material
- Buy products in the largest quantity possible in one package, or buy refills and add liquid

Buy Recycled

"Buying recycled" means purchasing products that contain recycled content materials. More products than ever before are being made from recycled materials. Buying recycled helps to close the recycling loop by putting recycled materials to good use as new products in the marketplace. When we buy recycled products, we communicate our desire to play an active role in the preservation of our environment.

America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day is the 15th of November. Each year, Mecklenburg County celebrates this day by hosting and participating in a number of recycling events. Past events have included secure paper shredding, the collection of electronics and batteries, and working with partners to accept gently-used clothing and household items. America Recycles Day is the one day of the year dedicated to reminding us of the Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! way of life. You can learn how to participate at **www.americarecyclesday.org**.

Wrap Up Your Holidays With Recycling

The holidays offer many opportunities for recycling! Recycle your holiday gift wrap, cards, gift boxes, tissue paper, cardboard and #1-5 and 7 plastic containers either curbside or at a Full-service or Self Service Recycling Center.

Your live Christmas tree and holiday wreaths (with all ornaments, bows and ribbon removed) are also recyclable through composting at our County-owned composting facilities. Simply place these items curbside on your regularly scheduled trash pickup day, or bring them to a Full-service Recycling Drop-Off Facility.

Holiday Waste Reduction Tips

Here are a few tips to help make your holidays a little more "green":

- Have children make their own wrapping paper by designing and coloring paper grocery bags
- Decorate your home and tree with holly, cedar, berries, fruits, and nuts and compost these items after the holidays are over.
- Decorate your table by making a centerpiece of colorful fruits, vegetables, and nuts and compost these items after the holidays are over.
- Ask your guests to bring their own reusable containers to take home holiday meal leftovers.
- Unwrap presents carefully and save gift boxes, bags, bows, and ribbon to use next year.
- Give gifts in reusable gift bags, metal containers, or baskets, or use colorful material, bandanas, or old clothes for wrapping.
- Keep the fronts of old Christmas cards to use as nametags, bookmarks, or postcards or donate them to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

When you go shopping, bring your own reusable bags.

Make "do-it-yourself" decorations out of natural materials.

Avoid using disposable plates, utensils & napkins.

Waste Fact

During the holiday season, there's typically a 25% increase in garbage.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Mecklenburg County Solid Waste participated in over 30 Earth Day events in 2016. If you would like us to distribute waste reduction information at your event, please call 980.314.3865.

Composting

Home Composting

Did you know that it's illegal in North Carolina to dispose of yard trimmings in our landfills?

As a result, Mecklenburg County helps its residents properly dispose of their yard trimmings by collecting them through curbside pickup and at our Full-service Recycling Centers. We also teach residents and businesses how to turn their yard trimmings into a nutrient-rich soil amendment through composting.

Composting gives you a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling material similar to the top layer of soil in a forest. It is an excellent soil additive that helps transform heavy red clay into rich, fertile soil. Plants grown in compost-enriched soil are healthier and more vigorous. In addition, compost helps you use water and fertilizer more efficiently, saving money while helping the environment.

There are many methods of composting so you can experiment to choose the method that works best for you. The County offers several two-hour workshops each spring and fall on backyard composting, vermicomposting, and Bokashi—along with other methods—that will help you learn how to successfully compost. Classes are held primarily on weekends, are open to anyone 14 and over, and are restricted to 20 participants per class. Many of our workshops are held either completely or partially outdoors. To register, visit www.wipeoutwaste.com.

How to Build a Basic Compost Pile:

Step 1: Place **2 parts moist green** material and **1 part dry brown** material in your compost pile or container. Dry leaves are typically the best "brown" material (rich in Carbon), and food scraps and grass clippings are useful as "green" material (rich in Nitrogen.)

2 PARTS MOIST "GREEN" MATERIAL

+

1 PART MOIST "BROWN" MATERIAL

Step 2: Maintain the moisture of a damp sponge and aerate the pile by turning the material.
Step 3: Continue to add materials to the bin in the same ratios, maintain moisture levels, and continue turning.
Step 4: Soon, you will be able to enjoy your finished compost. A compost pile is finished when it has decomposed to the point that it's around ½ of its original size. To use the compost, mix it in with your current soil at approximately a 50/50 ratio.

Food Waste Reduction

On September 16, 2015, the USDA and EPA announced the United States' first-ever national food waste reduction goal, calling for a 50-percent reduction by 2030. As part of the effort, the federal government will lead a new partnership with charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, local, state and tribal governments to reduce food loss and waste in order to improve overall food security and conserve our nation's natural resources.

Food loss and waste in the United States accounts for approximately 31 percent—or 133 billion pounds—of the overall food supply available to retailers and consumers and has far-reaching impacts on food security, resource conservation and climate change. Food loss and waste is the single largest component of disposed U.S. municipal solid waste, and accounts for a significant portion of U.S. methane emissions. Landfills are the third largest source of methane in the United States. Furthermore, experts have projected that reducing food losses by just 15 percent would provide enough food for more than 25 million Americans every year, helping to sharply reduce incidences of food insecurity for millions.

Grasscycling

North Carolina has banned yard trimmings from landfill disposal since the 1990's. Residents are required to bag grass clippings and either leave them at curbside for pickup, or bring them to a Mecklenburg County Full-service Recycling Center.

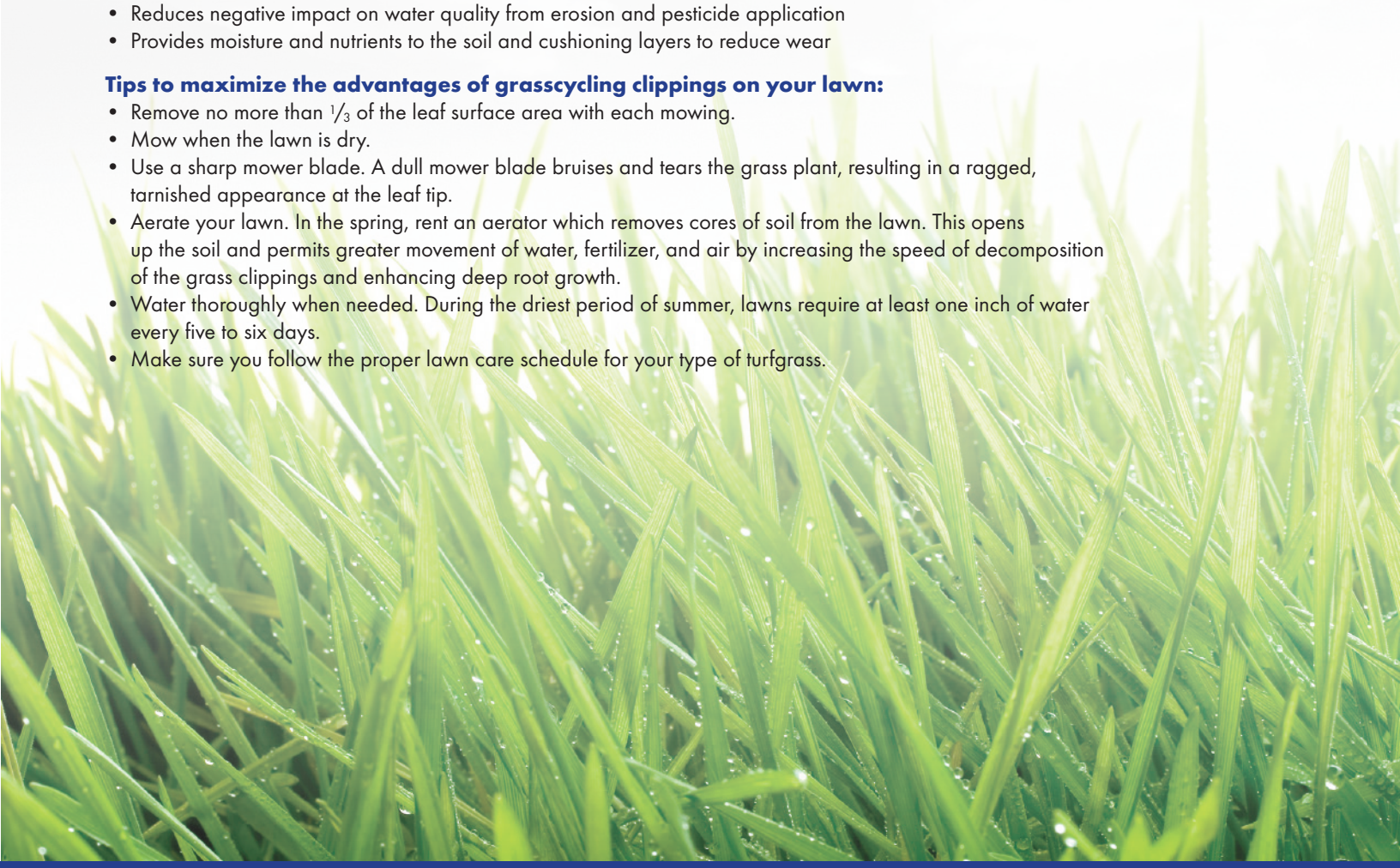
An alternative to bagging grass clippings is to grasscycle. With grasscycling, mown grass is left on the lawn to decompose. Grass clippings are 75%–85% water, and when mown frequently, your lawn's clippings quickly decompose and release nutrients to help fertilize new growth.

There are many financial and ecological benefits:

- Reduces yard trimmings by 20%–40% or more
- Saves time, trouble and expense of bagging or putting yard trimmings in cans
- Saves gas and energy required to transport and process grass clippings
- Reduces the need for fertilizer by one-third
- Reduces the demand for water
- Reduces negative impact on water quality from erosion and pesticide application
- Provides moisture and nutrients to the soil and cushioning layers to reduce wear

Tips to maximize the advantages of grasscycling clippings on your lawn:

- Remove no more than $1/3$ of the leaf surface area with each mowing.
- Mow when the lawn is dry.
- Use a sharp mower blade. A dull mower blade bruises and tears the grass plant, resulting in a ragged, tarnished appearance at the leaf tip.
- Aerate your lawn. In the spring, rent an aerator which removes cores of soil from the lawn. This opens up the soil and permits greater movement of water, fertilizer, and air by increasing the speed of decomposition of the grass clippings and enhancing deep root growth.
- Water thoroughly when needed. During the driest period of summer, lawns require at least one inch of water every five to six days.
- Make sure you follow the proper lawn care schedule for your type of turfgrass.



Noticed an illegal dump or a highly-littered area? Report it at 980.314.3872

Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful (KMB)

As an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful is a nonprofit volunteer-based entity operated under the guidance of a 20-member board of directors representing all sectors of the community. Its charter is to address litter prevention, beautification and community improvement as well as recycling and waste reduction throughout the County.

KMB concentrates its energies on programs and projects throughout Mecklenburg County, such as the annual Great American Cleanup (March 1st through May 31st)—the largest community cleanup event in the U.S.

If you'd like to conduct your own clean-up project, KMB will be happy to provide the tools—from bags, gloves, vests and litter sticks to educational material. To request this support, or for more information on KMB, **please call 980.314.3872 or visit www.wipeoutwaste.com.**

Litter Prevention

Mecklenburg County strives to create a cleaner, safer environment for our community by focusing on litter cleanup, prevention, promotion and awareness, enforcement, and legislation efforts. A great contributor to the successes achieved so far is the partnerships developed between government agencies and the public/private sectors of our community, but in truth, each of us is individually empowered to make a difference.

Reporting Litter / Illegal Dumping

Reporting a litterbug is easy. Just dial 311 or report online through www.SwatALitterbug.com.

If the litter is thrown from a car, please make note of the vehicle's tag number, along with the date, time, location and brief description of the type of littering (cigarette butts, fast food wrappers, construction material, etc.). The owner of the vehicle will be sent a letter from the State of North Carolina Department of Transportation explaining that littering is illegal, a litterbag for the vehicle, and educational material on the harm caused by littering.

If you want to report excessive littering or an illegal dump site, you can call 311 or use the online reporting form.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful (KCB)

The 20 members of KCB are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Board's mission is to encourage Charlotteans to take greater responsibility for improving our community's environment. KCB has three focus areas: Beautification and Greening; Waste Reduction and Recycling; and Litter Prevention.

Visit kcb.charlottenc.gov for more information.

Adopt-A-Highway

Administered by the NCDOT Office of Beautification, this volunteer-based program results in a significant litter removal cost savings benefit for North Carolina taxpayers. In 2012, that savings was valued at $5.3 million. All 100 counties have a local Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator that facilitates the adoption of two-mile sections of highway. The NCDOT county maintenance office provides trash bags, safety vests and gloves. In addition, an Adopt-a-Highway sign is placed at the two- mile section recognizing the volunteer(s) taking responsibility for litter removal on a quarterly basis.

Call 1.800.331.5864 or visit www.ncdot.gov/~beautification for more information.

Adopt-A-City Street

Adopt-A-City Street is administered by Keep Charlotte Beautiful. It allows businesses, individuals and organizations to make a significant impact on the cleanliness of Charlotte's streets by adopting a city roadside area and committing to cleaning it at least four times a year.

To sign up for this program, visit **kcb@charmeck.org**. Once accepted, two signs with your selected name will be installed on the city roadside that you have selected.

The Big Spring Clean (formerly Big Sweep)

Each year, over 500 volunteers remove an average of 10 tons of trash from our local waterways! Volunteers have fun, make a big difference, and learn the importance of taking care of our community resources.

For more information, please visit stormwater.charmeck.org.

North Carolina Spring and Fall Litter Sweep

Litter Sweep is a statewide roadside litter cleanup campaign sponsored by the NC DOT. The campaign is a result of a proclamation from the Governor encouraging citizens, businesses, local governments, civic groups and Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) volunteers to participate in making our state clean, green and beautiful. The events are generally scheduled for the last two weeks of April and September.

To volunteer, call **1.800.331.5864 or visit www.ncdot.gov/~beautification** for information.

RECYCLE RIGHT

PUT ONLY THESE ITEMS IN YOUR ROLL-OUT BIN:

Aerosol Cans (empty)

Aluminum Cans

Cardboard (flattened)

Cereal & Food Boxes

Glass Bottles & Jars

Magazines & Phone Books

Metal Cans

Milk & Juice Cartons

Paper, Junk Mail & Newspaper

Paperback Books

Pizza Boxes

Plastic Bottles & Jugs (Leave the caps on!)

Spiral Paper Cans

Wide-Mouth Plastic Containers

At Home, Don't Just

RECYCLE

Recycle Right!