mecklenburg county
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
fiscal year 2014
The (Triple) Bottom Line: Major Operational Improvements, but Stalled Employee Engagement

In Fiscal Year 2014, Mecklenburg County successfully reduced both electrical and fuel use, began resetting the recycling baseline based on a new internal waste reduction & recycling policy, and continued to follow environmentally preferable purchasing habits. The County did stall on employee engagement with fewer mass transit riders, environmental volunteering, and environmental education participation. Reflecting this result, only 24% of County Departments achieved a “Green Light” (which signals that they hit 85% or more of their departmental goals) on their Environmental Action Plans.

Overall, these results are reflected in Mecklenburg County’s Environmental Leadership Index score of 73%. The goal each year is to have 85% of its operations performed in a manner that conserves and protects the County’s air, water and land resources.
ENHANCED LEADERSHIP INDEX SCORE 73% WHICH REFLECTS

AERIAL EMISSION REDUCTION

ENERGY REDUCTION

**2.1%**

from 2012 baseline

NOx EMISSIONS FROM FLEET REDUCED 44%

from 2009 baseline

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

RESET RECYCLING BASELINE BASED ON A NEW COMPREHENSIVE INTERNAL RECYCLING POLICY

53% OF OFFICE SUPPLY PURCHASES MET SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS set in the County’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide

UNMET GOAL:

Acquire 460 acres for parks, nature preserves, greenways, and watershed protection (ACTUAL: 321 ACRES)
ENIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP INDEX SCORE 73%

Which reflects:

COMMITMENT

UNMET GOALS:
2,800 HOURS of employee participation in mass-transit, carpooling, telecommuting, and environmental volunteering & education (ACTUAL: 1,372 HOURS)

85% of County Departments reaching a “Green Light” on their departmental action plans (ACTUAL: 24% OF DEPARTMENTS)

STEWARDSHIP ENHANCEMENT

INVESTIGATION OF 3 NEW INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

SMART IRRIGATION IN 11 PARKS

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION AT HAL MARSHALL

BATTERY-POWERED LANDSCAPE EQUIPMENT

UNMET GOAL:
Complete 1 continuous improvement project (ACTUAL: 0 PROJECTS)