

Recycling Dream Comes True for Solid Waste Staff

A dream for many years of the Solid Waste Management team and the Keep Bladen Beautiful Board was to see a full recycling program come to fruition.

We are finally seeing that dream come true. We are truly “going green”! The plan has come along much better than was originally anticipated from the start. We have gone from the many unsightly, unmanned, green box collection system to 17 fully functional, manned, recycling/convenient centers.

On October 1st, in addition to the current recycling of vehicle batteries, used motor oil, oil filters, oyster shells, computers, scrap metals and aluminum cans, our 17 centers will now be accepting a plethora of new materials. These will include glass bottles and jars, most plastics, steel and tin cans, corrugated cardboard, paperboard such as cereal and cake mix boxes, newspapers, magazines, junk mail and mixed paper.

Effective October 1, the state is mandating counties to provide plastic bottle recycling to citizens. The great thing about our program is that we will be accepting all plastics, not just bottles with necks as most programs. Any plastic that has a triangular recycling symbol on the bottom with the numbers 1 – 7 can be included in the recycling collection.

One of the largest complaints about recycling is the fact that each individual item had to go into its own container. However, with our new system, this will not be the case! You will keep your recycled items separate from your household garbage. Carry your recycled materials commingled (mixed together) to your nearest collection center and pour them into the recycling trailer. Plastic trash bags will not be accepted. The trash bags will be thrown in with regular household garbage. This system is called single stream recycling.

Detailed recycling brochures with complete instructions are available at the solid waste office and at any recycling/convenient center.

The completion of our extensive recycling program will save valuable landfill space, natural resources and energy. Come on, Bladen County resident, let's set an example and RECYCLE!

Gloria D. Allen, Recycling Coordinator