
UNIVERSITY WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

Document Info

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Category: Guidance

Purpose: This document describes the University's waste reduction commitment

Waste Reduction Commitment

The University is fully committed to waste reduction and recycling as a means of environmental sustainability, resource conservation, and adherence to local and state rules and guidance. Our commitment to waste reduction echoes the waste management hierarchy supported by state and federal mandates. For a list of required recyclables for UNC Chapel Hill and the specific supporting directives go to: <http://owrr.facilities.unc.edu/WhyRecycle/RequiredPrograms.aspx>

This document highlights the responsibilities of employees and departments with respect to the reduction of waste and the utilization of recycling services. These actions are in support of directives from:

- The State of North Carolina Solid Waste Management Act:
http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByArticle/Chapter_130A/Article_9.html

Excerpts from **§ 130A-309.14. Duties of State Agencies.**

- **Provision of recycling for all state employees:** State agency, including the General Assembly, the General Court of Justice, and The University of North Carolina shall establish a program...for the collection of all recyclable materials generated in State offices throughout the State. The program shall provide that recycling containers are readily accessible **on each floor where State employees are located in a building occupied by a State agency**... The program shall be designed and implemented to achieve maximum feasible reduction of solid waste generated as a result of agency operations.
- **Purchasing requirements:** "It is the purpose of this Part [§ 130A-309.06] to...give the State a leadership role in recycling efforts by granting a preference in State purchasing to products with recycled content."

- Any State agency... that is using State funds, or any person contracting with any agency with respect to work performed under contract, shall procure products of **recycled steel** if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (1) The product must be acquired competitively within a reasonable time frame.
 - (2) The product must meet appropriate performance standards.
 - (3) The product must be acquired at a reasonable price.

- All State agencies...are required to **procure compost products** when they can be substituted for, and cost no more than, regular soil amendment products, provided the compost products meet all applicable engineering and environmental quality standards, specifications, and rules.
 - **Report printing:** The Department of Administration shall develop a model report for reports published by any State agency, the General Assembly,... or The University of North Carolina. This model report shall satisfy the following:
 - (1) made from recycled paper and materials
 - (2) be recyclable
 - (3) printed on both sides of the paper
 - (4) State publications that are of historical and enduring value and importance to the citizens of North Carolina shall be printed on alkaline (acid-free) paper according to G.S. 125-11.13.

- Governor Hunt’s Executive Order #156: “Each member of the campus community must assume his or her responsibility to recycle all possible wastes.” Dated July 20, 1999
<http://www.p2pays.org/ref%5C03/02221.pdf>

- UNC Board of Governors: "UNC should assume a leadership role in addressing the state’s energy and environmental challenges."- UNC Tomorrow Commission Final Report and Recommendations, Sec. 4.6
 - Sustainability policy adopted October 9, 2009:
<http://www.northcarolina.edu/policy/index.php?pg=vs&id=5606>
 - Recycling guidelines adopted 4/13/92 and amended October 9, 2009:
<http://www.northcarolina.edu/policy/index.php?pg=vs&id=5447>

- UNC Chapel Hill Sustainability Policy: “In order to support the University community in addressing this challenge, the University is committed to fostering and demonstrating approaches to sustainability.” Effective December 2005
<http://www.unc.edu/campus/policies/UNC%20Sustainability%20Policy.pdf>

Campus Community

The campus community, consisting of students, employees and visitors, is expected to fully participate in campus recycling efforts. Opportunities for recycling are available in all campus buildings, at each residence hall, along pedestrian corridors, and campus events. Recycling is part of every employee’s job whether one is a chef, faculty member, grad student, grounds worker, maintenance employee, office worker, or public safety officer. The materials collected may be different based on the job performed, but the responsibility is the same.

Recycling Facilitators

Deans, Directors, and Department Heads are expected to appoint a Recycling Facilitator within each work unit to serve as a liaison to the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling (OWRR) in matters of education, logistics and participation.

Recycling Services

The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling (OWRR) is responsible for establishing comprehensive solid waste management programs for the University. Recycling programs exist for a range of common materials, such as office paper, newspapers and magazines, non-corrugated cardboard, bottle-shaped plastics, aluminum and steel cans, and glass bottles and jars. Specialized programs exist for materials such yard waste, which is processed by the Grounds Department; batteries, which are collected by Environment Health and Safety; and construction and demolition debris, which is regulated by Orange County.

Recycling Education and Information

While OWRR does not directly manage all programs on campus, it does serve as a centralized information center for all campus waste activities. And since successful recycling requires informed participation, questions about campus recycling may be directed to your department's Recycling Facilitator or by calling OWRR. For a list of materials that are recyclable on campus, please refer to the OWRR website here:

<http://owrr.facilities.unc.edu/CampusRecycling/WhatcanIrecycle.aspx>

Waste Management Reporting

OWRR is charged with the responsibility of maintaining records about all waste reduction and recycling activities on campus. Any department that is reducing waste, recycling, composting or diverting materials from the landfill other than through existing OWRR services should contact OWRR so that those efforts can be included in the campus totals. For current information on UNC's recycling rate, types and amounts of materials collected, and historical waste generation information, visit: <http://owrr.facilities.unc.edu/CampusRecycling/ProgramResults.aspx>

Accessing Services

All recycling services have guidelines for access and use associated with them. Requests, inquiries, complaints, and suggestions concerning recycling services may be directed to the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling at 962-1442. You may also request services via the web here: <http://owrr.facilities.unc.edu/ServiceRequests.aspx>