

## City of Raeford Plans New Recycling Program

This is the first in a series of articles about recycling programs in the Sandhills and Middle Cape Fear region.

The City of Raeford recently announced that a **new residential, commingled curbside recycling program** will begin on January 10, 2010! That is big news in a region not known for recycling innovation. And this new program is starting during a period when many local governments are struggling to simply maintain existing services, let alone expand services. How can Raeford afford to do it? Read on for the surprising (but typical) details that these **Waste Reduction Leaders** are using to their advantage!



The key fact is that Raeford spends \$50.75 for every ton of solid waste buried in a landfill – while there is no charge to recycle. You can do the math!

### Current Trash and Recycling Program Details

Raeford's Public Works Department staff currently picks up household trash from every City household **twice weekly** and drops the waste at the Hoke County Transfer Station. Each load is weighed and the costs are billed back to the City at the rate of \$50.75/ton. Included in that fee are the hauling and disposal costs of Hoke County's contractor, which transports the waste from the County transfer station to the Waste Industries landfill in Sampson County. The City maintains three newspaper recycling containers and more than 30 cardboard recycling containers, located at businesses in the City but available for use by the public.

### New Program Details

This fall, each of Raeford's 2,000 households will receive a blue-topped 90 gallon roll cart for commingled materials. Instead of two trash days each week, City workers will pick up trash once and recycling once weekly. The commingled materials will be hauled directly to Paper Stock Dealers (PSD) in Wagram, 10 miles one way from Raeford. Those materials will be sorted at the plant in Wagram. There is **NO CHARGE** to the City to drop



commingled materials at PSD in Wagram, which means that Raeford will be saving approximately \$50/ton on every ton of recycling! Cost savings in the first year could total as much as \$15,000 – based on an estimate of 300 tons of recycling in the first year of the program.

**Here is the list of materials that will be accepted:**

- Plastics numbered 1 through 7
- Glass of any color – broken or unbroken
- Aluminum drink cans
- Tin or metal cans – food cans rinsed out
- Unwaxed chipboard or cardboard – flattened or whole
- Newspaper and advertising inserts
- Magazines, catalogs, brochures, annual reports – shiny paper OK
- Telephone books
- Office paper, stationery, post-it notes – all colors OK
- Shredded paper
- Envelopes, junk mail and advertisements
- Posters, greeting cards, art paper
- Cash register, adding machine, fax and computer paper
- Aluminum foil

**The list of materials that will NOT be accepted:**

- Tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, paper napkins
- Biological material and items contaminated with biological material or food
- Food, food wrappings and food-contaminated packaging
- Styrofoam in all forms
- Wax-coated paper cartons
- Saran wrap and cellophane
- Plastic coated report covers, ream covers, notebooks and spiral bound items
- Paint cans, unless paint is completely dried
- Ink cartridges
- Batteries
- Photographic paper, film, negatives, X-rays, MRI films, etc.
- Rubber items – all types
- Clothing, rags, all cloth items
- Appliances, furniture, wood or wooden items
- Plastic items not marked with a recycle logo



The City will continue to maintain those three newspaper recycling containers and the 30+ cardboard recycling containers. Another new program being introduced this year will offer recycling service at five Hoke County schools inside the City limits.

This is not the first time that the City of Raeford has been a recycling innovator. In 2007 Raeford received a \$25,000 grant from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources to implement an innovative “Pay as You Throw” commercial recycling program. Raeford’s Public Works Director Johnny Melton estimates that between \$150,000 and \$200,000 has been saved by that program since its implementation.

**Congratulations to the City Council, management and staff in Raeford as they prepare to implement a BEST PRACTICE curbside recycling program!**

For more information about the program, contact the City of Raeford’s Public Works Director Johnny Melton at 910-875-5031.

[Link to Raeford Public Works Department website.](#)