

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



**Buncombe County Solid Waste Department**  
**828-250-5460**  
Winter 2006



# County's bio-diesel tank goes online

## Billionth gallon of bio-diesel pumped at grand opening

In October, Buncombe County Government joined the Clean Cities Coalition's "Billionth Gallon Celebration" by pumping the nation's billionth gallon of bio-diesel and helping to conserve more than a billion gallons of petroleum. This is enough to fuel 2 million cars for a year! The celebration was held at the County's bio-diesel tank, which is located at the County Transfer Station.

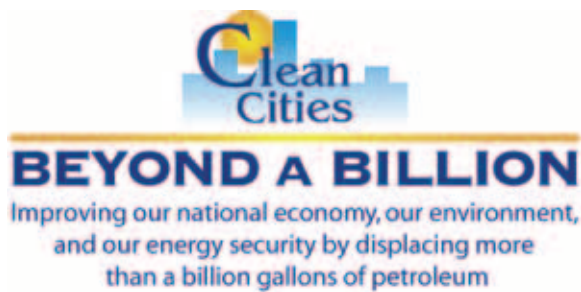
In January of 2005, the Solid Waste Department of Buncombe County began working on the implementation of bio-diesel fuel for County vehicles that use diesel. The County received a \$29,688 grant from the NC Solar Center and NC Department of Energy to build the fueling center. Since January, all County-run ambulances, landfill machinery, and other diesel-run vehicles have been converted to run on B-20, a form of bio-diesel fuel. The result is a 20 percent reduction in County government's dependence on fossil fuels with every gallon pumped. It also means that

all County vehicles that are bio-diesel ready will have an adequate supply of fuel in times of emergency.

Bio-diesel is a cleaner burning diesel replacement fuel made from natural, renewable sources, such as new and used vegetable oils and animal fats. B-20 is 20 percent bio-diesel and 80 percent petroleum-based diesel. It reduces vehicle emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon

monoxide by up to 20 percent. Bio-diesel is domestically produced, thereby helping reduce the nation's dependence on imported oil while helping to boost the agricultural sector of the economy.

"We are so proud to be part of this effort and are working on other ways to save for our taxpayers," said Bill Stanley, County Commissioner.



This effort, in conjunction with the purchase of four Honda Civic Hybrids, means that 12 percent of the County's Fleet has been converted to cleaner-emissions vehicles.

For more information on this and other cost-saving measures currently in use in Buncombe County's General Services Department, contact Denese Ballew, Environmental Manager, at 250-5425.



On Friday, October 14, Commissioner Bill Stanley announced the opening of Buncombe County's bio-diesel pumping station.



Four Honda Civic Hybrids, with their superior fuel efficiency, are part of the County's fleet.



Commissioner Bill Stanley pumps the nation's billionth gallon of bio-diesel into a County EMS vehicle.



Buncombe County's bio-diesel pumping area is located at the Transfer Station.

## Pick it up!

Litter and improperly dumped trash are not a tourist attraction. Nor do they increase property values or raise residents' pride in our community. So if litter isn't improving our quality of life, why do we see so much of it?

The answer is far too simple. Litter results when waste is handled carelessly, such as failing to cover trash containers or choosing not to pick up something that falls from a parked car. However, other litter results when waste is intentionally mishandled, such as when bagged trash or old furniture is dumped on vacant properties or placed in alleyways or ditches.

Unfortunately, the first piece of poorly handled waste can act as an invitation. Even one piece of litter, a single bag of trash, or one large item might make the next person who comes by think that it is OK to drop or dump more. And from there, the problem grows.

Help clean up our county. Pick up after yourself. If you drop something on the ground, stop and pick it up. Dispose of it in a trash can. Be sure that



your trash containers and recycling bins are covered or packed so that paper, plastic, and other items cannot easily fall out or blow away. And please, don't ever dump trash, bulky items, or recyclables where they don't belong.

You can also lend a hand. Participate in Buncombe County's year-round Four Corner Cleanup program. Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, the Four Corner Cleanup resulted in cleanups in 665 areas, collecting a total of nearly 380 tons of trash and 917 illegally dumped tires.

To volunteer your help, call Environmental Control at 250-5461.



## Another benefit of recycling



According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recycling is one of the most effective ways for individuals and communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gases have a “heat-trapping” effect on our atmosphere. While heat-trapping may sound pretty good during the winter, the long-term and year-round effects are a concern.

Here are some of the ways that recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions:

- When fewer materials are landfilled, total methane production decreases. Methane, which is considered a greenhouse gas, is produced when organic materials decompose in a landfill.
- When paper products are recycled, fewer trees are cleared from forests and tree farms. The trees that are left standing capture carbon dioxide,

another greenhouse gas, and hold it where it is being used by plants rather than affecting the atmosphere.

- Creating new products from recyclables requires less energy than making the same products from virgin materials. By decreasing energy use, we lower greenhouse gas emissions from power plants by burning fewer fossil fuels.

As you can imagine, *reducing* our waste by purchasing and using less and *reusing* what we already have decrease greenhouse gas emissions even more!

For more information, visit the U.S. EPA’s global warming site, <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/index.html>. You can also access the site by going to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and clicking on “Global Warming.”

## Rescuing one box at a time

Have you ever thought, “I ought to start a business doing that”? Marty Metro thought that and did—founding UsedCardboardBoxes.com. The company’s motto is “Rescue, Resell, Recycle.”

The company partners with retailers to collect and warehouse used but undamaged boxes. Customers can order boxes online and, in some locations, receive them within 24 hours. The used boxes are generally sold for about half of the original retail price of a new box. If the request cannot be filled by UsedCardboardBoxes, the customer is redirected to other sources.

For more information, visit [www.UsedCardboardBoxes.com](http://www.UsedCardboardBoxes.com) or call 1-888-BOXES-88.



## QUOTES REQUOTED

“The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1809–94  
*American physician, author, and poet*



## FAST FACTS

- In September, the BIC corporation announced that it had sold its 100-billionth—yes, that’s 100,000,000,000—disposable ballpoint pen. According to the company, the pen has sold on average 57 times a second since 1950, when it was introduced.
- The average office worker uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper each year—that’s about five sheets every working hour!

Whether you’re choosing supplies to use at home, to run an office, or to get you through the school day, you can reduce your waste. You’ll also reduce your costs. Here are some ideas to help keep your money in the bank:

- Use both sides of the paper. You don’t expect to read a book or magazine printed on the front side only, so why print anything else that way?
- Go without. When you have a choice between a paper form and a paperless online option, opt for the computer keyboard rather than pen and paper. If you are in charge of surveys, registrations, or order forms, create paperless forms.
- Need handouts? Before you copy, take a head count or get a good esti-

mate of the number of people who will be in attendance.

- Eliminate unneeded printing. Save paper by bookmarking websites and storing e-mails in electronic folders.
- Reuse computer disks, including old floppies, if you still use them, and rewritable CDs and DVDs.
  - Buy refillable pens and mechanical pencils to reduce waste. Refills are also cheaper than new pens and pencils.
  - Choose remanufactured (or refilled) toner cartridges, which cost less and provide the same amount of ink.
  - Check your supplies before you shop. If you keep pens, pencils, markers, paper, paper clips, toner cartridges, post-it notes, and tape refills organized, you will know what you have and what you need, avoiding unnecessary purchases.
  - Avoid the “brown bag,” and pack your lunch in a reusable bag or box. Encourage others to do the same.



# WHAT'S UP?

## Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, we recycled:

- 29,755 tons of Blue Bag recyclables, including milk jugs; soft drink bottles; laundry detergent jugs; aluminum beverage cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; steel cans; and newspapers
- 26,453 tons of cardboard
- 2,496 tons of yard waste
- 3,305 tons of tires
- 53.81 tons of electronics
- 23.08 tons of household hazardous waste
- 5,320 gallons of oil
- 220 gallons of antifreeze
- 1,069 batteries
- 1,090 tons of white goods (large appliances)



## Attention, businesses!

Are you wondering how to reduce the amount of waste that your business generates? Do you need help conserving energy? By assisting businesses, industries, institutions, and government agencies in reducing waste, decreasing energy use, and using natural resources more wisely, the Waste Reduction Partners, a group of highly qualified volunteers, help create a sustainable economy, healthy environment, and better quality of life for Western North Carolina. For more information, visit [www.landofsky.org/wrp](http://www.landofsky.org/wrp).

## Drop-off centers accept recyclables, too

You can recycle white and colored office paper, such as copier and printer paper, and mail, including envelopes, as well as newspaper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastic containers, aluminum cans, and steel cans, at these drop-off center locations:

- Behind Asheville Pizza Company, 675 Merrimon Avenue
- Curbside Management Facility, 116 North Woodfin Avenue in Woodfin
- Westgate Shopping Center, near EarthFare

## HHW and E-Waste accepted weekly

Buncombe County accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics (e-waste) every Friday, except holidays, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at a special drop-off area at the Landfill (see map). Please make a note that no collection will be held on Friday, April 14 because of the Good Friday holiday.

Each week, we accept e-waste from residents at no charge. E-waste includes computers, televisions, and related equipment, as well as cell phones. Businesses will also be able to drop off electronics, but they will be charged a fee of 30 cents per pound.

HHW is accepted from Buncombe County residents for \$2 per gallon for paint-related material, such as paint thinner, kerosene, gasoline, and paint. Other materials, such as lawn and garden chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and automotive batteries, are accepted at no charge.

Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or current utility bill, may be requested. For more information, call 250-5460 or the Landfill at 645-5311.

## Did you know?

Reusable cell phones are reprogrammed and donated to "Operation Gratitude."

## Transfer Station recycling

The Transfer Station, which is located on Brevard Road, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During all open hours, residents can drop off these recyclables at no charge:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Office paper and mail
- Corrugated cardboard
- "Blue Bag" or commingled recyclable containers, including #1 & #2

plastic; aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass; and steel cans

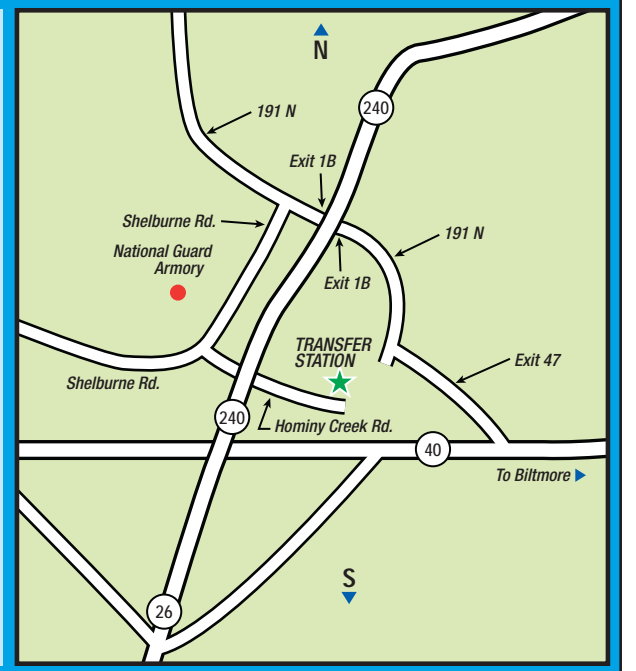
We also accept reusable corrugated cardboard moving boxes and shipping cartons. Please break down and flatten the boxes for storage.

Plus, you can drop off "sharps," such as needles and lancets, used at home for personal medical care. Place your sharps in a puncture-proof, labeled container. At the front gate, tell the attendant that you have sharps for disposal.

### Directions to the Transfer Station:

From I-240, take exit 1B (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. Turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.

From I-40, take exit 47 (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. After crossing I-240, turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.



## Landfill offers drop-off for residents' trash, recyclables, and more

You can drop off all of these items for recycling at the Buncombe County Landfill at no charge:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Office paper and mail
- Corrugated cardboard
- Commingled recyclable containers, including #1 & #2 plastic (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- Yard waste, including fall leaves
- Motor oils
- Tires
- White goods, including stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, and all metals

- Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers
- Empty propane tanks (20-pound, gas grill type ONLY)
- Cut, bare real Christmas trees (remove all stands, decorations, lights, and tinsel)

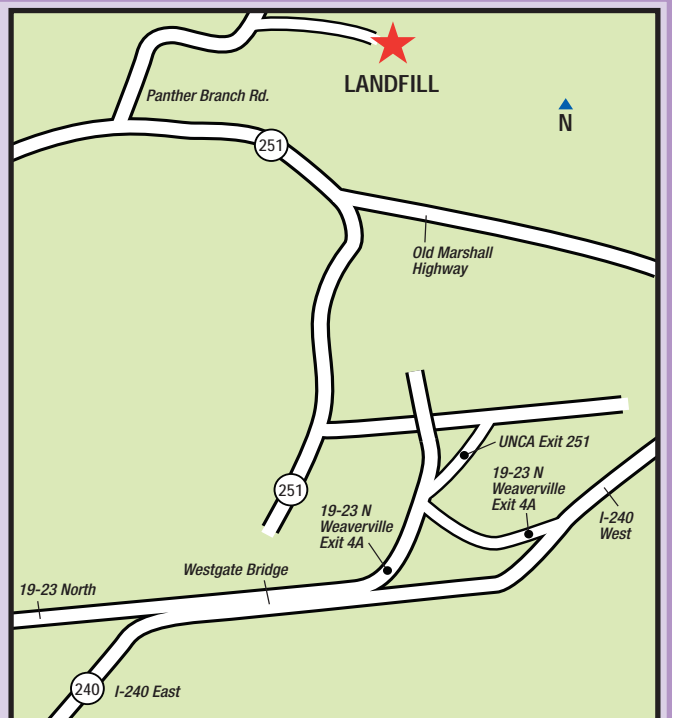
You can drop off household trash at the Landfill. There is a fee to dispose of trash.

The Landfill is open to accept trash and recyclables Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tours of the landfill are available to interested groups, including clubs, civic organizations, scout troops, and classes. For details, call 645-5311.

### Directions to the Buncombe County Landfill:

From I-240 East or West, take Exit 4A to 19/23 North. Travel 1 mile and then take UNC-A exit. At the end of the exit, turn left. Go to traffic light and turn right onto 251 North. Continue on 251 North for 9 miles to Panther Branch Road. Turn right onto Panther Branch Road and travel 1/10 of a mile to the Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.



### Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

Junk Motor Vehicle Officer — Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Environmental Control Officer — Rick Ramsey	828-250-5471
Environmental Control Officer — Jane Cole	828-250-5472
Hazardous Waste Officer — Denese Ballew	828-250-5425
Buncombe County Landfill	828-645-5311
Buncombe County Transfer Station	828-250-6205

CLIP & SAVE

### We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to your club or class about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

**Buncombe County Solid Waste Department**  
 2229 Riverside Drive  
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