



Raleigh Recycles: 25 Milestones in 25 Years

- October 2, 1989** – The City of Raleigh launched a curbside recycling pilot program with a contractor. At that time, the only accepted recyclable materials were newspaper, milk jugs, soda bottles, glass food containers, and aluminum. Collection was provided once per month.
- 1990** – The City began servicing the five recycling drop off centers, previously managed by a nonprofit organization. The first drop off sites included Jaycee Park, Colony Shopping Center, True Value Home Center, and St. Raphael's Catholic Church. These sites accepted the same materials that were collected curbside.
- 1990** – The recycling program expanded to include steel and tin food cans. Collection was provided twice per month.
- October 1991** – The City launched the multifamily recycling program, giving apartment residents more opportunities to recycle. Today more than 565 apartment communities participate in the City's recycling program.
- November 1992** – The City began weekly collection of yard waste at the curb. This led to the establishment of the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center on N. New Hope Road, where yard waste is recycled into mulch, compost, and wood chips. In 1995, the Center began selling these materials to the general public.
- 1997** – The City established a compost demonstration site to help area residents learn how to compost. The compost demonstration site is located at the Yard Waste Center.
- 1999** – The recycling program expanded to include white paper, magazines, glossy publications, and all #1 and #2 plastic drink bottles (expanding from just soda bottles to include juice and water bottles).
- 2001** – The City's fleet of garbage and recycling trucks began to operate on biodiesel fuel (B20).
- Summer 2002** – The City began collecting computers and related equipment at the curb for recycling.
- Fall 2002** – Recycling in the parks began in five city parks.
- February 2003** – Raleigh Fire Stations, the Yard Waste Center, and the Solid Waste Services Department began accepting rechargeable batteries for recycling.
- 2003** – A wildlife habitat was established at the closed Wilder's Grove Landfill in east Raleigh.
- Fall 2004** – Recycling collection changed from every other week to every week. For the first time, all residents set out their recyclables on the same day as garbage and yard waste.
- July 2006** – The recycling program expanded to include cardboard, paperboard, "gable top" cartons (ex. orange juice cartons), aseptic boxes (ex. juice boxes, broth or stock boxes, etc.), aluminum foil, plastic (six-pack) beverage rings, and "non-beverage" plastic bottles.
- August 2006** – The City launched Downtown Raleigh Recycles! Today, 126 downtown Raleigh businesses, restaurants, and places of worship use the City's recycling service.
- 2007** – The City began hosting an annual "Shred & Recycle It!" event. Due to overwhelming popularity, the events are now offered twice per year.
- January 2009** – The City changed from dual stream to single stream recycling collection.
- November 2009** – The City conducted a pilot program to collect used cooking oil and grease. This program is now offered citywide during the fall/winter holiday season to help residents dispose of oil and grease responsibly.
- 2010** – The City partnered with Coca-Cola and Harris-Teeter to offer "Recycle & Win!", a recycling incentive program. The program was offered again in 2012.
- 2010** – The City began a four year, citywide effort to transition all residential customers from weekly recycling collection with 18 gallon bins to biweekly recycling collection with 95 gallon carts. The increased capacity for recyclable materials resulted in a noted increased in recycling tonnage.
- July 2011** – The recycling program expanded to include any plastics labelled as #1-5 and #7, spiral paper cans and telephone books.
- 2011** – The City began using routing software and Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) to improve route efficiency, reducing gas consumption and greenhouse emissions.
- 2012** – The Solid Waste Services Department moved into the Wilders Grove Solid Waste Services Facility, a LEED Platinum certified campus in east Raleigh.
- January 2013** – With 2,742 tons collected, Raleigh residents recycled more materials this month than any other month in the history of the program.
- July 2014** – The recycling program expanded to include paperback books.