

November 19, 2007

Dear Recycling Business:

Thank you for recycling so diligently in the last year. We have enclosed two recent promotional advertisements about the commercial recycling program featuring all our participating businesses and organizations (as of those dates). One ad ran in the NC Independent's 'Annual Manual' issue in August. In October we ran one of these 'bottle ads' in the "Dish" Issue of the Independent, that is their semi-annual restaurant guide. We intend to run the 'bottle ad' in their Spring "Dish" Issue as well although the program obviously includes other materials. If you don't now recycle newspapers, magazines, and mixed paper let us add a cart for paper too, just ask!

Orange County Solid Waste Management greatly appreciates all of your efforts to keep recyclable materials out of the landfill and in circulation. These ads are our way of letting the world (or at least this corner of it) know that the work you and your staff put into proper sorting of materials really pays off.

You should also be aware that, beginning in January, 2008, having a recycling program will be a mandatory state-wide requirement of receiving an ABC permit to sell alcohol on premises. You are already there! It's others who don't now recycle who will have to worry. Show them the way!

Last fiscal year from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, over 125 Orange County bars, restaurants and other businesses on the program recycled over 630 tons of glass bottles, metal cans, plastic bottles, newspapers and magazines. Your efforts saved an estimated 9.6 million BTUs of energy and reduced air pollution emissions over 700 tons --the equivalent of keeping 140 cars off the road for a year (see recycling benefits calculator from the Northeast Recycling Council www.nerc.org).

You can now expand your environmental effort further by bringing your hazardous wastes including old cleaning supplies, paints, fluorescent lamps and pesticides to the hazardous waste collection program at the Orange County Landfill. The program is open Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm, and Sat. 7:30am to noon. This service is free of charge. There is a limit of fifty pounds per trip. Please identify your materials as coming from an Orange County business, as the program is available to Orange County businesses only.

Keeping recyclable materials properly separated and free of contamination (especially ceramics, food, and plastic bags!) helps lower program costs and reduce worker injury (our staff has to manually pick out what doesn't belong). Recycling costs the County money and revenue from commodity sales helps lower program costs. As global markets for purchasing recyclables expand, and as raw materials become scarcer, commodity prices for all recyclable materials are rising, and it becomes even more important to divert materials from landfill disposal. . You and your business truly make a difference!

The National Glass Packaging Institute (www.gpi.org) continues to cite Orange County's recycling program as a national model of commercial glass recycling efforts and has helped sponsor the enclosed ads. Our commercial recycling program is an important part of Orange County's waste reduction effort. Last year we reached a waste reduction rate of 44%. That's among the best in North Carolina. With your continued support and use of our programs, Orange County can maintain and even exceed that rate.

Thank you for doing your part. Let us know if you would like to discuss other waste reduction ideas and needs. Call 968-2788 or email: recycling@co.orange.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Rob Taylor
Muriel Williman

Recycling Program Manager, and
Education and Outreach Coordinator