

**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners  
2006 Ralph W. Ketner Employee Productivity Awards Application**

<b>County:</b>	<b>Rutherford</b>	<b>Employee:</b>	<b>Donnie Lee Dunkle</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>County Department:</b>	<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>Employee Title:</b>	<b>Mechanic</b>		
<b>County Phone:</b>	<b>(828)287-6002</b>	<b>County Mailing Address:</b>	<b>289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, N.C. 28139</b>		
<b>Is this project being submitted on behalf of two or more employees?</b>				<b>No</b>	<b>X Yes</b>

If yes, please provide below a listing of all project employees in Number 6. Employee & title as listed above should be for lead team member.

Fair Labors Standards Act Designation: In order for your project to be eligible, you MUST indicate one of the following. If you do not know, please contact your personnel director

**EXEMPT:**       **NON-EXEMPT:**       **BOTH (if applicable to team):**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Productivity Improvement Title:</b>	<b>Hydraulic Reconfiguration of Electric System to Operate a Pan</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Implementation Date (must be between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006)</b>	<b>May 2006</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Please describe the productivity improvement. (Please limit response to these 2 pages.)</b>	
<p>The pan in question was non-operational and had been parked behind the garage at the Landfill and not in use for two or more years. A pan is a piece of equipment that travels over land and picks up dirt to use as cover material for solid waste that can be buried in a Landfill. It is essential that we have this piece of equipment working on a day to day basis to properly and legally operate our Landfill. The Landfill is currently using a pan that is ten years and it needs repair on occasion. When in need of repair we did not have a back up pan and a new pan was not in the budget. Mr. Dunkle looked at the old pan parked in the back of the garage to determine what it would take to make it work. The electric shift system that operated the paddle elevator which picks up the dirt was non-operational because the part needed to repair it was a circuit board. The County purchased three of them at \$1,000 each. They were installed properly, but the rest of the shift system was so old and rusted that each time they tried to operate the pan it would work for about one-two weeks and burn out. Mr. Dunkle designed a hydraulic system to replace the electric shift system. The hydraulic system cost \$150.00 in parts and took about one week to repair. The pan became operational and has worked since. We now have a back up pan that actually cost us \$150 in parts to put back into service due to the knowledge and ingenuity of Mr. Dunkle</p>		

**4. Please describe why this project was initiated or what problem it addressed:**

The problem was the fact that cover material is needed to cover solid waste when ever the Landfill is open. A pan is the piece of machinery that accomplishes this task. Pans cost \$500,000 brand new. A pan was not in the County budget at that time. We needed a back up pan because the primary pan that we used on a daily basis is ten years old and needs repair to keep it running. When this pan is in the shop we have no choice but to wait for it to be repaired to cover material in the Landfill. This was not satisfactory and does not comply with state regulations.

**5. Please quantify the improvement's results in terms of cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of services provided.**

*(Please indicate what resources were used to achieve your results and what was done with the time savings, if any accrued).*

We now have two pans operating, one as primary and one as back up. They are used to cover all materials in the Landfill as needed. The cost savings were in two areas: one would that we did not have to purchase a new pan at a cost of \$500,000 or more and the second would be the continuing cost of circuit boards at a cost of \$1,000 each which did not work for any extended period of time. For \$150.00 a machine with a new value of half a million dollars that had been sitting in a machine graveyard was put back into operation. Additionally it we had not been able to provide cover dirt in the Landfill in a timely manner we could have been fined by the State. The Landfill cover material program is now functioning at optimum level.

**6. Please provide any other descriptive information you would like to be considered by the review committee.**

Attached you will find a copy of initial drawing Mr. Dunkle used to figure out how to design the hydraulic system. Originally the electrical control switch controlled the electrical valve body. Mr. Dunkle used hydraulics to bypass this system to make the pan functional once again.

<b>County Manager's Name:</b>	<b>John Condrey</b>	<b>Supervisor's Name:</b>	<b>Don Baynard</b>
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Return by June 15, 2007, via e-mail to Rebecca.Troutman@ncacc.org.