

**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners  
2007-08 Ralph W. Ketner Employee Productivity Awards Application**

**County:** Iredell County      **Employee:** Diane Lewis      **Email:** dlewis@co.iredell.nc.us

**County Department:** Solid Waste      **Employee Title:** Recycling Coordinator

**County Phone:** 704-928-2023      **County Mailing Address:** 354 Twin Oaks Road, Statesville, NC 28625

**Is this project being submitted on behalf of two or more employees?**      **NO**       **YES**

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 a team):**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Productivity Improvement Title:</b>	Rigid Plastics Recycling
<b>2.</b>	<b>Implementation Date (must be between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008):</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Please describe the productivity improvement. (Please limit response to these 2 pages.)</b>	
Iredell County operates a landfill and recycling facility as part of its Solid Waste Program. We currently recycle over 20 materials (mostly of residential sources) but still landfill approximately 900 tons per day. We have begun to more aggressively pursue waste reduction from industry. Traditionally landfill managers have been reluctant to do so at the expense of eliminating a revenue stream. We decided to explore the possibility of recycling commercial haulers business? Were there certain bulky materials that consumed excessive landfill space that could be recycled? Iredell County already was experimenting with baling rigid plastics (items such as plastic buckets, barrels , toys ) from homeowners with success although the incoming waste stream was minimal. Through conducting landfill audits it became apparent that large amounts of similar plastics were coming in commercial loads. Initially Accumma a company that manufactures plastic casings for automobile batteries was identified. A sample load was separated and weighed and it was determined that 80% was rigid plastic, 10% plastic film with remaining 10% trash. On this first load we realized a value existed in the plastic and That a savings could be passed on to the generator.		

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

The rigid plastics recycling program was designed to take additional plastic items that are not normally recycled from the waste stream. It was originally intended as a residential only application to remove items that were difficult to compact in the landfill. It soon became evident that a economically viable market existed for the materials. Companies that produce that type waste have always landfilled due to the lack of markets and also the equipment investment needed to process their waste. The goal was to save space in the landfill, while offsetting revenue loss from the tip fee by marketing the material and to help commercial customers recycle.

**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 had the ability to make this happen by virtue of having the necessary equipment on site already, we simply utilized some old roll off boxes for collection at two sites, have large commercial loads dumped on the old baler plant tipping floor and utilize the balers that remained on site after the closure of the solid waste baling plant. By doing so we were able to utilize equipment that is paid for and fully depreciated. Currently we have processed 324,000 pounds which we estimated to have saved 311 cubic yards of landfill space that has a value of \$10,885. We have also helped local companies avoid \$5,670 in tipping fees. Revenues from sale of the material at an average of .10 cent/pound are \$32,400. the gain in revenue and space saved has more than offset any loss of tip fee. The program has proven to be a winner for all involved.

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

We are currently in the process of expanding the program. We plan to place a container at the Mooresville station to collect from residents and small businesses in that area. We are investigating partnering with a recycler who is purchasing loose materials from a large local generator but has no means to bale. The recycler is picking up the material in loose form and hauling long distance but fuel costs are making this unattractive.

<b>County Manager's Name:</b>	Joel Mashburn	<b>Supervisor's Name:</b>	David Lambert
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Return by **June 2, 2008** via email to [ncacc@ncacc.org](mailto:ncacc@ncacc.org).