



Application for 2009 Outstanding County Program Awards

County (if multi-county entry, list all): ___Person County_____

Submitted by: ___Wanda Rogers_____ Title: ___Director; Person Industries_____

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The Association encourages electronic submissions. E-mail the application and project/program description to Todd McGee at todd.mcgee@ncacc.org. You can also fax your entry to (919) 733-1065 (attn. Todd McGee), or mail it to: NCACC, 215 N. Dawson St., Raleigh, NC 27603. Applications must be postmarked by **Friday, Feb. 26, 2010**.

Projects/programs must have been implemented between Jan. 1, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2009. For additional information and category criteria, visit www.ncacc.org/awards/ocpa/about.html.

Project title: ___Person County Recycling Center_____

Category (you may check more than one):

General Government Human Services Public Information/Participation

Address each of the following questions in a typed program/project summary in a separate Word document attached to this application form. Limit your responses to two pages. Use single-spaced lines and 12-point, Times New Roman font. Supporting materials may be submitted, but due to time constraints, judges may not review the materials.

1. What are the purpose, history, timeline and budget of the program/project? Will the county realize any projected cost savings? (For public information/participation programs, please try to estimate participation levels).
2. What makes the program/project unique? How does it differ from similar projects in your county or in other counties?
3. How well did the program use available resources, given the limitations on such resources?
4. Can this project be duplicated in other counties? If another county wanted to do a similar project, what advice would you give them to minimize obstacles and problems?
5. How did the project involve collaboration with other agencies, jurisdictions, nonprofits, businesses, etc.? How well did this collaboration work and is it on-going?

1. What are the purpose, history, timeline and budget of the program/project? Will the county realize any projected cost savings?

The purpose of the Person County Recycling Center (PCRC) is to reduce landfill waste, increase recycling in Person County, and employ people with disabilities. Person Industries, a department of Person County Government, is a community rehabilitation program (CRP), a small business, and a liaison between the local business community and people with disabilities in the Person County Area. The program began in 2008, when contracts for the already existing Person Industries (PI) program began to move overseas. At the same time these contracts were dwindling, discussions were underway on how to improve the existing recycling program that consisted only of a single stream drop-off station where the county did not own or sell the materials collected. Therefore, a proposal was brought forward by Person Industries to combine the two programs. In October 2008, Person County Commissioners voted to move forward with the new recycling project and the new recycling center opened June 29, 2009. The current county budget for the program is \$193,752, with most of this being the initial equipment financing. Through the sale of recyclables, the PCRC has already earned \$33,191, with estimated inventory of baled materials bumping the total to \$52,786. Once equipment is fully paid off in 5 years, it is estimated that this project will pay for itself.

2. What makes the program/project unique? How does it differ from similar projects in your county or in other counties?

PCRC is unique for many reasons. The first is that the majority of the workforce is made up of people with mild to profound disabilities. These persons with disabilities sort all materials and receive recyclables. Special care is taken to match an employee's strengths and interests with a specific job. Our employees love their jobs. They have a sense of pride in their work as well as in being part of the county's first true recycling center. We have also found that having persons with disabilities working in the public eye shows the community their talents, abilities and work ethic. A second way this program is unique is that it has a drive-up service. Recyclers drive their vehicles to the 50,000 sq. ft facility and are met by employees who unload the recyclables from their cars. Under the covered awning, recyclers never have to get out of their vehicle. Frequent recyclers get to know the employees who help unload, and many recyclers say they enjoy coming to see the employees whenever they make a drop-off. Recyclers often comment on how good they feel when they visit the recycling center because of the smiling faces and the friendly service. We believe this drive up service is what has helped us to average 220 cars per day, with 420 being the record. A third way it is unique is the community education offered by PCRC. PCRC staff provide community outreach and an in-house education center to teach the public the value of recycling. For a new program in a county of 37,341, this is pretty impressive!

3. How well did the program use available resources, given the limitations on such resources?

PCRC heavily utilized existing resources with the largest of these being Person Industries, a program that is over 25 years old. From PI, the new PCRC utilized existing

workers, delivery trucks, and some equipment (forklifts, pallet jacks, etc.) Even the facility that is now the PCRC was already under lease by Person Industries for manufacturing purposes. It is important to note that while the new recycling center did require county funding, PI reduced its need for county funding by approximately \$50,000. Since many workers who were once only part of Person Industries were now a part of the recycling center, the cost of their positions could be removed from the PI budget. Therefore, a significant portion of the annual budget for the PCRC is simply a reallocation of funds from one program to another.

4. Can this project be duplicated in other counties? If another county wanted to do a similar project, what advice would you give them to minimize obstacles and problems?

This project can absolutely be duplicated in other counties. In fact, thanks to the attention we have already received, it is currently being duplicated in Anson County and we have had interest, visitors and inquiries from Vance, Caswell, and Rockingham counties. The only elements that are necessary are things that every community already has: waste and a population of persons with disabilities. This type of program is beneficial not only as a county service to the public, but also as a human service by providing quality, reliable work to those with disabilities.

Through our experience with this program, we have learned several lessons that would be beneficial for anyone starting a similar program: 1) You must have a committed staff who understands what you are undertaking and believes in the mission; 2) You must encourage community involvement and participation, and always stress the value that the service provides to the area; and 3) Do not underestimate community participation, because if you follow the first two steps, you will be busy!

5. How did the project involve collaboration with other agencies, jurisdictions, nonprofits, businesses, etc.? How well did this collaboration work and is it on-going?

This project is a great example of how collaboration both before and after a project is implemented can contribute to the success of the project and the community as a whole. When we were exploring and planning for this project, Person County Local Government was very supportive and instrumental in its success. In addition, we partnered with PC Pride, a citizen group formed for recycling advocacy. This helped create participation from this influential group and helped us get citizen participation from day one. After the Person County Recycling Center opened, we began to collaborate with outside organizations like Person County Schools as well as the two private garbage collection companies in the county, Clayton & Hurdle and Trustworthy & Affordable. Thanks to these collaborations, the Person County School System has instituted its first ever recycling program, and the private garbage collection companies have started offering curbside recycling as an option. All materials collected from both of these programs go to the PCRC. In addition to these two large partnerships, we work with local businesses, the local government, industries etc. to collect their recyclables. All of our collaborations are on-going and working extremely well, and we hope to add more in the near future.

What's Accepted:

Aluminum cans

Cardboard

Flower pots

Glass bottles

Mixed paper

Office paper

Oil filters (@ cost of \$.25 each)

Plastics (#1-7)

Steel cans

White goods (washers, dryers,
refrigerators, etc.)

Scrap metal

What's NOT Accepted

Dirty pizza boxes

Feminine products

Food or grease covered materials

Styrofoam

Tires

Used paper towels & tissue

Used paper plates

Waxed materials (paper, cups, etc.)

Visitors and Education

To tour PCRC or arrange for recycling education at your school, business or organization, please call 336-597-4437.

Hours of Operation

Monday—Friday
7:30 am—5:00 pm

Saturday
8:00 am—2:00 pm

Sunday
Closed

Drop-off receptacles are always available when attendants are not on duty.

What is Person Industries?

Person Industries (PI) is a community rehabilitation program that trains people with disabilities for jobs in the community. Employees receive on-the-job work experiences through PI's onsite and community employment work groups. PI operates the Person County Recycling Center as well as employs people in work groups in several local industries through production, housekeeping and confidential shredding contracts.

Person County Recycling Center

741 Martin Street
Roxboro, NC 27573

Phone: 336-597-4437
Fax: 336-598-9249

E-mail: recycling@personcounty.net



Person County Recycling Center (PCRC)

Operated by
Person Industries,
a department of
Person County Government
www.personindustries.com

The Person County Recycling Center (PCRC) is Person County's answer to

*safeguarding the environment,
generating new revenue,
creating and preserving jobs and
providing opportunities for people with disabilities.*

Operated by Person Industries, a department of Person County Government, PCRC is Person County's first and only materials recovery facility (MRF). Materials accepted and processed at PCRC are sold to industries and reused in goods consumed across the region with the **revenue** coming right back into Person County.

Since opening in June of 2009, PCRC has stabilized the loss of jobs for **individuals with disabilities** served at Person Industries and created **new job opportunities** for forklift drivers, skid loader operators and other conscientious workers. Employees demonstrating good customer service skills service the drive thru area where they receive recycled materials dropped off by the public.

Why Recycle?

Recycling within a home or business significantly cuts down on the amount of garbage generated while also reducing how much communities rely on landfills and incinerators. But recycling does much more. It is an important strategy for reducing the **environmental** impact of what's produced in industry. When industries use recycled

materials rather than virgin resources, it saves on energy, reduces the amount of greenhouse gases and other dangerous air and water pollutants emitted into the environment as well as preserves our natural resources.



How to Recycle

Gone are the days of separating and sorting recyclable materials. Recycling is made easy at PCRC where our employees readily accept comingled materials at our convenient drive-thru area. Drop-off bins are also available for customer convenience during and after business hours.

Services

PCRC welcomes all recycling customers— individual or family, business or industry, government or community organization. PCRC staff will gladly assist with—

Assessing what materials are recyclable (See the back page of this brochure for a list of materials now being accepted at PCRC.)

Providing onsite education to businesses and organizations starting a recycling program

For assistance with your unique recycling needs, please contact our Recycling Center staff.

Location

PCRC is conveniently located in the Roxboro City limits, just 1.5 miles from historic downtown Roxboro. Our address of 741 Martin Street can be easily accessed from two heavily used highways— Hwy 158W (Leasburg Road) and Hwy 157N (Semora Road).

