**Tips for residents to be ‘cart smart’ with recycling**

**[TOWN]** – [County/local government name] encourages residents to practice simple steps to be ‘cart smart’ about recycling. Putting non-recyclable items in the recycling bin causes contamination and raises costs.

“Recycling is a long-standing method of reducing waste in our local landfills while conserving our natural resources,” said [government official], [title]. “It’s important to recycle the right way and improve the quality of material collected through our program. Knowing what can and cannot go into the cart is vital to maintaining [government name]’s recycling program and aiding North Carolina’s thriving recycling industry.”

[Insert facts about local recycling program.]

When well-meaning residents put non-recyclable items in their recycling cart or bin, it causes contamination of the recycling mix. That means local material recovery facilities must spend more time and money to sort out the rising levels of non-recyclables and trash. Foreign countries that were previously a market for poorly sorted U.S. recyclables have tightened quality standards. Recyclables now need to be cleaner to meet the new international quality requirements or, better yet, be redirected for use by domestic manufacturers with similar high quality standards.

To help make recycling more efficient, remember these simple tips:

* Place empty cans, bottles, paper and cardboard in the recycling bin.  Keep everything else out.
* Do not bag your recyclable items.
* Do not put plastic bags, cords, hoses and other string-like items in the recycling bin as they can tangle around rotating equipment.
* Avoid putting other things that could be hazardous to workers who sort recycling – like batteries, needles, sharp objects and food residue – into the recycling bin.
* Do not put Styrofoam cups and containers in the recycling bin.
* When in doubt, throw it out!

To help residents be ‘cart smart,’ [government name] is participating in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality’s *Recycle Right NC* education campaign. [Local government] will [insert list of ways your organization will participate; examples include: “send a mailer to every resident, post tips on social media, update recycling information online, run print ads in local media, post billboards in community, have a local campaign event on America Recycles Day, etc.”].

“We are thrilled to join forces with our neighbors to present a coordinated *Recycle Right NC* message,” said [title] [name]. “While there are subtle differences in what can be accepted in local recycling programs, we all have much more in common and hope that consistent messaging across the state will reduce confusion.”

For more information about [government name]’s recycling program, go to: [website address]. For more information about the statewide *Recycle Right NC* campaign, go to: [website].

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