When you place a plastic bottle (and other recyclables) in a bin it is taken to a material recovery facility (MRF), such as Waste Management Recycle America in Raleigh, N.C. There the products are sorted by type and the plastic bottles are separated by density and compressed into bales.

Bottles are ground into tiny bits of plastic, called flake at NURRC in Spartanburg, S.C. It is washed by a patented process, called UnPET, in which the top layer of flake is removed. The clean flake is then used in place of pellets made from virgin materials. It requires only a fraction of the energy to produce plastic when using UnPET vs. virgin pellets. Southeastern Container Inc. in Enka, N.C. receives this flake which is then molded back into bottles. Some of these bottles are sent to Coca-Cola Bottling Co. in Charlotte, N.C.

Recyclable Plastic Bottles are Banned from landfill disposal