Steel Cans Carolina Recycle Loop

1 Collect
When you place an empty steel can (and other recyclables) in a bin, it is taken to a material recovery facility (MRF), such as Pratt Industries in Fayetteville, N.C. There the products are sorted by type and the steel collected is crushed into large cubes called bales.

2 Process
Bales are shipped to a steel foundry, like Van Can Company, in Lancaster, S.C. The cans are then combined with other steel scrap (from old appliances, cars, etc.) and melted in a furnace. The melted steel is then poured into casters and rolled into flat sheets, which then are turned into steel cans. A food production company, like Campbell Supply Company LLC in Maxton, N.C., receives the empty steel cans.

3 Buy-Recycled
Campbell fills the cans with soup, which are then distributed to stores across the state to be bought and recycled again.

Many Steel products are recycled at a high rate in North Carolina, though less than 15 percent of steel cans are recovered.

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