



# Talking Trash

## In Carteret, Craven and Pamlico Counties

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### Our Mission

The Coastal Environmental Partnership's mission is to produce a cleaner, safer and healthier environment by providing, operating and managing an economically and technically sound municipal solid waste management system for the citizens of Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties.

### Did You Know...?

- Diapers and Electronics each take up 1% of North Carolina's landfill space.
- Each month, North Carolinians throw out glass that would fill up more than 13 miles worth of tractor-trailers lined up end-to-end. That's a half marathon of tractor-trailers each month!

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### Permits, Permits, Permits

Four, thick, 3-ring binders, three sets of engineering drawings, 21 pounds of documents and almost \$300,000 in engineering and testing costs. That's what it takes to get a permit to construct another phase of the Tuscarora Landfill. And we get to do it about every five or six years.

Contrary to the old method of just digging a hole in the ground and filling it with trash, today's modern landfills are high-tech environmental management systems. Components of the system include soils with specific characteristics, synthetic liners, wastewater collection and treatment systems and gas collection systems. And those systems take a long time to design, to obtain permits, and to construct. Before the Phase 2 Tuscarora landfill reached 50% capacity, it was already time to begin the plans for Phase 3.

Getting a permit to construct a landfill in North Carolina is a very complicated and time-consuming process. Engineers need several months to plan the facility and to prepare the drawings and specifications. Ground water test wells, called piezometers, are drilled in the construction area to determine where the seasonal high ground water table is. At Tuscarora, the ground water table is located at the surface. Since the landfill liner layer must be at least four feet above the ground water table, we have to build a foundation above ground to build a mountain of trash. Approximately 375,000 cubic yards of fill material

will have to be imported to build the foundation.

Once a landfill application is submitted, along with an application fee of \$30,000, state permit engineers have 90 days to determine if the application is complete. After that, the State has up to 12 months to issue or deny a permit. Following receipt of the "permit to construct" the process to bid and construct the facility takes about 10 months. But we are not approved to take waste after the landfill is built. Reams of data concerning construction tests and engineering certifications must be submitted after construction to assure that the facility was built as permitted. Once that data is reviewed and approved a "Permit to Operate" is issued and the facility can begin to accept waste.

The process is long and expensive. But the result is a facility that is built and operated with the protection of the environment in the forefront.



Johnny Barrow, Asst. Operations Manager, Allen Hardison, Executive Director and David Warmack, Operations Manager look over plans for the Phase 3 Expansion.

## LEED the Way



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a rating system designed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). It provides standards for environmentally conscience construction.

A LEED certified building project is one where resources are used responsibly. Credit is given for building reuse. Were walls, floors or ceilings reused? How much construction waste was diverted from disposal? Other aspects such as water efficient landscaping and use of local materials are considered.

There are now more than 14,000 LEED projects in the United States and 30 countries.

Two local facilities have been in the news recently and are great examples of environmental stewardship. Craven County is collecting rainwater at its Animal Shelter to clean trenches located in the kennel area. Since beginning this program in March of 2009, over 40,000 gallons of rainwater have been utilized.

The Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores recently installed a solar panel system to supplement a percentage of their power needs. Located near the entrance of the Aquarium, the panels also doubles as an educational display. The panels were donated by the Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative.

Local LEED certified or registered projects include: Station Renovations at the USCG-CEU Cleveland - Emerald Isle, Repass Ocean Conservation Center - Beaufort, Consolidated Clubhouse - Cherry Point, Engineering Product Support Facility - Cherry Point, Fort Macon Coastal Education Center - Atlantic Beach, Modernization of the US Courthouse - New Bern, North Carolina History Education Center - New Bern, P-136 Bachelor Enlisted Quarters - MCAS Cherry Point, P-141 EMS Fire Vehicle Facility - MCAS Cherry Point and P-191 2nd MAW/Station Ops Facility - MCAS Cherry Point.

## Do You Need a Speaker?

If your organization, civic club or classroom needs a speaker please consider us, the Coastal Environmental Partnership.

We love to have guests here at the Tuscarora Landfill. A visit here includes a presentation and a tour of our operations and In-genco, the facility that transforms methane gas into electricity. We are also happy to go to you. Either way, we promise that you will leave with an entirely different concept of the destination of your trash. To schedule a tour or speaking engagement call Bobbi Waters @ 252-633-1564 or e-mail her at [bobbi@crswma.com](mailto:bobbi@crswma.com).



Photo contributed by Ronald Bjorkland

Bobbi Waters, Planning & Outreach Coordinator, conducts a tour of the landfill for students from Craven Community College



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## Congratulations Allen!

Allen M. Hardison, Executive Director of the Coastal Environmental Partnership, has been named to the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Chapter of SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America).



SWANA is a non-profit, international educational organization serving individuals and communities responsible for the management and operation of municipal solid waste management systems. The North Carolina Chapter of SWANA was formed in 1987 and has a current membership of approximately 400.

He will serve on the Policy Committee of the chapter. The policy committee serves as the Legislative Liaison and is responsible for tracking and influencing legislation and solid waste policy within the State. The policy committee also educates the membership at large and represents NC-SWANA at regulatory hearings as needed.

One of the primary responsibilities of NC SWANA is the training of landfill and transfer station operating personnel. The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources requires that all solid waste landfills and transfer stations be operated and managed by certified personnel. The NC chapter of SWANA has been approved to provide the required training for these certifications. The Chapter also organizes and conducts two annual technical conferences for members.

Elected to a two year term, Mr. Hardison has eleven years experience with the Coastal Environmental Partnership. He has been a Certified Landfill Manager since 1999.

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## The Greening of Hospitality

Practicing the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) at home has pretty much become second nature to a great number of individuals but what about while traveling?

Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts and others in the hospitality industry are making great strides in reducing waste and saving energy. In fact, the NC Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance has an initiative in place to assist the industry. It is called The Green Plan for Hotels. They can assist in all aspects of conservation from on-site assessments to identify waste reduction opportunities to assistance in finding markets for recyclables. The web address is [www.p2pays.org/hospitality](http://www.p2pays.org/hospitality).

Hotels are now offering guests options that help save energy. While fresh sheets every night during a week's stay are nice, they're not a necessity. Clean sheets every other night will save 50% of the energy that would be otherwise be used. Many places also offer in-room recycling. Ask about opportunities to recycle when you travel.

And of course the perfect opportunity to reuse can be found with little bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, etc. Even if you won't reuse them at home, they can be donated to local groups that provide to those in need. Remember, you can make a difference.

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