



1551 ROCK QUARRY ROAD
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27610

PHONE: 919.856.3715
FAX: 919.508.0831

MEMORANDUM

TO: PRINCIPALS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS AND STAFF

**FROM: Christina Larkins, Conservation Coordinator,
Environmental Health & Safety
856-3715**

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2009

RE: Plastic Recycling



Effective October 1, 2009, North Carolina banned all rigid plastic containers from landfills. This includes any bottles with a neck smaller than the container itself. The legislation was created back in 2005, and will focus largely on the recovery of Polyethylene terephthalate (PET). This is commonly identified by the number "1" inside a recycling symbol on the bottle. This is typically the resin of choice for most soft drink and water bottles. Since NC is building the nation's largest facility to recycle PET bottles, which will be able to process 280 million pounds of material a year, this is a great reason to have the law into effect. One of the primary partners for this venture is Shaw Industries Group, LLC, which can turn the recycled PET into polyester for use in carpeting. NC is also home to the second largest high-density polyethylene (HDPE) recycling facility in the US, Envision Plastics. HDPE is the plastic used in detergent bottles and milk jugs.



WCPSS takes a system wide approach towards environmental stewardship. At each stage of running the schools, WCPSS incorporates the reduction of our ecological footprint. From designing and building the schools, to maintaining them, to education; WCPSS involves students and staff in the shared responsibility of environmental stewardship. WCPSS and the Board of Education have led the sustainable effort long before it became fashionable.

Each of our sites utilizes recycling techniques on a daily basis. Styrofoam trays, plastic bottles and cans are being collected and recycled at each school through the efforts of the Child Nutrition Services Department. Bottles and cans are recycled at the administrative sites on a weekly schedule. For more information regarding the WCPSS recycling process, please contact Christina Larkins at clarkins@wcpss.net or 856-3715.

Thank you for your support.