

ALAMANCE COUNTY
SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE
(Amendment effective July 1, 2018)

WHEREAS, beginning January 1, 2018 China instituted a new policy banning the import of 24 types of solid waste including unsorted paper products and polyethylene terephthalate (a low-grade plastic used in bottles). They also instituted a new contamination rate for recycling imports of just 0.5% and temporarily suspended licenses for many recyclers; and

WHEREAS, the ban has caused a serious upheaval in the recycling markets around the world with recycling commodity prices declining 36% in the first quarter of 2018 alone and volumes declined as well; and

WHEREAS, many recycling operators in western countries are feeling the negative effects as China has historically been the number one importer of recycling, accounting for 51% of worldwide scrap plastic imports in 2017; and

WHEREAS, From Oregon to the United Kingdom, backups of recycling are being reported as businesses struggle to find new destinations for their now overly contaminated recycling; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. § 130A-309.04, it is the goal of the State of North Carolina to reduce the municipal solid waste stream through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting on a per capita basis which provides for a reduction of twenty-five percent (25%) by June 30, 1993 and of forty percent (40%) by June 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS, a county may, pursuant to G.S. § 153A-121, by ordinance define, regulate, prohibit, or abate acts, omissions, or conditions detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of its citizens and the peace and dignity of the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. § 153A-136, a county may by ordinance regulate the activities of persons, firms, and corporations, both public and private, regarding the storage, collection, transportation, use, disposal, and other disposition of solid waste, including requiring the source separation of materials from solid waste prior to collection of the solid waste for disposal and requiring participation in a recycling program which has been approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has through prior Ordinance enacted a solid waste program to comply with the above-referenced State mandates for the disposal of certain Target Recyclables and special waste; and

WHEREAS, because of the negative effects of the Chinese ban on recyclables it is necessary, to add temporary flexibility to the recycling program, to allow the collection and disposal of certain commercial corrugated cardboards generated within Alamance County by amending the Alamance County Solid Waste Ordinance and Alamance County Recycling Ordinance to temporarily remove corrugated cardboard from the definition of "Targeted Recyclables" allow for acceptance of corrugated cardboard.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMANCE AMENDS THE ALAMANCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

1. For a period of six months effective July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018 “Target Recyclables” shall not include commercial corrugated cardboard generated and transported within Alamance County (not to include any residential recycle curbside service in the municipalities or unincorporated areas of the county).

2. A maximum limit of 125 tons of commercial corrugated cardboard per month will be the limit allowed to be placed in the Alamance County Landfill under this amended definition.

All remaining terms and condition of the Alamance County Solid Waste Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Alamance County Solid Waste Ordinance as amended shall be in effect on and after July 1, 2018.

ALAMANCE COUNTY RECYCLING ORDINANCE

(Amendment effective July 1, 2018)

WHEREAS, beginning January 1, 2018 China instituted a new policy banning the import of 24 types of solid waste including unsorted paper products and polyethylene terephthalate (a low-grade plastic used in bottles). They also instituted a new contamination rate for recycling imports of just 0.5% and temporarily suspended licenses for many recyclers; and

WHEREAS, the ban has caused a serious upheaval in the recycling markets around the world with recycling commodity prices declining 36% in the first quarter of 2018 alone and volumes declined as well; and

WHEREAS, many recycling operators in western countries are feeling the negative effects as China has historically been the number one importer of recycling, accounting for 51% of worldwide scrap plastic imports in 2017; and

WHEREAS, From Oregon to the United Kingdom, backups of recycling are being reported as businesses struggle to find new destinations for their now overly contaminated recycling; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. § 130A-309.04, it is the goal of the State of North Carolina to reduce the municipal solid waste stream through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting on a per capita basis which provides for a reduction of twenty-five percent (25%) by June 30, 1993 and of forty percent (40%) by June 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS, a county may, pursuant to G.S. § 153A-121, by ordinance define, regulate, prohibit, or abate acts, omissions, or conditions detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of its citizens and the peace and dignity of the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. § 153A-136, a county may by ordinance regulate the activities of persons, firms, and corporations, both public and private, regarding the storage, collection, transportation, use, disposal, and other disposition of solid waste, including requiring the source separation of materials from solid waste prior to collection of the solid waste for disposal and requiring participation in a recycling program which has been approved by the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has through prior Ordinance enacted a recycling program to comply with the above-referenced State mandates for the disposal of certain Target Recyclables and special waste; and

WHEREAS, because of the negative effects of the Chinese ban on recyclables it is necessary, to add temporary flexibility to the recycling program, to allow the collection and disposal of certain commercial corrugated cardboards generated within Alamance County by amending the Alamance County Solid Waste Ordinance and Alamance County Recycling Ordinance to temporarily remove corrugated cardboard from the definition of "Targeted Recyclables" allow for acceptance of corrugated cardboard.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMANCE AMENDS THE ALAMANCE COUNTY RECYCLING ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

1. For a period of six months effective July 1, 2018 -- December 31, 2018 "Target Recyclables" shall not include commercial corrugated cardboard generated and transported within Alamance County (not to include any residential recycle curbside service in the municipalities or unincorporated areas of the county).
2. A maximum limit of 125 tons of commercial corrugated cardboard per month will be the limit allowed to be placed in the Alamance County Landfill under this amended definition.

All remaining terms and condition of the Alamance County Recycling Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Alamance County Recycling Ordinance as amended shall be in effect on and after July 1, 2018.