

# PAYT in the Southeast

## Charging for Garbage



October 1 & 2, 2015



# SERDC

SERDC works to unite industry and government to promote sustainable recycling in the Southeast.

SERDC's message is economic based.

“That recycling is beneficial for the environment is probably an uncontested proposition. What is becoming increasingly more obvious is that recycling contributes to the state's economic health.”



# SERDC SPONSOR LEVEL MEMBERS

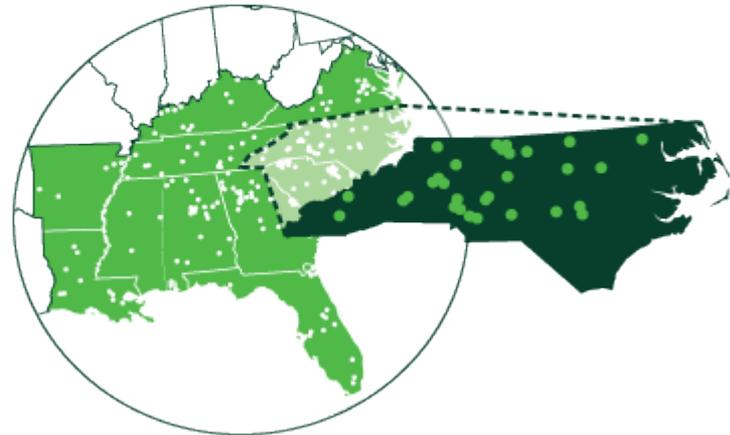


# North Carolina

**30 Manufacturing Facilities**

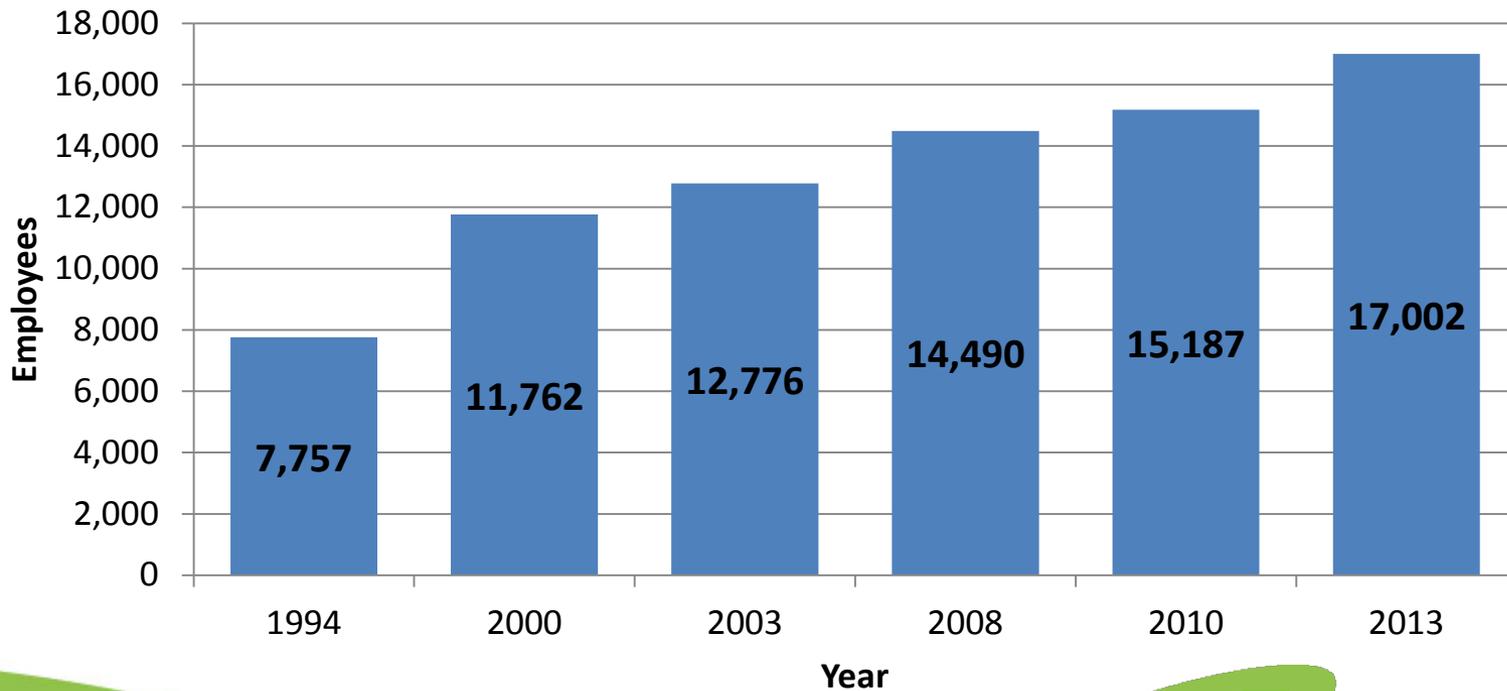
**\$1.1 Billion in yearly sales**

**2,800 North Carolina Jobs**



# NC Recycling Employment

## Private Sector Employees



# How to feed the need?

- Increase Outreach
- Waste metering (PAYT)
- Disposal restrictions



# Why Pay As You Throw?

- Equitable
- Effective
- Well received (after implementation)



Most of all, it works.

# Common Objections

- It's a new tax
- Will lead to illegal dumping
- What about people who can't afford it?
- Administrative costs will exceed value gained
- Enforcement will be impossible

# Transylvania County

- Implemented in February 1995
- Tag based for the County operated convenience centers. The centers served about 75% of the house holds.
- The \$65 annual fee was removed.
- Tags were \$1.25 and good for up to 30 pounds.

# Transylvania County Results

- Waste disposed decreased 40%
- Recycling tonnage doubled
- Community acceptance
- No increase in illegal dumping
- Some abuse of employers' dumpsters

# Gainesville/Alachua County

- First volume based cart system in Florida
- Implemented Oct. 1994
- Non-ad valorem assessment
- Began with 3 sizes of carts – 35, 64, and 96 gallons, later added mini-can (about 18 gallons)
- Went from twice-a-week garbage, once-a-week recyclables and yard waste collections to once-a-week for all collections, on same day
- Official (30 gallon) yellow bags sold for overflow

# Results in two years

- Waste landfilled – down 14 %
- Recyclables collected – up 25%
- Yard Waste collected – down 20%
- Total overall costs increased only 5 percent
- Note: There was no significant increase in illegal dumping

# Decatur, Georgia

- A bag based program launched in 1998
- 42% reduction in solid waste
- 79% increase in amount of recycling tonnage
- 100% increase in recycling rate\* (from 10.7 to 22%)
- More than \$150,000 saved in disposal costs in their first year and each year since



# Other Southern Programs

## Rural

- Alamance County, NC
- Craven County, NC
- Elbert County, GA
- Oconee County, GA
- Oglethorpe County, GA
- Onslow County, NC
- Rowan County, NC
- Union County, NC

## Urban

- Austell, GA
- Charlottesville, VA
- Lynchburg, VA
- Plantations, FL
- Poquoson, VA
- Tulsa, OK

# Contact Information

**Will Sagar**

Executive Director

[will.sagar@serdc.org](mailto:will.sagar@serdc.org)

(828) 507-0123



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