Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion

Kristy Smith

Solid Waste

May 15, 2026

Agenda

1) Review August 2025 topics with updates
2) C&D landfill capacity
3) C&D Waste Audit results
4) Materials targeted for diversion
5) C&D Diversion Grant details
6) Source separated C&D initiatives





August 2025 Topics and Updates

- ✓ Hire Solid Waste Inspector to assist with enforcement of mixed load/diversion ordinance-**Complete** with ongoing enforcement of mixed load ordinance
- ✓ Internally perform pilot sorting project to collect more data on incoming C&D loads-
  Ongoing-40 tons of metal and yardwaste have been diverted since Oct. 2025 utilizing existing equipment and staff at both the landfill and transfer station
- ✓ Continued collaboration internally with building and demolition permitting-**Ongoing**

  Source separated recycling is an important component of diversion with 2 initiatives underway

  Educational C&D recycling one pager (highlighted in following slides) included in permitting process for construction and demolition permits

  C&D recycling academy intended to provide resources and training to developers and builders has begun with more details to come in FY27
- ✓ C&D Waste Audit occurred late August 2025-results summarized in following slides

C&D Landfill Capacity

The landfill facility operates 2 active landfills as outlined on this site map

1. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)-lined landfill for household garbage (Area 1)
2. C&D landfill for construction & demolition debris (Area 4)

During the past 5 years, the county has seen an unprecedented increase in C&D materials entering the landfill from exponential growth and development in the county

- In fact, 28% of all waste received at our disposal facilities is C&D waste



C&D Landfill Capacity



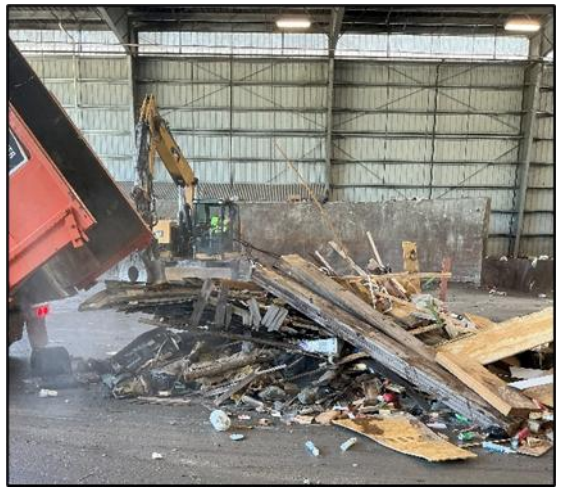
Phase 8 nearing completion

- The last permitted phase for C&D landfill
- Scheduled to open summer 2026
- Approximately 5 years of space remain

Preparations have been underway for years to address the eventual closure of the separate C&D disposal area, including a 20% diversion goal in the 2030 Strategic Plan

- Investing in equipment to maximize airspace
- Mixed load ordinance
- C&D waste audit and investigating diversion opportunities
- Promoting, advertising and educational tools for available diversion programs
- Sorting and diverting C&D recycle materials at the landfill working face utilizing solid waste staff and equipment
- “At the source” source separated waste programs

2025 Waste Audit Results



Transfer Station

C&D Focused Waste Audit

Comprehensive week-long waste audit occurred during the busy summer season during peak days and hours at solid waste facilities

All 3 solid waste facility locations were audited

1. Transfer Station
2. C&D landfill
3. MSW landfill

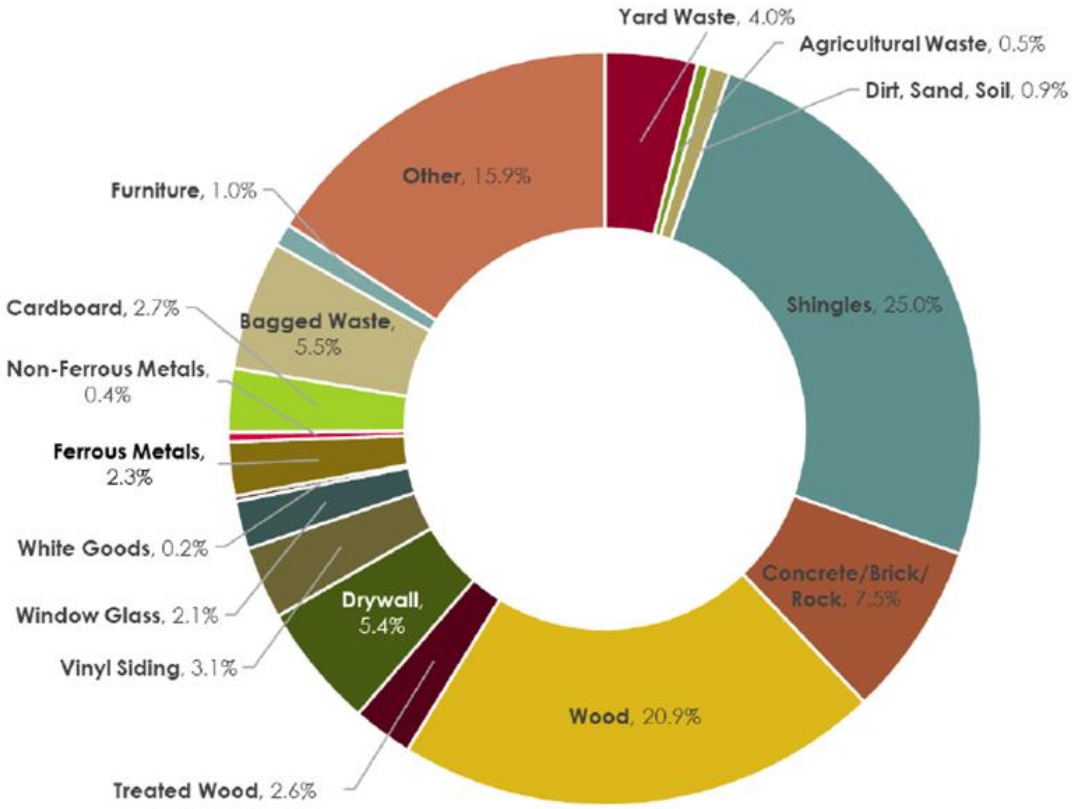


C&D landfill



MSW landfill

2025 Waste Audit Results



Key takeaways

32% of the C&D waste entering solid waste facilities can be recycled through one of the County's existing diversion programs

Investing in space and capacity to sort incoming loads, solid waste has the potential to capture 17,000 tons of materials for diversion

Materials Targeted for Diversion

1. Clean Wood and Yardwaste (suitable for grinding and a feedstock for the compost facility)
2. Cardboard
3. Metal
4. Clean brick, block and concrete



Target materials for diversion meet these guidelines:

- Local recycling markets are available
- Multiple established C&D diversion programs are available at solid waste facilities and advertised to residents and commercial haulers

North Carolina Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant

Buncombe County Solid Waste's Construction and Demolition Infrastructure Diversion Project received the highest award amount of $3.5 Million

- Construction, enhancement and investment in infrastructure and equipment that will expand our ability to sort, aggregate and market recyclable materials from C&D waste
- Design and construct a new C&D material sorting area at the landfill
- Purchase equipment and roll-off boxes
- Improve and increase efficiency in collection of recyclable materials
- Increasing resiliency by extending the life of the landfill

Timeline

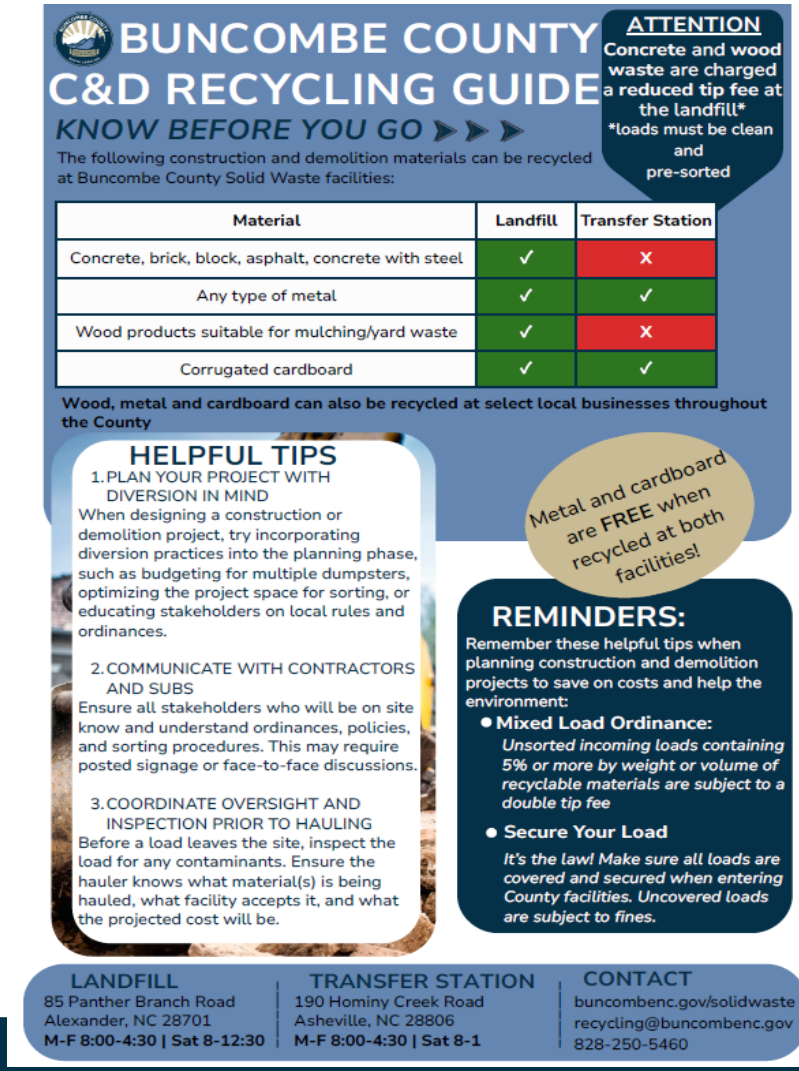
FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
1. Complete C&D Waste Audit 2. Multi-departmental kick off meeting-source separated C&D diversion 3. Apply for State Grant for C&D diversion infrastructure at landfill 4. Source separated C&D diversion handout for developers	1. Source separated waste diversion academy 2. Determine municipal interest in waste diversion academy 3. Pilot projects at job sites 4. Design and construct C&D diversion pad at landfill, purchase diversion equipment	1. Train staff 2. Evaluate development of a C&D diversion policy, based on pilot and staffing needs	1. Implement C&D diversion policy

Source separated waste projects

Separating waste at the source or the job site is an important component of waste diversion and will assist the County in attaining our 20% waste diversion goal

Recycling One Pager

Permitting office now provides this educational flyer for all construction and demolition permits



BUNCOMBE COUNTY
C&D RECYCLING GUIDE
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

ATTENTION
Concrete and wood waste are charged a reduced tip fee at the landfill*
*loads must be clean and pre-sorted

The following construction and demolition materials can be recycled at Buncombe County Solid Waste facilities:

Material	Landfill	Transfer Station
Concrete, brick, block, asphalt, concrete with steel	✓	X
Any type of metal	✓	✓
Wood products suitable for mulching/yard waste	✓	X
Corrugated cardboard	✓	✓

Wood, metal and cardboard can also be recycled at select local businesses throughout the County

HELPFUL TIPS

1. PLAN YOUR PROJECT WITH DIVERSION IN MIND
When designing a construction or demolition project, try incorporating diversion practices into the planning phase, such as budgeting for multiple dumpsters, optimizing the project space for sorting, or educating stakeholders on local rules and ordinances.

2. COMMUNICATE WITH CONTRACTORS AND SUBS
Ensure all stakeholders who will be on site know and understand ordinances, policies, and sorting procedures. This may require posted signage or face-to-face discussions.

3. COORDINATE OVERSIGHT AND INSPECTION PRIOR TO HAULING
Before a load leaves the site, inspect the load for any contaminants. Ensure the hauler knows what material(s) is being hauled, what facility accepts it, and what the projected cost will be.

Metal and cardboard are FREE when recycled at both facilities!

REMINDERS:
Remember these helpful tips when planning construction and demolition projects to save on costs and help the environment:

- **Mixed Load Ordinance:**
  Unsorted incoming loads containing 5% or more by weight or volume of recyclable materials are subject to a double tip fee
- **Secure Your Load**
  It's the law! Make sure all loads are covered and secured when entering County facilities. Uncovered loads are subject to fines.

LANDFILL
85 Panther Branch Road
Alexander, NC 28701
M-F 8:00-4:30 | Sat 8-12:30

TRANSFER STATION
190 Hominy Creek Road
Asheville, NC 28806
M-F 8:00-4:30 | Sat 8-1

CONTACT
buncombenc.gov/solidwaste
recycling@buncombenc.gov
828-250-5460

Waste Diversion Academy

Preliminary internal strategies will begin in FY27

Discussion and Questions