NORTH CAROLINA HELENE RECOVERY RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

Presented by

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Solid Waste

Background

Funding Source

- ✓ North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (NCDEQ) Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) is administering the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure (HRRI) grant program through funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Grant Objectives

- ✓ Assist Hurricane Helene-impacted local governments with the implementation, expansion, recovery, and improvement of waste reduction programs in western North Carolina
- ✓ Help western North Carolina communities build lasting capacity to divert materials from the waste stream and improve the resiliency of the region's waste reduction infrastructure

Grant Award

- $25 million of available funding for all eligible Helene impacted areas
- Applicants may request a maximum of $5 million
- NCDEQ received proposals from 45 entities totaling $122 million
- Buncombe County received the highest award amount of **$3.5 million** for a construction and demolition (C&D) diversion project

Betting on Buncombe:
Progress and Resiliency in the Era of Recovery

A Construction and Demolition Infrastructure Diversion Project for Buncombe County, North Carolina

- **$3.5 million** to be used for construction, enhancement and investment in infrastructure and equipment that will expand the ability to sort, aggregate and market recyclable materials from C&D waste
  - Building a new C&D material sorting area at the landfill
  - Purchasing equipment and containers to improve and increase efficiency in collection
  - Increasing resiliency by increasing diversion and landfill capacity

Strategic Plan 2030 Alignment

- **Solid Waste Strategic Plan Goal: Increase diversion of C&D materials by 20%**
- Nearly 32% (17,000 tons) of incoming C&D waste could be recycled locally with established markets and programs available at solid waste facilities
- Target materials for diversion
  - Cardboard
  - Clean Wood and Yardwaste (suitable for grinding and a feedstock for the compost facility)
  - Metal
  - Clean brick, concrete and block

Requested Actions

Motion to accept the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant and approve the budget amendment