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PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS NORTH CAROLINA'S RECYCLED-CONTENT PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

RALEIGH — The number of jobs related to recycling are increasing in North Carolina and becoming a more important part of the state's economy, according to a new publication from the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

Between 1994 and 2004, recycling jobs have increased from 8,700 to 14,000. In contrast, manufacturing jobs have declined from 817,300 to 577,400 during the same 10-year period.

North Carolina's thriving recycling sector is highlighted in "Made in North Carolina: Recycled-Content Products Help Fuel the State's Economy." The publication was released by the N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center, a program within the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

"Our state's recycled product companies are doing their part to retain manufacturing jobs in North Carolina and the United States," said Scott Mouw, the division's community and business assistance section chief. "They are operating profitable businesses giving people the products they want and are in step with a global trend to use secondary or recovered materials that meet or exceed quality and specification standards. In short, recycled products manufacturing is a success story in North Carolina and one that can help rebuild that central pillar of our economy."

The companies profiled in "Made in North Carolina," are actively ensuring that manufacturing stays a part of North Carolina's economic future. Products manufactured include paper, plastic bottles and flowerpots as well as items such as composite decking and rubber mulch. Regardless of what feedstock is used or consumer item is produced, it appears that manufacturers in North Carolina and worldwide will rely increasingly on recycled materials.

The publication also demonstrates that the waste stream represents a potentially rich source of materials that can be put back to work for the North Carolina economy. To complete the recycling loop, the final step requires consumers to purchase and use recycled-content products. "Buying recycled" helps create long-term stable markets for collected recyclable material. The more a product is purchased, the more competition improves. As competition increases, more jobs are created and more resources are saved. As a result of these factors, people produce less waste and pollution.

"Made in North Carolina" can be found online at <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/41/40994.pdf>. For more information, please contact Scott Mouw at (919) 715-6512.

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