

# Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant

## Forsyth County FY23 Awardee

Forsyth County Recycling & Solid Waste (FCRSW) was awarded \$106,023 in funding for the county to address recycling contamination. Prior to the grant, the county only recycled plastics 1 & 2, and struggled with a high level of contamination in the plastic compactors at their convenience centers. Through funds provided by the RWD grant, FCRSW purchased two plastic compactors retrofitted to prevent contamination and three bins for storage. The county provided a match of \$61,500 towards site preparation for compactor installation, signage, and advertisement for their new hard-to-recycle plastic collection (Hefty Energy Bag) program.

With the new compactors, retrofitted with a smaller entry diameter to exclude large contaminants like vinyl siding, contamination dropped from 41% to 18%. This was also due in part to the Hefty Energy Bag Program, which allowed customers to collect and drop off hard-to-recycle plastics like polystyrene and plastic film, addressing the smaller contaminants commonly found in the compactors. In the first year, these efforts together diverted over 71 tons of plastics. With the success of this project, FCRSW will continue to reevaluate and make improvements to their program.

To learn more about the RWD Grant, visit <https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/recycling-and> or contact [swtf.grant@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:swtf.grant@dnr.ga.gov)

