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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Department of Environmental Management in New Hanover County, NC Wins Award from Carolina Recycling Association**

*Composting Program Diverts Food Waste from Landfill by  
Recycling it into a Product with Value*

CHARLESTON, SC – The Carolina Recycling Association honored the Department of Environmental Management in New Hanover County, NC with a 2019 Annual Recycling Award during the Annual Conference and Trade Show on March 19 in Charleston, SC. New Hanover County is reducing the amount of waste going into landfills by composting food waste and sharing the finished product with local parks and farmers.

Each year, the Carolina Recycling Association honors top performers that advance waste reduction and recycling in the Carolinas. The awards are open to individuals, companies, governments, schools, organizations, non-profits, and councils – projects and programs large and small. Nominations are reviewed and winners are selected by a committee of industry peers, and scored in a variety of categories including amount of waste reduced, recycled or diverted, level of difficulty, and contribution to the industry as a whole.

New Hanover County's Department of Environmental Management has been a leader in waste diversion and recycling. After two consecutive waste audits demonstrated that over half of the waste being disposed of in the county landfill was compostable, staff decided that action had to be taken. The county purchased an innovative in-vessel system designed to eliminate odors and wastewater issues that are typically associated with composting. All the pre-consumer food waste from University of North Carolina - Wilmington's dining hall is processed through the system, in addition to feed stocks from restaurants, private individuals, and farmer's markets. Finished compost is screened, tested, and made available to county parks and gardens and local organic farmers. This program demonstrates that instead of food waste going into landfills, it can be reused in a way the benefits everyone.

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