The
Guide to
Environmental Organizations
in North Carolina

by Lisa Blumenthal

A Book by The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research

The Center Releases A New Guide

by Lisa Blumenthal

On January 10, 1983, the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research released its latest book, The Guide to Environmental Organizations in North Carolina. *Compiled over an 8-month period by Lisa Blumenthal, the 274-page softbound book includes listings and descriptions of private environmental organizations, other groups for which the environment is a secondary concern, and state government agencies (including boards, commissions, and councils) with responsibilities in environmental management.*

The Guide *concentrates on groups that are supported primarily by membership contributions from the general public and which are concerned primarily with the physical environment—air, water, and land. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation funded this guide through a grant to the N.C. Center. The excerpts below, from the executive summary to the book, explain the methodology used and summarize the major findings that emerged. To order a copy of* The Guide, *see insert card.*

In March and April 1983, the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research identified, sent letters of introduction to, and then surveyed nearly 200 organizations believed to be private environmental groups in North Carolina. Of these 200, some were found not to exist anymore, others were found to be groups whose primary concern was something other than the environment, while a few simply failed to return the survey. In all, we identified 108 environmental groups in the state, of which 89 are actually listed in the guide. The computations and analysis are based on the information in the surveys returned by these 89 groups.

The environmental movement is relatively young in North Carolina. Table 1 lists the numbers and percentages of groups that were established during four different time periods. Thirty-six organizations, or 40.5 percent of the total groups in the state, were established in the 1970s. Forty-two groups, or 47.2 percent of the total number of organizations, were founded since 1980.

Lisa Blumenthal has a masters degree in environmental management from Duke University and has worked with various coastal management and energy conservation projects.

Table 1. History of the Environmental Movement

Period Established	Number of Groups	Percent of Total Groups
Pre-1960	6	6.7%
1960-1969	5	5.6%
1970-1979	36	40.5%
1980-Present	42	47.2%
Total	89	100%

Geographic Spread

The map on page 48 illustrates the geographic spread of private environmental groups across North Carolina. Even a quick glance suggests that about half of the groups are located in the Research Triangle and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Triad areas. Specifically, Raleigh and Chapel Hill lead with 13 private groups each, followed by Durham, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro, which contain 6, 5, and 4 groups, respectively. Very few citizens' environmental groups are located in the western and eastern parts of the state. Thirteen groups are west of Asheville, while 12 are east of Greenville. The remaining 23 organizations are distributed fairly equally in the mountains, Piedmont, and coastal areas of North Carolina.

According to the survey, identifiable gaps in geographic coverage appear just east and west of the state's center. For example, no private environmental groups are located in Surry and Yadkin counties southward to Rowan, Stanly, and Anson counties. Likewise, none exists in the northeast counties of Halifax and Northampton, nor in Edgecombe, Wilson, Wayne, Duplin, and Pender counties. Finally, 71 of North Carolina's 100 counties are without any environmental group whatsoever, and many of the counties have only 1 group.

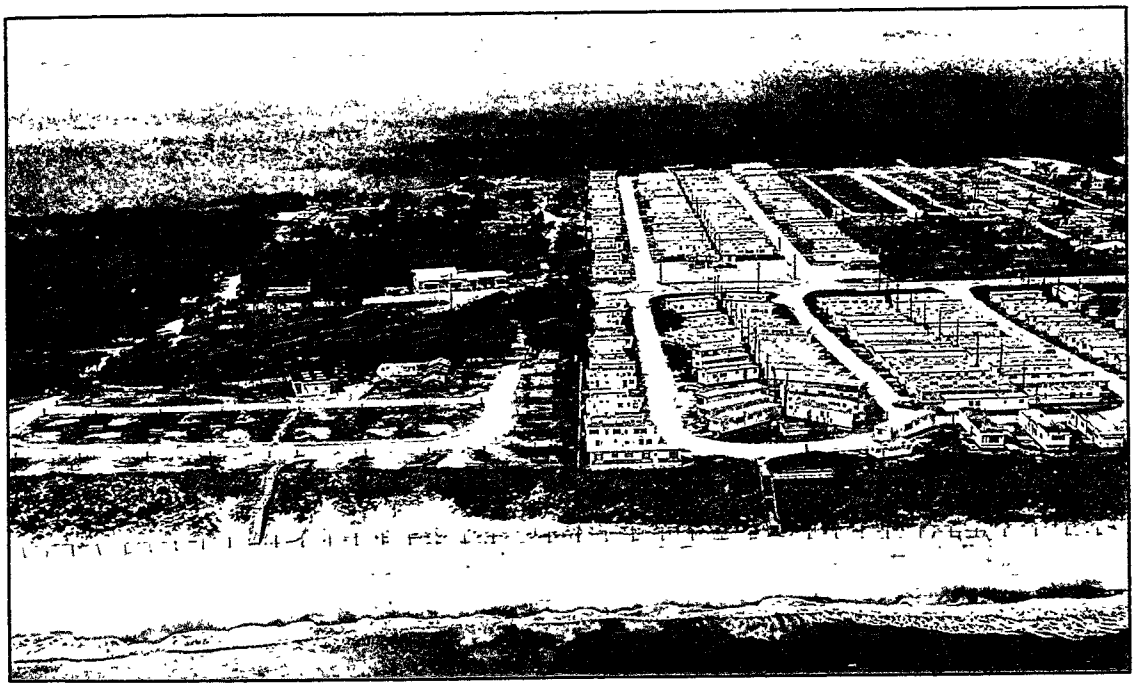
The survey also shows that 32 out of 89 organizations that responded to the Center's survey, or 36 percent of the environmental groups in North Carolina, are concerned with issues statewide, as opposed to local issues. These 32 groups with statewide concerns are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Environmental Groups with Statewide Emphasis

1. The Acid Rain Foundation, Inc.
2. Artists and Musicians United for a Safe Environment—USA
3. Association for the Preservation of the Eno River Valley
4. Audubon Society—North Carolina Council
5. Audubon Society—Wake Chapter
6. Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
7. Center for Reflection on the Second Law
8. Central Carolina Environmental Defense Fund
9. Conservation Council of North Carolina
10. Conservation Foundation of North Carolina
11. Energy and Environmental Services Network
12. Environmental Law Project
13. Friends of State Parks
14. League of Women Voters of North Carolina
15. North Carolina Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation
16. North Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society
17. North Carolina Citizens Action on Toxic and Chemical Hazards
18. North Carolina Consumers Council Inc.
19. North Carolina Land Trustees of America
20. North Carolina Land Use Congress, Inc.
21. North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
22. North Carolina Nature Conservancy
23. North Carolina Outdoor Education Association
24. North Carolina Public Interest Research Group
25. North Carolina Trails Association
26. North Carolina Trout Unlimited
27. North Carolina Wildlife Federation
28. Pomona Action Community
29. Sierra Club—North Carolina Chapter
30. Sierra Club—Research Triangle Group
31. Sierra Club—Wenoca Group
32. Waste Information Research and Education —Piedmont Waste Exchange

The Conservation Council of North Carolina, North Carolina Citizens Action on Toxic and Chemical Hazards, and North Carolina Nature Conservancy are just three examples of groups concerned with issues like water resource management, hazardous waste control, and land preservation on a statewide basis. Locally oriented groups include such river groups as Committee for the New River, Deep River Citizens' Coalition, and Lumber River Basin Committee, as well as other specific issue-oriented organizations such as Onslow County Conservation Group and the Triangle Land Conservancy. Each of these groups was developed to effect changes in particular, geographically limited areas.

Coastal management ranks first among areas of concern for North Carolina environmental groups.



Jim Page

Table 3. The Ten North Carolina Environmental Groups With The Largest Membership (1982)

Name of Group	1982 Membership
1. North Carolina Wildlife Federation	30,000
2. North Carolina Public Interest Research Group	9,000
3. Sierra Club: North Carolina Chapter	5,300
4. North Carolina Nature Conservancy	3,800
5. League of Women Voters of North Carolina	1,480
6. Friends of Currituck	1,275
7. North Carolina Citizens Action on Toxic and Chemical Hazards	1,200
8. Sierra Club: Research Triangle Group	1,193*
9. Carolina Bird Club, Inc.	900
10. (tie) Sierra Club: Central Piedmont Group	800*
(tie) N. C. Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Foundation	800
(tie) N. C. Trout Unlimited	800

*This group's membership is included in the N.C. Chapter's total membership, listed in number 3 above.

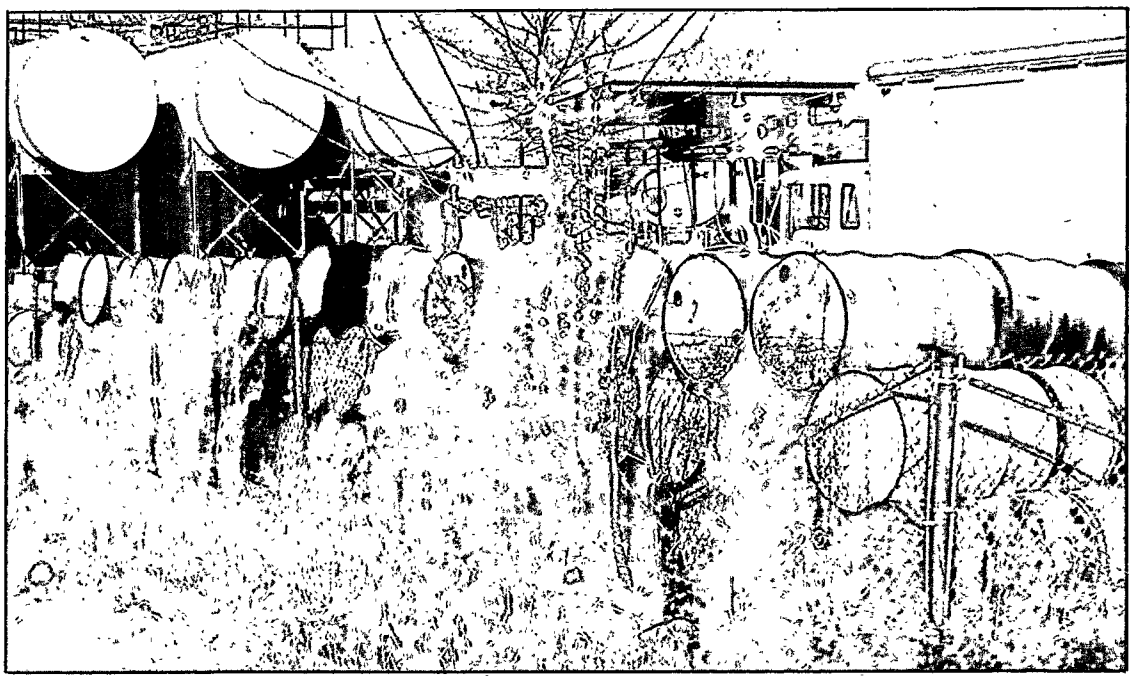
Membership

Over 60,000 individuals in North Carolina are members of at least 1 private environmental citizens' group in the state. As shown in Table 3, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation clearly has the largest constituency of all the groups surveyed. Representing a cross-section of backgrounds and occupations, the N.C. Wildlife Federation claims more than 30,000 members. The N.C. Public Interest Research Group is second with 9,000 members. As many as three Sierra Club organizations are listed in this table, demonstrating the great popularity enjoyed by the Sierra Club due both to its long history and a variety of outreach and educational programs. Finally, with its extensive network of 3,800 corporate and private members, the North Carolina Nature Conservancy ranks fourth on this list. The remaining groups appearing in the table each have less than 1,500 members.

Budget and Sources of Funds

Table 4 describes the ten environmental groups in North Carolina with the largest budgets. The North Carolina Wildlife Federation not only has the largest membership but also the largest budget of any group, reporting a figure of $250,000. The N.C. Nature Conservancy is second with its $168,798 budget. The Carolina Wetlands Project (an offshoot of the N.C. Wildlife Federation) is third on the list with $105,000. Fourth and fifth are the Eno River Association and the Acid Rain Foundation, with budgets of $75,000 and $72,000 respectively. The remaining groups in this table report budgets of less than $50,000, with Recycle Raleigh for Food and Fuel tenth at $30,300.

Hazardous waste management is the second most important concern among the state's environmental organizations.



Paul Cooper

Table 4: The Ten North Carolina Environmental Groups with the Largest Budgets (FY 1982)

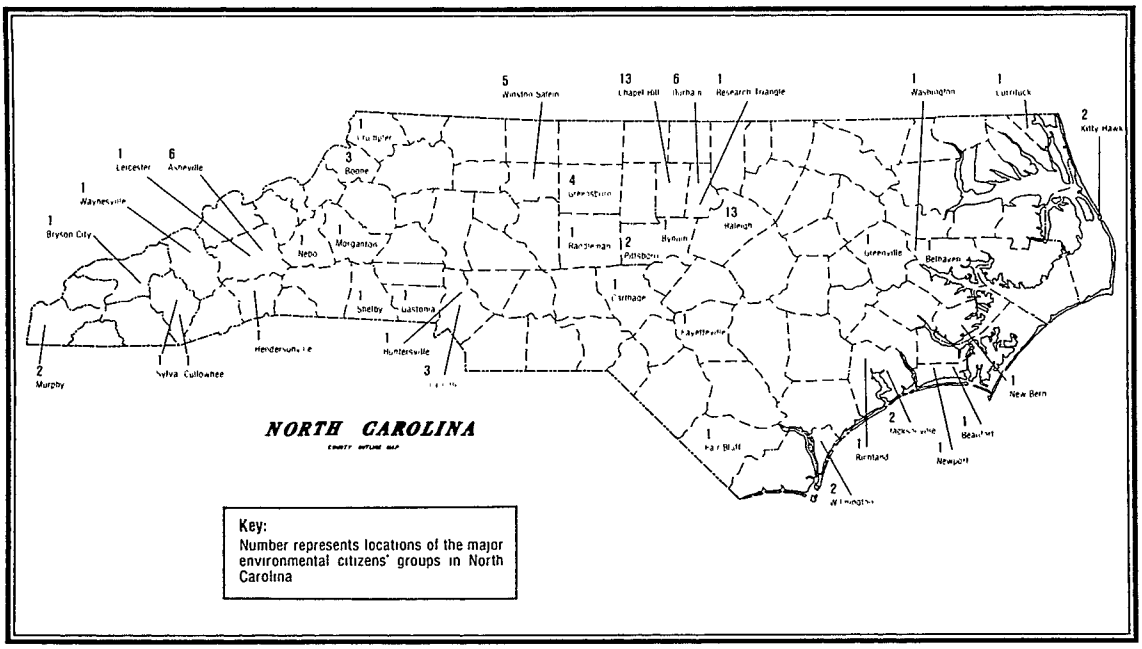
Name of Group	FY 1982 Budget
1. North Carolina Wildlife Federation	$250,000
2. North Carolina Nature Conservancy	$168,798
3. Carolina Wetlands Project	$105,000
4. Association for the Preservation of the Eno River Valley	$ 75,000
5. The Acid Rain Foundation	$ 72,000
6. Long Branch Environmental Education Center, Inc.	$ 48,600
7. The Land Stewardship Council of North Carolina	$ 43,114
8. North Carolina Public Interest Research Group	$ 40,000
9. North Carolina Citizens Action On Toxic And Chemical Hazards	$ 38,500
10. Recycle Raleigh For Food And Fuel	$ 30,300

Eight of the ten groups with the largest budgets are private, nonprofit, tax-exempt corporations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a classification for religious, educational, charitable, scientific, or literary organizations. The other two groups are under the 501 (c) (4) classification for social welfare organizations. Though this classification means that the organization will not be eligible to solicit tax-deductible contributions, it does allow the organization to undertake substantial lobbying.

Most of these environmental organizations receive funds from a variety of sources. Almost all collect *membership dues.* For example, the N.C. Wildlife Federation receives 80 percent of its budget from membership dues; the N.C. Public Interest Research Group receives 90 percent of its $40,000 budget from member colleges student fees. The second most widely tapped sources of funding are *individual contributions*, and in some cases, *corporate gifts.* The N.C. Nature Conservancy receives over 30 percent of its funds from corporate and individual donors; 75 percent of the Eno River Association's budget stems from private contributions; a majority of the Acid Rain Foundation's budget is provided by a single donor. Recycle Raleigh for Food and Fuel obtained a grant from ITT, which comprises 80 percent of its budget.

The largest remaining source of funding for many environmental organizations in North Carolina is grants from *foundations and*

Geographic Coverage of Private Environmental Groups in North Carolina



governmental agencies. Carolina Wetlands Project, for example, gets 80 percent of its budget from a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Land Stewardship Council of N.C. receives one-third of its budget from foundation grants, including the Blumenthal (N.C.) and Schalkenbach (N.Y.) Foundations. Finally, the Z. Smith Reynolds and Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundations have helped fund several groups, including the Long Branch Environmental Education Center, N.C. Citizens Action on Toxic and Chemical Hazards, and the N.C. Nature Conservancy.

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research plans to publish a directory of North Carolina foundations early in 1984. Compiled by Anita Gunn, the directory will be of great use to many private environmental groups in the state. The directory will include an index identifying the subjects foundations have historically funded, including: agriculture, energy utilization, land conservation/preservation, pollution, recreation, and wildlife management.

Table 5. Environmental Groups with Full or Part-Time Staff (1982)

Name of Group	Staff: Full Time	Staff: Part-time
1. North Carolina Nature Conservancy	5	0
2. North Carolina Wildlife Federation	4	1
3. Carolina Wetlands Project	3	0
4. Long Branch Environmental Education Center, Inc.	2	3
5. North Carolina Public Interest Research Group	2	3
6 Waste Information Research and Education, Piedmont Waste Exchange	1	3
7. Triangle Land Conservancy	1	1
8. Western Carolina Alliance	1	1
9. The Acid Rain Foundation	1	0
10. Center for Reflection on the Second Law	1	0
11. Committee for the New River	1	0
12. Conservation Council of North Carolina	1	0
13. The Land Stewardship Council of North Carolina	1	0
14. North Carolina Coastal Federation, Inc.	1	0
15. Recycle Raleigh for Food and Fuel	1	0
16. Timberlake Residents Association	0	4
17. North Carolina Citizens Action on Toxic and Chemical Hazards	0	3
18. Clean Water Association of Coastal North Carolina, Inc.	0	2
19. Northwest Environmental Preservation Committee	0	2
20. Carolina Bird Club, Inc.	0	1
21. Carolina Environmental Study Group	0	1
22. League of Women Voters of North Carolina	0	1
23. North Carolina Land Trustees of America	0	1
24. Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Committee	0	1

Staffing

The majority of North Carolina's environmental groups have little or no staff. As seen in Table 5, only 15 of the 89 organizations listed have any full-time staff, with an additional 9 groups having only part-time staff. A closer look indicates that the number of staff per group is extremely low. Finally, as one might expect, those organizations having the largest budgets are also those with full or part-time staff.

Areas of Concern for Environmental Groups

According to the survey of environmental organizations, two major environmental issues confront North Carolina today, each one involving about one-fifth of all the groups surveyed. They are (1) coastal management, involving 21 percent of all groups, and (2) hazardous waste management, involving 19 percent. Other important issues among environmental groups in the state are water resource management—including groundwater and surfacewater quantity and quality; land use planning and management; wilderness area designation; and pollution resulting from poor environmental management. About 15 percent of all groups concentrate on each of these issues.

Environmental and conservation groups in North Carolina are taking several paths to achieve their objectives. Some are taking opponents to court (Carteret County Crossroads), while others are lobbying in the General Assembly for environmental legislation (Conservation Council of North Carolina). Still others are buying up prime natural habitats to protect them for future generations (The Nature Conservancy).

The N.C. Center's survey shows that 37 percent of the 89 environmental groups in North Carolina are actively involved in legislative lobbying, either by individual members of groups or by providing financial support to groups who pursue such activities. Even so, lobbyists for environmental organizations are many fewer in number than representatives of business and industry in the halls of North Carolina's General Assembly. Eleven percent of the groups engage in education efforts while seven percent do grassroots organizing.□