

## State's First "Green" Rest Area to Open Thursday in Wilkes County

Written by Adam Hicks  
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While other states, like Virginia, are closing rest areas, North Carolina will open its first green rest area on Thursday morning on Highway 421 just outside of North Wilkesboro.

According to Department of Transportation spokesperson, Dara Demi, the rest area has been under construction since January of last year.

This new rest area is environmentally friendly because it uses more natural light, has motion-sensored lighting in the restrooms, has a solar panel mounted above the main entrance that is used to heat water in the restroom sinks, and even has a large cistern that collects around 309,000 gallons of rain water per year to flush the toilets and urinals.

Demi said the rest area will use about 75 percent less water than an average facility.

90 percent of the construction waste was also recycled while crews were building the rest area.

The new green rest area will also include a visitor's center and a one-mile walking trail.

Officials from Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, and the D.O.T. will be on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday morning at 10:30.

The new rest area is located on Highway 421, a half-mile past exit 282.