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The mission of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is to protect human health and the environment. Safe and efficient management of solid waste is an essential part of that responsibility.

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) – S.C. Code of Laws §§ 44-96-10 et seq. – supports this mission by establishing a comprehensive framework for state and local governments to follow for the proper management of solid waste. The Act, for example, requires DHEC to develop a state solid waste management plan (State Plan) and for county governments or regions to develop solid waste management plans that are consistent with the State Plan. The Act authorizes DHEC to establish solid waste regulations.

The Act (S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-60) also mandates that DHEC publish an annual report – based in part on the information that counties and permitted solid waste facilities are required to provide – on solid waste management for the previous fiscal year (FY). The “South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report” must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly annually by March 15.

This report includes:

- detailed information on the amount of material recycled by commodity (e.g., glass, metal, paper, plastic, banned items, miscellaneous items and commingled recyclables) and county;
- a summary of the state’s used motor oil recycling program targeting do-it-yourself oil changers;
- recycling data for state agencies and colleges/universities;
- a summary of the economic benefits of recycling;
- the amount and type of solid waste disposed of as well as a list of permitted solid waste facilities;
- solid waste import and export data;
- remaining life estimates for landfills;
- planning and demonstration of need; and
- recommendations for improving solid waste management.

This report – which reflects solid waste management activities in FY 2012 (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) – measures and defines two specific types of solid waste: municipal solid waste (MSW); and total solid waste (TSW).

MSW is mostly comprised of waste generated by households, businesses, institutions, offices and non-profits. TSW is comprised of MSW as well as construction and demolition debris, land-clearing debris and industrial solid waste. See Section 1 for the definitions of MSW and TSW.

The distinctions between TSW and MSW are important. TSW, for example, reflects all solid waste and provides a more comprehensive look at how much material is generated, disposed of and kept out of landfills by recycling. MSW, conversely, is limited and reflects specific activities and material.

The Act requires each county to report the amount of MSW recycled within its jurisdiction. It also requires each local government and private company that operates permitted solid waste facilities to report on the amount of solid waste managed annually to DHEC.

The state's goals are to: recycle 40 percent or more of its MSW; and reduce the average disposal to 3.25 pounds per person per day or less by 2020.

When the Act became law in 1991, the state's recycling and disposal goals were based on TSW. In 2000, the state adopted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's definition for measuring MSW with some exceptions.

South Carolina set new MSW waste reduction and recycling goals in the FY11 report. The state's goals are to:

- recycle 40 percent or more of its MSW; and
- reduce the average per capita disposal to 3.25 pounds per person per day or less by 2020.

This report also updates the State Plan by providing the latest data.

The "South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for FY12" was published on March 15, 2013.

## When Using this Report ...

When reviewing the tables in this report, it is important to note that – generally – recycling tonnage is rounded to the nearest hundredth and disposal data is rounded to the nearest ton.

Some totals do not add up due to rounding of numbers.

## About this Report ...

The "South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012" is submitted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in compliance with the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-60). Additionally, Act 119 of 2005 mandates that agencies provide all reports to the General Assembly in an electronic format.

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