

# Used Motor Oil Recycling

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) – S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-160 – requires the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to publish an annual report on the state’s used motor oil recycling program for do-it-yourself oil changers (DIYers).

The Act requires transporters of used motor oil to register and report to DHEC the amount hauled each calendar year. For purposes of this report, however, the amount of used motor oil collected is presented by fiscal year (FY) – July 1 to June 30 – as reported by counties.

According to the Act, the report must include:

- **The amount of used motor oil collected in each county;**
- **The number of used motor oil collection sites available in each county; and**
- **A summary of local government programs receiving grant funding from DHEC.**

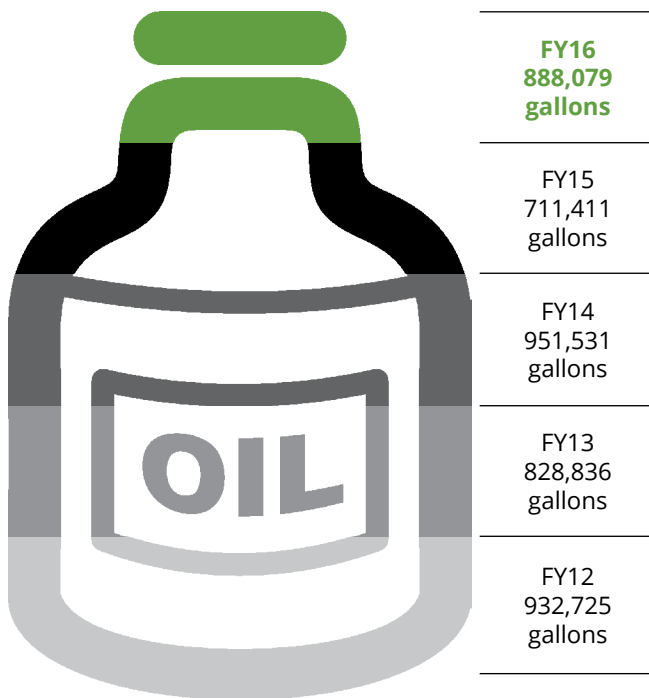
*Nearly  
888,079 gallons of  
used motor oil were  
collected from DIYers  
in South Carolina  
during FY16.*

Overall, there are few barriers to recycling used motor oil, filters and bottles. Despite a continuing price drop, some local governments still earn revenue from the sale of used motor oil. Scrap dealers and steel mills accept drained and crushed used motor oil filters. Bottles, if properly drained, can be recycled with other plastic bottles.

Chart 6.1 illustrates the success of the used motor oil collection program by FY.

Table 6.2 lists the number of sites and gallons collected by county as well as grant awards to the county or municipalities within that county.

**CHART 6.1: Gallons of Used Motor Oil Recycled by S.C. DIYers by FY**



There is a fee of 2 cents per quart of motor oil collected at the wholesale level. Part of this funding is used to provide grants for local governments focusing on DIY used motor oil collection and recycling. In FY16, \$704,893 was awarded to local government programs and primarily used for the purchase of equipment and supplies associated with used motor oil collection sites. Funds also were used to cover costs for used motor oil filter recycling, public education and professional development of local government recycling coordinators and others.

In addition to used motor oil, most county and some municipal recycling programs collect used motor oil filters and bottles from DIYers.

The amount of used motor oil filters and motor oil bottles recycled is difficult to determine or is not always available. For example, many counties collect and market filters with other metals. Given that, the data presented in Section 5 (Table 5.7) does not reflect the full extent of used motor oil filter recycling in the state.

In South Carolina, only used motor oil recycled by DIYers is counted as part of the state’s municipal solid waste recycling rate. In FY16, DIYers recycled nearly 888,079 gallons (or about 3,099 tons) of used motor oil – an increase of nearly 25 percent from the previous FY.

**TABLE 6.2: Number of DIY Used Motor Oil Collection Sites, FY16 Grants Awarded, Gallons Collected and Tonnage Equivalent by County for FY16**

GRANTEE	NUMBER OF SITES	GALLONS	TONS	GRANT AMOUNT
Abbeville	13	7,774.30	27.21	\$10,804.00
Aiken	32	36,985.70	129.45	\$4,300.00
Allendale	6	1,542.80	5.40	◆
Anderson	33	27,311.40	95.59	\$11,750.00
Bamberg	10	6,074.20	21.26	◆
Barnwell	14	8,971.40	31.40	◆
Beaufort	20	30,434.30	106.52	\$7,210.00
Berkeley	31	31,985.70	111.95	\$15,800.00
Calhoun	10	24,505.70	85.77	◆
Charleston	30	49,520.00	173.32	\$10,872.00
Cherokee	18	6,414.20	22.45	\$6,850.00
Chester	15	11,542.80	40.40	\$4,950.00
Chesterfield	13	7,848.50	28.47	\$4,114.00
Clarendon	20	4,800.00	16.80	\$6,317.00
Colleton	19	674.30	2.36	\$6,263.50
Darlington	19	7,140.00	24.99	\$16,890.00
Dillon	18	4,628.50	16.20	\$14,350.00
Dorchester	21	28,382.80	99.34	\$12,340.00
Edgefield	9	16,394.30	57.38	◆
Fairfield	13	9,965.70	34.88	\$15,684.00
Florence	30	23,520.00	82.32	\$9,837.50
Georgetown	22	12,108.60	42.38	\$33,085.00
Greenville	40	42,477.10	148.67	\$19,250.00
Greater Greenville Sanitation	◆	◆	◆	\$750.00
City of Greenville	◆	◆	◆	\$4,750.00
City of Simpsonville	◆	◆	◆	\$3,135.00
Greenwood	14	9,200.00	32.20	\$5,765.50
Hampton	13	5,631.40	19.71	\$7,523.00
Horry	45	42,114.30	147.40	\$43,535.00
Jasper	7	7,085.70	24.80	\$5,030.00
Kershaw	17	19,771.40	69.20	\$15,275.00
Lancaster	16	15,174.30	53.11	\$26,750.00
Laurens	13	15,662.80	54.82	\$12,667.00
Lee	10	7,431.40	26.01	◆
Lexington	34	60,662.80	212.32	\$13,420.00
Marion	9	18,114.30	63.40	\$4,377.50
Marlboro	17	1,465.70	5.13	\$18,708.00
McCormick	4	4,040.00	14.14	◆
Newberry	15	7,942.80	27.8	\$10,461.00
Oconee	21	56,745.70	198.61	\$39,250.00
Orangeburg	30	30,077.10	105.27	◆
Pickens	19	26,414.20	92.45	\$20,060.00
Richland	31	35,014.20	122.55	\$45,120.00
Columbia, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$5,750.00
Saluda	9	10,145.70	35.51	◆
Spartanburg	43	48,305.70	169.07	\$41,000.00
Spartanburg, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$2,858.00
Sumter	22	20,431.50	71.52	\$22,906.00
Sumter, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$3,750.00
Union	10	3,648.50	12.77	◆
Williamsburg	25	285.71	1.00	\$23,575.00
York	41	38,711.40	135.49	\$17,750.00
Rock Hill, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$7,450.00
Three Rivers SWA <sup>1</sup>	◆	◆	◆	\$86,110.00
Tri-County SWA <sup>2</sup>	◆	◆	◆	\$6,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>888,078.91</b>	<b>3,098.79</b>	<b>\$704,893.00</b>

1. The Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority (SWA) provides solid waste management services to local governments in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Edgefield, McCormick, Orangeburg and Saluda counties.

2. The Tri-County SWA provides solid waste management services to local governments in Edgefield, McCormick and Saluda counties.

◆ Grant funding awarded to municipalities and regional authorities primarily is used to promote used motor oil recycling. Collection sites operated and/or used motor oil collected by a municipality are included in the county's total.

**NOTES:** The majority of sites listed above are provided by local governments, but the total number (912) includes retailers, quick lubes and auto parts stores. Gallons are converted to weight (1 gallon = 7 pounds).