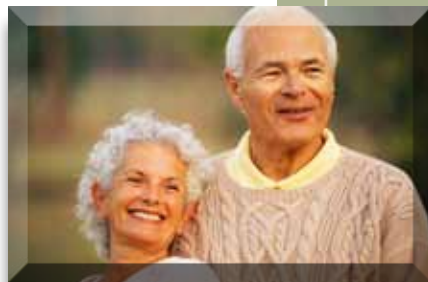


WE CAN HELP ...

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) provides technical assistance, education/outreach programs as well as grant funding to S.C. local governments.

- *Technical assistance: The Office offers technical assistance to local governments on a variety of recycling issues. Specific programs include the S.C. Smart Business Recycling Program, the S.C. Green Hospitality Program and Smart Gardener.*
- *Education/outreach: The Office provides: education programs for schools and teachers; printed materials; graphic design services; and a variety of training programs. The S.C. Recycling Professionals Certification Program, which specifically targets local governments, covers a variety of topics and issues as well as provides the tools and resources to successfully manage local recycling programs.*
- *Grant funding: The Office provides three grant programs for local governments: 1) Solid Waste; 2) Used Oil; and 3) Waste Tire. In addition, the Office provides grant funding for schools as well as colleges and universities.*

To learn more on any program listed above or for additional information on the economic and environmental benefits of recycling, visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle or call 1-800-768-7348.



This publication was developed and is provided by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Printed on RECYCLED Paper OR-0893 3/12



RECYCLING RECYCLING

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL DECISION MAKERS

good for the
ENVIRONMENT

good for the
ECONOMY

good for
SOUTH CAROLINA



WHY RECYCLING MATTERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Local programs are the backbone of recycling in South Carolina. Local decision makers – mayors, county administrators, managers, council members and other community leaders – play a crucial role in these programs.

Through their understanding, support and commitment, local decision makers can determine the success of their community's recycling programs.

While the environmental benefits of recycling are well recognized, what is less known is that recycling is an economic success story. By turning waste into valuable raw materials, recycling creates jobs throughout the process and adds significantly to the nation's and South Carolina's economy.

A green, clean community is a great place to live, work, raise a family and do business. Recycling is good for the environment, the economy and South Carolina.

SOUTH CAROLINIANS RECYCLE

According to a statewide telephone survey of 1,000 South Carolinians, 77 percent of respondents consider themselves to be recyclers.

SOURCE: "Residential Recycling Study," Winter 2006/2007, MarketSearch Corporation

Q: Is recycling good for the environment?

A: Yes. Recycling promotes the sustainable use of natural resources. Recycling saves energy. Recycling lessens or eliminates pollution by reducing the need to extract, move and process raw materials. Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Recycling also reduces the need to build landfills and incinerators thereby avoiding the environmental, political and community concerns associated with those solid waste management facilities.

Q: Is recycling good for the economy?

A: Yes. Recycling creates jobs, economic development and tax revenue. Recycling supports businesses that haul, process and broker recyclables as well as companies that manufacture and sell products made from material collected in local programs. Studies have shown that recycling always creates more jobs than disposing of waste in landfills.

Q: Does recycling impact your budget, your community?

A: Yes. One oft-repeated phrase is that recycling costs money. Any type of solid waste management option costs money, but recycling provides local governments the dual economic benefits of reducing disposal costs and earning revenue from the sale of recyclables. Since fiscal year (FY) 2005, South Carolinians recycled about 8.4 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW). As a result, about \$302 million in disposal costs were avoided in the state. In the past four FYs, local governments reported earning nearly \$35 million from the sale of recyclables. It is important to note that this amount does not include all revenue received from the sale of recyclables as many local programs did not report.

Q: What can you do?

A: There are many steps you can take. Here are a few fundamental steps to help make your recycling program successful.

- Understand that recycling has economic and environmental benefits to your community.
- Support your recycling program through appropriate funding and resources.
- Consider other program funding options (e.g., Pay-As-You-Throw programs) or incentives that encourage recycling.
- Work with other local governments to improve programs in your county or region. Working together may allow programs to expand and save money.
- Lead by example. Set up recycling programs in government buildings.
- Buy recycled. Implement an environmentally preferred purchasing policy for your local government.



RECYCLING SAVES MONEY

By recycling more, particularly in these difficult economic conditions, how much more could your community save?

- It is estimated that in South Carolina nearly 348,000 tons of easily recyclable material – cardboard boxes, office paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles as well as glass bottles and jars – was sent for landfill disposal in FY11.
- Using the state's average MSW tipping fee of \$36 per ton, more than \$12.5 million was spent to dispose of this material.
- Even worse, about \$47 million in potential revenue from the sale of these recyclables was lost based on the average revenue received per ton by local governments for each of these types of material.

SOURCE: S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

RECYCLING WORKS

Recycling is good business in South Carolina.

The state's recycling industry has a \$6.5 billion impact on the state's economy according to a study conducted by the College of Charleston. The study shows that the recycling industry is directly responsible for:

- more than 15,000 jobs;
- \$1.5 billion in annual personal income; and
- \$69 million in tax revenue each year.

SOURCE: "The Economic Impact of the Recycling Industry in South Carolina," June 2006