

# RECYCLING DATA FOR STATE AGENCIES & COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act (Act) was signed into law on May 27, 1991. The Act, which is South Carolina's first comprehensive law on solid waste management, set recycling and disposal goals to be achieved at the state level through efforts at the local level (i.e. state agencies, colleges and universities, counties and businesses). It also requires local governments to keep track of materials recycled and to report annually to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office).

The Act was amended on October 3, 2000 requiring state agencies as well as state-supported colleges and universities to:

- submit to DHEC a report detailing their recycling programs; and
- provide a list of products purchased during the previous fiscal year that contain recycled materials.

The Office is responsible for compiling and reviewing data from these reports and publishing the "State Agencies/Colleges & Universities Recycling & Buy Recycled Annual Report" by November 1 each year. This report provides information for fiscal year (FY) 2008 reflecting activities from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

In addition to summarizing the information reported, the Act also requires the Office to determine what percentage of state purchases contain recycled materials and include this information in the report. Currently, such an effort is not possible because a system is not in place for tracking the amount spent on recycled-content products. Therefore, a specific dollar amount and percentage of purchases cannot be provided.

The Office, however, has been meeting with the S.C. Budget and Control Board's Materials

Management Office (MMO) to promote increased purchasing of recycled-content products as well as other environmentally friendly purchases. Through these discussions, the state will continue to support the concept of "closing the loop" on recycling – that is collecting recyclables, processing them and purchasing recycled-content products.

To compensate for not having a tracking mechanism, the Office asks respondents to report what is purchased (instead of how much). Not surprisingly, many schools and agencies reported buying recycled-content copy paper, toner/inkjet cartridges as well as business cards. Currently, there are some options available for purchasing officials to buy recycled-content products on state contract. Typically, a state contract is established by MMO when it has been determined that an item has widespread use throughout the state. Currently, recycled-content paper and envelopes as well as plastic trash can liners and bathroom paper products are available on state-term contract.

In FY08, 75,269 tons of material was recycled by state agencies and colleges/universities. The significant increase over the 17,023 tons recycled in FY07 is a result of the efforts of two universities – Lander and Winthrop – to avoid landfill disposal after deconstruction projects.

Recycling and buying recycled are important issues and have the potential to save money, conserve natural resources and protect the environment. State government and public schools have the opportunity to serve as a model to the private sector as well as the public on how this can be done.

The information for this report was compiled from 92 surveys received from state agencies as well as colleges and universities, up seven from FY07. Both public and private colleges and universities efforts are included in this report, although only state-supported schools are required to report.

# RECYCLING DATA: STATE AGENCIES

Sixty-three state agencies recycled 10,743 tons of material in FY08. This reflects a 1 percent increase over FY07. Of that amount, the No. 1 item recycled was mixed metal, followed by office paper.

When it comes to buying recycled-content products, 72 percent of respondents reported purchasing recycled-content copy paper, followed by 54 percent purchasing recycled-content toner and/or inkjet cartridges.

## S.C. State Agencies Reporting for FY08

- Administrative Law Court
- Arts Commission
- Attorney General
- Budget and Control Board
- Commission for the Blind
- Commission on Indigent Defense
- Commission on Prosecution Coordination
- Comptroller General
- Criminal Justice Academy
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
- Department of Archives and History
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Consumer Affairs
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Insurance
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Transportation
- Education Lottery Commission
- Education Oversight Committee
- Educational Television Network
- Election Commission
- Emergency Management Division
- Employment Security Commission
- Forestry Commission
- Governor's Office
- Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission
- Human Affairs Commission
- Judicial Department
- Legislative Audit Council
- Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems
- Lt. Governor's Office
- Office of the Adjutant General
- Office of the State Auditor
- Office of the State Treasurer
- Patriots Point Development Authority
- Public Service Commission
- Santee Cooper
- Sea Grant Consortium
- Second Injury Fund
- Secretary of State
- State Accident Fund
- State Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education
- State Ethics Commission
- State Housing Finance and Development Authority
- State Law Enforcement Division
- State Library
- State Museum
- State Ports Authority
- Vocational Rehabilitation Department
- Workers' Compensation Commission

**MORE TO KNOW:** In addition to the 75,269 tons of material recycled by colleges/universities and state agencies, Santee Cooper reported recycling 333,545 tons of gypsum and 378,860 tons of fly ash. This material is generated from their operations in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties and used in concrete, cement, asphalt, road base stabilization as well as other applications.

**TABLE 5.1: Commodities Recycled in Tons**

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT (TONS)
PAPER	Magazines	40.43
	Office paper	2,265.00
	Newspapers and inserts	29.30
	Corrugated cardboard	1,382.51
	Phone books	18.24
	Paperboard	1.92
	Other/mixed paper	112.53
PLASTIC (Bottles)	#1 PET	3.08
	#2 HDPE	144.23
	#3 Vinyl	0.04
	Other mixed/plastic bottles	68.58
PLASTIC (Film)	#2 HDPE	0.54
	#4 LDPE	0.00
	Other/mixed plastic film	8.79
METAL	Aluminium (cans, foil)	157.71
	Steel cans	46.89
	Other ferrous metals	2,301.07
	White goods	1.32
	Other/mixed metal	941.36
GLASS (Containers & Packaging)	Brown	0.60
	Clear	0.86
	Green	0.28
	Other/mixed glass	0.45
WOOD	Pallets	142.01
	Furniture and cabinets	1.38
	Other/mixed wood	1.82
YARD TRIMMINGS/ FOOD SCRAPS	Grass clippings	781.64
	Food scraps	0.02
OTHER MATERIALS	Rechargeable batteries	7.89
	Antifreeze	30.35
	C&D debris	350.24
	Consumer electronics	66.40
	Cooking oil	0.37
	Fluorescent bulbs	12.17
	Lead-acid batteries	43.47
	Paint (oil or latex)	0.39
	Tires	265.10
	Toner cartridges	11.46
	Used motor oil	542.78
	Used oil filters	27.58
	Other*	931.73
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,742.53</b>

# RECYCLING DATA: COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

Twenty-eight colleges and universities reported recycling 64,526 tons of material. In addition, one college reported no recycling but did report their buy-recycled efforts. Of the amount reported, more than 56,000 tons was construction and demolition (C&D) debris. This is a result of two deconstruction projects on the campuses of Lander University (50,000 tons) and Winthrop University (6,388 tons) where buildings were torn down and the material was recycled instead of disposed of in a landfill. While these are one-time projects, the impact on avoided disposal costs and conservation of landfill space is significant. As a result, the No. 1 item recycled was C&D debris followed by mixed paper. Corrugated cardboard was a close third.

When it comes to buying recycled-content products, 68 percent of respondents reported purchasing recycled-content copy paper, followed by 52 percent purchasing recycled-content toner and/or inkjet cartridges.

## S.C. Colleges & Universities Reporting for FY08

- Aiken Technical College
- Bob Jones University
- Central Carolina Technical College
- The Citadel
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- Columbia College
- Denmark Technical College
- Florence-Darlington Technical College
- Furman University
- Greenville Technical College
- Lander University
- The Medical University of South Carolina
- Midlands Technical College
- Northeastern Technical College
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
- Piedmont Technical College
- Spartanburg Community College
- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Trident Technical College
- University of South Carolina (USC)
- USC – Aiken
- USC – School of Medicine
- USC – Sumter
- USC – Upstate
- Williamsburg Technical College
- Winthrop University
- York Technical College

**MORE TO KNOW:** Of the 75,269 tons of material recycled by colleges/universities and state agencies, 15,186 tons are considered municipal solid waste and are included in the state's measured recycling rate. The remaining material that is recycled includes used oil from fleet operations, medical products and C&D debris – none of which can be included in the state's measured recycling rate, although they impact the state's total recycling efforts.

**TABLE 5.2: Commodities Recycled in Tons**

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT (tons)
PAPER	Magazines	10.81
	Office paper	754.94
	Newspapers and inserts	22.22
	Corrugated cardboard	1,146.44
	Phone books	18.76
	Paperboard	0.00
	Other/mixed paper	1,620.80
PLASTIC (Bottles)	#1 PET	4.59
	#2 HDPE	10.56
	#3 Vinyl	0.00
	Other mixed/plastic bottles	41.93
PLASTIC (Film)	#2 HDPE	0.00
	#4 LDPE	0.00
	Other/mixed plastic film	8.75
METAL	Aluminium (cans, foil)	23.69
	Steel cans	14.09
	Other ferrous metals	665.18
	White goods	1.50
	Other/mixed metal	662.47
GLASS (Containers & Packaging)	Brown	0.00
	Clear	0.00
	Green	0.00
	Other/mixed glass	54.64
WOOD	Pallets	110.34
	Furniture and cabinets	10.94
	Other/mixed wood	7.96
YARD TRIMMINGS/FOOD SCRAPS	Grass clippings	739.21
	Food scraps	14.59
OTHER MATERIALS	Rechargeable batteries	1.25
	Antifreeze	0.56
	C&D debris	58,134.72
	Consumer electronics	213.15
	Cooking oil	41.70
	Fluorescent bulbs	42.28
	Lead-acid batteries	7.34
	Paint (oil or latex)	0.20
	Tires	7.98
	Toner cartridges	8.51
	Used motor oil	41.44
	Used oil filters	0.85
	Other*	81.99
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>64,526.38</b>

