

# Used Motor Oil Recycling

## SECTION

# 6

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 annually compile a report on the state’s used motor oil recycling program for do-it-yourself oil changers (DIYers). 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.

The Act requires that transporters of used motor oil report to DHEC the amount hauled each calendar year (CY). Grant funding and the solid waste data in this publication are reported by fiscal year (FY). For purposes of this report, however, the amount of used motor oil collected is presented in two ways: 1) by CY12; and 2) by FY13



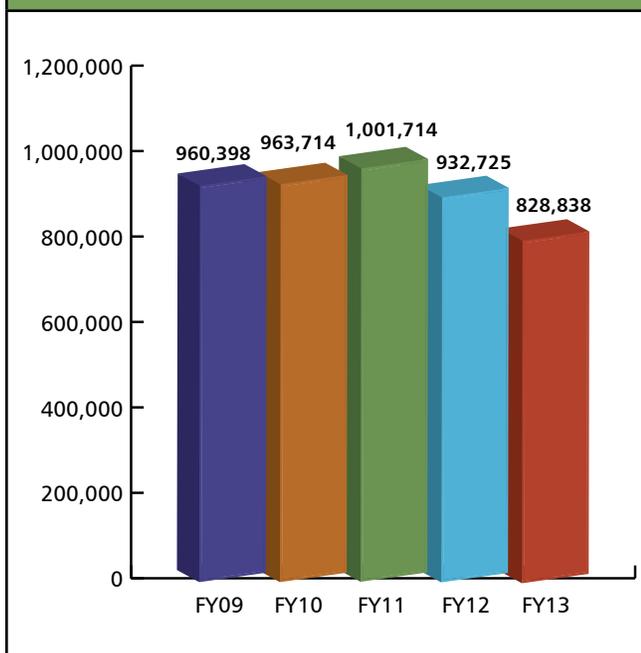
(July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). In South Carolina, only used motor oil generated and recycled by DIYers is counted as part of the state’s MSW recycling rate.

In CY12, DIYers recycled 705,141 gallons of used motor oil at 921 collection sites. The sites are provided by local governments, retailers, quick lubes and auto parts stores. In FY13, DIYers recycled 828,838 gallons (which equates to 2,901 tons) of used motor oil.

Chart 6.1 illustrates the success of the used motor oil collection program by FY. Table 6.2 lists by county the number of sites and gallons collected as well as grant awards to the county or municipalities within that county.

Annual collection data for DIY used motor oil recycling seems to indicate a substantial decrease from the previous CY. This may be attributed to several factors including: 1) the number of DIYers may be decreasing; 2) some local governments may use DIY used motor oil in waste oil heaters and do not track or report that volume; and 3) the frequency of DIY oil changes may be decreasing due to the economy, use of synthetic motor oil and new manufacturer recommendations.

**CHART 6.1: DIY Used Motor Oil Recycling by FY in Gallons**



There is a fee of two 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 FY13, \$676,748 was awarded to local government programs. The amount of individual grant awards for FY13 is provided in Table 6.2. Grant funds are used primarily for the purchase of equipment and supplies associated with used motor oil collection sites. Funds also are used to cover costs for used motor oil

*Motor oil recycling may have declined in FY13 due to a decrease in the number of DIYers and the economy.*

*In FY13, \$676,748 was awarded to local government programs to support motor oil collection and recycling.*

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 also collect used motor oil filters and bottles from DIYers. The amount of used motor oil filters and motor oil bottles recycled are not always available as many counties collect and market filters with other metals and bottles with other HDPE plastic bottles and jugs. The data presented in Table 5.7 does not reflect the full extent of used motor oil filter recycling in the state.

Overall, there are few barriers to recycling used motor oil, used

motor oil filters and motor oil bottles. Markets are not an issue.

The S.C. Budget and Control Board has developed a state-term contract that provides vendors for the recycling of used motor oil and used motor oil filters. In fact, the state-term contract vendor for used motor oil collection and recycling pays contract users 65 cents per gallon of used motor oil collected. Other markets – including Santee Cooper – are available as well.

Bottles, if properly drained, can be recycled with other plastic. In addition to the state-term contract, scrap dealers and steel mills accept drained/crushed used oil filters for recycling.

*There are few barriers to recycling used motor oil, bottles and filters in South Carolina.*

TABLE 6.2: Number of DIY Used Motor Oil Collection Sites, FY13 Grants Awarded, Gallons Collected and Tonnage Equivalent by County				
GRANTEE	NUMBER OF SITES	GRANT AMOUNT	FY13 GALLONS	TONS
Abbeville	13	\$10,520.00	5,683	19.89
Aiken	32	\$0.00	36,088	126.31
Akien, City of	◆	\$6,620.00	◆	◆
North Augusta, City of	◆	\$2,100.00	◆	◆
Allendale	6	\$7,225.00	1,476	5.16
Anderson	33	\$16,855.00	35,500	124.25
Bamberg	10	\$6,650.00	3,714	13
Barnwell	14	\$6,200.00	5,954	20.84
Beaufort	20	\$8,510.00	28,440	99.54
Berkeley	31	\$14,763.00	35,029	122.6
Calhoun	10	\$5,475.00	4,757	16.65
Charleston	30	\$12,468.00	50,514	176.8
Cherokee	18	\$11,200.00	6,789	23.76
Chester	15	\$4,050.00	6,623	23.18
Chesterfield	13	\$19,818.00	7,940	27.79
Clarendon	20	\$5,500.00	7,914	27.7
Colleton	19	\$5,738.00	9,158	32.05
Darlington	19	\$10,020.00	7,391	25.87
Dillon	18	\$4,800.00	4,686	16.4
Dorchester	21	\$21,250.00	29,303	102.56
Edgefield	9	\$23,420.00	10,834	37.92
Fairfield	13	\$21,272.00	8,925	31.2
Florence	30	\$6,538.00	22,171	77.6
Georgetown	22	\$43,800.00	19,340	67.69

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<b>TABLE 6.2: Number of DIY Used Motor Oil Collection Sites, FY13 Grants Awarded, Gallons Collected and Tonnage Equivalent by County (continued)</b>				
<b>GRANTEE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SITES</b>	<b>FY13 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY13 GALLONS</b>	<b>TONS</b>
Greenville	40	\$9,663.00	65,677	229.87
Greenville, City of	◆	\$1,500.00	◆	◆
Simpsonville, City of	◆	\$2,317.00	◆	◆
Greenwood	14	\$15,542.00	7,697	26.94
Hampton	13	\$7,775.00	7,123	24.93
Horry	45	\$21,290.00	45,766	160.18
Jasper	7	\$2,750.00	6,189	21.66
Kershaw	17	\$5,750.00	21,600	75.6
Lancaster	16	\$8,850.00	1,186	4.15
Laurens	13	\$3,750.00	9,140	31.99
Lee	10	\$5,230.00	3,560	12.46
Lexington	34	\$59,939.00	73,749	258.12
Marion	9	\$3,885.00	2,723	9.53
Marlboro	17	\$17,005.00	1,723	6.03
McCormick	4	\$3,000.00	2,340	8.19
Newberry	15	\$7,155.00	8,143	28.5
Oconee	21	\$9,750.00	15,909	55.68
Orangeburg	30	\$11,440.00	13,629	47.7
Pickens	19	\$6,560.00	33,891	118.62
Liberty, City of	◆	\$6,450.00	◆	◆
Richland	31	\$13,666.00	27,400	95.9
Columbia, City of	◆	\$5,750.00	◆	◆
Saluda	9	\$18,315.00	7,443	26.05
Spartanburg	43	\$8,150.00	42,551	148.93
Spartanburg, City of	◆	\$3,750.00	◆	◆
Sumter	22	\$24,694.00	15,457	54.1
Sumter, City of	◆	\$7,550.00	◆	◆
Union	10	\$62,260.00	3,777	13.22
Williamsburg	25	\$16,720.00	11,694	40.93
York	41	\$24,500.00	52,246	182.86
Rock Hill, City of	◆	\$5,110.00	◆	◆
Three Rivers SWA <sup>1</sup>	◆	\$750.00	◆	◆
Tri-County SWA <sup>2</sup>	◆	\$1,140.00	◆	◆
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>\$676,748.00</b>	<b>828,838</b>	<b>2,901.00</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 (921) includes retailers, quick lubes and auto parts stores. Gallons are converted to weight (1 gallon = 7 pounds).