recycling by the numbers*

1 POINT 4

POUNDS of municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled per person per day in South Carolina

6.2

POUNDS of total solid waste (TSW) recycled per person per day in the state

5.3 million

TONS of TSW recycled (including MSW)

29.5 percent

The state's MSW recycling rate

325,183,632

South Carolina's recycling efforts resulted in an environmental impact equivalent to conserving this many gallons of gasoline

40.8 percent

South Carolina's TSW recycling rate

965,623

GALLONS of used motor oil collected from do-it-yourself oil changers (DIYers)

1,229,100

TONS of MSW recycled in South Carolina

10.7 million

TONS of MSW recycled in the past nine years

18 million

GALLONS of used motor oil collected from DIYers since 1990

***SOURCE:** The data provided is from "The South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012" (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

recycling definitions

do-it-yourself oil changer (DIYer) – A term for people who change their own motor oil.

municipal solid waste (MSW) – The combined residential and commercial solid waste generated in an area. MSW includes paper, cans, bottles, food scraps, yard trimmings and other items. Industrial process waste, agricultural waste, mining waste and sewage sludge are not considered MSW.

recycling rate – The measurement of activities by which discarded materials are collected, sorted, processed and converted into raw materials and used to make new products.

total solid waste (TSW) – Includes not only MSW, but construction and demolition debris, process waste and any other material that is generated.

PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER
OR-0859 3/13

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S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Why should I RECYCLE?

Recycling has many environmental benefits. It reduces the need to build landfills and incinerators. Recycling conserves natural resources as well as energy. Recycling reduces pollution caused by the extraction and processing of raw materials as well as the manufacturing of products using raw materials.

Recycling also has many economic benefits. Recycling turns items that otherwise would become waste into valuable resources. Recyclables have value. The recyclables you place in the bin or take to the drop-off center end up on the market as commodities that are bought and sold.

To learn more about recycling in South Carolina or to find a recycling drop-off site near you, call **1-800-768-7348** or visit **www.scdhec.gov/recycle**.