

# About this Report

The mission of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is to protect human health and the environment.

For the past 25 years, the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) – S.C. Code of Laws §§ 44-96-10 et seq. – has played an integral role in furthering this mission. The Act establishes a comprehensive framework for the safe, cost-effective and efficient management of solid waste. For example it authorizes DHEC to:

- **Develop and implement a regulatory framework for the proper siting, design, construction, operation and closure of solid waste management facilities** (Section 44-96-260);
- **Develop a state solid waste management plan** (State Plan) (Section 44-96-60) and requires county governments or regions to develop plans that are consistent with the State Plan (Section 44-96-80);
- **Promote waste reduction, recycling and resource conservation before disposal** (Section 44-96-50); and
- **Set waste reduction and recycling goals** (Section 44-96-50).

The Act (Section 44-96-60) also requires DHEC to publish an annual report based in part on information that counties and solid waste facilities are required to provide.

## SECTION



“The South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report” must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly annually by March 15.

This report, which reflects solid waste management activities in fiscal year (FY) 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015), includes:

- **The amount of material recycled by commodity and county;**
- **The amount and type of solid waste disposed of by county as well as imported and exported solid waste;**
- **A listing of permitted solid waste facilities;**
- **A summary of the state’s used motor oil recycling program;**
- **Recycling data for state agencies and colleges/universities;**
- **A summary of the economics of solid waste management;**
- **An update on solid waste planning;**
- **Key state programs that assist local governments in meeting the requirements of the Act;** and
- **Recommendations for improving solid waste management.**

### Table of Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| SECTION 2: The Year at a Glance .....                                    | 3   |
| SECTION 3: Recommendations for Improving Solid Waste Management.....     | 5   |
| SECTION 4: The Economics of Managing Solid Waste in South Carolina ..... | 17  |
| SECTION 5: Recycling by Commodity.....                                   | 19  |
| SECTION 6: Used Motor Oil Recycling.....                                 | 29  |
| SECTION 7: Recycling – State Agencies & Colleges/Universities .....      | 31  |
| SECTION 8 Recycling – The State & Counties at a Glance.....              | 35  |
| SECTION 9: Disposal .....  | 83  |
| SECTION 10: Permitted Solid Waste Facilities.....                        | 98  |
| SECTION 11: Solid Waste Planning .....                                   | 103 |

### Acknowledgements

The “South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015” is submitted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in compliance with the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-60). Additionally, Act 119 of 2005 mandates that agencies provide all reports to the General Assembly electronically. This report was published on March 15, 2016 by DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. The report serves as an update to the State Plan.

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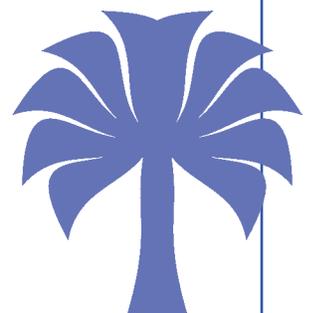
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## What is measured?

This report measures two types of solid waste and how they are managed – municipal solid waste (MSW) and total solid waste (TSW). See Table 1.1 for definitions and examples of each.

## Who reports?

Permitted solid waste facilities are required by the Act and subsequent regulation to submit annual reports on disposal data to DHEC. County governments, regions, state agencies and state-supported colleges/universities are required to report recycling data annually to DHEC (Section 44-96-80 and Section 44-96-140).

**TABLE 1.1: What is MSW and TSW?**

| MSW   | TSW  |
|---|--|
| South Carolina voluntarily adopted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s definition of MSW with few exceptions in October 2000. This change was done as part of nationwide effort to have consistency among the states on how solid waste disposal and recycling activities are measured.  | TSW provides a much more comprehensive look at how much waste is generated, disposed of and recovered than MSW.  |
| MSW is defined (Section 44-96-50) as certain waste items generated from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sources. MSW includes appliances, automobile tires, newspapers, office paper, cans, bottles, food waste, yard trimmings (mulched or composted) and packaging. South Carolina also added tire-derived fuel, yard trimmings used as boiler fuel and motor oil recycled by do-it-yourself oil changers to its definition of MSW. | For the purposes of this report, TSW includes MSW as well as construction and demolition (C&D) debris, land-clearing debris, industrial process waste, automobile bodies and municipal sludge as well as combustion ash. |

Recycling data also is collected from municipalities, businesses and the recycling industry (and allocated to the counties where the material was generated), but these entities are not required to report. Because recycling data reporting is strictly voluntary, data collection from these sources is inconsistent from year to year. (See the recommendation for improving reporting on page 6).

## When Using this Report

All data is carefully vetted. Recycling and disposal data are combined to determine the solid waste generation tonnage. The state’s recycling rate is the amount of material recycled divided by amount of waste generated. When reviewing the tables, keep in mind that in general recycling tonnage is rounded to the nearest hundredth and disposal data is rounded to the nearest ton. Some totals do not add up due to rounding.

### Recycling Rate Equation

The equation below is used for calculating the MSW and TSW recycling rates.

$$\text{RECYCLING RATE (\%)} = \frac{\text{AMOUNT RECYCLED}}{\text{AMOUNT GENERATED*}} \times 100$$

\*Generated = Recycled + Disposed Of

## MSW Goals



### 40% by 2020

South Carolina’s goal is to recycle at least 40 percent of its MSW by FY20.



### 3.25 p/p/d by 2020

The state’s goal is to reduce MSW disposal to 3.25 pounds (or less) per person per day (p/p/d) by FY20.