

Used Motor Oil Recycling

SECTION



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 publish an annual 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 transporters of used motor oil to register and report to DHEC the amount hauled each calendar year. For purposes of this report, however, the amount of used motor oil collected is presented by fiscal year (FY) – July 1 to June 30 – as reported by counties.

In South Carolina, only used motor oil recycled by DIYers is counted as part of the state’s municipal solid waste recycling rate. In FY15, DIYers recycled 711,411 gallons (or about 2,490 tons) of used motor oil – a decrease of nearly 25 percent from the previous FY. Overall, there were 891 collection sites provided by local governments, retailers, quick lubes and auto parts stores.

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

There is a fee of 2 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 FY15, \$706,766 was awarded to local government programs and primarily used for the purchase of equipment and supplies associated with used motor oil collection sites. Funds also were used to cover costs for used motor oil 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 is difficult to determine or is not always available. For example, many counties collect and market filters with other metals. Given that, the data presented in Section 5 (Table 5.7) does not reflect the full extent of used motor oil filter recycling in the state. Likewise, motor oil bottles (if properly drained) are collected and mixed with other plastic bottles – further hindering an accurate measurement.

Overall, there are few barriers to recycling used motor oil, used motor oil filters and motor oil bottles. Markets are not an issue. Used motor oil typically is collected and burned for energy recovery. Also, scrap dealers and steel mills accept drained/crushed used oil filters. In addition, because of the recent drop in oil prices, local governments are not compensated as well for their collected used oil.

CHART 6.1: Gallons of Used Motor Oil Recycled by S.C. DIYers by FY

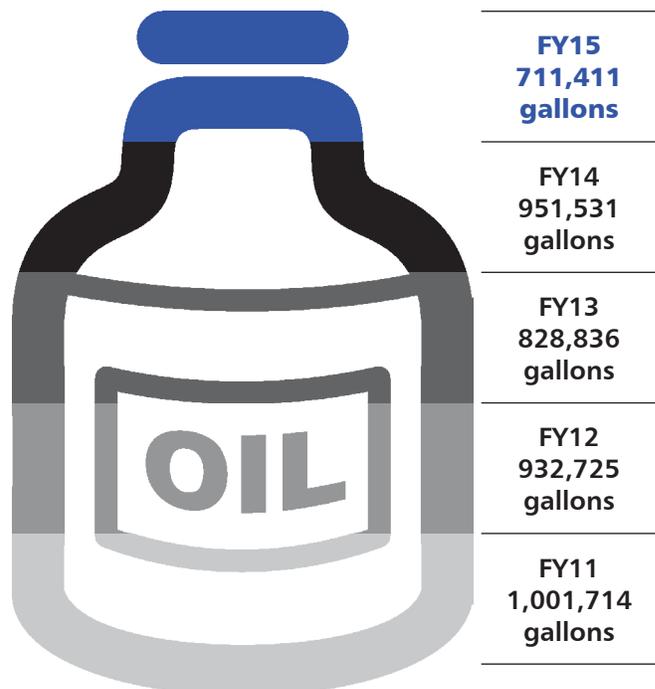


TABLE 6.2: Number of DIY Used Motor Oil Collection Sites, FY15 Grants Awarded, Gallons Collected and Tonnage Equivalent by County for FY15

GRANTEE	NUMBER OF SITES	GALLONS	TONS	GRANT AMOUNT
Abbeville	13	10,545.00	36.91	\$6,318.00
Aiken	30	31,085.00	108.80	\$38,950.00
North Augusta, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$750.00
Allendale	6	1,825.00	6.38	\$0.00
Anderson	30	53,462.00	187.12	\$11,750.00
Bamberg	10	1,863.00	5.40	\$0.00
Barnwell	14	7,891.00	27.62	\$0.00
Beaufort	22	33,714.00	118.01	\$33,260.00
Berkeley	31	21,885.00	76.60	\$14,100.00
Calhoun	10	14,228.00	49.80	\$0.00
Charleston	17	35,566.00	124.50	\$30,517.00
Cherokee	27	4,788.00	16.76	\$6,850.00
Chester	15	5,110.00	17.90	\$4,050.00
Chesterfield	13	1,025.00	3.59	\$12,844.00
Clarendon	20	928.00	3.25	\$6,317.00
Colleton	18	5,622.00	19.68	\$6,877.50
Darlington	18	7,665.00	26.80	\$14,870.00
Dillon	18	3,082.00	10.79	\$5,625.00
Dorchester	23	17,142.00	60.00	\$26,970.00
Edgefield	9	11,942.00	41.80	\$0.00
Fairfield	13	7,277.00	25.47	\$15,708.00
Florence	30	10,357.00	36.25	\$7,487.50
Georgetown	22	7,982.00	27.94	\$36,375.00
Greenville	35	37,425.00	137.99	\$15,481.00
Greenville, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$4,750.00
Greater Greenville Sanitation	◆	◆	◆	\$750.00
Greenwood	14	9,457.00	33.10	\$5,766.00
Hampton	12	12,879.00	43.74	\$7,523.00
Horry	43	1,528.00	5.35	\$35,178.00
Jasper	7	5,825.00	20.39	\$9,780.00
Kershaw	18	2,448.00	8.57	\$10,425.00
Lancaster	16	10,175.00	35.60	\$11,250.00
Laurens	11	6,740.00	23.59	\$37,550.00
Lee	10	3,394.00	8.38	\$0.00
Lexington	34	56,077.00	196.27	\$16,850.00
Marion	7	1,905.00	6.60	\$3,863.00
Marlboro	22	891.00	3.12	\$24,660.00
McCormick	4	434.00	1.52	\$0.00
Newberry	15	6,202.00	21.71	\$3,930.00
Oconee	16	52,842.00	184.95	\$12,750.00
Orangeburg	30	17,654.00	61.79	\$0.00
Pickens	19	37,571.00	131.50	\$9,560.00
Richland	31	27,374.00	95.81	\$60,490.00
Columbia, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$5,750.00
Saluda	9	1,234.00	4.32	\$0.00
Spartanburg	39	42,122.00	147.43	\$8,930.00
Spartanburg, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$3,750.00
Sumter	22	29,602.00	103.61	\$11,970.00
Sumter, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$4,350.00
Union	10	3,760.00	13.16	\$1,400.00
Williamsburg	25	12,977.00	44.37	\$24,415.00
York	33	35,911.00	125.69	\$24,500.00
Rock Hill, City of	◆	◆	◆	\$7,110.00
Three Rivers SWA ¹	◆	◆	◆	\$59,165.00
Tri-County SWA ²	◆	◆	◆	\$5,251.00
TOTAL	891	711,411.00	2,489.94	\$706,766.00

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 (891) includes retailers, quick lubes and auto parts stores. Gallons are converted to weight (1 gallon = 7 pounds).