

the basics: what you need to know about **RECYCLING** in South Carolina

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A 40BY2020 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

1 How does recycling work?

Recycling – with the exception of a few items such as appliances, electronics and lead-acid batteries – is not mandatory in South Carolina. Recycling is voluntary. Local governments design and offer programs for their residents that need your participation to succeed. Recycling will not work without you.



South Carolina has 85 curbside programs, nearly 600 recycling drop-off centers. Recycling also is available at each of South Carolina's state parks and four largest airports. Finally, many national retail outlets offer recycling for specific material.

2 What can I recycle?

Programs differ from community to community. Most programs, however, accept aluminum cans, plastic bottles, steel cans (e.g., fruit, vegetable, soup), cardboard, newspaper, glass bottles (clear, green and brown). One of the most important actions that you can take is to find out what is accepted in your program.



6 What items must be recycled?

By law, several items must be recycled in South Carolina. If you have questions on any of them, contact your county recycling coordinator. A list of recycling programs in your county is available at www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc. This link provides a list of what is accepted, where it is accepted and who to call locally for more information.



3 What's the 'right stuff'?

Recycling starts when you place the correct items in your recycling container – that is material that is accepted in your community's program. Placing the wrong items – material that is not accepted – increases costs for local governments and businesses. To learn more, see the "Recycling's Dirty Dozen" fact sheet and the "Recycle Right" postcard.



- **Appliances (large appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers)** – If you buy a new appliance, ask the retailer to take back your old one. Each of the state's 46 counties also accept large appliances, so check with your county recycling coordinator.

4 Why can't I recycle everything?

Markets often determine whether an item is recyclable in your community. If there isn't enough of a given material or the material is too far away from an available market, then it's less likely to be accepted for recycling. In addition, some material (e.g., Styrofoam™) has little value in the marketplace and may not be cost effective to collect.



- **Electronics** – All counties provide programs and/or single-day events to recycle electronics. Many retailers (e.g., Best Buy®, Target™) also offer collection programs. Finally, consider donating your working electronics to non-profits and other organizations.

5 Where can I recycle?

You can recycle at home, school, work and on the go – just about anywhere.



- **Lead-acid batteries** – You can recycle your old battery at a retail location when you buy a new one. If you have an old battery and don't need to buy a new one, there are two options. First, check with your county recycling coordinator. If your county does not offer a program, then check with local car dealers and repair shops to see if they will accept your old battery.

- **Tires** – Each county has a collection program that accepts a maximum number of tires at recycling drop-off centers or landfills.

- **Used motor oil** – There are more than 900 collections sites for do-it-yourself oil changers. The network includes local governments, quick lubes (e.g., Advance Auto™) and auto parts stores (e.g., Auto Zone™).

Please visit www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc to see what is recycled where you live.



The 40by2020 Partnership is a group of public and private stakeholders dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources and working together to help South Carolina meet or exceed its 40 percent recycling goal set for 2020. Partnership members include PalmettoPride, Pratt Industries, Sonoco Recycling, the S.C. Beverage Association, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.