

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 27 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 this mission. The Act establishes a comprehensive framework for the safe and efficient management of solid waste and 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). The Act also requires county governments or regions to develop plans that are consistent with the State Plan and designed to achieve the state’s recycling and waste reduction goals (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. (See page 2 for more information.)

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

This report, which serves as an update to the State Plan, reflects solid waste management activities in fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) and includes:

- **The amount of material recycled by commodity and county;**
- **The amount and type of solid waste disposed of by county;**
- **The amount of solid waste imported and exported;**
- **A listing of permitted solid waste facilities;**
- **An update on solid waste planning;** and
- **Recommendations for improving solid waste management.**

Acknowledgements

The “**South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017**” is published by DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

The report is submitted in compliance with the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-60). In addition, Act 119 of 2005 mandates that agencies provide all reports to the General Assembly in an electronic format.

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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. As required by the Act, the focus of this report is on MSW (Section 44-96-50).

Who reports?

Permitted solid waste facilities (e.g., Class 3 landfills) are required by the Act (Section 44-96-290) and subsequent regulation (R.61-107.19) 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). The “S.C. State

Agencies & Colleges/Universities Recycling & Buying Recycled Annual Report” is published each November. (Visit www.scdhec.gov/Library/OR-1581.pdf to view this report.)

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 reporting by municipalities and businesses is strictly voluntary, data collection from these sources is inconsistent from year to year.

It is estimated that MSW generation is about 60 percent residential and 40 percent commercial. Given that businesses are not required to report, the data collected from this source is inconsistent and incomplete and impacts the state’s annual MSW recycling rate.

TABLE 1.1: What is MSW and TSW?	
MSW	TSW
South Carolina adopted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s definition of MSW with few exceptions in October 2000. This was done as part of a 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 in the Act (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 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.

TABLE 1.2: South Carolina’s 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.

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

When Using this Report

All data is carefully vetted. 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.