The Year at a Glance

SECTION 2

For nearly 30 years, the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) has provided the foundation and framework for South Carolina to safely and efficiently manage its solid waste. Among its many requirements and recommendations, the Act prioritizes conserving resources over disposal.

South Carolina has taken many steps to meet that priority through waste reduction, recycling and composting. For example, the state's recycling infrastructure has grown to 85 curbside programs and nearly 600 recycling drop-off centers. South Carolina has developed a recycling industry that has more than 500 companies with 22,000-plus jobs and a $13 billion annual impact on the state's economy.

Challenges, however, remain. Here are a few.

- **Contamination** – placing items in the recycling container that cannot be recycled – has increased costs and reduced the value of commodities for local governments.
- **Declining global market values for recyclables has impacted local programs.**
- **Low disposal costs in South Carolina discourage recycling opportunities.**

South Carolina will continue to adjust to meet these challenges.

By the Numbers

- **South Carolina's disposal decreased 209,366 tons (6.4 percent) in FY18 from the previous FY.** The amount of material disposed of in FY18 is 9,575 tons less than the disposal total in FY01 despite a 25 percent increase in South Carolina's population.
- **The state's recycling rate remained almost the same from the previous FY** – falling from 28.7 percent to 28.1 percent.
- **Eight companies invested more than $500 million in the state's recycling industry in 2018** according to the S.C. Department of Commerce Recycling Market Development Division. The investment continues a solid growth trend for the industry.

For more information see "Recycling: State and Counties at a Glance" on page 19 and "Disposal" on page 68.

TABLE 2.1: S.C. Population[1]

YEAR	POPULATION
2014	4,774,839
2015	4,832,482
2016	4,896,146
2017	4,961,119
2018	**5,024,369**

MSW Data by FY

TABLE 2.2: S.C. MSW Recycled[2] by FY

FISCAL YEAR	RECYCLED IN TONS	RECYCLING RATE BY PERCENT	RECYCLED IN P/P/D
2014	1,263,495	29.2%	1.4
2015	1,101,190	26.5%	1.3
2016	1,094,569	25.4%	1.2
2017	1,325,823	28.7%	1.5
2018	**1,203,597**	**28.1%**	**1.3**

TABLE 2.3: S.C. MSW Disposed[2] Of by FY

FISCAL YEAR	DISPOSED OF IN TONS	DISPOSED OF IN P/P/D
2014	3,067,942	3.5
2015	3,058,388	3.5
2016	3,213,592	3.6
2017	3,295,360	3.6
2018	**3,085,994**	**3.3**

TABLE 2.4: S.C. MSW Generated[2] by FY

FISCAL YEAR	GENERATED IN TONS	GENERATED IN P/P/D
2014	4,331,437	5.0
2015	4,159,578	4.7
2016	4,308,161	4.8
2017	4,621,183	5.1
2018	**4,289,591**	**4.7**

MSW Trends by FY

CHART 2.5: MSW Recycled

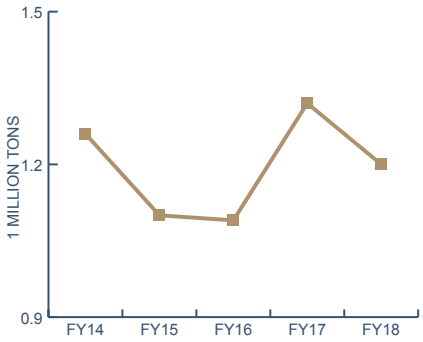


CHART 2.6: MSW Generated

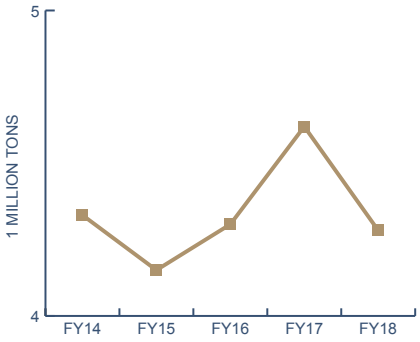
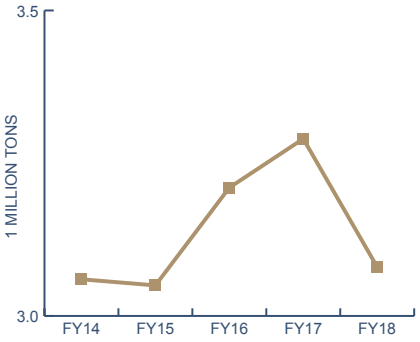


CHART 2.7: MSW Disposed Of



NOTES:

1. The population data used in this report reflects the most recent estimate available from the U.S. Census Bureau.
2. See Table 6.4 on page 20 for a breakdown by county of MSW recycling, disposal and generation