

Resources for Community Decision Makers

South Carolina Department of Commerce

Visit the Business Services section of SCcommerce.com for additional recycling resources, such as the Recycling Directory, Smart Business Recycling Program and useful recycling Web site links.

Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Economics of Recycling Fact Sheet

epa.gov/region4/waste/rcra/mgtoolkit/documents/Economics_Fact_Sheet.pdf

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
(800) 768-7348
www.scdhec.gov/Recycle

Recycling Market Development Advisory Council

Gerry Fishbeck, Chair
(864) 574-0904
GFishbeck@URRC.net

Recycling Industry Group

Ronnie Grant, Chair
(843) 383-7665
Ronnie.Grant@Sonoco.com

South Carolina Department of Commerce

Chantal Fryer, Recycling Market Development
(803) 737-0477
CFryer@SCcommerce.com

"Recycling creates an improved quality of life in South Carolina, whether it's additional quality jobs, a reduced need for landfills or sources of cost-efficient waste management for industry. South Carolina is a great place to live and a great place for business."

– Gerry Fishbeck,
Chair, Recycling Market Development Advisory Council

This brochure was printed on paper that is FSC, SFI, PEFC and EFC certified (environmental sustainability) and contains 10% post-consumer recycled waste.

SOUTH CAROLINA



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

RECYCLING: SMART BUSINESS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina Department of Commerce
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-0400



RECYCLING: SMART BUSINESS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Proven Economic Return, Quick Potential for Growth

It's easy to think of recycling as solid waste management, but that's missing the bigger economic picture. South Carolina's businesses understand that recycling gives them affordable, quality feedstock — and elected officials understand that happy, healthy businesses stay and grow in South Carolina. The more the state's industry, businesses and communities recycle, the more potential the state has to invest in good jobs, as well as be rewarded by reductions in materials going to landfills around the state.

“That recycling is beneficial for the environment is probably an uncontested proposition. What is becoming increasingly more obvious is that recycling contributes to the economic health of a state's economy.”

- Dr. Frank Hefner & Dr. Calvin Blackwell
Department of Economics and Finance, College of Charleston
The Economic Impact of the Recycling Industry in South Carolina, 2006

Aluminum Can Today, Automotive Part Tomorrow

By recycling, industry and commercial businesses have opportunities to impact their bottom line through avoided landfill disposal fees. Companies like Nucor, Sonoco and Wellman utilize recycled materials in their manufacturing process and produce new recycled content products that support the building, packaging and automotive industries in South Carolina.

In 2005, South Carolina's recycling industry produced the following:

Jobs Directly and indirectly supported 37,440 jobs with \$1.5 billion in personal income impact.

Revenue Produced an estimated \$69 million in state tax revenue.

Economic Impact Generated an estimated total economic impact of \$6.5 billion.



Source: www.SERDC.org

South Carolina homes recycle only 6 percent of their potential. Consider the economic boost if that remaining 1 million pounds of material was diverted from the landfill into the recycling stream. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 and Curbside Value Partnership estimate the eight states that make up EPA Region 4 discard \$1.2 billion worth of recyclables each year.

Current SC Recycling Rate - Identifying Untapped Potential

Sector	2010 Current Diversion/ Recycling Rate	Percent Commodity Recycling	If S.C. increased diversion to 60% in each sector, the recycling industry would create additional jobs	Potential Economic Growth From 60% Diversion	If S.C. increased diversion to 70% in each sector, the recycling industry would create additional jobs	Potential Economic Growth From 70% Diversion
Residential	13%	6%	6,662	\$2 billion	8,066	\$2.4 billion
Commercial	52%	22%	713	\$218.4 million	1,595	\$482 million
Industrial	57%	56%	623	\$180 million	2,639	\$809 million

Sources: DHEC 2008 Annual Report, Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) and South Carolina Department of Commerce 2006 Economic Impact Study.



South Carolina's Recycling Industry

Local Investment, Regional Reward

South Carolina is well connected when it comes to both recycling markets and manufacturing. Recycling markets abound because businesses that need the material are plentiful in South Carolina and neighboring states. Today's plastic bottle can be remade

into a host of new recycled content products including new bottles made in South Carolina, carpet made in Georgia or salad trays made in North Carolina. Raw materials and finished goods flow into and out of South Carolina with plenty of potential for growth.

Successful Legislative Support

South Carolina has long championed smart recycling legislation — consider tires, white goods, battery and used oil bans, and the associated recycling programs. To garner the state's future competitive economic advantage for recycling, South Carolina must continue to develop policy to grow the recycling industry — just as our neighboring states have recently done.

NEIGHBORING STATES' LEGISLATION

2005

- **H1518** Requires bars and restaurants holding ABC permits to recycle their beverage containers. Implemented in 2008. (N.C.)
- **H1465** Bans the disposal of plastic bottles, wooden pallets and oil filters. Implemented in 2009. (N.C.)
- **SB 122** Reauthorizes \$1.00 scrap tire management fee to support the Solid Waste Trust Fund. (Ga.)

2006

- **HB 1320** Establishes Litter Prevention and Abatement Act identifying the act of littering as a crime, and requires the annual monitoring and reporting of the status of littering in the state. (Ga.)

2007

- **S1492** Fundamentally altered solid waste permitting regulations, established permit fees, instituted \$1.00 disposal tax, and established the first iteration of the state's computer extended producer responsibility law including a disposal ban on computer equipment. To be implemented January 2012. (N.C.)

2008

- **H819** Added producer responsibility requirements to television manufacturers. Established a television disposal ban for January 1, 2011. Changed computer equipment disposal ban from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2011. (N.C.)
- **H1134** Setup the state's abandoned manufactured home clean-up program. (N.C.)
- **SB 154** Prevents cities or counties from invalidating solid waste collection contracts between private waste haulers and commercial entities in such cases as annexation, incorporation, deannexation or franchising out for collection services. (Ga.)
- **SB 399** Reauthorizes the fee for the Solid Waste Trust Fund for three years, until June 30, 2011. (Ga.)

2009

- **SB 82** Enhances several regulations on scrap metal sellers and recyclers. (Ga.)

Pending Legislation for 2010

- Bill modifying the computer producer responsibility bill to a large registration fee system. (N.C.)
- Bill requiring state agencies to recycle fluorescent bulbs, banning fluorescents and mercury thermostats from unlined landfills, and requiring demolition contractors to remove fluorescents and mercury thermostats from buildings prior to demolition. (N.C.)

SOUTH CAROLINA PENDING LEGISLATION FOR 2010

- **SB 131** Electronics recycling bill featuring advanced recovery fees.
- **HB 3200 & HB 4093** Electronic recycling bill featuring manufacturer responsibility for electronics recycling in the state.
- **SB 173** ABC recycling requiring permitted facilities to recycle beverage containers sold for the purpose of on premise consumption.
- **HB 3156** Provides preference for environmentally preferable purchases by state agencies.