

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: South Carolina

Agency Name: Department of Health and Environmental Control

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1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

Each county is required to have a "source separation" program of some kind, but there is not a requirement for households to participate.

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

The Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (attached)

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

The Act established two goals: By 2005 to recycle 35% of the MSW generated, and by 2005 to generate no more than 3.5 lbs per person per day of MSW.

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

SC measures its recycling rate based upon US EPA's definition of MSW. Each of the 46 counties are required to report annually to the Department of Health and Environmental Control. They report solid waste recycling activities only. Disposal data is collected directly from landfills and transfer stations. If counties do not report their recycling activities, they are ineligible for grant funding. The categories for measured waste includes glass, metal (not including auto bodies), paper, plastic, banned items (lead acid batteries, tires, white goods, yard trimming and land clearing debris) and miscellaneous

items that were diverted from the MSW landfill, also including textiles and wood. Tire derived fuel, while not characterized as defined MSW by EPA, is in fact, included in the recycling rate for South Carolina. The above mentioned categories can come from residential, commercial, institutional/non profit organizations or industrial packaging/administrative. What is NOT included in South Carolina's recycling rate is processed/manufactured waste, identified in the report as preconsumer waste.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

Using specific MSW definitions from EPA, materials from the above areas can be included in the state's overall recycling rate and in many cases, directly impact an individual county's rate.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

FY2003 28.79% MSW recycling rate 4.35 lbs. per person per day MSW disposed

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

Most counties have a drop-off program that allows residents to take household trash, yard trash and recyclables to the recycling center. We have encouraged them through the grant program to offer a recycling center within a five-mile distance of all residents. In cities, there is usually a combination of drop-off centers (offered by either the city or the county) and a limited curbside program.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

We have many rural communities that have successful programs. These are for the most part drop-off programs with a strong educational component. We have examples of successful programs using contracted services and examples in which the county does everything themselves...it can work either way if the county is committed.

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

Our grant programs are funded from fees on tires, white goods, lead acid batteries and motor oil.

The grant programs offered are as follows:

Recycling Education Mini-grants are offered to K-12 schools for projects that promote waste reduction, recycling or composting. These mini-grants are offered in the amount of \$500 per school. Funded from the Petroleum Fund (2-cent per quart fee on sales.)

Collegiate Recycling Grants are offered to colleges, universities and technical colleges to promote waste reduction, recycling or composting. Funding can be used to expand existing programs or to begin new ones. Funded from the Petroleum Fund.

Local Government Grants are offered to cities and counties for recycling and waste reduction programs. Specific programs offered include:

Solid Waste Grants: Targeted grants for local governments in need of assistance to reach their waste reduction and recycling goals. Funded from the Solid Waste Trust Fund (white goods and lead-acid battery fees \$2 each)

Used Oil Grants: Grants to local governments. Used to promote the collection of used motor oil, oil filters, oil bottles and oil/gas mixtures from do-it-yourself oil changers. Funded from the Petroleum fund.

Waste Tire Grants and Automobile Dismantler Grants: Grants to local governments. Used to assist in the removal and recycling of waste tires collected from the general public, from retailers, from salvage yards and from illegally dumped stockpiles. Funded from the Waste Tire Fund (\$2 fee on each tire at point of sale.)

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

Our agency has adopted a recycling and waste reduction policy AND a Buy Recycled policy as models for other state agencies. The agency has a recycling coordinator and encourages each building to also select a recycling coordinator. The agency RC is under the Business Management Division and also handles supplies and surplus equipment. The two policies are attached.

We have also formed State Agency recycling coalition under the EPA's RCC to promote these policies across the state. We have conducted a series of 3 workshops for state agencies to promote recycling, waste reduction, energy conservation, green building and buying recycled.

State agencies are REQUIRED by the Act to report annually to DHEC on the amount of materials they recycle and the number of recycled content purchases they make.