

Clemson University
Pickens County, SC



South Carolina State Agencies & Colleges/Universities
RECYCLING & BUYING RECYCLED
Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2024

Prepared for **Gov. Henry McMaster**
and the **Members of the S.C. Legislature**



Prepared by the S.C. Department of Environmental Services's
Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management

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Introduction

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) – S.C. Code of Laws § 44-96-140 – requires state agencies and state-supported colleges/universities to:

- **Provide recycling programs for the collection of selected materials** including aluminum, cardboard, glass, lead-acid batteries, paper, plastic, tires and used motor oil;
- **Make necessary modifications to their programs to ensure material is recycled to the maximum extent possible;** and
- **Report the type and amount of materials recycled, as well as all products purchased containing recycled-content material** each year to the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) – formerly the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The Act [Section 44-96-140 (E)] also sets a goal that at least 25 percent of all product purchases contain recycled-content material.

SCDES is required to submit a report on this information to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1 of each year. This report reflects recycling and buying recycled activities for fiscal year (FY) 2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).

Data for this report is submitted directly from state agencies and colleges/universities as well as from vendors providing recycling services. Both public and private colleges/universities are included in this report although only state-supported colleges/universities are required to provide information according to the Act.

In FY24, a total of 50 state agencies, to also include 8 S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) locations, 11 S.C. Department of Administration offices and 25 SCDES locations reported their recycling efforts. In addition, 15 colleges/universities (both public and private) reported recycling. This year saw a decrease in state agencies and colleges/universities that reported. This will be the last reporting year for DHEC – as of July 1, 2024 the agency split into two entities now known as SCDES and the S.C. Department of Public Health.

As changes evolve to the work environment and daily operations for state agencies and college/university campuses, SCDES would like to commend those agencies and collegiate institutions that maintain their recycling programs and report. Government agencies and colleges/universities continue to lead by demonstrating that recycling is the standard in South Carolina. SCDES is prepared for training and technical assistance now more than ever.

The percentage of state purchases that contain recycled material cannot be determined because no statewide system to track those purchases exists. The recycled-content products purchased most frequently by reporting state agencies and colleges/universities were office paper, bathroom paper products, and inkjet/toner cartridges.

Please note that due to rounding, percentages do not always equal 100.

FY23 & FY24 Comparison for State Agencies

TOTAL FOR FY23		TOTAL FOR FY24	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	1,045.98	Banned Items	192.14
Commingled Recyclables	166.90	Commingled Recyclables	119.67
Glass (containers & packaging)	12.80	Glass (containers & packaging)	7.60
Metal	484.60	Metal	1,846.69
Organics	12.40	Organics	0.00
Paper	2,175.55	Paper	1,057.60
Plastic	36.70	Plastic	4.78
Miscellaneous Items	412.73	Miscellaneous Items	304.94
TOTAL	4,347.66	TOTAL	3,533.42

FY23 & FY24 Comparison for Colleges & Universities

TOTAL FOR FY23		TOTAL FOR FY24	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	33,269.07	Banned Items	395.54
Commingled Recyclables	777.67	Commingled Recyclables	813.56
Glass (containers & packaging)	35.01	Glass (containers & packaging)	23.16
Metal	688.09	Metal	628.84
Organics	3,429.50	Organics	2,876.91
Paper	2,244.30	Paper	2,228.91
Plastic	48.19	Plastic	32.28
Miscellaneous Items	1,951.13	Miscellaneous Items	1,472.92
TOTAL	42,442.96	TOTAL	8,472.12

About this report ...

“The State Agencies & Colleges/Universities Recycling & Buying Recycled Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024” is submitted by SCDES in compliance with the Act – Section § 44-96-140 (C) – and is published by SCDES’s Bureau of Land and Waste Management (BLWM). In addition, Act 119 of 2005 mandates that agencies provide all reports to the General Assembly in an electronic format. **This report was published on November 1, 2024.**

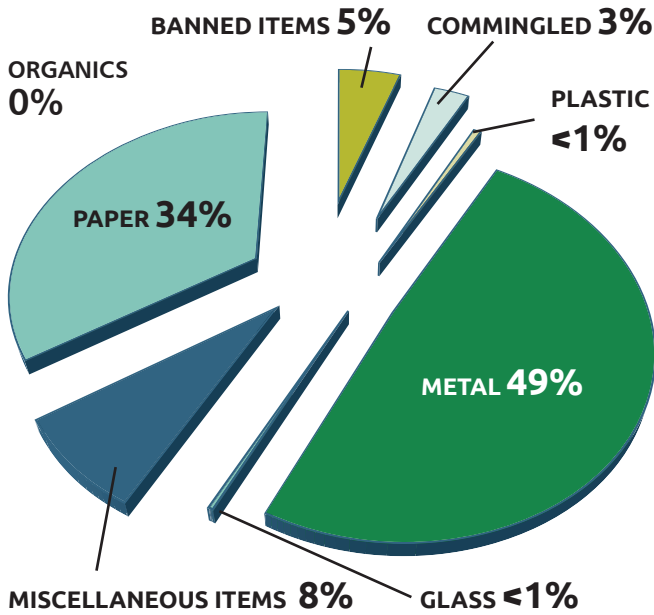
Bureau Chief: Juli Blalock • **Editor:** Kayte B. Deal • **Layout/Artwork:** Gregg Glymph

SPECIAL THANKS – SCDES would like to commend those agencies and colleges/universities that maintained their recycling programs and reported. As always, even more so now, SCDES stands-by for training and technical assistance.

State Agencies

State agencies reported recycling 3,533.42 tons of material – a decrease of about 18 percent from FY23. The S.C. Department of Corrections' (SCDC) recycling service primarily collects from state agency programs. In FY24, metal was the only material recycled that increased from FY23.

CHART 2: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by State Agencies



NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages do not always equal 100.



TABLE 1: Commodities Recycled in Tons by State Agencies in FY24

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Appliances	0.75
	Electronics	22.61
	Lead-acid batteries	54.86
	Tires	58.81
	Used motor oil	55.11
TOTAL BANNED ITEMS		192.14
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	119.67
TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES		119.67
Glass (containers & packaging)	Brown	4.49
	Clear	1.78
	Green	1.04
	Other/mixed glass	0.29
TOTAL GLASS		7.60
Metal	Aluminum (cans, foil)	35.40
	Ferrous metals	166.58
	Steel cans	27.64
	Other/mixed metal	1,617.07
TOTAL METAL		1,846.69
Organics	Food waste (composted)	0.00
	Yard trimmings (composted)	0.00
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	0.00
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	0.00
TOTAL ORGANICS		0.00
Paper	Beverage Cartons (aseptic & gable-top)	0
	Cardboard	224.71
	Magazines	10.72
	Newspapers & inserts	10.31
	Office paper	742.08
	Paperboard	0.13
	Other/mixed paper	69.65
TOTAL PAPER		1,057.60
Plastic	HDPE	0.89
	PET	1.73
	Vinyl	0.00
	Other/mixed plastic	2.16
TOTAL PLASTIC		4.78
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	6.82
	* Wood includes furniture, cabinets and pallets	0.15
	** Other includes alkaline batteries, non-hazardous sludge and oil absorbents	0.20
	Carpets/textiles	63.32
	C&D debris	0.00
	Cooking oil	3.70
	Fluorescent bulbs	5.46
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	0.14
	Paint (oil or latex)	0.52
	Rechargeable batteries	4.76
	Used oil filters	219.87
	Wood*	0.00
	Other**	0.00
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS	
TOTAL FOR ALL		3,533.42

For more information, visit des.sc.gov/community/recycling-waste-reduction/solid-waste-and-recycling-reports.

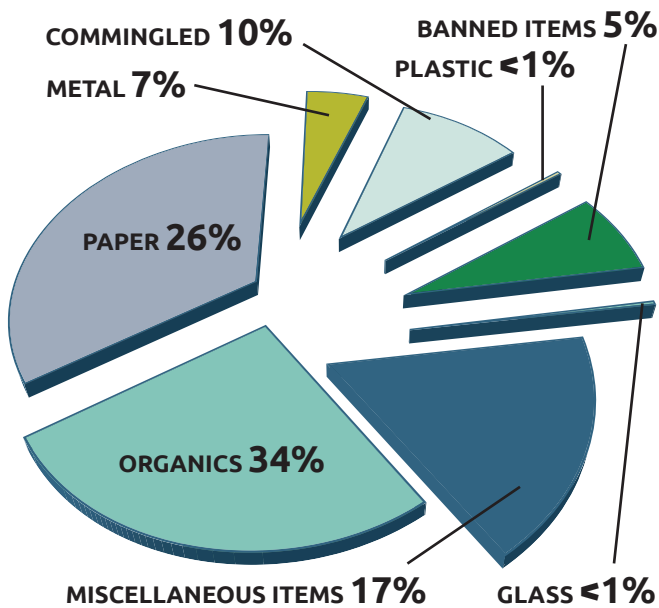
Colleges/Universities

During FY24, 23 colleges/universities reported recycling of 8,472.12 tons of material – a significant decrease from the previous FY. During FY23, one college campus reported that a warehouse was found that previously sent their electronics to a landfill and has since changed to a contracted recycler, which resulted in the increase of electronics reflected in the FY23 report.

Significant changes in FY24 recycling included:

- **Commingled material saw a 4% increase** from FY23 to FY24;
- **Miscellaneous items saw a 26% decrease** from FY23 to FY24; and
- **Paper items saw a 51% decrease** from FY23 to FY24.

CHART 3: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by Colleges/Universities



NOTE: Due to rounding, percentages do not always equal 100.

RecycleU

RecycleU is a comprehensive program that provides technical assistance, best management practices and outreach material to South Carolina colleges/universities in order to improve waste reduction, recycling and composting programs on campus. Please visit des.sc.gov/recycleu for details.



TABLE 2: Commodities Recycled in Tons by State Colleges and Universities in FY24

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT	
Banned Items	Appliances	0.30	
	Electronics	358.05	
	Lead-acid batteries	7.68	
	Tires	15.54	
	Used motor oil	13.97	
TOTAL BANNED ITEMS		395.54	
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	813.56	
TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES		813.56	
Glass (containers & packaging)	Brown	0.00	
	Clear	0.00	
	Green	0.00	
	Other/mixed glass	23.16	
	TOTAL GLASS		23.16
Metal	Aluminum (cans, foil)	16.86	
	Ferrous metals	480.25	
	Steel cans	2.54	
	Other/mixed metal	129.19	
	TOTAL METAL		628.84
Organics	Alternative Daily Cover	3.00	
	Food waste (composted)	1,068.40	
	Yard trimmings (composted)	1,503.86	
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	301.65	
	TOTAL ORGANICS		2,876.91
Paper	Cardboard	1,443.97	
	Magazines	1.20	
	Newspapers and inserts	0.08	
	Office paper	293.62	
	Paperboard	0.00	
	Other/mixed paper	490.04	
	TOTAL PAPER		2,228.91
Plastic	HDPE	0.50	
	LDPE	0.12	
	PET	0.00	
	Other/mixed plastic	31.66	
	TOTAL PLASTIC		32.28
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	3.89	
	* Wood includes furniture, cabinets, pallets and mixed wood	2.00	
	Carpet	1.00	
	Carpet padding	2.44	
	Clothing/textiles	1,156.13	
	** Other includes aerosols, nitrile gloves, personal care supplies, shotgun shells and various batteries	57.65	
	Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris	30.98	
	Cooking oil	14.15	
	Fluorescent bulbs	16.97	
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	1.36	
	Mattresses/Box Springs	2.47	
	Paint (oil or latex)	0.27	
	Rechargeable batteries	183.61	
	Used oil filters	0.00	
	Wood*		
	Other**		
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		1,472.92
	TOTAL FOR ALL		8,472.12

Santee Cooper

The recycling activities of Santee Cooper, a state-owned electric utility, are separated from traditional state agency reporting. This is done due to the significant differences between Santee Cooper’s recycling and that of other state agencies. This separation provides a more realistic picture of the recycling of traditional state agencies. Santee Cooper recycled 2,325,462.49 tons of material in FY24 – compared to 1,341,294.99 in FY23, reflecting a 54 percent increase. Material with significant increases in FY24 include:

- **Other category** – which includes combustion ash – saw a **163% increase in FY24**;
- **Metal saw a 44% increase** from FY23 to FY24;
- **Banned items increased 12%** from FY23 to FY24.

The overall increase for FY24 was attributed to the No. 1 material recovered by the state-owned utility which was bottom ash, pond ash, and fly ash. This comprised 2,332,462 tons or 99 percent of its recycled materials.

Recycling Services Offered

SCDC currently collects and processes* recyclables from state agencies, colleges/universities and K-12 schools in the Midlands area. Participants see a significant reduction in the amount of material going to the landfill and may be able to reduce disposal costs.

There is a fee for this service, and participating programs need to provide their own recycling containers.

For more information, call **(803) 896-2364** or **1-800-768-7348**.

* While collection of material by SCDC is typically included in arrangements for this service, due to manning issues, please expect some potential delays for pick-up. Dropping off recyclables at the SCDC facility is allowed and free of charge.



COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Electronics	3.62
	Lead-acid batteries	21.34
	Tires	29.21
	Used motor oil	59.77
	Other banned items	
TOTAL BANNED ITEMS		113.94
Commingled Recyclables	Aluminum cans, office paper, mixed paper	45.67
TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES		45.67
Metal	Ferrous metals	2,689.74
	Other/mixed metals	57.83
TOTAL METAL		2,747.58
Miscellaneous Items	Mixed Wood	202.87
	* Other includes bottom ash, fly ash and pond ash	0.43
	Fluorescent tubes	0.00
	Rechargeable batteries	0.00
	Used oil filters	0.00
	Other*	2,322,462.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS		2,322,665.30
Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris	Gypsum drywall	0.00
TOTAL C&D DEBRIS		0.00
TOTAL FOR ALL		2,325,572.49

Green Government Initiative

DHEC’s Green Government Initiative (GGI) assists state agencies in meeting their recycling requirements, bringing South Carolina closer to its recycling goals.



GGI encourages agencies to lead by example through:

- **Reducing its environmental footprint** (which can also save money);
- **Buying recycled-content products**; and
- **Supporting South Carolina’s recycling industry.**

To learn more, visit des.sc.gov/recycle or call **1-800-768-7348**.

State Agencies Reporting for FY24

- Commission on Indigent Defense
- Comptroller General's Office
- Legislative Audit Council
- Office of the Adjutant General
- Patriots Point Development Authority
- Pardon Services
- S.C. Administrative Law Court
- State Ethics Commission
- S.C. Commission of Higher Education
- S.C. Department of Administration
 - › Administrative Executive Directors Office
 - › Administrative Services
 - › Division of Facilities Management, and Property Services
 - › Division of Technology Operations
 - › Executive Budget Office
 - › Executive Policy and Program
 - › Federal and State Surplus Property
 - › Office of Technology and Information Services
 - › SCEIS
 - › State Human Resources
 - › State Fleet Management
- S.C. Department of Archives and History
- S.C. Department of Corrections
- S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
 - › 2100 Bull Street Mills/Jarrett Building
 - › 2600 Bull Street--Sims-Aycock Building
 - › Abbeville County Health Department
 - › Aiken Bureau of Environmental Health Services – Environmental Affairs
 - › Anderson County Health Department
 - › Charleston County OCRM
 - › Cherokee County Health Department
 - › Chesterfield County Health Department
 - › Clarendon County Health Department
 - › Columbia Mills (State Museum)
 - › Darlington County Health Department
 - › Dillon County Health Department
 - › Florence County Health Department
- › Administrative Office – Environmental Quality Control
- › Florence County Health Department Annex
- › Georgetown County Health Department
- › Greenville County Health Department
- › Hartsville Health Department
- › Hayne Building/Public Health Lab
- › Horry County Health Department
- › Kershaw County Health Department
- › Lake City Health Department
- › Lancaster County Health Department
- › Laurens County Health Department
- › Lee County Health Department
- › Marion County Health Department
- › Marlboro County Health Department
- › McCormick County Health Department
- › Myrtle Beach Health Department
- › Oconee County Health Department
- › Pickens County Health Department
- › Richland County Health Department
- › Saluda County Health Department
- › Spartanburg County Health Department
- › State Park
- › Stephens Crossroads Health Department
- › Sumter County Health Department
- › Williamsburg County Health Department
- S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
- S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon
- S.C. Office of the State Auditor
- S.C. Department of Revenue
- S.C. Department of Transportation
 - › Abbeville
 - › Anderson
 - › Dillon
 - › District 1
- › District 6 (Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Jasper)
- › Darlington Maintenance
- › District 3 (Greenville)
- › Florence Maintenance
- › Georgetown Maintenance
- › Horry Maintenance
- › Kershaw
- › Lee
- › Lexington Maintenance
- › Marion Maintenance
- › Marlboro
- › Signal Shop
- › Office of Materials and Research
- › Sumter
- › Supply and Equipment Division Shop Road Campus
- › Williamsburg
- S.C. Education Tuition Grants Commission
- S.C. Emergency Management Division
- S.C. Forestry Commission
- S.C. Judicial Branch
- S.C. Law Enforcement Division
- S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind
- S.C. State Library
- S.C. State Museum Commission
- Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

Colleges/Universities Reporting for FY24

- Aiken Technical College
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- Francis Marion University
- Greenville Technical College
- Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
- Spartanburg Community College
- University of South Carolina
- Winthrop University
- Wofford College
- York Technical College

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