

# About this Report

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) requires the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to publish an annual solid waste management report.

This report – which concentrates on municipal solid waste (MSW) as defined in the Act – summarizes activities by fiscal year (FY). Required information includes:

- **The amount of material recycled by commodity** (by county);
- **The amount of MSW disposed of** (by county);
- **The progress towards meeting the state’s MSW waste reduction and recycling goals;**
- **A list of permitted solid waste facilities;**
- **An estimate of current capacity to manage solid waste;**
- **Recommendations for improving solid waste management;** and
- **An update on solid waste planning.**

“The S.C. Solid Waste Management Annual Report” must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by March 15. This report provides an overview of FY18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018).

## SECTION 1

### What is MSW?

MSW is defined by law as specific waste generated from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sources.

In South Carolina, MSW includes:

- **Aluminum and steel cans;**
- **Appliances;**
- **Automobile tires;**
- **Food waste;**
- **Glass bottles and jars;**
- **Newspapers and office paper;**
- **Packaging;**
- **Plastic bottles and jugs;**
- **Tire-derived fuel;**
- **Used motor oil from do-it-yourself oil changers;** and
- **Yard trimmings.**



## Acknowledgements

The “South Carolina Solid Waste Management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018” 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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## How are MSW disposal and recycling numbers collected?

Data is collected from the following sources.

- **Permitted solid waste facilities** are required by the Act and subsequent regulations to submit annual reports of the amount of material disposed of to DHEC.
- **County governments, state agencies and state-supported colleges/universities** also are required to report the amount and type of material recycled to DHEC.
- **Businesses, municipalities and the recycling industry** are encouraged, but **not required** to report their recycling efforts. Because this reporting is voluntary, the data collected from these sources is inconsistent and impacts South Carolina's annual recycling rate.

## What are South Carolina's waste reduction/recycling goals?

By June 30, 2020, the state's goals are to:

- **Recycle at least 40 percent of its MSW;** and
- **Reduce MSW disposal to 3.25 pounds per person per day.**

## What is TSW?

Although not required, the total amount of solid waste (TSW) generated, disposed of and recycled is measured for a more comprehensive picture. TSW is collected from the same sources as MSW. TSW includes MSW as well as:

- **Construction and demolition (C&D) debris;**
- **Land-clearing debris;**
- **Industrial process waste;**
- **Automobile bodies;**
- **Municipal sludge;** and
- **Combustion ash.**

## How are the disposal and recycling rates calculated?

The equations below are used for calculating the disposal and recycling rates.

$$\text{PER CAPITA DISPOSAL} = \frac{\text{TONNAGE}}{\text{POPULATION}} \times 2,000 \div 365$$

$$\text{RECYCLING RATE (\%)} = \frac{\text{AMOUNT RECYCLED}}{\text{AMOUNT GENERATED*}} \times 100$$

\*Generated = Recycled + Disposed Of



## When Using this Report

When reviewing tables, remember that recycling tonnages are rounded to the nearest hundredth and disposal data is rounded to the nearest ton. Some totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding.