



**South Carolina State Agencies & Colleges/Universities**  
**RECYCLING & BUYING RECYCLED**  
**Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2020**

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



Prepared by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's  
Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

*Marshall Taylor, Acting Director*

# 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 material recycled** as well as all products purchased containing recycled-content material each year to 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.

DHEC 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) 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

Data for this report is submitted directly from the state agency or college/university. DHEC quantifies the reporting from the completed annual survey or from vendors providing recycling services. As for FY20, state agencies and colleges/universities recycled 13,717.21 tons of material – an approximate decrease of 9 percent from FY19.

In recent years, the rising cost of recycling services has contributed to the decrease in recycling totals; although this is still of concern with changing market prices and contamination, it should be noted the last quarter of FY20 was met with unprecedented challenges.

The COVID-19 Pandemic dramatically changed the work environment and daily operations for state agencies and college/university campuses.

A total of 54 state agencies independently reported, 2 state agency complexes (collectively 29 agencies) and 22 colleges/universities (a combination of public and private). The Act only requires public colleges/universities to report.

## FY19 & FY20 Comparison for State Agencies

TOTAL FOR FY19		TOTAL FOR FY20	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	296.72	Banned Items	364.58
Commingled Recyclables	145.73	Commingled Recyclables	131.58
Glass (Containers & Packaging)	4.73	Glass (Containers & Packaging)	6.52
Metal	815.35	Metal	936.88
Organics	1.25	Organics	0.09
Paper	1,625.94	Paper	1,264.96
Plastic	73.76	Plastic	56.72
Miscellaneous Items	571.31	Miscellaneous Items	452.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,534.79</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,213.84</b>

## FY19 & FY20 Comparison for Colleges & Universities

TOTAL FOR FY19		TOTAL FOR FY20	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	1,093.50	Banned Items	242.93
Commingled Recyclables	796.50	Commingled Recyclables	481.12
Glass (Containers & Packaging)	59.80	Glass (Containers & Packaging)	22.58
Metal	710.06	Metal	889.72
Organics	3,966.58	Organics	3,481.94
Paper	3,103.19	Paper	2,667.02
Plastic	58.47	Plastic	80.09
Miscellaneous Items	1,316.34	Miscellaneous Items	2,637.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,104.44</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,503.37</b>

### About this report ...

“The State Agencies & Colleges/Universities Recycling & Buying Recycled Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020” is submitted by DHEC in compliance with the Act – Section § 44-96-140 (C) – and is published by DHEC’s Bureau of Land and Waste Management (BLWM), Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. 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, 2020.*

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

# State Agencies

State agencies reported recycling 3,213.84 tons of material – a decrease of about 9 percent from FY19. With the many challenges that were presented almost at the start of 2020, there were shifts in the types of materials recycled. Material with a significant decrease for FY20 include:

- **Organics** (yard trimmings for compost) **92 percent** (dropping from 1.25 tons in FY19);
- **Plastic 23 percent**; and
- **Paper 22 percent**.

Plastic and paper are big recycling contributors from normal daily operations, which ceased mid-March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic when many state employees started telecommuting.

Fifty-four individual state agencies reported this year compared to 55 in FY19. Due to the housing of state agencies within multi-office buildings and complexes, those located within the Capitol Complex (State House grounds) and the Capitol Center (Gervais Street) are reported under those titles. State agencies within these structures who reported numbers are listed as individual agencies.

**CHART 2: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by State Agencies**

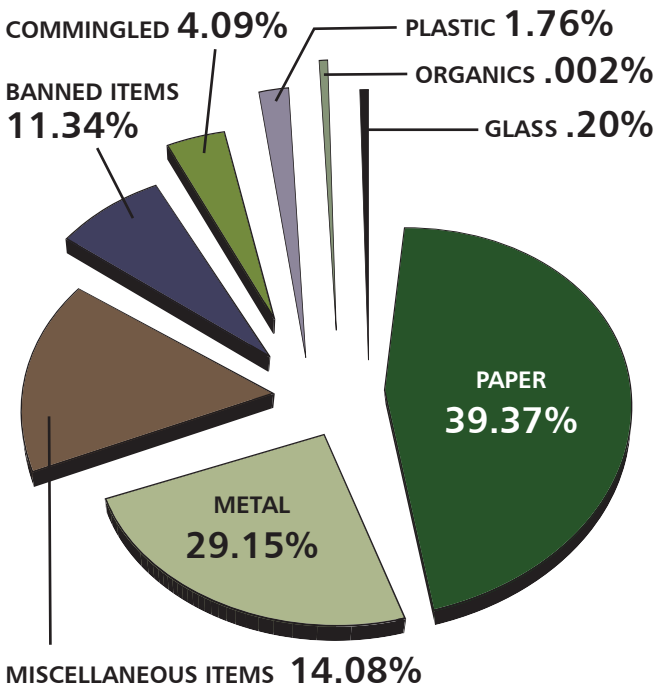


TABLE 1: Commodities Recycled in Tons by State Agencies in FY20		
COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Appliances	1.03
	Electronics	13.34
	Lead-acid batteries	7.54
	Tires	104.00
	Used motor oil	238.67
<b>TOTAL BANNED ITEMS</b>		<b>364.58</b>
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	131.58
<b>TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES</b>		<b>131.58</b>
Glass (containers & packaging)	Brown	1.17
	Clear	1.04
	Green	0.44
	Other/mixed glass	3.87
<b>TOTAL GLASS</b>		<b>6.52</b>
Metal	Aluminum (cans, foil)	66.36
	Ferrous metals	558.97
	Steel cans	197.44
	Other/mixed metal	114.11
<b>TOTAL METAL</b>		<b>936.88</b>
Organics	Food waste (composted)	0.01
	Yard trimmings (composted)	0.00
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	0.08
<b>TOTAL ORGANICS</b>		<b>0.09</b>
Paper	Beverage Cartons (aseptic & gable-top)	1.09
	Books	0.87
	Cardboard	635.84
	Magazines	2.13
	Newspapers & inserts	0.60
	Office paper	399.28
	Paperboard	9.62
	Phone books	0.10
	Other/mixed paper	215.43
	<b>TOTAL PAPER</b>	
Plastic	HDPE	2.36
	LDPE	0.00
	PET	46.94
	Vinyl	0.05
	Other/mixed plastic	7.37
<b>TOTAL PLASTIC</b>		<b>56.72</b>
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	4.01
	* Wood includes furniture, cabinets & pallets	1.31
	Clothing/textiles	0.24
	C&D debris	93.75
	Cooking oil	0.50
	Fluorescent bulbs	3.49
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	14.92
	Mattresses/box springs	0.00
	Paint (oil or latex)	0.00
	Rechargeable batteries	1.21
	Used oil filters	6.59
	Wood*	309.54
	Other**	16.95
	<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>	
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL</b>		<b>3,213.84</b>

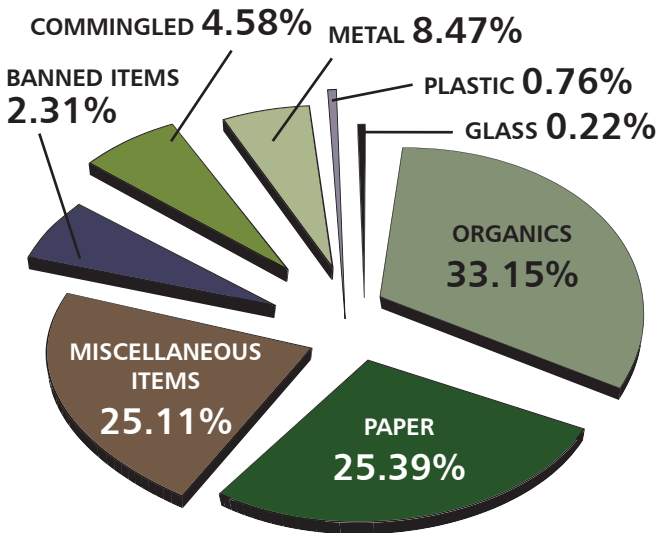
For more information, visit [scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/state-agency-recycling](https://scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/state-agency-recycling).

# Colleges/Universities

Colleges/universities reported recycling 10,503.37 tons of material – an 11.64 percent decrease from the 11,887.14 reported in FY19. Many colleges/universities did not allow students and staff on campus due to the State of Emergency issued by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and State closure. The decrease for FY20 reporting can be contributed to material traditionally recycled at the end of the academic year. The following material had the largest decreases in recovery for FY20.

- The number of lead-acid batteries recycled dropped 98 percent from FY19.
- The total amount of appliances recycled dropped 95 percent.
- Plastic #4 (LDPE) containers recycled dropped 98 percent.
- Clothing and textiles typically collected dropped 96 percent.

**CHART 3: Percentage of Recyclables Collected by Colleges/Universities**



## 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 [www.scdhec.gov/recycleu](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycleu) for details.



**TABLE 2: Commodities Recycled in Tons by State Colleges and Universities in FY20**

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Appliances	0.20
	Electronics	194.58
	Lead-acid batteries	15.11
	Tires	4.81
	Used motor oil	28.23
<b>TOTAL BANNED ITEMS</b>		<b>242.93</b>
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	481.12
<b>TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES</b>		<b>481.12</b>
Glass (containers & packaging)	Brown	0.00
	Clear	0.00
	Green	0.00
	Other/mixed glass	22.58
<b>TOTAL GLASS</b>		<b>22.58</b>
Metal	Aluminum (cans, foil)	31.26
	Ferrous metals	538.18
	Steel cans	3.15
	Other/mixed metal	317.13
<b>TOTAL METAL</b>		<b>889.72</b>
Organics	Food waste (composted)	1,016.27
	Yard trimmings (composted)	1,789.41
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	676.26
<b>TOTAL ORGANICS</b>		<b>3,481.94</b>
Paper	Books	59.7
	Cardboard	1,290.87
	Magazines	4.26
	Newspapers & inserts	1.70
	Office paper	459.52
	Paperboard	0.11
	Phone books	0.73
	Other/mixed paper	850.13
	<b>TOTAL PAPER</b>	
Plastic	HDPE	0.92
	LDPE	0.14
	PET	22.35
	Vinyl	0.00
	Other/mixed plastic	56.68
<b>TOTAL PLASTIC</b>		<b>80.09</b>
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	1.06
	* Wood includes furniture, cabinets & pallets	6.40
	Carpet padding	1.40
	Clothing/textiles	0.12
	C&D debris	2,278.29
	Cooking oil	67.08
	Fluorescent bulbs	27.53
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	18.14
	Mattresses/box springs	22.36
	Paint (oil or latex)	15.52
	Rechargeable batteries	4.35
	Used oil filters	1.31
	Wood*	189.72
	Other**	4.69
	<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>	
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL</b>		<b>10,503.37</b>



# 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 the company's recycling and that of other state agencies. For example, Santee Cooper recycles traditional commodities but also has recovery programs for gypsum ash/pond ash/fly ash – items that are recovered in significant amounts. Given that, this separation from other agency numbers provides a more realistic picture of the recycling of conventional state agencies.

Santee Cooper recycled 1,698,048.29 tons of material in FY20 – compared to 1,453,644.14 in FY19, reflecting a 16 percent increase.

Material with significant increase for FY20 include:

- **Gypsum drywall 650,522 tons;**
- **Fluorescent bulbs 1.66 tons;**
- **Used motor oil 263.64 tons; and**
- **Bottom ash, fly ash and pond ash 1,045,711.78 tons.**

The No. 1 material recovered by the state-owned utility was bottom ash/pond ash/fly ash which comprised 62 percent of its recycled materials.

## Recycling Services Offered

The S.C. Department of Corrections collects recyclables from state agencies and colleges/universities as well as schools in Lexington and Richland counties. 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 recycling containers.

For more information, call (803) 896-2364.



**TABLE 3: Commodities Recycled in Tons by Santee Cooper in FY20**

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Electronics	13.53
	Lead-acid batteries	20.75
	Tires	18.72
	Used motor oil	263.64
<b>TOTAL BANNED ITEMS</b>		<b>316.64</b>
Paper	Mixed Paper	16.40
<b>TOTAL PAPER</b>		<b>16.40</b>
Metal	Ferrous metals	1,341.12
	Other/mixed metal	103.75
<b>TOTAL METAL</b>		<b>1,444.87</b>
Miscellaneous Items	Mixed wood*	32.46
	Fluorescent tubes	1.66
	Rechargeable batteries	0.69
	Used oil filters	1.80
	Other**	1,045,711.78
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>		<b>1,045,748.39</b>
Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris	Concrete	0.00
	Gypsum drywall	650,522.00
<b>TOTAL C&amp;D DEBRIS</b>		<b>650,522.00</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL</b>		<b>1,698,048.30</b>

## Green Government Initiative

The Green Government Initiative assists state agencies in meeting their recycling requirements and helps South Carolina meet its recycling goals. The objective of the initiative is to encourage state agencies to lead by example.



State government has the unique opportunity to:

- Reduce its environmental footprint (and perhaps save money);
- Buy recycled-content products; and
- Support the state's recycling industry.

Please visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle) or call 1-800-768-7348 for more information.

## State Agencies Reporting for FY20

- Administrative Law Court
- Commission for the Blind
- Commission on Higher Education
- Commission on Indigent Defense
- Criminal Justice Academy
- Department of Administration – Collective
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Archives & History
- Department of Consumer Affairs
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Workforce
- Department of Health & Environmental Control
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transportation
- Division of Technology Operations
- Education Lottery
- Emergency Management Division
- Facilities Management & Property Services
- First Steps
- Forestry Commission
- Governor's Mansion
- Human Affairs Commission
- Office of Regulatory Staff
- Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS)
- Office of the Adjutant General & Military Department
- Office of the Secretary of State
- Office of the State Auditor
- Patriots Point Development Authority

- Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA)
- Public Service Commission of South Carolina
- School for the Deaf & Blind
- Sea Grant Consortium
- South Carolina Employee Information Systems (SCEIS)
- South Carolina Disaster Recovery
- South Carolina Technical College System
- State Ethics Commission
- State Fleet Management
- State Housing Finance & Development Authority
- State Human Resources
- State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
- State Library
- State Museum & Confederate Relic Room & Museum
- State Supreme Court
- Surplus Property Offices
- Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- Workers' Compensation Commission

### \* The following state agencies are located within the Capitol Complex.

- Administrative Law Court
- Attorney General's Office
- Board of Financial Institutions
- Commissioner of Banking
- Children's Advocacy
- Education Oversight Committee
- Executive Budget Office
- Financial Institution Board
- House of Representatives
- Legislative Services Agency
- Office of the Executive Policy and Programs
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Procurement Review Panel
- Office of the State Treasurer
- Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office
- Senate
- Commission on Prosecution Coordination

- S.C. Bureau Protective Services
- S.C. Judicial Department
- State Fiscal Accountability Authority
- Veteran's Affairs

### \*\* The following state agencies are located within the Capitol Center.

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Insurance
- Jobs-Economic Development Authority
- Retirement System Investment Commission
- Rural Infrastructure Authority
- S.C. Conservation Bank
- State Fiscal Accountability Authority

## Colleges/Universities Reporting for FY20

- Aiken Technical College
- Bob Jones University
- Charleston Southern University
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- Florence Darlington Technical College
- Francis Marion University
- Greenville Technical College
- Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Northeastern Technical College
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
- Piedmont Technical College
- South Carolina State University
- University of South Carolina - Aiken
- University of South Carolina - Columbia
- University of South Carolina - Upstate
- Williamsburg Technical College
- Winthrop University
- Wofford College
- York Technical College

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## Buying Recycled

The percentage of state purchases that contain recycled material cannot be determined because no statewide system to track those purchases exists. Still, **30 percent** of reporting state agencies and **68 percent** of reporting colleges/universities confirmed purchasing recycled-content products during FY20. The recycled-content products purchased most frequently by reporting state agencies and colleges/universities were office paper, bathroom paper products, inkjet/toner cartridges and business cards.



Food is the No.1 item Americans throw away. Each year up to 40 percent of the U.S. food supply is never consumed – an annual loss of \$218 billion – while more than 41 million Americans are food insecure. Your institution can make a difference. Visit [www.scdhec.gov/dwfs](http://www.scdhec.gov/dwfs) for more details.