

THE TOP 10 REASONS TO RECYCLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Recycling has many benefits for South Carolina's environment and the economy. Here are just a few.

1 RECYCLING IS BIG BUSINESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

More than 500 recycling companies in the state rely on quality material recycled by residents, businesses, schools, colleges and universities, and other organizations.



2 RECYCLING CREATES JOBS.

There are more than 22,000 jobs directly related to recycling in the state and more than 30,000 jobs indirectly related. Recycling jobs include everything from collectors, processors, manufacturers, and equipment makers among many others.



3 RECYCLING HAS A HUGE ECONOMIC IMPACT.

Each year, recycling generates a total economic impact of \$13 billion, about \$2.7 billion in labor income and more than \$325 million in state and local taxes. Since 2015, the state's recycling industry has made \$1.6 million in capital investments and generating 3,400 jobs.



4 RECYCLING SAVES NATURAL RESOURCES.

Reducing, reusing and recycling reduces the amount of raw material (e.g., timber, water, minerals) needed to make new products that we use in our everyday lives. Recycling also prevents pollution associated with the extraction of natural resources.



5 RECYCLING CONSERVES ENERGY.

Recycling saves energy because it reduces the need to extract and refine natural resources. It often takes less energy to make a new product from recycled items than raw material even after counting the energy involved in collecting and sorting recyclables.



6 RECYCLING CAN REDUCE LITTER.

As much as 75 percent of litter is material that can be recycled. Recycling this material helps protect the environment and wildlife as well as avoid costs associated with clean-up efforts.



7 RECYCLING SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES WASTE.

The more you recycle, the less you throw away. Remember, however, that reducing waste is a better option than recycling. The most effective way to reduce waste is not create it in the first place.



8 RECYCLING PRESERVES LANDFILL SPACE.

Recycling diverts valuable material from disposal in landfills. In addition, local governments and businesses can save money on avoided disposal costs by reducing waste and recycling.



9 RECYCLING TURNS WASTE INTO RAW MATERIAL.

Part of the recycling loop is turning recycled material into valuable raw material that manufacturers rely on to make recycled-content products. Buying these products maintains the demand for this material and completes the recycling loop.



10 IT'S EASY TO RECYCLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

There are many opportunities to recycle in South Carolina. All 46 counties have recycling programs for residents. There also are more than 60 curbside programs and nearly 550 recycling centers statewide. Recycling also is available at each S.C. State Park.

