

Winthrop University  
York County, SC



South Carolina State Agencies & Colleges/Universities  
**RECYCLING & BUYING RECYCLED**  
Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2023

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  
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. 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 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) 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023).

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 FY23, a total of 40 state agencies, including 20 Department of Transportation locations, 11 Department of Administration offices and 37 DHEC locations reported their recycling efforts. In addition, 24 colleges/universities (both public and private) reported recycling.

As changes evolve to the work environment and daily operations for state agencies and college/university campuses, DHEC 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. DHEC 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.

## FY22 & FY23 Comparison for State Agencies

TOTAL FOR FY22		TOTAL FOR FY23	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	363.86	Banned Items	1,045.98
Commingled Recyclables	112.62	Commingled Recyclables	166.90
Glass (containers & packaging)	85.18	Glass (containers & packaging)	12.80
Metal	2,486.51	Metal	484.60
Organics	0.25	Organics	12.40
Paper	1,322.97	Paper	2,175.55
Plastic	32.98	Plastic	36.70
Miscellaneous Items	471.66	Miscellaneous Items	412.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,876.03</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,347.66</b>

## FY22 & FY23 Comparison for Colleges & Universities

TOTAL FOR FY22		TOTAL FOR FY23	
MATERIAL	TONNAGE	MATERIAL	TONNAGE
Banned Items	331.13	Banned Items	33,269.07
Commingled Recyclables	482.75	Commingled Recyclables	777.67
Glass (containers & packaging)	57.96	Glass (containers & packaging)	35.01
Metal	630.23	Metal	688.09
Organics	3,318.38	Organics	3,429.50
Paper	5,376.34	Paper	2,244.30
Plastic	29.70	Plastic	48.19
Miscellaneous Items	1,190.73	Miscellaneous Items	1,951.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,417.22</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,442.96</b>

### About this report ...

“The State Agencies & Colleges/Universities Recycling & Buying Recycled Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023” 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). 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, 2023.***

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

**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 4,347.66 tons of material – a decrease of about nine percent from FY22.

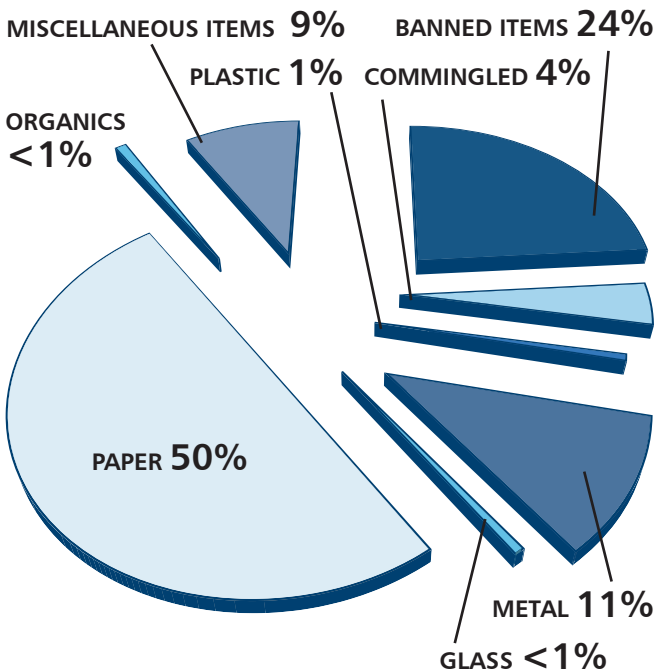
The Department of Corrections’ (SCDC) recycling service primarily collects from state agency programs, which fully resumed operations during FY22.

Materials that increased in FY23 include:

- **Paper commodities increased 64%** from FY22 to FY23;
- **Plastics increased 3%** from FY22 to FY23; and
- **Food waste and yard trimming recycled both increased** in FY23.

Forty (40) individual state agencies reported this year. Due to the housing of state agencies with multiple locations, each agency is counted once. Agencies reporting multiple locations around the state include, Department of Transportation (20), DHEC (37), Department of Administration (11), Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (25), and Department of Motor Vehicles (all counties-statewide).

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



COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
<b>Banned Items</b>	Appliances	1.75
	Electronics	28.48
	Lead-acid batteries	62.84
	Tires	110.15
	Used motor oil	842.76
<b>TOTAL BANNED ITEMS</b>		<b>1,045.98</b>
<b>Commingled Recyclables</b>	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	166.90
<b>TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES</b>		<b>166.90</b>
<b>Glass (containers &amp; packaging)</b>	Brown	2.50
	Clear	1.11
	Green	1.51
	Other/mixed glass	7.68
<b>TOTAL GLASS</b>		<b>12.80</b>
<b>Metal</b>	Aluminum (cans, foil)	134.41
	Ferrous metals	59.97
	Steel cans	41.14
	Other/mixed metal	249.08
<b>TOTAL METAL</b>		<b>484.60</b>
<b>Organics</b>	Food waste (composted)	7.20
	Yard trimmings (composted)	0.20
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	5.00
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	0.00
<b>TOTAL ORGANICS</b>		<b>12.40</b>
<b>Paper</b>	Beverage Cartons (aseptic & gable-top)	0.00
	Cardboard	263.30
	Magazines	9.60
	Newspapers & inserts	10.42
	Office paper	1,794.78
	Paperboard	0.70
	Other/mixed paper	96.75
	<b>TOTAL PAPER</b>	
<b>Plastic</b>	HDPE	3.88
	PET	0.61
	Vinyl	24.00
	Other/mixed plastic	8.21
<b>TOTAL PLASTIC</b>		<b>36.70</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Items</b>	Antifreeze	7.77
	* Wood includes furniture, cabinets and pallets	0.85
	** Other includes alkaline batteries, non-hazardous sludge and oil absorbents	0.21
	Clothing/textiles	82.80
	C&D debris	0.67
	Cooking oil	15.45
	Fluorescent bulbs	3.82
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	0.12
	Paint (oil or latex)	8.47
	Rechargeable batteries	8.45
	Used oil filters	273.61
	Wood*	10.51
	Other**	
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>		<b>412.73</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL</b>		<b>4,347.66</b>

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

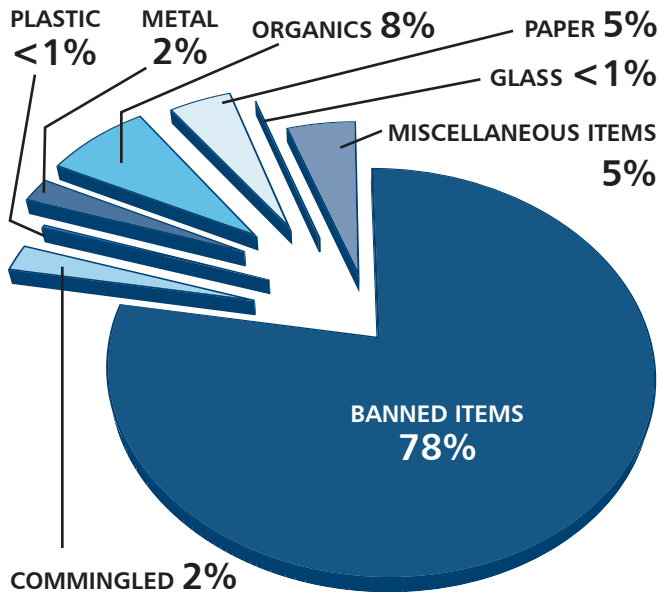
# Colleges/Universities

During FY23, twenty-three (23) colleges/universities reported recycling of 42,442.96 tons of material – an increase from the previous fiscal year. 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 FY23 recycling included:

- **Electronics increased over 100%;**
- **Commingled collection increased 61%;**
- **Plastic commodities increased 62%;** and
- **Miscellaneous commodities increased 63%.**

**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 FY23**

COMMODITIES RECYCLED		AMOUNT
Banned Items	Appliances	4.20
	Electronics	32,231.34
	Lead-acid batteries	16.25
	Tires	2.43
	Used motor oil	14.85
<b>TOTAL BANNED ITEMS</b>		<b>32,269.07</b>
Commingled Recyclables	May include: cardboard, paper, glass bottles, plastic, aluminum & steel cans	777.67
<b>TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES</b>		<b>777.67</b>
Glass (containers & packaging)	Brown	0.00
	Clear	0.00
	Green	0.00
	Other/mixed glass	35.01
<b>TOTAL GLASS</b>		<b>35.01</b>
Metal	Aluminum (cans, foil)	22.12
	Ferrous metals	337.43
	Steel cans	1.21
	Other/mixed metal	327.33
<b>TOTAL METAL</b>		<b>688.09</b>
Organics	Alternative Daily Cover	1.30
	Food waste (composted)	1,017.29
	Yard trimmings (composted)	1,777.76
	Yard trimmings (mulched)	633.15
<b>TOTAL ORGANICS</b>		<b>3,429.50</b>
Paper	Beverage cartons	0.00
	Cardboard	1,520.52
	Magazines	3.00
	Newspapers and inserts	1.10
	Office paper	289.31
	Paperboard	0.00
	Other/mixed paper	430.37
<b>TOTAL PAPER</b>		<b>2,244.30</b>
Plastic	HDPE	1.32
	LDPE	0.40
	PET	14.77
	Other/mixed plastic	31.70
<b>TOTAL PLASTIC</b>		<b>48.19</b>
Miscellaneous Items	Antifreeze	3.52
	Carpet	5.00
	Carpet padding	2.00
	Clothing/textiles	3.66
	Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris	1,662.79
	Cooking oil	31.29
	Fluorescent bulbs	25.00
	Inkjet/toner cartridges	11.36
	Mattresses/Box Springs	14.78
	Paint (oil or latex)	1.28
	Rechargeable batteries	0.80
	Used oil filters	0.69
	Wood*	179.96
	Other**	9.00
	<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>	
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL</b>		<b>41,442.96</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 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 1,341,294.99 tons of material in FY23 – compared to 1,676,184.09 in FY22, reflecting a 19 percent decrease.

Material with significant decreases in FY23 include:

- **Metal decreased from over 3,000 tons in FY22 to 1,903.34 tons in FY23;**
- **Miscellaneous items decreased from over 1,000,000 tons in FY22 to 881,597.57 tons in FY23;** and
- **C&D debris decreased from over 600,000 tons in FY22 to 457,692.94 tons in FY23.**

Even with the overall decrease, the No. 1 material recovered by the state-owned utility was bottom ash/fly ash which comprised 881,597.57 tons or 65.72 percent of its recycled materials.

<b>COMMODITIES RECYCLED</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Banned Items</b>	Electronics	3.94
	Lead-acid batteries	15.92
	Tires	25.40
	Used motor oil	55.87
	Other banned items	0.00
<b>TOTAL BANNED ITEMS</b>		<b>101.13</b>
<b>Commingled Recyclables</b>	Aluminum cans, office paper, mixed paper	50.93
<b>TOTAL COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES</b>		<b>50.93</b>
<b>Metal</b>	Ferrous metals	1,819.77
	Other/mixed metals	83.57
<b>TOTAL METAL</b>		<b>1,903.34</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Items</b>	Mixed Wood	78.31
	* Other includes bottom ash, fly ash and pond ash	0.23
	Fluorescent tubes	1.84
	Rechargeable batteries	3.00
	Used oil filters	881,514.19
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>		<b>881,597.57</b>
<b>Construction &amp; Demolition (C&amp;D) Debris</b>	Gypsum drywall	457,692.94
<b>TOTAL C&amp;D DEBRIS</b>		<b>457,692.94</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL</b>		<b>1,341,294.99</b>

## Recycling Services Offered

The S.C. Department of Corrections (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.



## 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 [scdhec.gov/recycle](http://scdhec.gov/recycle) or call 1-800-768-7348.



## State Agencies Reporting for FY23

- Commission on Indigent Defense
- Comptroller General's Office
- Legislative Audit Council
- Office of the Adjutant General
- Patriots Point Development Authority
- Public Service Commission of South Carolina
- S.C. Administrative Law Court
- S.C. Commission of Higher Education
- S.C. Education Tuition Grants Commission
- SCETV
- S.C. Department of Administration\*
- S.C. Department of Archives and History
- S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs
- S.C. Department of Corrections
- S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce
- S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control\*\*
- 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 Services
- S.C. Department of Revenue
- S.C. Department of Transportation\*\*\*
- S.C. Education Lottery
- S.C. Emergency Management Division
- S.C. Forestry Commission
- S.C. Judicial Branch
- S.C. Law Enforcement Division
- S.C. Office of the State Auditor
- S.C. Ports Authority
- S.C. Public Employee Benefit Authority
- S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind
- S.C. Sea Grant Consortium
- S.C. Secretary of State
- S.C. State Library
- S.C. State Museum Commission
- S.C. Worker's Compensation Commission
- SFAA-Insurance Reserve Fund
- State Ethics Commission
- Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- \* **Department of Administration Reporting Offices:**
  - Administrative Executive Directors Office
  - Administrative Services
  - Executive Budget Office

- Executive Policy and Program
- Division of Facilities Management and Property Services
- Division of Technology Operations
- Federal and State Surplus Property
- Office of Technology and Information Services
- SCEIS
- State Fleet Management
- State Human Resources
- \*\* **DHEC Offices Reporting:**
  - Aiken Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS) – Environmental Affairs
  - Abbeville County Health Department
  - Anderson County Health Department
  - Charleston County Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (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/EQC
  - 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
  - Mills/Jarrett Building, 2100 Bull Street
  - 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
  - Sims-Aycock Building, 2600 Bull Street
  - Saluda County Health Department
  - Spartanburg County Health Department
  - State Park
  - Stephens Crossroads Health Department
  - Sumter County Health Department
  - Williamsburg County Health Department

## \*\*\* DOT Locations Reporting:

- Abbeville
- Anderson
- Darlington Maintenance
- Dillon
- District 1
- District 3 (Greenville)
- District 6 (Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Jasper)
- Florence Maintenance
- Georgetown Maintenance
- Horry Maintenance
- Kershaw
- Lee
- Lexington Maintenance
- Marion Maintenance
- Marlboro
- Office of Materials and research
- Signal Shop
- Sumter
- Supply and Equipment Division Shop Road Campus
- Williamsburg

## Colleges/Universities Reporting for FY23

- Aiken Technical College
- 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
- Presbyterian College
- Spartanburg Community College
- The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina (USC) – Main Campus
- USC Lancaster
- USC Upstate
- Voorhees University
- 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, **75 percent** of reporting state agencies and **63 percent** of reporting colleges/universities confirmed purchasing recycled content products during FY23. 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.