

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

South Carolina's hospitality industry is a large consumer. Each facility purchases goods and services, creates and manages waste, uses energy and water, and just like an individual leaves an environmental footprint. Operating in an environmentally responsible fashion, the state's hospitality industry can lead by example with everyday, cost-effective practices that help protect and preserve South Carolina's environment as well as the quality of life for all South Carolinians. This "Best Management Practices" (BMP) fact sheet is part of a series.

Recycling

There are many reasons why your hospitality facility should recycle. Two key incentives are listed below.

- * **Lower operating costs.** Recycling, along with waste reduction and reuse, may help your facility reduce its waste disposal costs.
- * **Increase customer satisfaction.** Research shows that more consumers are considering environmental issues when traveling and dining as well as organizing events and meetings. Green practices will enhance the marketability of your facility as an environmentally friendly business. A recycling program is one of the most visible and convenient green practices that your facility can offer and promote.

In short, recycling is smart business.

Recycling should be incorporated into the daily operations of your hotel, motel, restaurant, bar or hospitality facility. The program should be specifically designed to meet the needs of the facility and include staff training as well as customer outreach.

There are many recycling options.

There is no one right way to create a recycling program. For concise how-to tips on starting a recycling program at your hospitality facility, see the BMP fact sheet "Setting Up a Recycling Program" at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/green_hospitality/pubs/setting_up_recycling.pdf.

The most common items that can be recycled include cardboard, office paper, newspaper, magazines, aluminum and steel cans, plastic and glass bottles, ink and toner cartridges, antifreeze, used motor oil, lead-acid batteries, tires, cooking oil/grease, computers, televisions, cell phones, yard trimmings and food scraps.

Some items (e.g., usually cardboard, office paper, aluminum and steel cans) will be much easier to recycle than others. Some items (e.g., used motor oil, tires, lead-acid batteries) are required to be recycled. It's the law in South Carolina. Some items (e.g., electronics and fluorescent bulbs) must be properly managed or recycled according to federal regulations.

The S.C. Smart Business Recycling Program, housed at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), provides best management practice fact sheets on the following recyclables: office paper, corrugated cardboard, beverage containers, fluorescent bulbs and pallets. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/smart_business/how.htm.

There are additional items that are more difficult to manage. Several are listed below.

- * **ELECTRONICS** – Businesses including hotels, motels, restaurants and bars should not throw

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The Green Hospitality Program is offered by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office). To learn about the program or for help setting up, implementing or improving green practices, call the Office at 1-800-768-7348 or visit www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality.

away computers and other electronic equipment and must follow all state and federal regulations regarding the proper management of electronic waste. Visit www.scdhec.gov/e-cycle for more information.

- * **FLUORESCENT BULBS** – Businesses also must properly manage or recycle fluorescent bulbs. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/uw_lamps.pdf or www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/sb_fluorescent.pdf.
- * **YARD TRIMMINGS AND FOOD SCRAPS** – Composting, the natural decomposition of organic material such as yard trimmings and food scraps, greatly reduces the amount of waste a facility generates and is an excellent source of organic material for rebuilding and enriching soil. Currently in South Carolina, hospitality facilities can compost yard trimmings and food scraps as long as: 1) all of the material composted is generated on site; and 2) the compost generated is used on site. DHEC is currently updating South Carolina’s composting regulations.
- * **COOKING OIL AND GREASE** – Cooking oil and grease are commodities that should be treated as resources and not as waste. Both should be recycled.

Report your efforts.

Recycling is only part of the story. Take credit for what your facility is doing and report your recycling activities (e.g., what was recycled and how much) to DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling. Your report helps DHEC accurately measure recycling activities in South Carolina and helps the state meet its recycling goal.

For more information on completing the report and how the information is used, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/smart_business/reporting.htm. To report, visit <http://my.re-trac.com/scsmartbusiness.pm>.

Resources for Identifying Recycling Markets

- * **The Green Resource Index** – provided by DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling – can be used to identify recycling markets for a wide variety of recyclables. Visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle and click on “Green Resource Index” in the left menu.
- * **The S.C. Recycling Business Directory** contains a listing of South Carolina recycling companies. The Directory – which is offered by the S.C. Department of Commerce – can be found at www.recyclinginsc.com/directory.
- * **The S.C. Materials Exchange** is a free service provided by DHEC that seeks to reduce waste by facilitating the exchange of reusable materials. Visit www.scdhec.gov/scme for more information.
- * **The S.C. Green Building Directory** – provided by The Sustainability Institute in Charleston – contains a listing of companies that reuse or recycle construction and demolition debris. Visit www.scgreenbuildingdirectory.org to view the Directory.



The **S.C. Green Hospitality Alliance** is a free, voluntary program designed to: 1) help South Carolina’s hospitality industry reduce the environmental impact of its operations as well as incorporate environmental stewardship and sustainability in its business practices; and 2) promote and recognize member hotels, restaurants as well as other hospitality facilities for their environmentally conscious practices. The Alliance was developed in partnership by the S.C. Restaurant & Lodging Association and DHEC’s Green Hospitality Program.

For more information, call DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality.

