

# The Year at a Glance



This report provides an overview of the amount of solid waste generated, disposed of and recycled in South Carolina for fiscal year (FY) 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) as required by the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) – S.C. Code of Laws §§ 44-96-60.

This report defines and measures two specific types of solid waste – municipal solid waste (MSW) and total solid waste (TSW). (See page 2 for definitions.) As required by the Act, the focus of this report is on MSW (Section 44-96-50).

Recycling Rate for FY16	Waste Disposal Rate for FY16
<b>25.4%</b>	<b>3.6 p/p/d*</b>

\*Pounds Per Person Per Day

## Numbers, Changes & Trends, FY01 to FY16

- **South Carolina's population grew from 4 million people in 2000 to 4.9 million in 2016** – a 23 percent increase. Despite that significant growth, South Carolinians disposed of only 118,023 additional tons of MSW in FY16 than in FY01.
- **Per capita disposal in South Carolina decreased a little more than 14 percent** – dropping from about 4.2 pounds in FY01 to 3.6 pounds in FY16.
- **South Carolinians have disposed of 3.2 million tons of MSW and recycled 1.2 million tons of material** on average each FY since FY01.
- **Recycling is traditionally measured by weight not volume.** Given that, it is important to note that not only have the materials in the waste stream changed in the past 15 years (less paper and glass, more plastic and food waste), but so has their weight. Manufacturers wanting to lower costs (and save raw materials) strive to make their products as light as possible. A plastic water bottle, for example, weighs 37 percent less than it did a decade ago. Aluminum cans and even glass bottles weigh less.



## The Top 10 Takeaways for FY16

- 01** In FY16, the amount of MSW generated (recycled plus disposed of) was **4,308,161 tons**. Of that amount, 1,094,569 tons (25.4 percent) were recycled and 3,213,592 tons (74.6 percent) were disposed of in MSW landfills.
- 02** The amount of MSW disposed of increased **155,204 tons (5 percent)**.
- 03** The state's per capita disposal increased slightly to **3.6 pounds**.
- 04** The amount of MSW recycled decreased **17,632 tons (1.6 percent)**.
- 05** On average, each South Carolinian recycled about **438 pounds of MSW**.
- 06** The amount of MSW recycled fell for the **third straight FY**. But it was the eighth consecutive FY (and 12 of the past 13 FYs) that residents recycled more than 1 million tons of material. More than 19 million tons of MSW have been recycled since FY01.
- 07** **Tonnages for four commodities increased – Glass, Plastic, Organics and Banned Items.**
- 08** **Twenty-five counties met the waste disposal goal of 3.25 pounds or less disposal per day.** Anderson County – with a 42 percent recycling rate – was the only county to meet the state's recycling goal (40 percent).
- 09** **Residential recycling increased 15,911 tons – mostly due to a significant increase in the amount of Banned Items recovered.**
- 10** **Inconsistent reporting remains an issue impacting the integrity of the recycling rate.**

# South Carolina Solid Waste by the Numbers



**TABLE 2.2: S.C. MSW Recycled<sup>2</sup> by FY**

FISCAL YEAR	RECYCLED IN TONS	RECYCLING RATE BY PERCENT	RECYCLED IN P/P/D
2012	1,229,100	29.5%	1.4
2013	1,371,960	31.5%	1.6
2014	1,263,495	29.2%	1.4
2015	1,101,190	26.5%	1.3
<b>2016</b>	<b>1,094,569</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>1.2</b>

**TABLE 2.4: S.C. MSW Disposed<sup>2</sup> of by FY**

FISCAL YEAR	DISPOSED OF IN TONS	DISPOSED OF IN P/P/D
2012	2,935,876	3.4
2013	2,985,852	3.5
2014	3,067,942	3.5
2015	3,058,388	3.5
<b>2016</b>	<b>3,213,592</b>	<b>3.6</b>

**TABLE 2.6: S.C. MSW Generated<sup>2</sup> by FY**

FISCAL YEAR	GENERATED IN TONS	GENERATED IN P/P/D
2012	4,164,976	4.9
2013	4,357,812	5.1
2014	4,331,437	5.0
2015	4,159,578	4.7
<b>2016</b>	<b>4,308,161</b>	<b>4.8</b>

**TABLE 2.1: S.C. Population**

YEAR	POPULATION
2012	4,679,230
2013	4,723,723
2014	4,774,839
2015	4,832,482
<b>2016<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>4,896,146</b>

**TABLE 2.3: S.C. TSW Recycled by FY**

FISCAL YEAR	RECYCLED IN TONS	RECYCLING RATE BY PERCENT	RECYCLED IN P/P/D
2012	5,314,842	40.8%	6.2
2013	7,700,976	49.3%	8.9
2014	6,030,557	43.2%	6.9
2015	2,974,363	26.3%	3.4
<b>2016</b>	<b>2,788,140</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>3.1</b>

**TABLE 2.5: S.C. TSW Disposed of by FY**

FISCAL YEAR	DISPOSED OF IN TONS	DISPOSED OF IN P/P/D
2012	7,696,559	9.0
2013	7,906,522	9.2
2014	7,918,780	9.1
2015	8,317,621	9.4
<b>2016</b>	<b>8,376,283</b>	<b>9.4</b>

**TABLE 2.7: S.C. TSW Generated by FY**

FISCAL YEAR	GENERATED IN TONS	GENERATED IN P/P/D
2012	13,011,401	15.2
2013	15,607,497	18.1
2014	13,949,336	16.0
2015	11,291,984	12.8
<b>2016</b>	<b>11,164,423</b>	<b>12.5</b>

**NOTES:**

1. The population data used in this report reflects the most recent estimate available from the U.S. Census Bureau.
2. See Table 9.11 on page 97 for a breakdown by county of MSW recycling, disposal and generation.
3. Rounding of numbers may affect some totals.

