

the top 10 reasons to RECYCLE MORE South Carolina

recyclemoreSC
A 40BY2020 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

1 Recycling means business in South Carolina.

More than 520 recycling companies in South Carolina rely on material recycled by residents, businesses, schools, colleges and universities and other organizations.



2 Recycling creates jobs.

There are more than 22,000 jobs directly attributable to recycling in the state (more than 54,000 direct and indirect jobs overall). The average annual wage for the direct jobs is \$40,203 – higher than the South Carolina average.



3 Recycling makes a huge economic impact.

Recycling generates an annual total economic impact of \$13 billion, about \$2.7 billion in labor income every year and \$329 million in yearly state and local taxes. In the past five years, the state's recycling industry has made \$1.1 billion in capital investments creating 3,000 jobs.



4 Recycling conserves 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 saves energy.

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



6 Recycling reduces waste.

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



7 Recycling reduces 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.



8 Recycling reduces the need for more landfills.

Recycling preserves landfill space by diverting valuable material from disposal. 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.

Recycling turns waste into valuable raw material that manufacturers rely on to make recycled-content products. Buying these products maintains the demand for this material and makes recycling work.



10 It's easy.

Whether at home, school, work or on the go, there are many opportunities to recycle. South Carolina has a robust recycling infrastructure with recycling programs in each of the state's 46 counties. Overall, the state has 85 curbside programs, nearly 600 recycling centers and offers recycling at each of South Carolina's 47 state parks and historic sites. To learn more about the recycling opportunities where you live, visit www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc. Then do your part and recycle more!



Please visit www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc to see what is recycled where you live.



The 40by2020 Partnership is a group of public and private stakeholders dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources and working together to help South Carolina meet or exceed its 40 percent recycling goal set for 2020. Partnership members include PalmettoPride, Pratt Industries, Sonoco Recycling, the S.C. Beverage Association, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.