

Fall 2023

# Recycle This!

Horry County Solid Waste Authority's Newsletter to Read & Recycle!

Did you know that Horry County residents throw away more than 70,000 tons of food scraps each year, making up one quarter of all the garbage collected? To combat this growing problem and to divert food scraps from landfill disposal to the composting facility, the Solid Waste Authority has initiated a pilot Food Waste Collection Program at two recycling convenience centers until December 31, 2023 to determine the receptiveness of the residents and feasibility of making this a permanent collection to residents through the County's 25 Recycling Convenience Centers. Food Scraps can be stored in a container with a tight-fitting lid or in the freezer or refrigerator and can be dropped off for free at the Landfill Recycling Center located at 1886 Hwy 90 in Conway and the Carolina Forest Recycling Center located at 800 International Dr. in Myrtle Beach. Please bring only acceptable items and help us to prevent contamination, which ensures the final product is free of inorganic materials and is safe to use.

## ITEMS ACCEPTED

- ✓ **Fruits & Vegetables**
- ✓ **Bread, Dough, Bakery Items, Pasta & Grain**
- ✓ **Coffee Grounds & Tea Filters**
- ✓ **Compostable Liquids** (e.g., water, juices in small amounts)
- ✓ **Cooked Meats, Fish, Bones & Shells\***
- ✓ **Dairy Products\*** (e.g., milk, cheese, yogurt)
- ✓ **Food-Soiled Paper** (e.g., paper bags, paper towels, napkins, waxed cardboard boxes\*)
- ✓ **Processed Foods** (e.g., pizza, cereal, chips, crackers, cookies, cakes, plate scrapings)

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ **Raw Meat** (e.g., beef, poultry, pork, seafood)
- ✗ **Plastic Items** (e.g., bags, dishes, utensils, cups, Styrofoam)
- ✗ **Small Items** (e.g., rubber bands, twist ties)
- ✗ **Chemical Cleaners**
- ✗ **Non-Food Items** (e.g., wood, metal, glass, ceramics, pet droppings, yard debris)
- ✗ **Fats, Oils, Grease or Non-Compostable Liquids** (e.g., vegetable oil, lard)

SWA has compost, mulch, and glass aggregate for sale!! Call before you come to get it! We sell out quick!! Check out our website for options, prices, and pictures here <https://www.solidwasteauthority.org/residential.html>



## “FALL” INTO GOOD RECYCLING HABITS!

Whether you're sipping warm apple cider, raking leaves, or planning something fun for Halloween, you can do it all with the earth in mind by following these easy tips.

- While many of us opt for those seasonal flavors at coffee shops, try brewing your own coffee or tea at home and avoid any take-out waste altogether.
- If you must grab that warm seasonal beverage, skip a lid, straw or stirrer by letting your server know that you don't need these items.
- Keep single-use cups, lids, and straws out of recycling bins.

Once the leaves have fallen, use them sustainably in a number of ways:

- At home- add nutrients to your lawn by mulching leaves into the grass with a lawn mower, or you can collect them for your home compost pile.
- Take them to your local recycling center for them to be recycled into compost.
- Reuse and repurpose items from around the house to make your own decorations, such as using leaves in a scarecrow or other craft project.

# RECYCLING 101

## 1 How does recycling work?

Recycling – with the exception of a few items such as appliances, electronics and lead-acid batteries – is not mandatory in South Carolina. Recycling is voluntary. Local governments design and offer programs for their residents that need your participation to succeed. Recycling will not work without you.

## 2 What can I recycle?

Programs differ from community to community. Most programs, however, accept aluminum cans, plastic bottles, steel cans (e.g., fruit, vegetable, soup), cardboard, newspaper, glass bottles (clear, green and brown). One of the most important actions that you can take is to find out what is accepted in your program.

## 3 What's the 'right stuff'?

Recycling starts when you place the correct items in your recycling container – that is material that is accepted in your community's program. Placing the wrong items – material that is not accepted – increases costs for local governments and businesses.

## 4 Why can't I recycle everything?

Markets often determine whether an item is recyclable in your community. If there isn't enough of a given material or the material is too far away from an available market, then it's less likely to be accepted for recycling. In addition, some material (e.g., Styrofoam) has little value in the marketplace and is not cost effective to collect.

## 5 Where can I recycle?

You can recycle at home, school, work and on the go – just about anywhere. South Carolina has 85 curbside programs, nearly 600 recycling drop-off centers. Recycling also is available at each of South Carolina's state parks and four largest airports. Finally, many national retail outlets offer recycling for specific material, such as Publix recycles Styrofoam and single use plastic bags can be taken to Walmart to be recycled.

## 6 What items must be recycled?

By law, several items must be recycled in South Carolina. Appliances (large appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers) – If you buy a new appliance, ask the retailer to take back your old one. Each of the state's 46 counties also accept large appliances, so check with your county recycling coordinator. \*Electronics – All counties provide programs and/or single-day events to recycle electronics. Many retailers (e.g., Best Buy®, Target™) also offer collection programs. Finally, consider donating your working electronics to non-profits and other organizations. \*Lead-acid batteries – You can recycle your old battery at a retail location when you buy a new one. If you have an old battery and don't need to buy a new one, there are two options. First, check with your county recycling coordinator (Horry County has two recycling coordinators; Kendra Dickerson and Victoria Johnson reached at [education@solidwasteauthority.org](mailto:education@solidwasteauthority.org)). If your county does not offer a program, then check with local car dealers and repair shops to see if they will accept your old battery. \*Tires – Each county has a collection program that accepts a maximum number of tires at recycling drop-off centers or landfills. \*Used motor oil – There are more than 900 collection sites for do-it-yourself oil changers. The network includes local governments, quick lubes (e.g., Advance Auto™) and auto parts stores (e.g., Auto Zone™).

Please visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc) to learn more.

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority provides a fully integrated solid waste management system, which includes landfill management, public education, state-of-the-art technology, and recycling programs. The current landfill, located off Highway 90 in Conway, is carefully monitored and regulated to ensure public health and safety and environmental protection.

### Contact Us!

Administration & Education: 843-347-1651  
Collection & Hauling: 843-347-6622

[www.SolidWasteAuthority.org](http://www.SolidWasteAuthority.org)



[education@SolidWasteAuthority.org](mailto:education@SolidWasteAuthority.org)

