

In the report, Hefner and Blackwell stated “that recycling is beneficial for the environment is probably an uncontested proposition. What is becoming increasingly more obvious is that recycling contributes to the economic health of a state's economy.”

According to the study, the recycling industry creates an estimated \$6.5 billion total economic impact in the state's economy. This can be attributed to the more than 300 recycling companies in the state which include haulers, processors, recycled product manufacturers and equipment makers. “In 2004, the cost to landfill one ton of MSW was \$32. Adjusting for inflation, if all of the recyclable material in landfills had been recycled, that would have saved more than \$30 million,” Hefner added.

MISSION

The Recycling Market Development program staff promotes market development for recycled materials, assists with start-up efforts for recycling companies, helps existing companies with their expansions, and provides technical assistance to business and industry with their efforts to reduce waste streams and increase the amount of materials recycled.



RECYCLING.
IT DOESN'T COST. IT PAYS!

The South Carolina Smart Business Recycling Program provides free, confidential, non-regulatory technical assistance on recycling, waste reduction, beneficial reuse and other ways for businesses to conserve resources and improve their bottom line. The program is a partnership between the South Carolina Recycling Market Development Advisory Council and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, Center for Waste Minimization, and Small Business Assistance Program. The Smart Business Recycling Program was formerly known as the Business Recycling Assistance Program (BRAP).

The Smart Business Recycling Program offers site visits, waste assessments, market assistance, educational materials, staff training, and other services.



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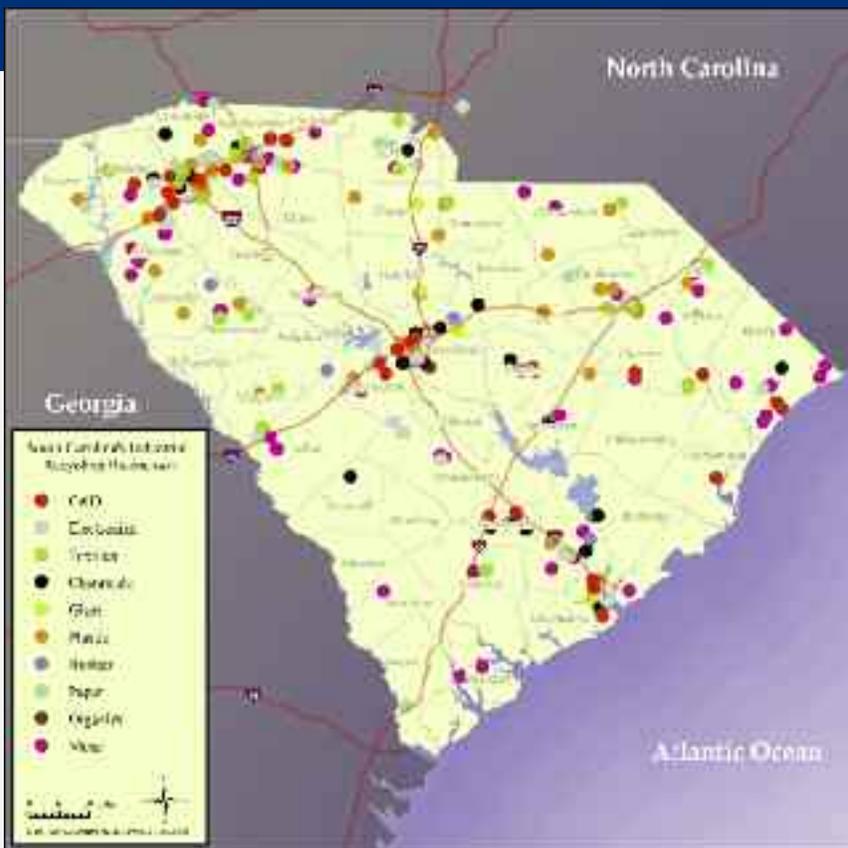
RECYCLING
RECYCLING
RECYCLING
FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT
& THE ECONOMY

SOUTH CAROLINA BOASTS A STRONG RECYCLING ECONOMY

The South Carolina Department of Commerce recently released a study on the economic impact on the recycling industry in South Carolina. The South Carolina Recycling Market Development Advisory Council in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control commissioned the study. Economists at the College of Charleston Frank Hefner and Calvin Blackwell compiled the study and found South Carolina's recycling industry economic impacts include:

- 37,440 Jobs
- \$1.5 Billion in personal income impact
- \$6.5 Billion in economic impact
- \$69 Million state tax revenue
- Projected 12% annual growth in industry in next five years
- Estimated total economic impact in five years = over \$11 Billion.

The Recycling Market Development Advisory Council's (RMDAC) mission is to advocate opportunities to develop sustainable recycling markets, support the growth of South Carolina's recycling industry, and advise the state on efforts required to increase recovery of recyclable materials. The 14 members of RMDAC represent recycling businesses, industry, local governments, higher education and the general public. They accomplish the council's mission through participation in bi-monthly meetings and through the work of two active committees: Economic Development and Policy and Strategic Initiatives.



RECYCLING CLUSTER SUSTAINABILITY

The Recycling Cluster is an initiative being undertaken by RMDAC and staff to promote the recognition of recycling as a vibrant industry with a \$6.5 billion economic impact in SC. The development of the Recycling Cluster will help position recycling businesses as competitive, viable participants in the development of jobs, retaining local community employers, generating additional tax revenues, and expanding economic development opportunities. Sonoco Products, a global packaging company that uses recycled content, is the anchor company for the Recycling Cluster. The Recycling Cluster initiative is facilitated by RMDAC and staff.

Today, more and more companies are looking at new strategies to make their business more competitive, more responsive and more sustainable. And many are embracing the notion that we should be good stewards for future generations.

In an effort to protect the state's quality of life which includes our state's waterways and beaches, forests, mountains and other natural resources, the Department of Commerce is committed to helping both new and existing companies lessen their environmental footprint by providing information and services that shape policies and practices affecting community growth and prosperity.

Many progressive companies are adapting strategies that focus on increasing productivity and efficiency by creating better products and processes that use fewer materials or resources, are less harmful to the environment, and are exceedingly more profitable. And profitable businesses mean prosperous communities that enjoy the many benefits of an active business community.

As an outgrowth of existing efforts within the Department to promote and support recycling market development activities, this new initiative encompasses all aspects of promoting the concepts and practices of sustainable business development, recognizing the importance of the triple bottom line that it incorporates:

1. Increasing financial profitability
2. Implementing strategies that lessen environmental impacts
3. Recognizing social responsibility issues as part of a community

