

# South Carolina is Just Right for Recycling



## Economic Impact of \$13 Billion

South Carolina has a high demand for recycled content, with manufacturers using recycled materials to create new products. These activities are boosting employment in the state, the recycling sector has created 2,400 jobs in the past three years. South Carolina now has four times more jobs in recycling per capita than California and Massachusetts.

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## Recycling means jobs

- In 2013, 1.4 million tons of solid waste was recycled, which is equivalent to nearly 5,000 Boeing 787 planes loaded to the maximum weight.
- Since 2006, South Carolina has recruited more than \$4.5 billion in capital investment in the recycling industry.
- There are more than 520 recycling-related companies in South Carolina.
- In just eight years, the industry has doubled its annual economic impact: from \$6.5 billion in 2006 to \$13 billion in 2014.

## It's easy being green

The average person generates 4.5 pounds of trash every day—about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year, and 75% of that waste is recyclable.

### Landfill items consumed per day



### Annual demand



## SC recycling companies recycle everything from A to Z:

- **Aluminum** – melted into new aluminum products for packaging and construction industries
- **Carbon Fiber** – reclaimed and made into new products for the automotive industry
- **Glass** – recycled glass makes new glass bottles, counter tops and decorative items
- **Metals** – collected, processed and turned into new products
- **Plastic** – bottles can go into recycled resins for new bottles, strapping, textiles or film
- **Petroleum** – re-refined or burned for energy recovery
- **Steel** – steel mills make products for the automotive and green building sectors
- **Tires** – transformed into new playground and landscape surfacing materials, tire-derived fuel
- **Textiles** – recycled textiles used in automotive industry, furniture
- **Wood** - converted into biomass, new pallets and mulch
- **Zinc** – zinc and other metals recycled into new products for the construction, container and automotive industries

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