

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2024

SC LITTER COMMISSION



TYGER RIVER, SC







Throwing garbage directly into our rivers and streams is common practice in South Carolina.



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# Message from the Chairman



As a lifelong resident of South Carolina and through my career in law enforcement, I know first-hand the persistent challenges of litter across our state. As residents, we all share the responsibility to be good stewards of the communities where we live and work.

Our law enforcement officers share that same responsibility by serving as the principal advocates for and stewards of South Carolina's natural resources. When individuals disregard the law, it is the officers of South Carolina who hold them accountable.

I am proud to present this legislative report in accordance with the Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act and to serve as the chairman of the Litter Commission. As stakeholders in this effort, we all can make a difference and ensure that South Carolina remains a beautiful place for all of us.

Lt. Col. James R. Landrum  
SCDNR Law Enforcement  
Chairman, South Carolina Litter Commission



## South Carolina Litter Commission

The goal of the Litter Commission is to work toward finding solutions and strategizing efforts to mitigate litter in the state. The agencies which encompass the Litter Commission are:

### **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources**

Information clearing house & litter law enforcement

*Representative: Lt. Col. Jamie Landrum, Chairman*

### **South Carolina Department of Transportation**

Provides logistical transportation of trash collections

*Representative: Ted Creech, Director of Governmental Affairs*

### **South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, & Pardon Services**

Supervises probationers ordered by the General Sessions Court to perform public service

*Representative: Deborah Douglas, Director of External Affairs*

### **South Carolina Department of Public Safety**

Law enforcement & safety coordination

*Representative: Captain C. B. Hughes, Administrative & Regulatory Compliance Unit*

### **South Carolina Court Administration**

Addressing the need for community service opportunities

*Representative: Daniel E. Shearouse, State Court Administrator*

### **PalmettoPride**

Lead agency on education, enforcement, awareness and volunteer opportunities

*Representative: Sarah Lyles, Executive Director*

### **Keep South Carolina Beautiful**

Non-profit agency for volunteer opportunities & beautification grants

*Representative: Joseph Berry, KSCB Manager*

### **Municipal Association of South Carolina**

Information resource for the state's 271 municipalities

*Representative: Joannie Nickel, Legislative & Public Policy Advocate*

### **South Carolina Association of Counties**

Information resource for the state's 46 counties

*Representative: John Wienges, Jr., Staff Attorney*

### **South Carolina Sheriff's Association**

Provides support and training services to the 46 Sheriffs of South Carolina

*Representative: Sally Foster, Executive Director*

### **South Carolina Trucking Association**

Continuing education on litter laws and securing loads

*Representative: Taryn Shekitka, Director of Operations*



# Statewide Initiatives



PalmettoPride fights litter in South Carolina by addressing prevention through education, supporting enforcement, connecting community groups to resources, and mobilizing volunteers.

## FY 21-22

### Education

Litter Trashes Everyone Marionette Show

- 114 Schools
- 213 shows performed
- Reached 45,155 students

### Governor's Art Contest for Litter Prevention

- 18,255 students participated
- 146 schools

### Enforcement

- 1,866 calls to Litter Buster Hotline
- 3,690 tarps distributed
- 114 surveillance sign distributed to law enforcement

### Pickup

- 52,130 volunteers
- 1,551,879 total pounds picked up
- Cost avoidance to state and local governments - \$3,983,253

### Prevention

- 21 WaterGoat trash trap deployed in waterways

## FY 22-23

### Education

Litter Trashes Everyone Marionette Show

- 148 Schools (virtual shows as well)
- 214 shows performed
- Reached 54,575 students – record high!

### Governor's Art Contest for Litter Prevention

- 12,655 students participated
- 89 schools

### Enforcement

- 2,612 calls to the Litter Busters Hotline
- 300 surveillance signs distributed to law enforcement

### Pickup

- 45,860 volunteers (KSCB, Great SC Cleanup, Adopt-A-Highway)
- 2,534,902 total pounds picked up
- Cost avoidance to state and local governments - \$3,504,162



## Statewide Initiatives



- 38 Keep America Beautiful Affiliates established
- Presented on two KAB National webinars
- Presented three sessions at the National Keep America Beautiful Conference

### Affiliates In South Carolina

Keep Aiken County Beautiful  
Keep Allendale County Beautiful  
Keep Anderson County Beautiful  
Keep Bamberg County Beautiful  
Keep Barnwell County Beautiful  
Keep Beaufort County Beautiful  
Keep Berkeley Beautiful  
Keep Charleston Beautiful  
Keep Colleton County Beautiful  
Keep Conway Beautiful  
Keep Darlington County Beautiful  
Keep Dorchester County Beautiful  
Keep Edisto Beautiful  
Keep Florence Beautiful  
Keep Georgetown Beautiful  
Keep Greenville County Beautiful  
Keep Greenwood County Beautiful  
Keep Hampton County Beautiful  
Keep Horry County Beautiful

Keep Jasper County Beautiful  
Keep Lancaster County Beautiful  
Keep Laurens County Beautiful  
Keep Myrtle Beach Beautiful  
Keep Newberry County Beautiful  
Keep North Charleston Beautiful  
Keep North Myrtle Beach Beautiful  
Keep Oconee Beautiful Association  
Keep Spartanburg Beautiful  
Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful  
Keep Pickens County Beautiful  
Keep Sumter Beautiful  
Keep the Midlands Beautiful  
Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful  
Keep Walterboro Beautiful  
Keep Williamsburg Beautiful  
Keep York County Beautiful  
Rock Hill Clean & Green  
Keep South Carolina Beautiful

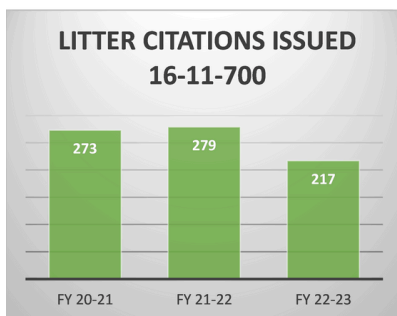


# Statewide Initiatives

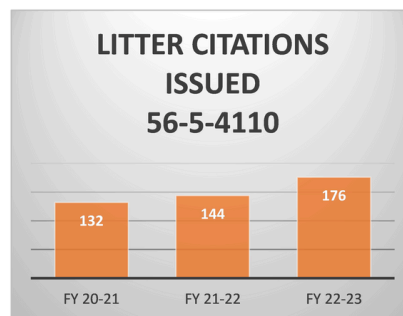


The South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) Officers patrol the state highways enforcing traffic laws. While carrying out their duties, they work to identify violations that contribute to the litter problem in South Carolina. SCDPS Officers work hard to address those persons who choose to litter in our state. The below three (3) year analysis shows the effort made by SCDPS Officers in enforcing the sections of law regarding dumping and littering (**16-11-700**), escape of materials loaded on vehicles (**56-5-4100**) and uncovered loads (**56-5-4110**).

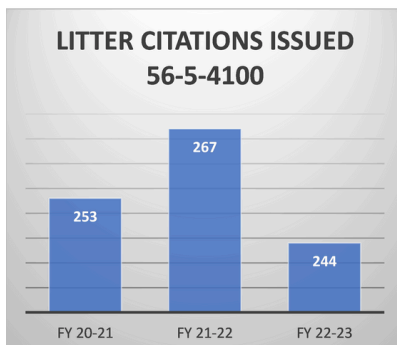
Dumping Litter on private or public property.



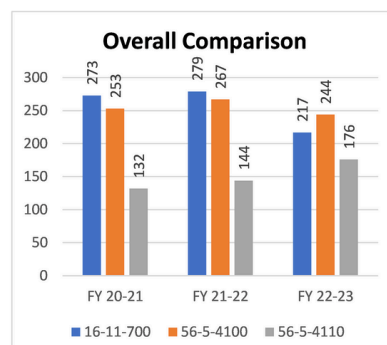
Uncovered loads



Preventing Escape of Materials Loaded on Vehicles



Overall Comparison



## Statewide Initiatives



The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services offers public service employment (PSE) as one of its community-based programs. The General Sessions Court has the authority to place convicted nonviolent offenders in unpaid positions with nonprofit or tax-supported agencies to perform a specified number of “community service” work hours. This program is an integral part of SCDPPPS efforts to intervene with supervised offenders by providing them the opportunity to perform useful volunteer work in their community- either as a sentencing alternative, a condition of probation or parole, or a sanction via the violation process. Public service employment enables the community to hold these individuals accountable for their actions through direct service back to the community in which they live.

- **133 offenders provided 7,438 public service employment (PSE) hours, picking up litter for 27 organizations during FY '22 and FY '23**



## Statewide Initiatives



The Golden Trashcan Award is a year-long competition where the focus is not about writing the most littering citations; but rather about our officers strengthening community partnerships, educating the public and youth through outreach events and apprehending the hard to catch littering violators. The winning region receives a celebratory luncheon provided by the Hampton Wildlife Fund and bragging rights.

SCDNR Law Enforcement Region 3 (*Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda, & Sumter*) were the winners of the 2023 Golden Trashcan Award. They partnered with over 30 organizations to help with litter cleanups, litter enforcement and educational events. South Carolina has a large Hispanic community and Region 3 officers saw a need to help communicate litter laws in Spanish by creating a pocket translator card for each officer; all SCDNR law enforcement officers had a pocket translator by January 2024.

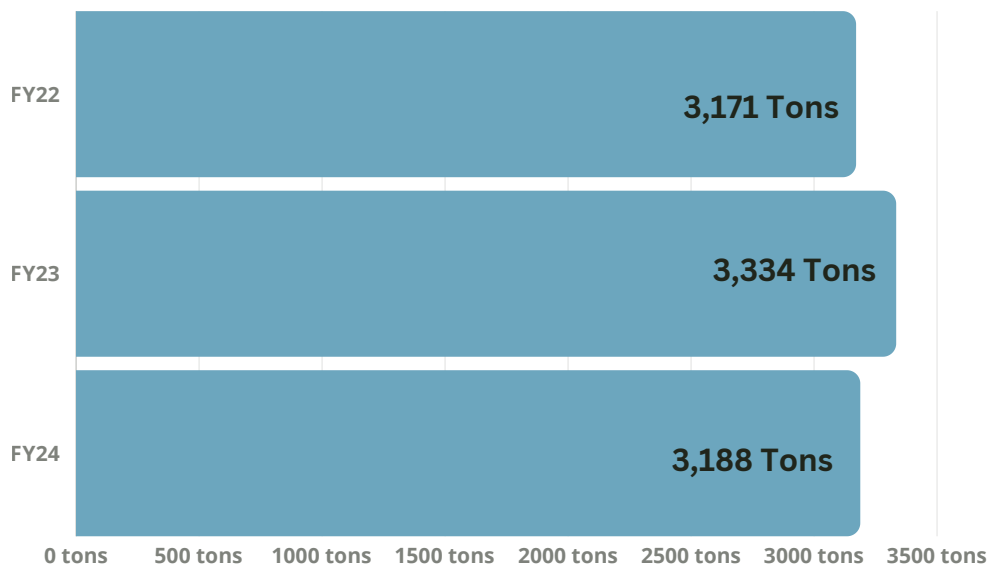
Collectively, 14 tons of trash was relocated from our waterways, roadsides, and illegal dumpsites to an appropriate landfill; officers participated in over 33 outreach events, validated 52 individuals who performed community service, issued 345 warnings and 176 citations for litter violations, and performed 6,473 litter patrol hours.

# Statistical Information

## Trash Pickup Statewide

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has successfully implemented contractors with litter pick-up along highways and secondary roads in all 46 counties in South Carolina.

The data below shows trash pickup as reported by SCDOT to include data from Adopt-A-Highway and/or SCDOT Forces.



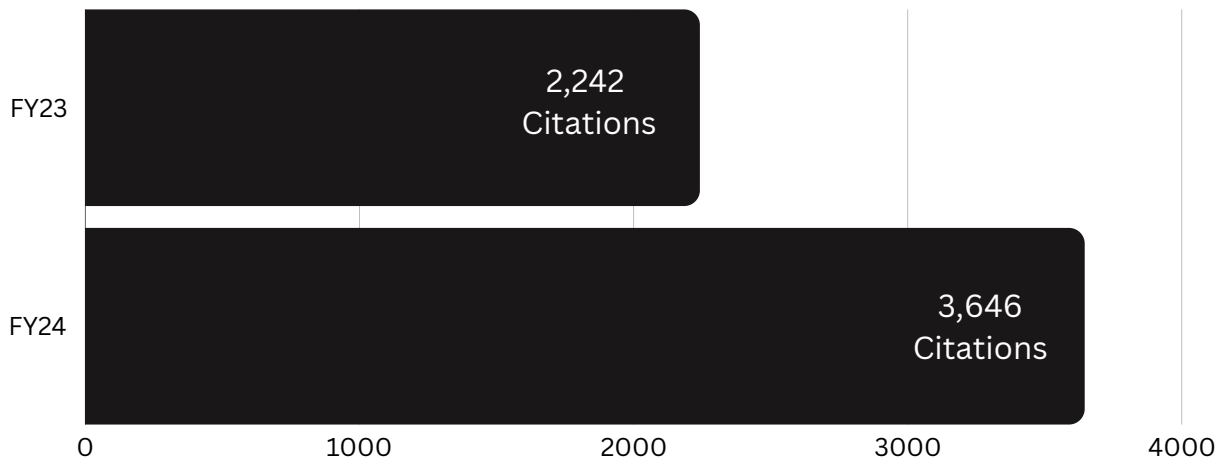


# Statistical Information

## Littering Citations Statewide

Littering is an environmental issue and is often a criminal offense. Enforcing litter laws, court prosecutions and promoting enforcement efforts should help curtail the behaviors associated with littering. The true measurement of effectiveness is to consider the number of citations issued, an increase in the number of participants performing community service and an observable decrease in litter.

*Data sources include: all branches of law enforcement and code enforcement officers from local municipalities, county and state.*



# Legislative Recommendations

***\*The Litter Commission does not have any recommendations for legislative changes. Several litter-related bills were introduced during the 2024 legislative session:***

## **H. 3174: Civil Penalty for Litter**

The bill would have established a civil penalty for littering, as well as increasing existing penalties for littering offenses on private or public property. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

## **H. 4712: Yard Debris on Public Highways**

The bill would have made it unlawful for a person to knowingly and willfully sweep, blow, move, place, or otherwise deposit yard debris onto a public highway. It established a misdemeanor penalty for violations of not more than a \$100 fine or not more than 30 days imprisonment. This was referred to the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committee.

## **S. 1020: Tire Dumping**

This bill would have established the crime of illegal tire dumping by making it unlawful for a person, from a vehicle or otherwise, to dump, throw, drop, deposit, discard, spill, place, store, or otherwise dispose of a tire or waste tire upon waters or upon public or private property in the State of which property he is not the legal owner or a person otherwise granted permission by the legal owner including, but not limited to, a highway, park, beach, campground, forest land, recreational area, trailer park, road, street, private dumpster, public dumpster, or alley. The bill provided for misdemeanor and felony offenses for violations.

## **H. 3469: Dumping Litter / Penalty Increase**

Similar to H. 3174 above, this bill would have increased the penalties associated with dumping litter on private or public property. It included a change that community service associated with a litter violation must be completed in the community in which the violation occurred, raised the monetary penalty associated with violations, and increased maximum imprisonment penalties. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

## **H. 3962: Escape of Materials Loaded on Vehicles**

This bill would have amended the section of the code relating to preventing the escape of materials loaded on vehicles to allow for an exemption to fertilizer and any other products used in farming operations, while also specifying that no vehicle may be operated in a manner that allows the escape of polyethylenes (common plastics), polyolefins, or thermoplastics. This legislation was referred to the House Education and Public Works Committee.



# Legislative Recommendations

## **S. 763 - Waste Tire Legislation Overview (As Amended)**

Section 1 of the bill increases the \$150/ton cap on tipping fees that a county may charge to \$400/ton.

- The tipping fee increase and sunset provision in the bill, as amended, represents the work product of all stakeholders who have been involved with this legislation through the SC Scrap Tire Coalition.
- Counties accept scrap tires for recycling that are not subject to an end-of-life fee. By law, counties can currently charge only a maximum of \$150 per ton to manage these undocumented tires - a fee that does not cover current processing costs.
- Several counties are facing costs that exceed \$300/ton for collecting, hauling, and processing waste tires, often leaving a shortfall in excess of \$150/ton due to the current tipping fee cap. This has resulted in significant budgetary impacts on county governments due to increasing costs and the lack of grant funds available to fill this gap.

Section 2 of the bill contains language regarding market development with a goal of finding additional ways to use tire-derived products by adding a new subsection (U) to 44-96-170.

- This lays the framework for the stakeholders continuing to work together (via the Scrap Tire Coalition, etc.) to find sustainable statewide infrastructure and uses for tire-derived products.
- It includes reporting requirements from DHEC to the General Assembly on the status of the tire program, fees, and discussions from the working group on a yearly basis.
- The General Assembly can at any time, through legislation, amend/reduce the fee or look at implementing a new type of program that other states have through the review language that is in the code [44-96-170(N)]. SCAC and other stakeholders are working on innovative ways to address the current \$2 fee that has been in place since 1991.

Section 3 of the bill includes a two-year sunset provision following the enactment of the legislation.

- The sunset provision will provide an incentive for all stakeholders to continue working through the SC Scrap Tire Coalition on a comprehensive reform package regarding the current management of waste tires across SC that will be brought to the General Assembly next session for consideration.







Working together for a cleaner South Carolina.



# Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live

SC Litter Commission

