

2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



TAKE PALMETTO PRIDE WHERE YOU LIVE

Every county in
South Carolina has one.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, the Litter Commission approved a statewide strategic plan, reviewed existing legislation for revision and established goals to accomplish by 2018. As a team, we achieved these goals I am pleased to report we achieved those goals as a team. The legislative report contains goals and achievements forth by the Litter Commission:

- On April 2, 2015, the Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act was enacted into law as Act 8; a legislative initiative sponsored by the Honorable Gilda Cobb-Hunter.
- Twelve agencies were strategically chosen to comprise the Litter Commission as delineated in the bill; the Department of Natural Resources chairs the commission.
- Community service fillable forms are available to the judicial administration through S.C. Court Administration's internal website.
- The S.C. Sheriff's Office complied with the the request to provide community service supervision.
- PalmettoPride spearheaded an amendment to H.4458, which addresses reducing fines, community service and cigarette butts.
- The Commission is evaluating Louisiana's Education Bill H.111 for replication in South Carolina.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act. The Commission has worked diligently to establish goals, define roles and carry out the requirements, as outlined in Act 8.



Alvin A. Taylor
Director, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Chairman, South Carolina Litter Commission

LITTER COMMISSION



The Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act brought twelve organizations together to establish a strategic plan to identify: a) goals; b) recommend initiatives for litter removal, reduction and prevention; c) methods to expand litter awareness; and d) techniques on how to evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing programs and campaigns in the state. Located at SCDNR headquarters on August 13, 2015, in Columbia, South Carolina, in its role as chair, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources hosted its first Litter Commission meeting. Three Ad Hoc committees were formed based on areas of expertise: Education & Communication, Legal and Strategic Planning.

MEASURE OF EFFECTIVENESS



COMMUNITY SERVICE
SCDNR Law Enforcement of Richland County:
800+ hours in 2017

The Commission recognized the need to examine the effectiveness of existing campaigns and programs for litter removal, litter reduction and litter law enforcement programs. Are the campaigns working? Are the current methods successful? Quantitative measures will give insight into how effective the various campaigns and programs are performing.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION



PalmettoPride has been the lead agency for litter eradication, education and awareness in South Carolina for the past 20 years; a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization that is a public/private partnership comprised of state agencies, concerned citizens, corporate sponsors and civic organizations with stated goals of encouraging "behavioral change" about litter. Keep South Carolina Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful with certified affiliates to help the fight against litter and are key partners of PalmettoPride. Keep South Carolina Beautiful's goal is to assist local affiliates with education, training, program development and board development. Together, PalmettoPride and Keep South Carolina Beautiful coordinate with hundreds of local organizations, thousands of volunteers and works closely with law enforcement to prosecute littering and illegal dumping.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) serves as the lead agency for the Commission and is staffed by the agency to support the Commission. SCDNR serves as the principal advocate for and the steward of South Carolina's natural resources. It was instinctive to create a program to bring awareness about litter, which focuses on the environmental and wildlife impact of litter in South Carolina. Education efforts include an integrated media campaign, trademarked "UP2U" slogan, web presence, social media platforms, and main representative of SCDNR on litter education around the state.

OUR GOALS

- Encourage civic engagement for social change
- Promote public awareness of littering

STATE-WIDE PROGRAMS

S.C. Department of Corrections

- S.C. Department of Corrections' Litter Program has 24 crews consisting of 202 inmates patrolling established interstate routes to clean up litter across the state five days per week. Together, S.C. Department of Corrections, S.C. Department of Transportation and the S.C. Department of Public Safety jointly entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperatively work together to improve litter control on South Carolina's interstates.

PalmettoPride & Keep South Carolina Beautiful

- PalmettoPride Clean Team is a program designed to engage neighbors, family and friends to adopt a special area to monitor and cleanup regularly.
- Palmetto Prideways is a partnership with S.C. Department of Transportation and S.C. Department of Corrections and offers the opportunity for businesses of all sizes to sponsor sections of an interstate to be cleaned by the inmates.
- Litter Trashes Everyone is an educational program for elementary students; it is an annual event which encourages students to create art promoting the effects of litter on the environment.
- The Cigarette Litter Prevention Program is sponsored by Keep America Beautiful and provides accessible information, educational tools, funding for ash receptacles and distributions of pocket/portable ashtrays.
- The Great American Clean Up is sponsored by Keep South Carolina Beautiful in partnership with PalmettoPride. This is a community improvement program which kicks off each spring and engages volunteers who act in their communities to create positive change and lasting impact.

STATE-WIDE CAMPAIGNS

ZERO TOLERANCE



PalmettoPride, in partnership with the South Carolina Litter Control Association, promotes a "Zero Tolerance of Litter" Campaign every April. This month-long campaign brings together officers, elected officials and concerned citizens with a dual-purpose mission to enforce state and local litter laws as well as educate the public on the effects of litter in the state.

STATE-WIDE CAMPAIGNS

#TheLastStraw

#TheLastStraw
Sip and save.

100,000
Marine animals die from plastic pollution each year.



500 Million
Plastic straws are used in the U.S. every day - enough to fill 125 school buses every day for a year.

Infinity
Straws are not biodegradable. Plastic is forever.

Millions of straws are used every day, only to be used once.

The next time you are offered a straw, simply refuse it.

Take a stand to reduce your use of plastic and let this be the last straw.

www.dnr.sc.gov/up2u

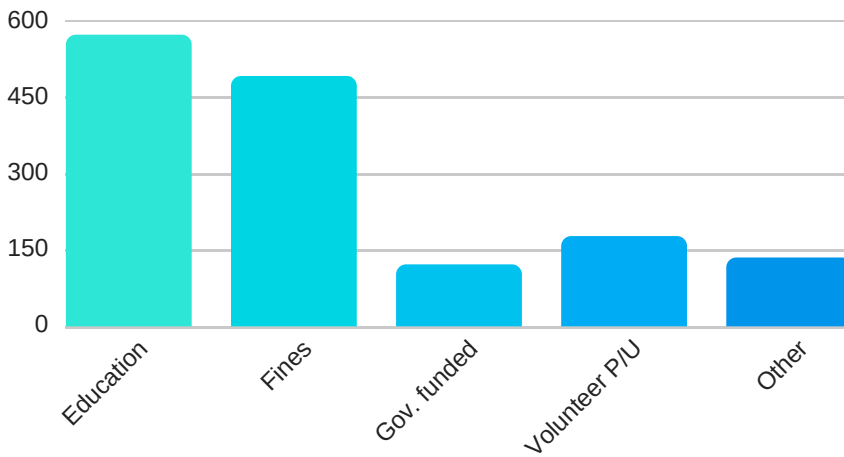
#TheLastStraw is a SCDNR campaign. The concept is to educate the public about the impact of single-use plastic straws. To encourage behavior change, a stainless-steel straw is given out at outreach events, conferences, and by direct request for one's commitment to reduce the use of plastics.

8000+ stainless-steel straws have been distributed across South Carolina since 2017 = 5.8 million plastic straws have not made it to a S.C. landfill.

FACTS & FIGURES

Together, the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden and the UP2U Program at the S.C. Department of Natural Resources are providing alternatives to plastic straws to bring awareness about the impact of single-use plastic and straws. Providing alternatives to plastic straws brings awareness about the impact of single-use plastics and stainless steel straws is a great incentive for behavior modification.

What do you think is most effective way to reduce / control litter?



**RIVERBANKS
ZOO & GARDEN**
COLUMBIA • SOUTH CAROLINA

1500

ZOO SURVEY
PARTICIPANTS

The results could be quantifiable for future methods to help with influencing behavior change and identifying mindsets.

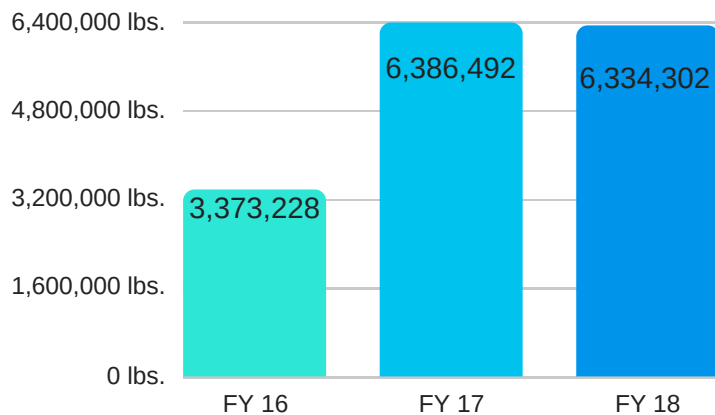
The S.C. Department of Transportation, along with S.C. Department of Public Safety and S.C. Department of Corrections, jointly entered a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperatively work together to identify and remove litter from South Carolina's highways. Mowing schedules are coordinated between S.C. Department of Corrections and S.C. Department of Transportation to prevent mowing of litter.

1% DECREASE

S.C. Department of Transportation

Totals represent all coordinated efforts of various year-round cleaning events.

*1,313,279 lbs. denote carcasses



FACTS & FIGURES

Thousands of S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Maintenance workers and volunteers from various SCDOT offices spent one day in March 2018 collecting litter on highways in every county of the state. Those efforts resulted in the collection of over 20,000 bags of litter. Those bags, plus items that were too large to fit in bags filled more than 100 dump trucks. A complete breakdown of SCDOT's litter collection can be found at www.sc.dot-transfer.org.



Spring Spruce Up Litter Collection Totals



Statewide Totals

District	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
District 1	481	2,486	49,088
District 2	405	3,701	63,570
District 3	216	2,117	33,120
District 4	376	3,798	56,970
District 5	301	2,020	34,275
District 6	273	2,883	43,255
District 7	326	3,165	46,410
Totals	2,378	20,170	326,688

District 1

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Kershaw	76	595	10,825
Lee	46	450	7,160
Lexington	136	525	8,675
Richland	158	482	14,213
Sumter	61	422	7,885
District Crews	4	12	330
Totals	481	2,486	49,088

District 2

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Abbeville	40	441	6,415
Anderson	85	672	13,550
Edgefield	33	222	3,845
Greenwood	63	402	6,140
Laurens	58	775	11,425
McCormick	27	438	7,295
Newberry	51	330	6,500
Saluda	48	421	8,600
Totals	405	3,701	63,570

District 3

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Greenville	67	663	9,945
Oconee	36	220	3,425
Pickens	17	443	6,885
Spartanburg	76	791	12,865
Totals	216	2,117	33,120

District 4

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Cherokee	40	593	8,895
Chester	48	420	6,300
Cherokee	50	388	5,820
Fairfield	47	388	5,820
Lancaster	42	361	5,415
Union	32	183	2,745
York	76	838	12,570
District Crews	41	627	9,425
Totals	376	3,798	56,970

District 5

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Darlington	32	382	7,110
Dillon	30	136	2,200
Florence	56	251	4,020
Georgetown	24	147	2,355
Horry	61	586	10,335
Marion	37	303	5,000
Marlboro	28	117	1,765
Williamsburg	33	98	1,500
Totals	301	2,020	34,275

District 6

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Beaufort	32	306	5,493
Berkeley	63	336	5,040
Charleston	41	310	4,650
Colleton	52	1,098	16,477
Dorchester	36	483	7,245
Jasper	37	234	3,505
District Crews	12	56	845
Totals	273	2,883	43,255

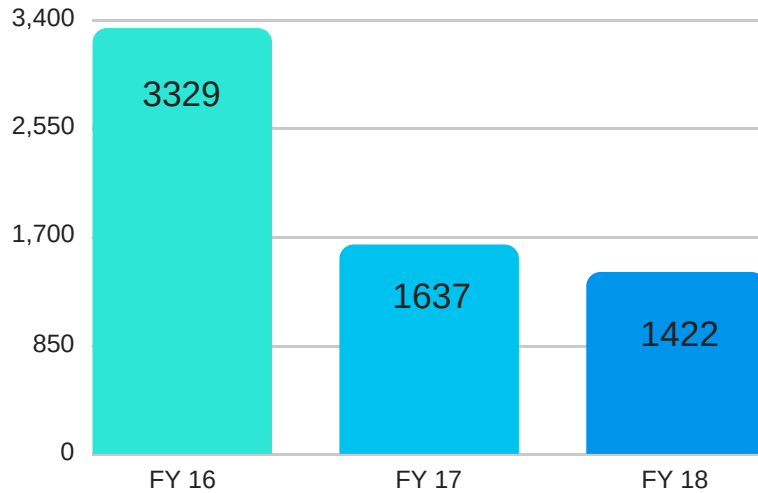
District 7

County	People	Debris	
		Bags	Weight
Aiken	59	561	9,000
Allendale	18	121	1,815
Bamberg	32	340	5,450
Barnwell	24	230	3,450
Calhoun	35	420	6,300
Clarendon	37	370	5,875
Hampton	27	267	3,500
Orangeburg	84	856	13,020
Totals	326	3,165	46,410



FACTS & FIGURES

Three law enforcement agencies provided littering citations data for FY16, FY17 & FY18: S.C. Department of Public Safety, S.C. Sheriff's Association and S.C. Department of Natural Resources.



Illegal dumpsites are growing in South Carolina. This site had more than 1000 pounds of household trashed dumped there. Law Enforcement located the individuals responsible and all parties involved were prosecuted.

INITIATIVES



STATUTE 16-11-700

H.4458

PalmettoPride spearheaded the initiative to amend South Carolina **H.4458**, which addresses the dumping of litter on private or public property and its penalties, to restructure the offenses to ensure cigarette butts, cigarette component litter and deceased animals are included in the purview of the statute and to restructure the penalties. Ratified the 18th day of May 2018.

RELATED LEGISLATION



TITLE 39

H.3529 PLASTIC BAG BAN

Several years ago, the city of Isle of Palms, S.C. at the request of residents, attempted to address the growing litter problem within their area by banning certain plastic bags and auxiliary containers, particularly single-use plastic grocery bags. The ordinance was passed and went into effect, while allowing businesses to seek a one-year reprieve if an immediate transition would create a hardship.

During the 2017 legislative session, **H.3529** was introduced to remove local governments' ability to pass such local legislation. The Municipal Association of South Carolina, environmental organizations from within the state, residents and businesses that supported local governments' ability to pass such local ordinances opposed this legislation. After much debate in the House and Senate, the bill failed to make it out of the Senate and to the Governor's desk prior to the close of the regular two-year session. It is unclear whether a similar bill will be introduced in 2019.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS



The Litter Commission at this time does not have any recommendations for legislative changes; however, Louisiana recently passed a bill requiring litter prevention and awareness for public school students in kindergarten through grade five. The Commission is considering duplicating such a bill for South Carolina; it's Louisiana's HB.111. Visit: www.legis.la.gov for a full description of the bill.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

LA HB.111



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Total cost \$224.72

Total copies 25

Cost per copy \$8.98