



**TAKE PALMETTO PRIDE WHERE YOU LIVE ACT**

**2020**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
**COLLABORATING FOR A CLEANER SOUTH CAROLINA**

***SOUTH CAROLINA LITTER COMMISSION***



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the SC Litter Commission, I am pleased to submit our bi-annual legislative report in accordance with the Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act. Over the past 24 months, the Commission has achieved some important successes, including publication of the *Best Practices Guide for Community Service*, which is helping local communities around our state by providing a blueprint for directing more individuals sentenced to community service for littering into roadside cleanup programs. Working with local law enforcement on the longstanding issue of illegal dumpsites has also been a focus. These and other initiatives the Commission has been working on are outlined in greater detail in this report.

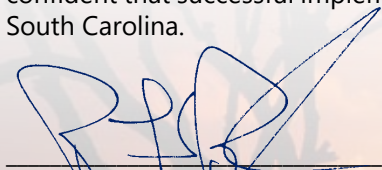
A website has been established to give the Litter Commission visibility in the state:  
**[www.sclittercommission.sc.gov](http://www.sclittercommission.sc.gov)**

The *Best Practices Guide for Community Service* was published as a result of the collaborative efforts of several agencies.

Plastic Bag Ban update: a bill was passed by the Senate Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee; however the issue remains for additional municipalities to adopt their own plastic bag ban.

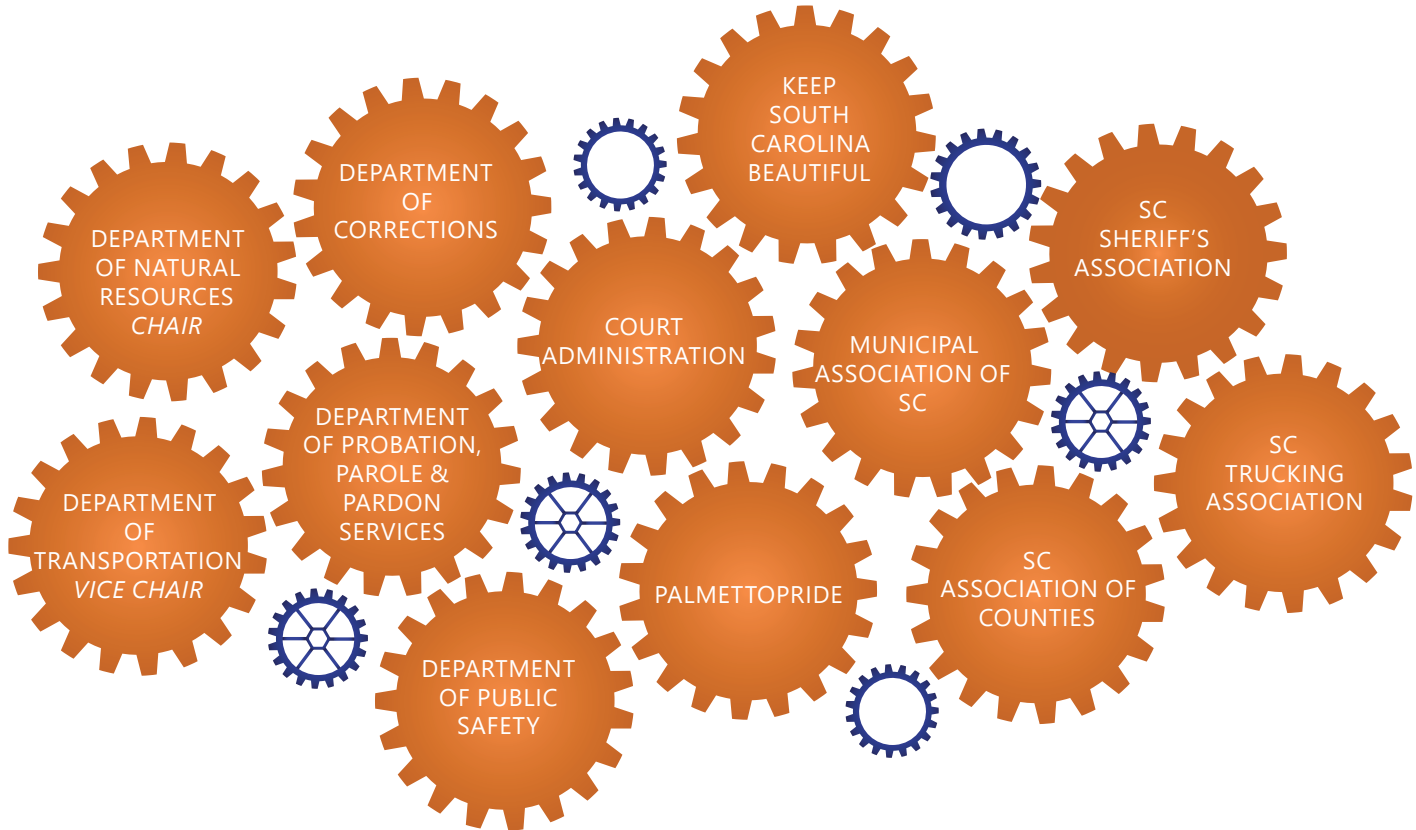
Illegal dumpsites continue to be a problem around the state; however, law enforcement is tackling the issue with renewed vigor and is determined to find the individuals responsible.

The Commission has worked diligently to carry out the requirements of the Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act. I am confident that successful implementation of these measures can make a significant contribution toward a cleaner and better South Carolina.



Robert H. Boyles, Jr.  
Director, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Chairman, South Carolina Litter Commission

# THE LITTER COMMISSION



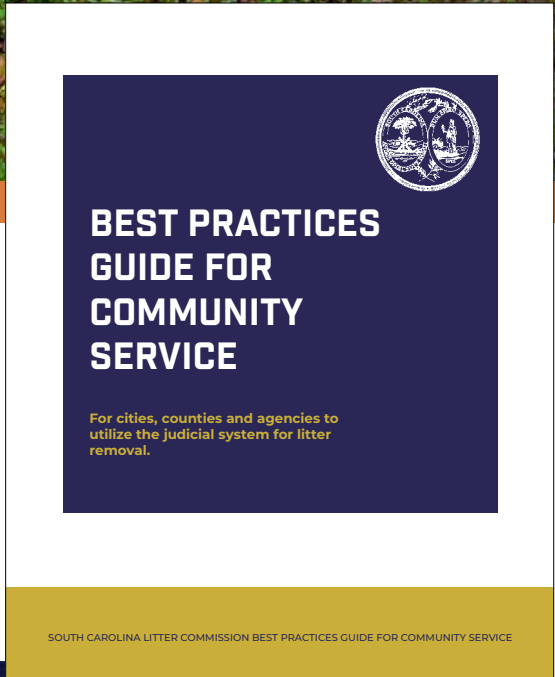
## A CLEANER SOUTH CAROLINA

The **Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Act** brought twelve organizations together to establish a strategic plan to identify:

- A** goals; recommend initiatives for litter removal, reduction and prevention;
- B** methods to expand litter awareness, and
- C** techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing programs and campaigns in the state.



JASPER COUNTY



## INITIATIVES

### Best Practices Guide

The Litter Commission proudly announces its **Best Practices Guide for Community Service**. This document provides a step-by-step process for cities, counties and state agencies alike in identifying individuals to complete community service hours. The initiative included SC Department of Transportation, PPP, Court Administration, PalmettoPride, The SC Litter Control Association and the SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination. The guide is available to download here.

SOUTH CAROLINA LITTER COMMISSION BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Website

Hosted by SC.GOV, the Litter Commission launched the website in August 2020. The site provides the public with information about the Litter Commission, announcements, and all publications related to the work of the commission.

[www.sclittercommssion.sc.gov](http://www.sclittercommssion.sc.gov)



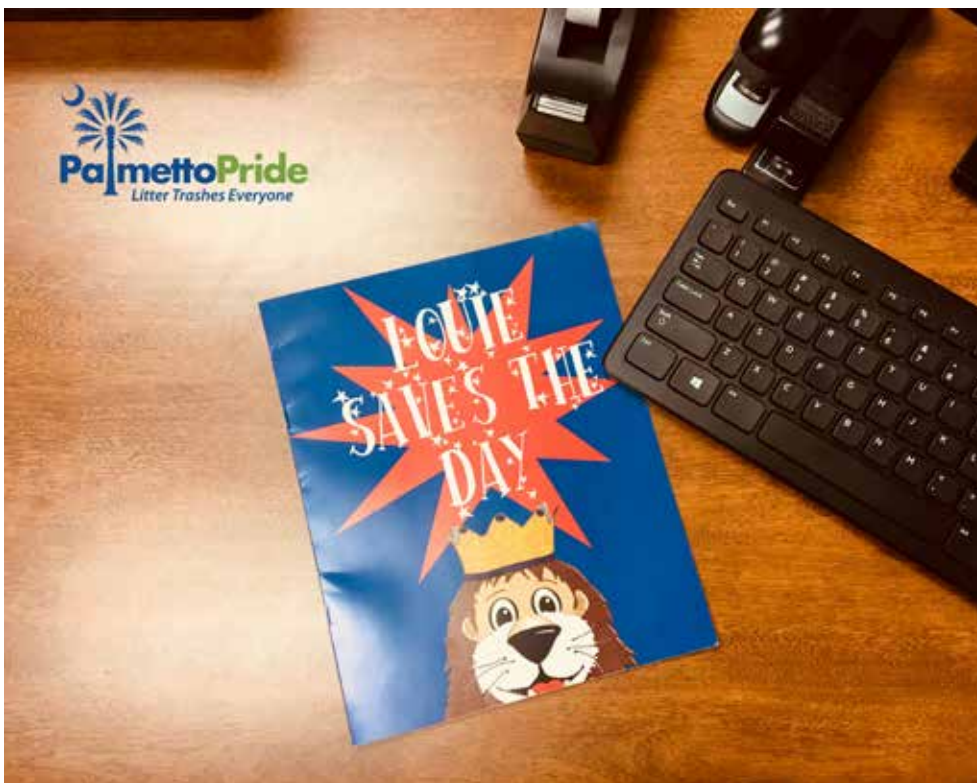
# OUTREACH & EDUCATION

## PalmettoPride

Together, PalmettoPride and Keep South Carolina Beautiful coordinate with many organizations, thousands of volunteers and law enforcement from around the state in the fight against litter.

**Children's Book Contest** annual competition which PalmettoPride publishes and provides free copies to all school libraries.

**Litter Trashes Everyone Puppet Show** is a traveling educational program for elementary students, which promotes the effects of litter on the environment. Since 1999, the puppet show has taught students that every citizen has a responsibility to help keep South Carolina beautiful.



## South Carolina Trucking Association

**Cargo Securement** is a one-day workshop for managers and drivers which covers standard model regulations of cargo securement. The workshop provides hands-on demonstrations of proper tiedowns; commodity-specific securement requirements and the impact of Compliance, Safety & Accountability (CSA) on cargo securement.

# STATEWIDE PROGRAMS & CAMPAIGNS

## SC Department of Corrections

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

## SC Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services

**Public Service Employment Program (PSEP)**, one of the agency's community-based programs, places convicted non-violent offenders in unpaid positions with non-profit or tax-supported agencies to perform a specified number of community service work hours.

## DHEC, PalmettoPride & SC Department of Natural Resources

**"See-It Report It" Tire Campaign** was introduced by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), PalmettoPride, and the SC Department of Natural Resources. The "See It, Report It" campaign encourages residents to quickly and anonymously report tire dumps via these three ways: calling the Litter Buster Hotline at 1-877-7 LITTER, using the free "Litter Buster" phone app, or using the "Report a Litterbug" option at [www.palmettopride.org](http://www.palmettopride.org).

Illegal tire piles put you at risk.

See a **TIRE PILE?**  
**REPORT IT!**

**1-877-7LITTER**



SPARTANBURG COUNTY





## PalmettoPride & Keep South Carolina Beautiful

**Adopt-A-Highway** is one of five volunteer pickup efforts coordinated by PalmettoPride and Keep South Carolina Beautiful. In 2019, 53,166 volunteers reported a combined pickup total of 6,256,272 pounds of trash and recyclables for a total cost avoidance of \$7,269,163.11 to the state and local governments.

**Palmetto Prideways** offers an opportunity to sponsor sections of interstate to be cleaned by SC Department of Corrections inmates. Businesses of all sizes can show their civic pride by supporting cleaner highways, cleaner communities and economic development. Currently, there are 110 sponsored sections from 22 companies or groups.

The **Cigarette Litter Prevention Program** is sponsored by Keep America Beautiful and provides accessible information, educational tools, funding for ash receptacles and distribution of pocket or portable ashtrays.

The **Great American Clean Up** is sponsored by Keep South Carolina Beautiful. 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. PalmettoPride and Keep South Carolina Beautiful, in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, Inc., coordinate the program.

**Grab a Bag SC** is a one time statewide litter pickup event which coordinated 12 counties, 4 universities and 200+ volunteers.

PalmettoPride, in partnership with the South Carolina Litter Control Association, promotes a **“Zero Tolerance for 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 and to educate the public on the effects of litter in the state.

**Francis Marion National Forest Annual Cleanup** is held annually on the first Saturday of February which hosts hundreds of volunteers of all ages to one of the state’s most popular outdoor recreational areas which make a big difference in just a few hours.



Tarp your truck.  
An unsecured load is illegal.

Call 1-877-7LITTER

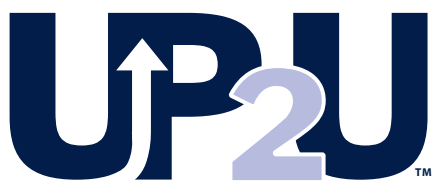


The **Tarp Campaign** is designed to educate drivers of personal vehicles coming into landfills, convenience centers and traffic stops about improperly secured loads. **Statute 48-53-20 states:** No vehicle which transports litter may be driven or moved on any highway unless the litter is secured by means of a covering which is fastened securely so as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.



**SC Department of Natural Resources**

The **UP2U® Program** at SCDNR was created to bring awareness about littering and how to be responsible stewards of the environment and wildlife in South Carolina. The UP2U® Program partnered with the Department of Education's Total Quality Management Office annual Ed Tech Conference. Each attendee received a travel kit consisting of stainless-steel cutlery and straws.



**Last Straw 2.0**  
**It's All In The Bag**

The **UP2U® Program** is the sponsor of the SCDNR hunting and fishing licensing sleeves. **500,000** sleeves will be distributed to SC vendors who sell hunting and fishing licenses for the SCDNR.



[www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov)

# STATISTICAL DATA

## SCDOC Litter Pick-Up Totals

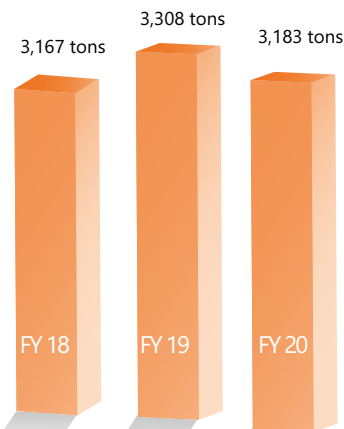
The **SC Department of Corrections Litter Program** operates 22 litter crews with approximately 200 inmates, supervised by 16 uniformed officers and 6 non-uniform employees. Each month, litter crews traverse a total of 1226 miles of interstate and secondary roads. (9,460 cumulative miles were interstate and 4,028 cumulative secondary roads). Palmetto Prideways sponsors 110 interstate miles through assistance by 22 companies/groups.



The **SC Department of Transportation**, the **SC Department of Public Safety** and the **SC Department of Corrections** jointly entered a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperatively work together to identify and remove litter from South Carolina's highways. Each agency has developed an improvement plan to accomplish the objective of reducing and removing litter. The SC Department of Public Safety identifies substantially littered areas on the interstate to be cleaned, the SC Department of Corrections inmate cleaning crew then coordinates cleaning schedules with the SC Department of Transportation's mowing schedule. Below are the coordinated efforts of all cleaning events throughout the state. SCDOT is responsible for collection, transporting and weighing all litter cleaning events.

### STATEWIDE LITTER PICK-UP

In 2020, **3.1 million tons** of trash was removed from South Carolina highways. A Volkswagen Beetle weighs 1 ton; imagine how 3 million Beetles would look abandoned along Palmetto State highways.

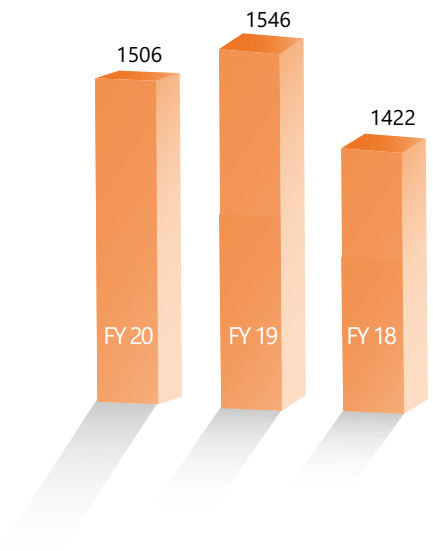




## Littering Citations

Three law enforcement agencies provide citations for litter: the **SC Department of Public Safety**, the **SC Sheriff's Association**, and the **SC Department of Natural Resources**. Enforcement of the law is key to litter prevention and behavioral change. The true measurement of effectiveness will be a three-year comparative analysis of quantitative differences: +/- citations issued, an increase in the number of participants performing community service and effective campaigns.

**LITTERING CITATIONS FROM:  
SCDPS, Sheriff's Assoc., & SCDNR**



**420**  
community  
service hours  
supervised/  
validated by  
SCDNR law  
enforcement  
officers in 2019

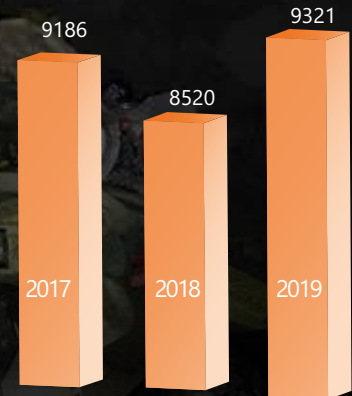


## Litter Patrol Hours

Illegal dumpsites are growing at an alarming rate in South Carolina. When a SCDNR law enforcement officer finds an illegal dumpsite, investigative work must be done called litter patrol hours. Investigative work encompasses multiple visits to a site for observation, installing surveillance cameras, reviewing surveillance footage, performing license tags searches, identifying model & make of vehicles, address verification, and conducting interviews before a citation can be issued.

The focus in 2019 was deterring illegal dumpsites: **52** were discovered and the individuals responsible were cited.

## LITTER PATROL HOURS



## Outreach and Education

Each year, officers are encouraged to educate the public by participating in various outreach events.

In 2019, the Hunter and Boater Education Division taught approximately **4,900** boater ed students and **11,000** hunter ed students. Educational topics include 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).



## LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Currently, the Litter Commission does not have any recommendations for legislative changes; however, there are two bills that were under consideration during the 2020 legislative session that we hope to see reintroduced during the next session.

**S 1021 Adding litter to 50-1-90:** amendment related to hunting, fishing, or trapping without consent on the lands of others and related penalties; to provide a penalty for illegally dumping litter or solid waste in excess of fifteen pounds on another person's private property.

**S 1023 Microplastic Study:** joint resolution to direct SCDNR and SCDHEC to conduct research into microplastic contamination.



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Orangeburg  
County's Road Rake

