



**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce

# 2022 South Carolina Recycling Industry Economic Impact Study

[RecyclingInSC.com](http://RecyclingInSC.com)



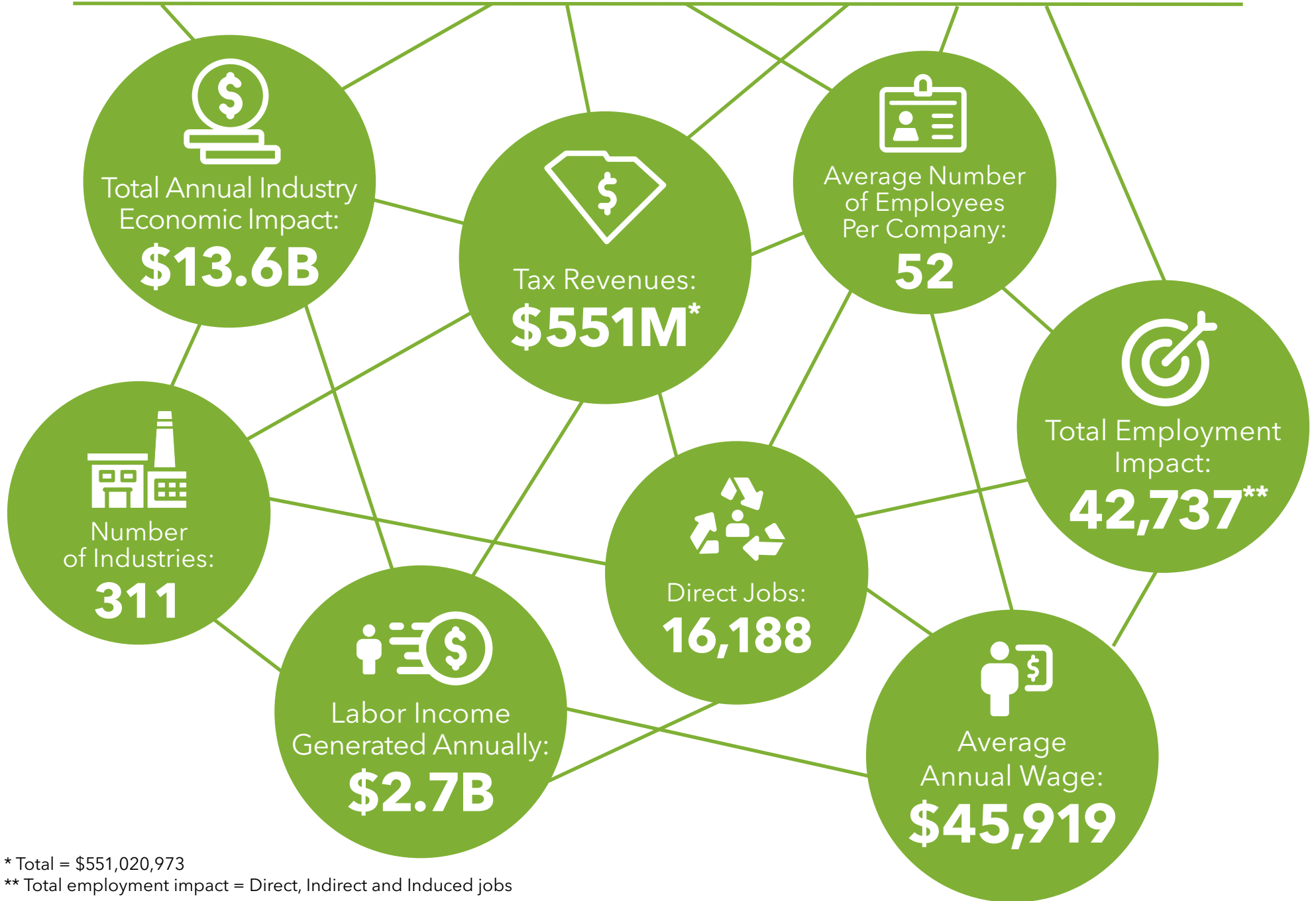
## Economic Impact Study Summary

The S.C. Department of Commerce, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Council on Competitiveness commissioned a 2022 update of the 2014 and 2006 economic impact studies.

All studies were conducted by economist Dr. Frank Hefner of the College of Charleston. In 2014, Dr. Hefner concluded, "That recycling is beneficial for the environment is a virtually uncontested proposition. What is becoming increasingly more obvious is that recycling contributes to the economic health of a state's ecosystem."

South Carolina's recycling industry continues to generate new investment and job creation, in industry sectors from aerospace, automotive, agribusiness, logistics and others contributing to this demand.

# S.C. RECYCLING INDUSTRY BY THE NUMBERS

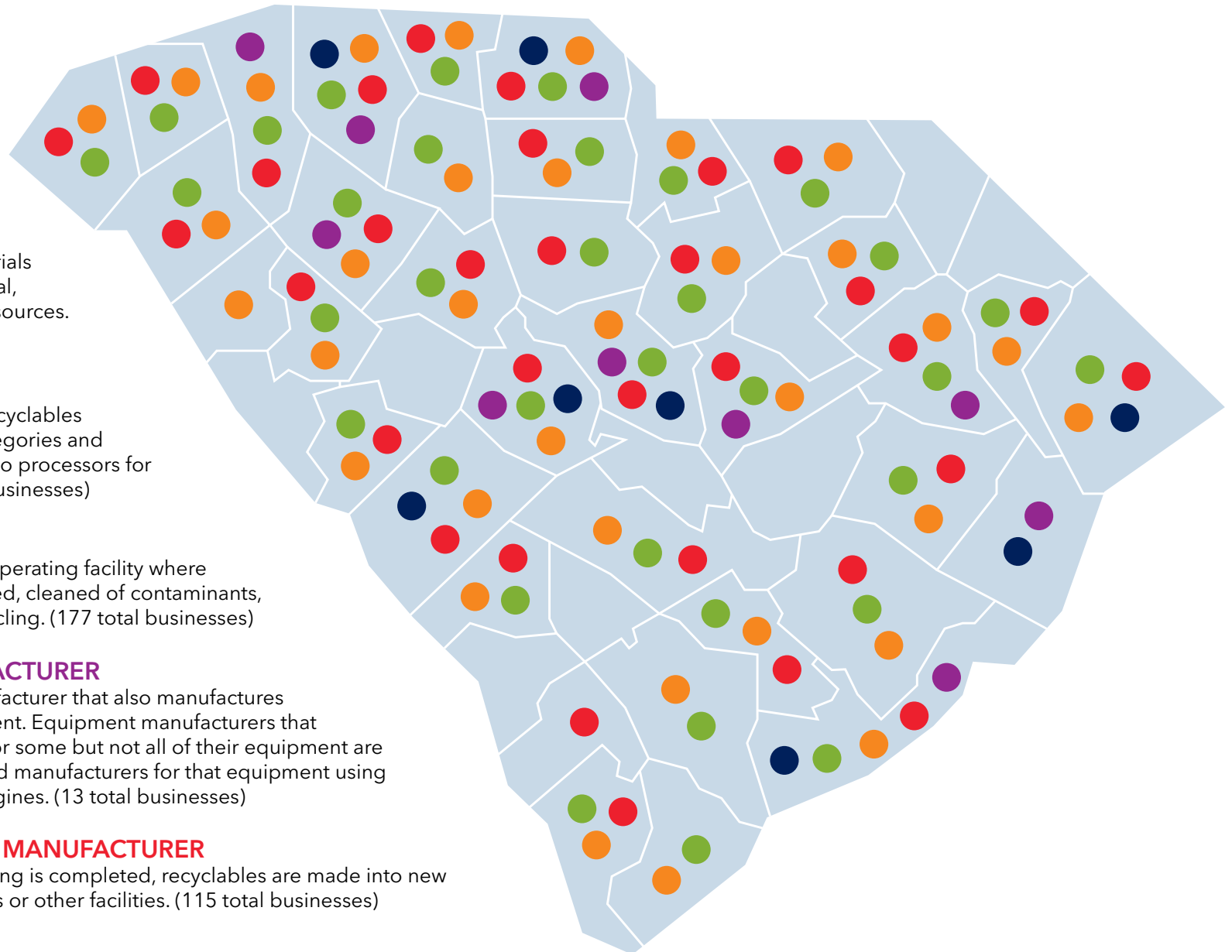


\* Total = \$551,020,973

\*\* Total employment impact = Direct, Indirect and Induced jobs

# COMPANY LOCATIONS AND TYPES

South Carolina has 311 recycling companies.



**COLLECTOR**  
Public or private hauler that collects nonhazardous waste and recyclable materials from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sources. (183 total businesses)

**SORTER**  
Refers to a facility where recyclables are sorted into specific categories and processed, or transported to processors for remanufacturing. (9 total businesses)

**PROCESSOR**  
Refers to an intermediate operating facility where recycled materials are sorted, cleaned of contaminants, and prepared for final recycling. (177 total businesses)

**EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER**  
Refers to equipment manufacturer that also manufactures the engines for its equipment. Equipment manufacturers that manufacture the engines for some but not all of their equipment are considered to be integrated manufacturers for that equipment using the manufacturer's own engines. (13 total businesses)

**RECYCLED PRODUCT MANUFACTURER**  
After all necessary processing is completed, recyclables are made into new products at recycling plants or other facilities. (115 total businesses)

# SOUTH CAROLINA RECYCLING COMPANIES

This list highlights only a few of the 311 recycling companies located in the Palmetto State.

## ● COLLECTORS

### **The Upcycling Company - Beaufort**

A glass collection program. The company collects through glass only recycling programs, which results in a cleaner glass material stream.

### **Evergreen Environmental - Greer**

Offers full service single stream recycling collection in the Upstate, Midlands and Grand Strand.

### **Atlas Organics - Spartanburg**

Recycles organic waste. They collect food waste from homes and businesses throughout the Southeast and in turn provide a quality soil amendment product for landscapers, farmers, nurseries and home growers.

## ● SORTERS

### **Horry County Material Recovery Facility - Conway**

The 48,000-square-foot MRF processes a variety of recyclables, including cardboard, newspaper, office paper, aluminum, tin, plastics, etc.

### **Pratt Recycling - West Columbia, Rock Hill, Duncan**

Works with businesses and communities across the U.S. to help divert more than 3 million tons of materials from landfills every year. They accept a variety of recyclable materials including all types of paper.

### **Sonoco - Columbia**

A global packaging solutions leader. For the last 100 years, they have been collecting waste paper and cardboard, reprocessing it into paperboard and converting it into many useful products.

## ● PROCESSORS

### **Green Energy Biofuels - Warrentonville**

Collects waste cooking oil, fats and greases primarily from restaurants, grocery and food manufacturers. That product is then refined into a fuel that can run in a diesel engine. In 2022, they added a food depackaging machine and services to their recycling capability.

### **United Catalyst Corporation / UCC - Fountain Inn**

A North American processor of scrap catalytic converters that offers global refining services to recyclers.

### **Bowers Fibers, Inc - Lancaster**

Processes yarn seconds from textile mills, cotton gins, and fiber producers into fibers and fiber by-products of the non-woven industry.

## ● EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

### **American Starlinger-Sahm, Inc - Fountain Inn**

Offers complete machinery solutions for the recycling, decontamination and refining of a wide scope of plastics such as PE, PP, PA, PS, and PET.

### **MetalTech - Georgetown**

Provides equipment and systems for recycling, foundry, and bulk-material handling industries.

### **WEIMA - Fort Mill**

Produces industrial shredders, granulators, cutting mills, briquetting machines and draining presses for efficient waste reduction.

## ● RECYCLED PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

### **Nucor - Darlington**

A steel recycling company and a manufacturer of steel products in North America. They provide steel and steel products worldwide.

### **JW Aluminum - Goose Creek**

A leading producer of flat rolled aluminum products used in a variety of commercial and consumer applications. They produce flat rolled aluminum products for the construction industry, HVAC/R and transportation segments.

### **Palmetto Synthetics - Kingstree**

Manufactures staple fiber in combinations of polymers, additives, and unique features to their customers. They have multiple recycling lines capable of re-pelletizing material, which may include recycled bottles for the automotive, apparel, hosiery, contract upholstery, and military industries.



This list highlights only a few of the companies located in the Palmetto State. To find all the recycling companies that call S.C. home, visit [RecyclingInSC.com/directory](https://www.RecyclingInSC.com/directory).





**PRODUCTS\*  
MADE FROM  
RECYCLED  
MATERIAL IN  
SOUTH  
CAROLINA**



**PLASTIC**

Apparel, Automotive Components, Furniture, Home Textiles, Military, New Bottles, Plastic Bags, Plastic Lumber, Upholstery



**ALUMINUM**

Consumer Packaging, Automotive Parts, Construction, Transportation



**STEEL**

Appliances, Automobiles, Bridges, Construction, HVAC, Piping, Rebar



**GLASS**

Bottles, Countertops, Jars, Tiles



**WASTE FOOD & ORGANICS**

Compost, Biofuel, Mulch, Pallets, Wood



**PAPER**

Cardboard boxes, Cereal boxes, Consumer Packaging, Magazines, Note Paper, Tissue

\*End User: Consumer of products for the purpose of recycling. Excludes products for re-use or combustion for energy recovery.



## OUR PARTNERS



**South Carolina**  
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