

Recycling in SC



South Carolina
Department of Commerce

Just right for business.

February 16th, 2017



Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center is taking a bite out of food waste.

On February 7, 2017, SC Department of Commerce and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control teamed up with EPA Region IV to host over 55 food recovery experts in SC for a one day meeting at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center to advance food recovery initiatives.



According to EPA representatives, South Carolina is leading Southeast states in food recovery! Representatives diverting surplus food gave examples of early successes, and discussion focused on how organizations in SC can help cut food waste in half by 2030. The day ended in a behind-the-scenes sustainability tour of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center's food diversion operations.

You may have visited the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center without even knowing that they are leading the way in food recovery in South Carolina. The Convention Center has been taking the [Don't Waste Food SC](#) campaign to heart, with a strong focus on preventing food loss, same-day food donation, and separating food scraps for composting.

With a little bit of education, the right containers, and the appetite for creating a healthier environment, the [Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center](#) staff jumped right into contracting with [Atlas Organics](#), a food waste hauler, last April. Atlas, who supports the Midlands areas and Upstate areas with hauling and composting operations, trained staff on the new system. Chef Tommy Kasperski, was a little skeptical at first of how the system would impact his operations, but now is one of the program's biggest advocates after seeing the difference it has made with diverting food waste from the



Upcoming Events

[Your Bottle Mean Jobs Informational Lunch](#)
February 23, 2017
Chapel Hill, NC

[Southeast Recycling Conference and Trade Show](#)
March 12-15, 2017
Destin, FL

[Carolina's Recycling Association 27th Annual Conference](#)
March 27-30, 2017
Myrtle Beach, SC

[Carpet America Recovery Effort](#)
May 10-11, 2017
Indianapolis, IN



food prep areas as well as from attendee plate scrapings. The system is safe, clean, reliable and has the added benefit of communicating a great story and attracting new customers to the CMCC.

In addition to composting, [Spectra Catering](#), CMCC's onsite food and beverage provider, looks at preventing food waste on the front end by asking for a guaranteed number of attendees just 3 business days before the event to ensure accurate food preparation and minimal waste. Also, focusing on donation for surplus food, using food safety guidelines, the caterer donates uneaten food to shelters in in Midlands area to combat food insecurity in Columbia, SC.

Newsmakers

[Study Up: Recycling lessons and connections on college campuses](#)

[Is recycling a practical solution for coal ash?](#)

[Sierra announces additions to sales staff](#)



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