

# SUSTAINABLE STEPS

Brought to you by Arielle Gerstein,  
Charleston County's Sustainability Manager

## Recycling Month

### America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, is the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Do you think you know recycling? Take the [quiz here](#) to test your knowledge.

Through the month of November we are celebrating recycling! Most people think only about traditional recycling including plastics, metal, and glass. However, there many other types of recycling – learn about them below.

### Pumpkin Composting

Don't know what to do with your pumpkin from Halloween? If you are signed up for the [regional compost program](#), drop them off at any of the 14 composting locations listed [here](#). Even if you're not signed up for the compost program, McGill Compost has put out special drop-off bins next to the food waste drop-off at Bees Ferry through the month of November to accommodate pumpkins!



For more information on Charleston County's Sustainability Program or to suggest a Sustainable Steps idea, contact Arielle Gerstein at [agerstein@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:agerstein@charlestoncounty.org), or call (843) 958-4083.



## Oyster Shells

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources restores our shorelines by collecting and recycling oyster shells from restaurants, oyster roast events and at over 30 drop-off sites statewide. [View the map of drop-off sites.](#)

## Fishing Lines

Monofilament fishing line is single strand line, typically made of strong flexible clear plastic. Fishing line isn't biodegradable, and can remain in the marine environment for over 600 years, damaging boats, wildlife, and the environment. Each year, more than 100,000 marine mammals die from ingesting or being entangled in fishing lines, nets, and other types of derelict fishing gear. [Check out this map](#) from Keep Charleston Beautiful to see where recycling receptacles are located in the City of Charleston.

## Mattress Recycling

Did you know most mattresses and box springs are about 90% recyclable?

Mattresses are bulky and springy so they don't compact well and take up lots of valuable space in landfills. Save precious landfill space and give your mattress parts a new life by recycling your old mattresses and box springs.

Schedule a pick up for your mattresses, by visiting [BedShred.com](http://BedShred.com) (a small fee applies for this private service). Mattresses will be transported to a special facility in South Carolina to undergo a unique processing method.

## Cigarette Recycling

Unfortunately cigarette butts still top the charts in terms of most frequently littered items, claiming the spot of the #1 most littered item for the last many years. In terms of individual items, cigarette butts represent more than 20% of all the litter collected during community cleanup initiatives in the U.S. The filters of cigarettes, what we refer to as "the butt", is actually made up of small plastic fibers called cellulose acetate. It is a common misconception that butts will break down over time, but unfortunately the plastic fibers they're composed of persist in the environment.

Thanks to the generosity of Keep America Beautiful, Keep Charleston Beautiful is offering FREE cigarette butt receptacles to interested entities located within the City of Charleston. [Click here to request a receptacle.](#)

