



SUSTAINABLE STEPS

Brought to you by Arielle Gerstein
Sustainability Coordinator

Charleston County Greenhouse Gas Inventory Released

Check out Charleston County's newly-released first [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) which provides greenhouse gas emissions data for the entire County, County government, and separate data about municipalities within the County. This inventory will be used as a starting point for planning and implementing actions to reduce these emissions. This report includes data for calendar year 2018 and 2020 in order to compare emissions from one business-as-usual year and one year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What are greenhouse gases and why are they increasing?

Naturally occurring gases dispersed in the atmosphere determine the Earth's climate by trapping solar radiation. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect. Overwhelming evidence shows that human activities are increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases and changing the global climate.

How does an increase in greenhouse gases cause climate change?

Collectively, these gases intensify the natural greenhouse effect, causing global average surface and lower atmospheric temperatures to rise. Global climate change influences seasonal patterns and intensifies weather events, threatening the safety, quality of life, and economic prosperity of communities everywhere.

If you have any questions about the inventory, please email Arielle at agerstein@charlestoncounty.org.

Sustainability Social Media

One huge component of sustainability is public education and reaching as many County residents as possible. That is why I have started sustainability social media accounts. This month is Plastic Free July – to learn more about ways to reduce your plastic use and other Sustainability topics, follow [Instagram](#) like the [Facebook page](#).

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What does the County do with Electronic Waste?

Did you know all electronic waste we collect throughout the County is handed over to an e-waste recycling vendor? Last fiscal year, over 12,000 pounds of e-waste was collected. The vendor picks up all the items at no cost to the County.

Items include:

Retired servers, network, and rack equipment

Retired printers, scanners

Retired PCs, monitors, docking stations, keyboard, mouse that were purchased and not part of a lease

Retired network, power cords

Misc. items like label printers, speakers, webcams etc. that are not functional

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