



P.O. Box 149 • Bamberg, SC • 29003  
[www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful](http://www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful)

## **2017 Litter Index Report Bamberg County, South Carolina**

Keep Bamberg County Beautiful (KBCB) conducts a Litter Index every year. The litter index serves as a method to survey litter on randomly selected roads throughout Bamberg County. This survey is required by Keep America Beautiful (KAB) to maintain good standing as an affiliate of the national non-profit, but is also useful to evaluate the roadside litter in Bamberg County. This survey provides information to determine if roads that are currently being cleaned are remaining clean and can alert the County to additional roads that may need attention.

The 2017 Bamberg County Litter Index was conducted on July 13 and 14, 2017 by Mary Tilton (KBCB Coordinator), Farrell Pulaski (Bamberg County Environmental Officer), and Nannie Manigault (KBCB Board Member). Roads were randomly selected by Bamberg County Assessor Doretta Elliot and Bamberg County Director of Operations Bill Johnson. In each of the seven County districts, three to five roads were selected. Each observation section was at least a half mile long, but most were one mile stretches.

Previous litter indices were conducted in 2015 and 2016. The roads selected in previous years were different from the roads evaluated in 2017, so a comparison between individual roads cannot be made this year. Future surveys will evaluate the same roads until at least 2020, and possibly until 2022. This will allow for accurate comparison between years and allow more precise evaluation of litter changes in response to education and cleanup efforts.

It's important to note that roadside conditions likely affected the evaluation of each road survey. Since the survey was conducted during the summer, some areas had excessive amounts of roadside vegetation, either tall grass or kudzu (a thick green vine). This vegetation may have hidden litter from observation. Observers attempted to look into any roadside vegetation to observe litter, but felt it was worth noting that vegetation may have hidden some litter and thus inflated the final score.

The litter index average score for the 33 road sections surveyed in Bamberg County was a 1.8 (see Table 1 for a summary of the scores). Ten roads of the roads surveyed earned a perfect "1" score. Two roads earned a "4" rating which means "Extremely Littered: requires equipment for removal of litter and may include an illegal dump site." Four roads earned a "3" rating which means "Littered: visible litter catches your eye frequently."



P.O. Box 149 • Bamberg, SC • 29003  
[www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful](http://www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful)

The table below provides a summary of each score and the instructions that guided the scorers when evaluating each road section.

Score	Instruction for Scores
<p><b>1</b> Minimal or No Litter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtually no litter</li> <li>• Collected quickly by one individual</li> <li>• Generally neat and tidy</li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b> Slightly Littered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small amount of litter</li> <li>• Eye is not continually grabbed by litter</li> <li>• Site cleaned in a short period of time</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> Littered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible litter catches your eye frequently</li> <li>• Organized effort for litter removal required</li> <li>• Considerable effort to clean</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b> Extremely Littered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous amount of litter</li> <li>• Litter might be first thing noticed</li> <li>• Might include illegal dump site</li> <li>• Equipment may be required for removal</li> </ul>

Table 1.

The average scores for each district (a lower score indicates less litter observed) are listed in Table 2. See the appendix for the detailed score sheet providing scores by road section.

District Number	Average score of all roads in district
District 1	1.7
District 2	2.4
District 3	1.6
District 4	2.5
District 5	1.0
District 6	1.7
District 7	1.4

Table 2.



P.O. Box 149 • Bamberg, SC • 29003  
[www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful](http://www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful)

## **Executive Summary**

The overall result of the 2017 Litter Index for Bamberg County was positive: over one-third of the observed roads earned a perfect score, and on average, all districts were in the “Slightly Littered” category or better. These results support that cleanup and education efforts, along with Adopt-A-Highway participation have a positive impact on decreasing roadside litter in Bamberg County.

There were some concerning observations, however. Three roads earned an “Extremely Littered” ranking and will require equipment to remove the couches, televisions, shingles, and other large items illegally dumped along the roadside. Typically, these “Extremely Littered” sites were nearby residential areas, but were dirt roads that are relatively infrequently traveled. Litter enforcement officers and public officials are aware that these roads are often locations for illegal dumping, however, the littering persists. To discontinue the practice of illegal dumping in these efforts will require a concerted effort with Keep Bamberg County Beautiful, law enforcement, local residents and elected officials.

Community efforts to reduce litter and beautify Bamberg County are producing results, but continued education and cleanup efforts are required to continue this positive trajectory. As KBCB and Bamberg County Litter Enforcement work together to identify trouble spots, we can make even more progress.

## **Goals**

After conducting the 2017 Litter Index and reviewing the results of 2015 and 2016 surveys, KBCB has set the following goals for 2018:

1. Work with DOT and local city public works departments to encourage litter pickup prior to roadside mowing
2. Work with DOT to increase Adopt-A-Highway participation, specifically to include roads known to have illegal dumping
3. Work with Bamberg County Environmental Officer to place surveillance on “Extremely Littered” roads
4. Increase number of roads with a “1” rating: speak to residents on roads rated above a “1” and offer to assist with cleanup efforts and supplies. Perhaps send acknowledgement to residents on “1” roads.
5. Conduct an abbreviated winter assessment to observe roads when vegetation is decreased
6. Seek additional volunteers to assist with the Litter Index to get additional impressions for the survey



P.O. Box 149 • Bamberg, SC • 29003  
[www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful](http://www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful)

**Appendix 1. Summary of Litter Index by roads.** Highlighted roads indicate trouble areas.

<b>LITTER INDEX 2017 RESULTS</b>				
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>Litter Index No.</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>District Average</b>
1	1	Merchant Road	1.0	1.7
	2	Charleston-Augusta Road	1.0	
	3	Fire Tower Road	1.0	
	4	Faust Street	3.0	
	5	Charleston-Augusta Road	2.5	
2	6	Apache Road	2.0	2.4
	7	Voorhees Road	3.0	
	8	Hadwin Road	2.0	
	9	Main Highway	2.0	
	10	Orange Grove Road	3.0	
3	12	Spring Branch Road	2.0	1.6
	13	Dirt Road Portion	2.0	
	34	Clearpond Road	1.5	
	35	Goose Bay Road	1.0	
	36	Old Buckhead Road	1.5	
4	16	Dally Road	2.0	2.5
	17	Church Street (Country Club to Heritage Hwy)	4.0	
	18	Hagood Ave - Dirt Portion	4.0	
	19	Heritage Highway	1.5	
	20	Springfield Road	1.0	
5	22	Millpond Road	1.0	1
	23	Ghents Branch Road	1.0	
	21	Barnwell Highway	1.0	



P.O. Box 149 • Bamberg, SC • 29003  
[www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful](http://www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful)

District	Litter Index No.	ROAD	Average	District Average
6	24	Church Street (Capernaum to Old Olar)	3.3	1.7
	25	Voorhees Road	1.5	
	26	October Road	1.5	
	27	Middle Place Road	1.0	
	29	Collins Road	1.0	
7	31	Low Country Highway	1.0	1.4
	30	Rivers Bridge Road	1.5	
	28	Low Country Highway	1.5	
	33	Colston Road	1.5	
	32	Confederate Highway	1.5	



P.O. Box 149 • Bamberg, SC • 29003  
www.bambergcounty.sc.gov/keep-bamberg-county-beautiful

**Appendix 2. Map of 2017 Litter Index survey.** Green roads were surveyed in 2017. Black roads were surveyed in 2015 and 2016.

