



PO Box 149 • Bamberg, SC 29003

2018 Litter Index Report Bamberg County, South Carolina

Keep Bamberg County Beautiful (KBCB) conducts an annual litter index review of county roadsides. The litter index serves to survey the amount of litter present 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 organization, and is useful for evaluating 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 2018 Bamberg County Litter Index was conducted over three days from July 17 - 19, 2018 by Mary Tilton (KBCB Coordinator), Farrell Pulaski (Bamberg County Environmental Officer), Delores Chatman (KBCB Volunteer), and Ted Robertson (KBCB Board Member). Roads were randomly selected by Bamberg County Assessor Doretta Elliot and Director of Operations Bill Johnson. Three to five roads were selected in each of the seven Bamberg County Council political districts. Each surveyed section was at least a half mile long, but most were one mile stretches. The roads were scored according to the standardized KAB ratings (Table 1).

Previous litter indices were conducted in 2015 and 2016. The roads selected in previous years were different from the roads evaluated in 2017 and 2018, so a comparison is limited to the 2017 and 2018 litter indices. Future surveys will evaluate the same roads until at least 2020 to allow for additional comparison between years and to evaluate litter changes in response to enforcement, education, and cleanup efforts.

It's important to note that roadside conditions impacted the evaluation of each location. Since the survey was conducted during the summer, some areas had excessive amounts of roadside vegetation. This vegetation obscures litter from observation while driving. 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 2018 litter index average score for the 33 road sections surveyed in Bamberg County was a 1.6. The average from 2017 litter index was 1.8. The downward trend is encouraging. Twelve roads of the roads surveyed earned a perfect "1" score (up from ten roads in 2017). One road earned a "4" rating which means "Extremely Littered: requires equipment for removal of litter and may include an illegal dump site" (down from two roads in 2017). One road earned a "3" rating which means "Littered: visible litter catches your eye frequently" (down from four roads in 2017).

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

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

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	
	2017	2018
District 1	1.7	1.8
District 2	2.4	1.5
District 3	1.6	1.8
District 4	2.5	2.2
District 5	1.0	1.5
District 6	1.7	1.2
District 7	1.4	1.5

Table 2.

Executive Summary

Overall, the 2018 Bamberg County Litter Index showed a downward trend in observed roadside litter. The overall county average of 1.6 was an improvement from 1.8 in 2017. 36% of the observed roads earned a perfect score. All but one district averaged a litter score of less than 2.0 for all roads surveyed, an additional improvement from 2017. These results support that cleanup, enforcement, and education efforts 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 and litter is more visible.
6. Seek additional volunteers to assist with the Litter Index to get additional impressions for the survey.

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

LITTER INDEX RESULTS 2017-2018					
DISTRICT	ROAD	2018		2017	
		Average	District Average	Average	District Average
1	Merchant Road	2.7	1.8	1.0	1.7
	Charleston-Augusta Road	1.8		1.0	
	Fire Tower Road	1.0		1.0	
	Faust Street	1.8		3.0	
	Charleston-Augusta Road	1.7		2.5	
2	Apache Road	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.4
	Voorhees Road	1.8		3.0	
	Hadwin Road	1.7		2.0	
	Main Highway	1.0		2.0	
	Orange Grove Road	1.7		3.0	
3	Spring Branch Road	2.8	1.8	2.0	1.6
	Carlisle Rd (Dirt Road Portion)	2.7		2.0	
	Clearpond Road	1.2		1.5	
	Goose Bay Road	1.5		1.0	
	Old Buckhead Road	1.0		1.5	
4	Dally Road	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5
	Church Street (<i>Country Club to Heritage Hwy</i>)	3.0		4.0	
	Hagood Ave - Dirt Portion	4.0		4.0	
	Heritage Highway	1.0		1.5	
	Springfield Road	1.2		1.0	
5	Millpond Road	1.0	1.5	1.0	1
	Ghents Branch Road	1.0		1.0	
	Barnwell Highway	2.5		1.0	
6	Church Street (<i>Capernaum to Old Olar</i>)	2.0	1.2	3.3	1.7
	Voorhees Road	1.0		1.5	
	October Road	1.0		1.5	
	Middle Place Road	1.0		1.0	
	Collins Road	1.0		1.0	
7	Low Country Highway	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.4
	Rivers Bridge Road	1.0		1.5	
	Low Country Highway	2.2		1.5	
	Colston Road	1.0		1.5	
	Confederate Highway	2.2		1.5	
OVERALL COUNTY AVERAGE				1.6	

Appendix 2. Map of 2017 Litter Index survey. Green roads were surveyed in 2017 and 2018. Black roads were surveyed in 2015 and 2016.

