



MAY 2023

Welcome to GRC's monthly update!

Latest News

Mark Your Calendar for GRC's Annual Conference!

Georgia Recycling Coalition's **32nd Annual Conference, Trade Show and Membership Meeting** will be held on October 22-25, 2023 at the King & Prince on St. Simons Island. Join us to explore the path forward for growing and sustaining recycling in Georgia.



Call for Presentations Open!

We are seeking presenters who would like to share their innovations, solutions, programs, and projects toward this goal. The annual GRC conference is an opportunity for anyone in the recycling and sustainable materials management industries to connect, learn what's on the horizon, and leave refreshed and motivated. We have prepared a guide that provides helpful information; we invite you to review the guide and then complete the proposal form by **June 15, 2023**. [Learn more](#) about the session topics and formats.

Click [here](#) to submit your proposal idea today!

Spirit of Green Awards 2023 Nominations Open

Get the recognition you deserve by applying for the Spirit of Green Awards. Categories include:

- **Volunteer of the Year**
- **Outstanding Institutional Program**
- **Outstanding Corporate Leader**
- **Hall of Fame**
- **Outstanding Government/Community Program**



Applications due this summer, so check out the [application information](#) today.

Connie Burns Scholarship - Apply Today!

Georgia college and university students are encouraged to apply for the 2023 Connie Burns Scholarship. Eligible candidates must be currently enrolled as a part-time college or university undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering or other suitable major related to recycling, waste reduction, or environmental sustainability. Deadline to submit the application is August 15, 2023. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

Renew your membership today!

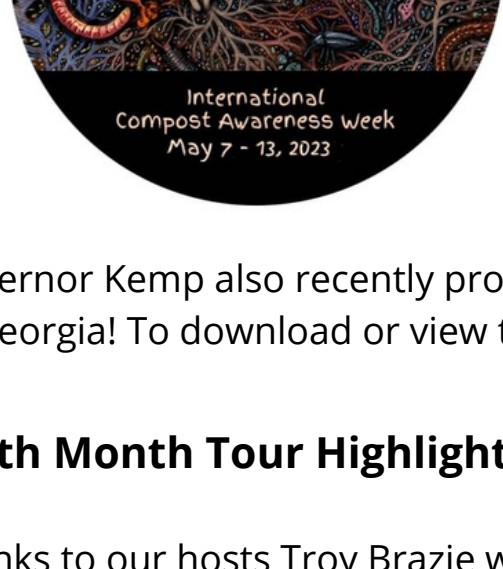
On May 1st, GRC sent out membership renewal information for the July 2023 through June 2024 Member Year. Don't delay; renew your membership today. **Deadline to renew is June 30, 2023.** Reminders will be sent out automatically from our membership management system. Members can renew online or via check/US mail. Periodic reminders will be sent through August. **Renew now to assure you receive reduced rates for the Annual Conference.**

Considering upgrading your membership to a sponsor level? Check out the benefits of these value-added memberships at www.georgiarecycles.org

If you joined recently, you will receive an invoice with a prorated amount to renew your membership through to July 2024.

Please note that if your company, government or organization has multiple members, your organization may only receive one invoice for all members. Please check with your lead member of record. Thanks for your continued support of our state recycling coalition!

Make Plans to Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week!



Are You Ready for International Compost Awareness Week?

May 7 - 13, 2023

[Register](#) your local event today.
[Share](#) your events next week.

Governor Kemp also recently proclaimed May 7-13th as Compost Awareness Week in Georgia! To download or view the full proclamation, click [here](#).

Earth Month Tour Highlights

Thanks to our hosts Troy Brazie with Cherokee County Recycling Center and Kenny Woodard with Pickens County Recycling Center for hosting GRC members on tours in observance of Earth Month. Attendees also enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Etowah River Park between tours of the two sites.

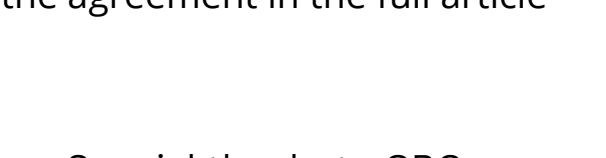


Special thanks to Beyonca Padgett of Grief Recycling, GRC's Program Committee Co-Chair, and to Kimberly White of Keep Cobb Beautiful, GRC 2023 Board President, for organizing and facilitating the incredible event.

Latest News

Shaw & Encina Carpet Recovery Partnership

Shaw to provide Encina with more than **2 million pounds of waste materials** from its carpet manufacturing processes annually. [Read more](#) about the agreement in the full article from Shaw.



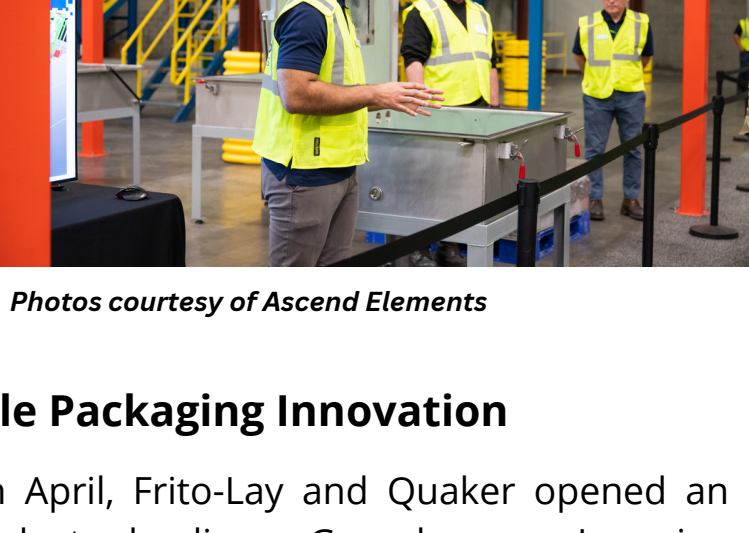
Special thanks to GRC Board member **Karen Wilson (Grief)** and **Chris Witherspoon (Rubicon)**, pictured left, for representing GRC at the recent **SWANA SOAR (Sustainability, Operations, Action, and Resources)** conference in Atlanta.

PET Capture & Reclamation Capacity Strengthened via New Grants to MRFs and PET Reclaimers

The Recycling Partnership's PET Recycling Coalition has announced five new grants to bolster the efficiency and effectiveness of PET recycling at materials recovery facilities (MRFs) and PET reclaimers. The new grants are projected to collectively increase PET capture by 5.1 million pounds per year, strengthen thermoform access for over 350,000 households, and increase annual reclamation capacity for 31.9 million pounds of bottles, 31.6 million pounds of thermoforms, and 2.6 million pounds of pigmented/opaque PET. [Learn more](#)

Ascend Elements Opens One of North America's Largest Electric Vehicle Battery Recycling Facilities in Georgia

In March, Ascend Elements celebrated the grand opening of its first commercial-scale lithium-ion battery recycling facility. Located in Covington, Georgia, the \$50 million Base 1 facility is one of North America's largest electric vehicle battery recycling facilities. As demand for electric vehicles increases, lithium-ion battery recycling is becoming an increasingly important part of the EV battery materials supply chain.



Photos courtesy of Ascend Elements

The facility began partial operations in August 2022 and now has an annual capacity to process 30,000 metric tons of used lithium-ion batteries and manufacturing scrap – equal to 70,000 electric vehicle batteries per year. [Read more](#)

New Center to Fast-Track Sustainable Packaging Innovation

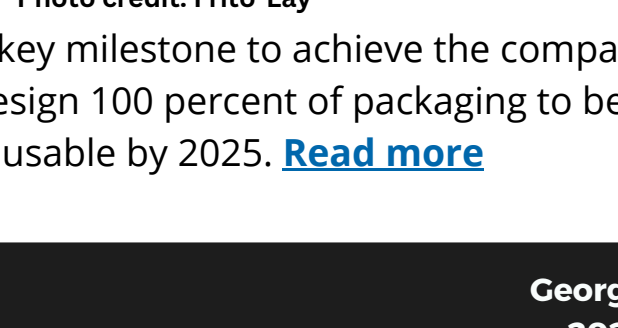


Photo credit: Frito-Lay

In April, Frito-Lay and Quaker opened an industry-leading Greenhouse Learning Center at its R&D headquarters. The Learning Center will be used to field test, measure, and analyze compostable packaging with an aim to speed up the rate of innovation. This facility represents

a key milestone to achieve the company's PepsiCo Positive (pep+) packaging goal to design 100 percent of packaging to be recyclable, compostable, biodegradable or reusable by 2025. [Read more](#)

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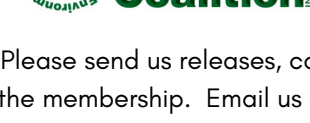
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WM

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We would love to hear from you! Please send us releases, captioned photos and other great news that you want to share with the membership. Email us at garcycles@emindspring.com