



MARCH 2023

Welcome to GRC's monthly update!

Georgia News

Legislative Updates

Hazardous Waste Trust Fund

During the 2021 legislative session, House Bill 511 was passed, ensuring the majority of fees collected by the state for a specific trust fund are truly dedicated to their intended purposes. The Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF) is supported by monies collected from hazardous waste generators, solid waste tipping fees, and various fines for violations. Administered by Georgia EPD, the fund is used to remediate contaminated sites throughout the state. If the collection of fees were to sunset, the ability of local governments to fund the clean-up of leaking landfills, as well as abandoned and contaminated properties, would be seriously hindered. House Bill 31, was introduced by Rep. Debbie Buckner (D-137), seeking to ensure the dedication of ALL fees intended for the HWTF. The bill is assigned to the House Committee on Ways & Means.

Metal Theft Bill Addresses Catalytic Converters and Copper Wire

Senate Floor Leader Senator Bo Hatchett (R – Cornelia) introduced Senate Bill 60, which would make it illegal to purchase or sell detached catalytic converters, used utility wire, or used copper that originates from an unlicensed business. This bill requires an individual or business to be a secondary materials recycler in order to possess a used or detached converter if it is not their own. [Learn more](#)

Bill Eliminates all Funding for Recycling, Litter...Tires Only

[S.B. 95](#) introduced by Sen. Randy Robertson (R-Cataula) would eliminate funding for litter and other recycling grants under the state's Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF). Georgia's SWTF is used to clean up scrap tires, support statewide recycling and litter initiatives, and ensure the safe management of abandoned landfills. This bill's intention is for the SWTF to fund only scrap tire abatement, tire recycling initiatives, and landfill cleanup throughout the state. Because of a constitutional amendment passed in 2020 forcing the state to spend the money it raises from fees on their intended uses, Committee Chairman Bill Cowser (R-Athens) called into question the constitutionality of such a proposal. During the 2nd hearing, Sen. Robertson introduced a committee substitute to cut out the proposed changes and change the way fees are collected for the SWTF. The new version mandates the \$1 fee for every tire purchased in the state be paid by the distributor rather than tire retailers. The bill passed favorably out of committee and moved to the Senate Rules Committee before heading to the Senate floor for a vote. At this point, the SWTF remains fully funded for the next 10 years; we continue to monitor.

Bag Ban Introduced

A bill to prohibit the use of plastic grocery bags has been proposed in the state Legislature by Senator Donzella James (D-Atlanta). The ban under [Senate Bill 49](#) would apply to carryout plastic bags provided by retailers. Bags used for bulk foods or uncooked meat, those containing newspapers, garment bags, bags used for food carryout orders or provided by a pharmacy for prescription drugs would be exempt from the ban.

Federal Update

Two bills focused on grants to reduce food waste prevention have been reintroduced. Learn more about the bills in Waste Dive's [article](#).

National News

FTC Seeking input on Green Guides-Deadline Extended

"The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has extended the comment period for an update to its Green Guides, a voluntary program that aims to help companies make substantiated claims in their environmental marketing. The FTC voted in December to update the program updated in 2012.

Claims like 'recyclable,' 'recycled content,' 'compostable,' 'degradable,' 'ozone-safe/ozone-friendly' are covered in the current Green Guides, but should we take another look at what consumers understand those words to mean?" FTC asks in a news release."

The deadline to comment has been extended

to until April 24.

Tethered Plastic Caps Emerge

"In Europe, the Coca-Cola Company announced that it is adopting a lightweight, HDPE tethered closure for its carbonated soft drinks in PET bottles. Bolstered by the European Union (EU) Single-Use Plastics Directive, this new tethered closure for Coca-Cola is designed to remain intact with the bottle, making it less likely to be littered and more likely to be recycled. Berry Global Group, Inc. is the first plastic packaging manufacturer to supply Coca-Cola this tethered closure format." [Full article at Packworld.com](#)



Source: packworld.com

Member Spotlights



Peddle Recycling

Founder Scott Hembree became increasingly frustrated about the single-use items his family was throwing away. The items seemed too good to landfill; he was determined to create a better way to handle the packaging. Growing up in Carroll County, Scott heard stories about how his father would peddle eggs to customers in Atlanta as a teenager. As they went door to door selling, peddlers like his father reclaimed the empty cartons and jugs to reuse; they simply couldn't afford to give that packaging to the customer for free. Scott realized that we can't afford to just throw valuable items away either! It was a combination of this vision and his work as a materials engineer that led Scott to create [Peddle Recycling](#).

Rome Recycling Center

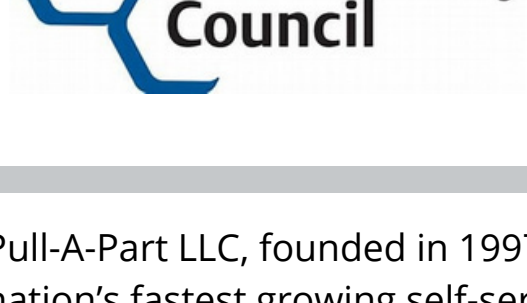
The City of Rome residents recycled **1,003.38 tons** of material at the curb in 2022! That's the weight of 143 male African elephants.



Sponsor Spotlights

We extend appreciation to the following GRC Sponsors' for their generous support and ongoing confidence in our programs and projects.

The Georgia Beverage Association (GeorgiaBev) is the trade association for Georgia's refreshing, non-alcoholic beverage industry, serving the public and its members since 1918. As a **Partner Level Sponsor**, GeorgiaBev has supported GRC for more than two decades in assuring recycling remains robust in our state. Learn more about [Georgia Bev](#) and its commitment to getting Every Bottle Back.



The [American Chemistry Council](#) is committed to the goal of creating a circular economy in which 100 % of plastics packaging is reused, recycled or recovered by 2040. As a **Sustainer Level Sponsor**, the Georgia office continues to support the efforts of our state recycling organization. Nationally the organization is celebrating 150 years.

Pull-A-Part LLC, founded in 1997 in Atlanta, GA is the nation's fastest growing self-service used auto parts retailer in the U.S. The company is a **Patron Level Sponsor** and has supported GRC since the company's inception. Started with three Atlanta locations, Pull-A-Part has 36 stores in 16 states and are recipients of numerous awards for their business. [Learn more](#).

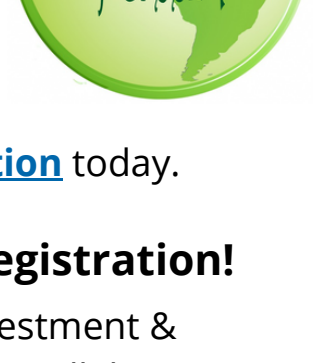


Announcements

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 Govn/Community Program**



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

Suggest the Winning Conference Theme and Win a Free Registration!

Challenges & successes; great markets & down markets; increased investment & increased costs; participation & contamination looming; partnerships & collaborations growing; increased investment & infrastructure growth ... how do we encapsulate all these components into an annual conference theme!???

Well, put on your thinking cap and submit a 32nd annual conference theme idea to us by April 15th. The winner will receive one individual registration for this year's conference. Email theme suggestions to: garecycles@mindspring.com

Job Announcement

Mercer Group Associates is assisting Camden County, GA with its search for a new Solid Waste Director. Camden County is located in the coastal area of southeast Georgia, 30 miles south of Brunswick, Ga, 50 miles north of Jacksonville, FL. and is home to the Kings Bay Submarine Base. The position reports to the County Administrator who is seeking a person with experience operating MSW and CD landfills and has the ability to think strategically and work independently. [Learn more](#) about the position. Deadline for applications is March 23rd.

Upcoming Events

Tour and Picnic –Wednesday April 12, 2023

Celebrate Earth Month by touring recycling centers in North GA and networking and having lunch by the river. Bring an item that has proved challenging to recycle or one you've found success in marketing. The group will decide to accept or reject in their programs! Details to follow. Registered attendees will be eligible for a drawing to win an annual conference registration.



International Compost Awareness Week
May 7 - 13, 2023
[Register](#) your local event

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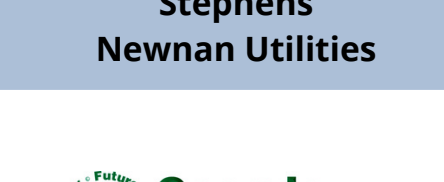
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We would love to hear from you! Please send us releases, captioned photos and other great news that you want to share with the membership. Email us at garecycles@mindspring.com