



Welcome to GRC's monthly update!



Keefe Harrison Announced as Keynote Speaker for GRC's 32nd Annual Conference

Keefe Harrison is a founder and the CEO of The Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting the planet by fixing recycling and activating a circular economy in the U.S. An international speaker, media pundit, and environmental author, Keefe is a 22-year veteran of the space, dedicated to engaging companies in making measurable, lasting change. Under her leadership, The Partnership has grown significantly since its founding in 2014 and

Call for Nominations to GRC Board of Directors

The Georgia Recycling Coalition is calling for nominations for its 2024-2026 Board of Directors. We are seeking candidates committed to providing time and resources toward governing our Coalition.

According to the GRC by-laws, all Directors must be voting members in good standing at the time of the election and during tenure of office. Only one employee of a particular business entity or government agency may be a Director at any given time, unless otherwise provided by the Board.

Directors will be elected for three (3) year terms and can serve only two (2) consecutive terms.

Directors are elected at the GRC annual membership meeting to be held at the King & Prince on St. Simons Island on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

Deadline to submit nominations to GRC is September 15, 2023.

The term of office for new directors will begin January 1, 2024.

has transformed \$95 million of investment from over 80 funding partners into \$241 million in value creation, reaching over one million households and diverting over 770 million incremental pounds of recyclables from landfills.

If you are interested in running for the board, please email Executive Director Gloria Hardegree at garecycles@mindspring.com for guidelines.

Register 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.

Registration has officially opened! Stay tuned for updates on agenda and speakers. [Register today!](#)



Interested in sponsoring
or exhibiting at GRC's
annual conference?

[Learn more](#)



City of Decatur Receives Grant for Composting Pilot

The City of Decatur has received a \$170,000 grant from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to fund a composting pilot program that will provide curbside pickup of compostable materials for 20 residents. If the project goes well, Decatur may join a growing number of cities and counties that have found household composting to be an effective way to divert waste from landfills and reduce emissions. [Read more](#)

Keep Cobb Beautiful Hosts Fifth Annual Recycled Art Contest

Kids from all over Cobb tapped into their creative brains for the Recycled Art Contest, hosted by Keep Cobb Beautiful in partnership with Cobb County Library System. The 32 entrants from 3rd grade to 12th grade presented their projects to a panel of judges. In addition to the gift cards for the top ten winners, all entrants were awarded with t-shirt and water bottle from Keep Cobb Beautiful as well as new books from Cobb County Library System. *Congratulations to all the participants!*

Huge thanks to the judges: Julie Barwig – Keep Smyrna Beautiful; Stephanie Busch – Georgia Recycling Coalition; and Dawn Smith, Matt Connolly, and Kimberly White – Keep Cobb Beautiful.

Congratulations to the Cobb Recycled Art Contest Participants!





Pictured above from left to right: First Place winner Summer Burroughs-Thebault, Second Place winner Jonah Sheen, Third Place winner Arashya Gungal, and Fourth Place winner Savi Dixon.



New AI Trash Cans at Georgia Tech

"At Georgia Tech, and other universities, we believe that the solution for food waste can be found at the intersection between students and kitchens," says computer engineering student and food waste technology innovator Nathanael Koh. [Raccoon Eyes](#) is the world's first device to equip trash cans with cameras and language processing technology, providing dining operations with unprecedented feedback from patrons within seconds. [Read more](#) of the article from DRAWDOWN GA.

Republic Services to Supply Coca-Cola's PET

The Coca-Cola Co. is the first announced customer for Republic Services' forthcoming polymer centers, a project the waste company describes as "the first time a single U.S. company will manage the plastics stream from curbside collection to delivery of high-quality recycled content for consumer packaging."

Coca-Cola is aiming to use at least 50% recycled material in its packaging by 2030 and "collect and recycle a bottle or can for each one we sell" by that same year. In 2022, the company used 15% rPET in its bottles and collected 61% of the equivalent bottles and cans it put into circulation. [Read more](#) from **PACKAGINGDIVE**.

Recycle Your Old T-Shirts

Ready to downsize your Tee Shirt collection? [Learn more](#) about Marine Layer's Re-Spun, an innovative new reuse program, and drop off your tees today.

A New App to Limit Food Waste Launches in Atlanta



The free mobile app, [Too Good To Go](#), empowers consumers to save food by purchasing a Surprise Bag, at an average discount of $\frac{1}{3}$ the full retail price. Connecting



grocery stores, restaurants, bakeries and cafes to customers, Too Good To Go ensures that the delicious, surplus food from these eateries isn't thrown away.

Store owners profit by selling fresh surplus food that would otherwise be tossed, customers discover new local food businesses and eat at a discount, and everyone helps the planet. Food waste contributes to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions making this solution a win-win-win. Approximately 125,000 tons of food waste is generated in Atlanta each year—that's 5x the amount of peaches the state of Georgia produces. Food throughout the city is wasted at every level from households (44,800 tons) to restaurants (29,000 tons). "We are thrilled to launch in a city known for its vibrant, diverse food scene," said Chris MacAulay, Too Good To Go US Country Director. "Bringing a food waste solution to Atlanta gives us the opportunity to partner with local businesses and connect with community members that align with our mission of environmental and social impact."

In 7 years of operation, Too Good To Go has helped to save over 220 million meals from going to waste, the equivalent of 550,000 tonnes of CO₂e avoided. It is estimated that 40% of all food produced is wasted each year, contributing to 10% of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions (WWF, 2021). That's why fighting food waste is named as the number one solution to solving the climate crisis (Project Drawdown, 2020).

Since its launch in 2016, Too Good To Go has grown to over 80 million registered users and 140,000 active business partners across 17 countries in Europe and North America, making Too Good To Go the leading company in the fight against food waste. To learn more about Too Good To Go and its impact, visit toogoodtogo.com

Georgia Recycling Coalition 2023 Board of Directors

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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

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