

GEORGIA RECYCLING COALITION

GREEN SHEET

DECEMBER 2021



Welcome to GRC's monthly Green Sheet Electronic Update!
Did you know? This year is GRC's 30th Anniversary!
Recycling is Essential for Georgia. We are #RecycleStrong

In the News

ISRI Celebrates Passage of Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

The \$1.75 trillion Act includes the funds needed to fix and upgrade our nation's roads and bridges, freight and passenger railways, ports and waterways, broadband, and invest in environmentally sustainable energy.

Importantly, it also includes language from the RECYCLE Act, of which Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI) was a lead architect.

Recycling is an essential part of the infrastructure of the United States and is only

becoming more essential as we move as a nation – and a global community – towards a circular economy in an effort to preserve our planet's finite natural resources and address climate change through reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It is for this reason that ISRI supports investments to strengthen our country's aging infrastructure and provide for a 21st-century transportation system that will allow us to efficiently transport raw materials and feedstocks to manufacturers throughout the nation and the globe, using all modes of transportation, covering rail, surface, and waterways. The bill contains over \$350 million for recycling over several years.



The RECYCLE Act aims to improve residential recycling by authorizing up to \$15 million per year in recycling education grants over five years, through 2026. Under the RECYCLE Act provisions, the EPA must develop a toolkit with suggestions for reducing contamination and increasing recycling participation. EPA is also required to develop a model recycling program toolkit and to review its Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, which designate products containing recycled materials and recommends that federal agencies buy those products. More info available at [Waste Advantage Magazine](#) and [Wastedive.com](#)

EPA Releases National Recycling Strategy



On America Recycles Day, EPA released its [National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All](#). The Strategy outlines EPA's approach to address the U.S. recycling system's biggest challenges, including reduced markets for materials,



infrastructure not keeping pace with a changing waste stream, confusion about what materials can be recycled, and the varying methodologies to measure performance. EPA's Strategy is a step toward addressing improperly managed waste in overburdened communities and focusing on the climate impacts of materials.

SWANA-Prices for Recyclables Close to Record Highs

After China's National Sword policy banned the import of several recyclable materials, curbside residential recycling programs faced challenges in some communities. Since early 2020, there has been a strong recovery in commodity prices for discarded materials, which is having a positive impact on local recycling programs. The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has published a [report](#) on how recycling markets have strongly recovered since National Sword.



SWANA reports the prices and demand for recyclables from municipal curbside recycling programs have rebounded and are close to record highs in the United States and Canada. The report quantifies how much recycling prices have recovered from 2020 lows and discusses how increased demand for recovered paper from residential generators, new domestic markets, and consumer brand commitments to use recycled materials have led to improved market conditions.



Target Organics Hub Offered by US Composting Council

The Target Organics Hub is your One-Stop-Shop for all of the information you need to develop a compost program. USCC's stakeholders scoured all of the resources out there to bring all of the best information to you in one place. They compiled over 75 articles and resources from dozens of organizations across the country to address the needs and questions of municipalities and organizations looking to start a compost facility.

In 2018, USCC members realized that municipalities and composters across the country would benefit from a consolidated source of information. Feedback on the barriers, challenges, and most needed resources was collected through two nationwide surveys. From that data, the Target Organics Committee developed a 'roadmap' document for municipalities to start or expand their organics recycling and composting programs. More information available at [USCC's Target Organics Hub - USCC Hub Site](#).

People for Bikes/Call2Recycle

An estimated 130 million electric bicycles are expected to be sold globally between 2020 and 2023, and the batteries powering those bikes need to be safely and responsibly collected and managed at their end of life. With no current, established way to get those batteries to a recycler, [People for Bikes](#) was developed to keep batteries out of landfills and ensure that batteries are safely handled and returned to the recycling stream. The majority of the cost involved with

"We are excited to be working with PeopleForBikes to establish the first voluntary, industry-led program in the electric transportation sector to ensure



majority of the cost involved with recycling batteries comes from freight and DOT-exempt safety shipping boxes. Pooling industry funds and working with collection sites allows the program to minimize those costs.

a safe, responsible journey for e-bike batteries from rider to recycler."

Leo Raudys,
CEO & President, Call2Recycle



call2recycle



Community Spotlights

Avondale Estates

The City of Avondale Estates, in partnership with SC Johnson, a global manufacturer of household consumer brands such as Scrubbing Bubbles® and Windex®, kicked off a one-year pilot program in November to offer curbside collection of plastic film to its residents, the first such program to launch in Georgia. Through this curbside pilot program, residents can recycle clean and dry plastic bags, plastic storage bags such as Ziploc® brand bags, dry cleaning bags, and other flexible plastic film by placing it in a 'Plastic Film Only' recycling bin.

"Avondale Estates takes recycling seriously," said Patrick Bryant, City Manager of Avondale Estates. Plastic film that is picked up during this program will be taken to Nexus Circular for conversion by its partners into chemical feedstocks. "We have been eager to see a program like this get started in Georgia and hope it is the first of many," said Jean Jordan at Nexus Circular. This pilot program is part of a larger effort by SC Johnson to reduce plastic waste. Thus far, the programs have collectively stopped more than 6,000 pounds of plastic film from ending up in local landfills.



"We are always looking for ways to be better and are excited to be the first city in Georgia to partner with SC Johnson on a curbside program for plastic film recycling," said Patrick Bryant, City Manager of Avondale Estates.

GA College & State University Named 2021 AASHE Campus Sustainability Achievement Finalist for Sustainability and Glass Recycling Efforts



Since kickstarting the program in February 2021, GC has been able to collect and crush over 3,000 pounds of glass.

At Georgia College & State University (GC), undergraduate students submitted a grant proposal to the GC Sustainability Fee Program to fund a glass-to-sand machine. The primary goals of the project included diverting glass waste from the landfill, creating an economically viable byproduct that could be used in a variety of applications, generating revenue by selling the byproduct to external markets, and developing opportunities to educate the campus community about sustainability.

The waste reduction equipment gave the Office of Sustainability the ability to divert glass from the landfill. The byproduct, known as recycled crushed glass (RCG), which resembles sand in shape, size, and function, was used in the landscaping of GCSU's brand new \$22.1 million Integrated Science Complex. GC is now a finalist for a 2021 AASHE Campus Sustainability Achievement Award for this effort.

Board Updates

GRC Welcomes Two New Board Members

GRC welcomes two new Board Members beginning in January 2022. Fiona Bell is the Communications and Government Affairs for Novelis North America. Denise Plemmons is a Commercial Recycling Specialist in the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division. Kimberly White, Executive Director of Keep Cobb Beautiful was elected to a second term. We appreciate the willingness of these members to support and guide the work of GRC.

#RecycleRightGA

If it's time to replace your lights, check locally for recycling options or mail them to organizations that recycle plastic, glass, and copper from the lights, like [HolidayLEDS' tree lights recycling program](#) or [Christmas Light Source's Christmas Light Recycling Program](#). Your lights will be recycled, and you'll receive a discount code to buy new lights.

It's a win-win!



Holidays got you stressed?
Lights in a tangled mess?
Lights not working anymore?
Ready to shove them out the door?
Keep the lights out of the recycling cart.
Thanks again for doing your part.

Georgia Recycling Coalition 2021 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

