



Welcome to GRC's monthly update!



Join us 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. Deadline to register and book hotel is 9/20. [Register today!](#)

Georgia News

EPD Announces Increase in STAR Grants for Scrap Tires

The **Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Program** has resulted in 1,210,064 passenger tire equivalents (PTEs) have been removed and recycled statewide. Local governments have been reimbursed more than \$3 million to cover the costs of removing, transporting, and processing the tires. Effective August 11, 2023, new STAR applications received are eligible for reimbursement up to \$75,000 per state fiscal year. This is an increase in funds from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The STAR Program reimburses local governments for the direct costs associated with recycling tires abated in their communities. Eligible projects include right-of-way cleanups, scrap tire collection events, and local government led scrap tire abatement projects. While the program is non-competitive, local governments must apply and be approved before beginning their project. [Learn more](#) about the STAR Program.

Forsyth County Launches Hefty ReNew™ Collection Program



Image source: hefty.com

Did you know there's now a place for Forsyth County residents to drop off their hard to recycle plastics? Hefty ReNew™ is now in full swing at all three of the Forsyth County Recycling Centers, The program collects hard-to-recycle plastics not traditionally ccepted and turns them into valuable resources. Accepted materials include: plastic packaging, plastic bags and wraps, foam products, and plastic dinnerware. Participants must purchase orange Hefty ReNew™ bags in order to participate in the program. [Learn more.](#)

GA Cities Address Wasted Food

Wasted food is the largest category of waste in Georgia's landfills, according to the Georgia EPD. Close to half of it comes from metro Atlanta. Some cities in Georgia are starting to address these problems with composting – turning food scraps into nutrient-rich matter for soils, instead of letting them rot in a landfill. But experts agree the state has a long way to go. [Read the full story](#) from Drawdown Georgia.

National News

Glass Recycling Coalition Launches Survey to Collect Glass Data

Glass Recycling Coalition is seeking information from haulers, MRFs, community program managers, recycling coordinators, glass processors, end users, and manufacturers to weigh in on glass recovery efforts. The [survey](#) collects aggregate data on the types of glass collection programs, motivation for glass recycling, and challenges in community programs. [Take survey!](#)

Carton Council Podcast Series

The Carton Council of North America has launched its new podcast series, "Road to Recycling," showcasing the journey to grow food and beverage carton recycling and the partnerships made along the way.

[Listen](#) to the first episode of the podcast now.



Creating Equity in Recycling

According to the latest U.S. Census data, we are becoming more racially and ethnically diverse as a nation. In turn, this means that our recycling outreach programs need to become more inclusive and accessible as well. **The Recycling Partnership** with funding from 3M, created a resource, produced by their Center for Sustainable Behavior & Impact. One of the Center's main goals is to understand the barriers that people face in recycling and then prototyping solutions and deploying behavior change resources. [Read more](#) from The Recycling Partnership.

International Compost Awareness Week: 2023 Poster Contest Opens



Calling all artists! Submit your poster design using the theme: **COMPOST... Nature's Climate Champion!**

The prize for the winning poster is \$500. Applicants must be 14 years or older to enter. **Deadline to apply is November 1st.**

[Learn more](#) about the poster and kids video competition.

Did you Know?

The microbes found in compost are also able to degrade some toxic organic compounds, including petroleum (hydrocarbons). This is one of the reasons why compost is being used in bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soils.



Shaw Recycle Almost a Billion Pounds of Carpet

Shaw's re[TURN]® Reclamation Program has allowed them to reclaim and recycle almost **1 billion pounds of carpet** since 2006. And with a 2030 goal to optimize 100% of their products to Cradle to Cradle® design, they are continually assessing products and processes to push the company toward further innovation and to provide additional avenues for customer's end-of-life flooring.

GRC Kicks Off Safety Awareness Month



GRC is excited to kick off our first Safety Awareness Month today. Join us this month as we discuss safety issues impacting the recycling and solid waste industries in Georgia. Our outreach campaign, promoted through our RecycleRightGA network, will focus on how tossing certain items into recycling carts can injure workers, cause fires, or harm machinery at recycling plants. So far this year, there have been

243 fires at waste and recycling facilities in the U.S. and Canada, according to FireRover's Ryan Fogelman.

Follow us on social as we highlight a different safety concern each week and share tips for protecting collections crews, plant workers, the environment, and you. Plans are also underway for a Safety Awareness webinar featuring speakers on various safety-related topics including lithium-ion battery handling. More details coming soon!

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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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