



2023 Conference Charts Path Forward for Recycling

The Georgia Recycling Coalition Conference was a huge success thanks to your support! Here's a quick recap of the conference.

Delivered with the perfect blend of optimism and southern wit, **Keefe Harrison**'s thought-provoking keynote kicked off the conference with opportunities to leverage data for success. She shared her insight on how she sees the recycling world changing and ways to leverage data to drive stronger programs locally. *"You can shape the data that shapes how things enter and exit your recycling program."*



Harrison sees the SE as a region with strong potential to capture significant tonnage and improve the national recycling rate.

[Learn more](#) about **The Recycling Partnership's** initiatives.

The local program session followed with **UGA's Mason Towe, Keep Carroll Beautiful's Martyna Griffin, Georgia Tech's Malte Weiland, and ECGO's Ryan Walden** highlighting how Georgia's universities and local government programs are expanding their recycling efforts via innovation and technology, including how UGA coordinated zero waste events during the baseball and soccer seasons. Georgia Tech launched a new app to encourage and incentivize students for recycling on campus. KCB shared tips on setting up events, applying for funding, and engaging volunteers, stressed the importance

of data collection and how to use it to better plan and advertise the events.

From glass and plastics to food service packaging, **Paul Benvenuti, with Hefty ReNew Program, Chris Mahin with Knauf Insulation NA and Abbey Patterson with Resource Recycling Systems/NAIMA** shared their latest efforts to increase recovery of materials are continuing to grow & evolve. **Christy Sapp with Nexus Circular and Mark Steadman with Call2Recycle** shared two diverse perspectives on how challenging, but valuable, materials are being addressed more aggressively as we strive toward a more circular economy. **Candace Rutherford, with Brightmark, Scott Chase with AMP Robotics, and Rachel Musetti with Cox Enterprises** showcased how technology and vibrant programs are elevating the reach of recycling. In the closing session, speakers shared their tips for bridging the gaps between economy and ecology, unifying disparate audiences, and informing industry of ways that can monetize conservation while improving life for disadvantaged communities. **Leonard Robinson, Archdiocese of Atlanta,** shared his insight on strategies for changing sustainability messaging to resonate with different sectors. **Jon Huls with SEMCO** showcased ideas and value of edutainment. **Natasha Dyer with SWEEP** shared details on SWEEP's certification program.



Presentations Available

Interested in seeing any of the presentations from the conference? Presentations are available on our website.

[View Presentations Now!](#)



KSU Student Wins Connie Burns Scholarship

Congratulations to the 2023 Connie Burns scholarship winner, Gracie Siniard! Gracie is pursuing a degree in Biology with concentration in Ecology and Environmental Science at KSU.

"I am thrilled and grateful to have been chosen to receive the Connie Burns Scholarship for 2023. Thank you to the Georgia Recycling Coalition for this opportunity; I am excited to continue

supporting my community and building awareness about the impact recycling can make on a broader scale."

Special Thanks to Our Conference Sponsors!

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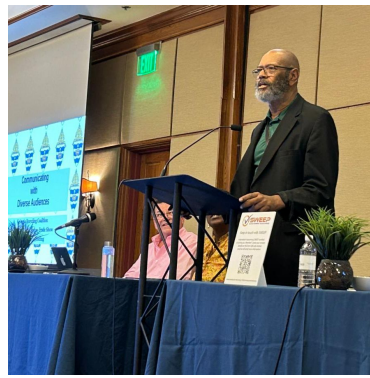
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Also, our thanks to the Program Committee members, Beyonca Padgett with Greif and Abbey Patterson with RRS, for helping plan the conference. We appreciate COR Compost of Savannah, WM Brunswick Division, and Keep Golden Isles Beautiful for assisting us with recycling and composting during our event and Denise Plemmons of Athens-Clarke County and the GRC's board members for overseeing the diversion efforts.

Look Back at 2023 Conference: Photo Gallery





Georgia Composting Council Update

Following its approval as a state chapter in September, the Georgia Composting Council has met to launch the council in early 2024. GRC will act as the fiscal sponsor and work with SWANA GA Chapter on events, meetings and advocacy. More details are forthcoming from the council leaders in a press release, membership drive and the official council launch event.

Cobb County Expands Recycling Infrastructure

Congratulations to Cobb County, Keep Cobb Beautiful, Cobb County Board of Commissioners, Cobb DOT, and WestRock on the grand opening of the County's drop-off recycling facility located on County Services Parkway.

The facility accepts single-stream recycling, glass, cardboard, cans, plastic bottles, and hard-to-recycle plastics as part of the Hefty ReNew program.

"We are thankful to the partners in Cobb County for providing the support and investment in the recycling collection infrastructure for the community. The drop-off site is adjacent to WestRock's recovered materials processing facility. Together, this infrastructure supports the recovery and processing of recyclables, providing WestRock and other manufacturers in our state with recovered materials to make their products. We are thrilled to see the investments being made in Georgia to support recycling, our economy, and the environment."



GRC Board of Directors Update

Congratulations to Mason Towe, UGA and Carliss Bates, City of Savannah for reelection to a 2nd term on the GRC Board of Directors and to Marla Prince, with WM and Kira Stopczynski with Emory University for election to a board term beginning in January 2024. We bid farewell to longtime board member Susan Wood, GEFA, with appreciation for all the work she does for GRC!

Need Funding for Your Business?

Lorraine White, former owner of M-PASS Environmental, is now a Regional Managing Partner for J. Galt. J Galt specializes in rescuing and growing small to mid-sized businesses by building a robust business credit profile around a



company's EIN number. This process will completely remove business owners from having to use lines of credit, loans, etc. tied to their SSN numbers and associated with personal guarantees. No personal funding will be required again...EVER.

J. Galt uses a SaaS based platform with concierge service. If any business owner needs funding or wants to grow their business J. Galt can help. Lorraine is very focused on helping the small to mid-sized environmental companies in Georgia, because she knows first-hand how hard it is to make it financially in the waste and recycling industry. For more information, contact Lorraine at lwhite@jgalt.io or 404 547 1782.

Industry News

New PET Recycling Company Announces First US Facility in Georgia

revalyu Resources (revalyu), a leading chemical PET recycling company, today announced that it will invest USD 50 million during the initial phase of its strategic expansion in its first facility in the USA. The location for its new plant will be in Statesboro, Georgia where groundbreaking will take place in the first half of 2023 and commissioning of the facility is planned for 2024. The 43-acre Statesboro site will employ approximately 70 people. When the first phase is completed, the plant will be able to recycle and process over 225,000 pounds per day of used PET (polyester) waste into sustainable PET polymers (esters) and rPET chips. In further expansion, the plant will have a capacity of up to 450,000 pounds.

Using a breakthrough chemical recycling technology, revalyu has already recycled over six billion bottles. The cost-effective recycling process extracts impurities efficiently and delivers recycled PET of highest purity. The process uses 91% less energy and 67% less water than conventional polyester processes.

Once converted into high quality recycled PET, revalyu's rPET chips can be used to produce any kind of sustainable PET product. Currently, it is mostly used in the textile industry for applications such as seamless knitting, weaving, denim, automotive, furniture or technical textiles.

"We thank all our US customers, partners, and the Statesboro community for their support, trust, and confidence in us. Expanding our operations to the US is an important milestone for our global expansion strategy. It brings us closer to our target of recycling more than two million pounds of used PET bottles per day by 2026 and contributes to solving the plastic waste problem", said Jan



EPA Clarifies Food Waste Hierarchy

US EPA's new Food Waste Scale is a long-awaited recognition of the importance of composting inedible food scrap and will bring much needed clarity to this issue. The USCC has been urging EPA to make this change for the past decade.

The new (Food Waste Scale) revisits the food waste hierarchy and changes the framework to prioritize actions that prevent and divert wasted food from disposal. Tiers of the scale highlight different pathways for preventing or managing wasted food in order from most preferred to least preferred.

Foodservice Packaging Reaches Recycling Milestone

Since 2017, the Foodservice Packaging Institute's Community Partnership program has helped expand take-out cup and container recycling opportunities. Over the course of seven years, the program has engaged 24 partners in more than 20 regional areas, impacting over 500 individual communities and over 7 million households. The program facilitates engagement between communities, haulers, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and end markets with the goal of adding a suite of foodservice packaging to curbside recycling and/or composting programs. [Learn more](#)



FPI's Community Partnership program has helped expand foodservice packaging recycling since 2017.
www.RecycleFSP.org

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