



Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Expands Food Waste Reduction Program

In 2018, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful (GC&B) first introduced the Food Waste Warriors Initiative to select Gwinnett County Schools through a Keep America Beautiful-Lowe's Community Improvement Grant. By 2020, GC&B partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to expand the food waste reduction initiative as a critical element of the nonprofit's Green & Healthy Schools Program. With the recent news that the WWF had been awarded an Environmental Protection Agency Recycling Education and Outreach Grant for \$1,164,792, a portion of the proceeds will be devoted to expanding the food waste reduction project at participating Gwinnett County Public Schools.



"I am so proud of the many ways Food Waste Warriors has augmented the Green & Healthy Schools program through our incredible partnership with the World Wildlife Fund," said Schelly Marlatt, Executive Director of Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful. "At participating Gwinnett County schools, students take food waste audits, track the data, create share tables in the cafeteria to minimize waste, collect food scraps, and deliver them to the Compost Connectors composting system. Once ready, the mineral-rich compost created from what would typically wind up in a local landfill is used to fertilize the schools' Plant It Forward community gardens that grow produce and feed pollinators." [Learn more.](#)

Connection Between Wasted Food and Methane

- Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions from human activities in the United States. (US EPA)
- Food waste comprises about 24% of municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills. Due to its quick decay rate, food waste in landfills is contributing to more methane emissions than any other landfilled materials. (US EPA)

[Click Here to Read EPA's Report on Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste](#)

Industry News

Want to Learn More about the TRP Residential Recycling Report?

Join TPR for a *By the Numbers* webinar on Jan. 31st at 2pm ET, with the report authors. This will be an opportunity to discuss the report findings, respond to questions, and hear from other recycling stakeholders.

[Register now!](#)

The Recycling Partnership Releases Residential Recycling Report

The Recycling Partnership (TRP) is excited to kick off 2024 with the release of its new report, [*State of Recycling, The Present and Future of Residential Recycling*](#). The report sets a new baseline for change with fresh data and analysis on the current state of residential recycling. It pinpoints the areas of greatest need and lays out a strategy to achieve a truly effective recycling system. Using an updated methodology, it shows that only 21% of U.S. residential recyclables are currently captured, noting that every material type is under-recycled. The vast majority of recyclables (76%) are lost to trash in homes - underscoring the importance of providing all households with recycling access and engaging residents with good communication about how to recycle locally. The good news is that we can fix this. By highlighting the areas of greatest need we show how data-driven, local solutions can have maximum impact.

[*Make sure to view the report maps for Georgia's material loss and recycling rates.*](#)

Member News



Congratulations to GRC Member and Honorary Director Kevin Perry, President of the Georgia Beverage Association, on being named by GeorgiaTrend magazine as one of its 2024 Notable Georgians. This annual list recognizes individuals who have helped to make a significant positive impact in Georgia through their leadership in business, politics, and culture. Kevin served as GRC Board President in 2001/02. He continues to advocate for legislation that supports the recycling industry and infrastructure in Georgia.

GRC congratulates Kevin on this well-deserved honor and appreciates his unwavering support of GRC and ensuring the growth and viability of the recycling industry in Georgia.



Congratulations to GRC Member and Honorary Director Steve Levetan on his recent retirement. Steve was a founding member of GRC in 1991, serving on its original Board of Directors. His career included working as a lobbyist for the recycling and composting industry as well as working in the metal recycling and auto parts recycling industries. Steve was one of the first members to be inducted into the GRC Hall of Fame - just one of many awards and achievements that he received during his illustrious career.

GRC congratulates Steve on his retirement and thanks him for his steadfast commitment to GRC and working tirelessly to protect Georgia's environment. We appreciate him being a voice for the recycling industry in our state, region, and nationally.

Shaw Floors at College Football Playoff in

Houston

People, planet, puppies! Shaw Industries Group played a major role in the recent College Football Playoff in Houston as an official sponsor! More than 250,000 square feet of Shaw Sports Turf Cradle to Cradle Certified® synthetic turf and Shaw flooring was installed in College Football Playoff Fan Central. More than 800,000 recycled plastic bottles were used in the COMFOR3T expo carpet. In addition, 10 Houston Humane Society pets (and counting) went #HomeAtLast through Shaw Floors Pet Perfect Puppies at the Playoff activation. 30,000+ football fans (and dozens of cute puppies) experienced the comfort of Shaw underfoot.



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THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF



Pratt's Recycling Boxes Score Big at the College Football Playoff Game

Working with WM, Pratt Industries provided custom recycling boxes (pictured left) for use at the College Football Playoff event venues in Houston.

Waste Eliminator Announces Expansion in Georgia

Waste Eliminator, a leader in sustainable waste solutions in the metro Atlanta area, announces the opening of its new state-of-the-art material recovery facility (MRF) located in Peachtree Corners, GA. Replacing an older generation facility, this MRF will increase the company's waste diversion from landfills and promote additional beneficial reuse and recycling opportunities. With the opening of the new recycling facility, Waste Eliminator will increase its throughput capacity by 25 percent. "As the leading provider of sustainable waste solutions in the Atlanta market, Waste Eliminator is proud to partner with our corporate clients as they move towards a circular economy model," said Kacy Cronan, Chief Executive Officer at Waste Eliminator. As a result of our investment and commitment, this facility is projected to divert more than 70% of the processed waste that otherwise

would be disposed of annually at local landfills,” Cronan continued. “Additionally, we plan to convert our legacy facility to process source-separated recyclables, furthering the company’s ability to divert any and all types of waste streams for our customers.” In 2024, Waste Eliminator is poised to significantly expand its composting operation and open its first MSW MRF in the Atlanta market. Both facilities will have a material impact on the company’s ability to create beneficial reuse options for waste streams that often end up in landfills. A wide array of materials will be processed including C&D and commercial single stream.

Congratulations to our 2024 Board Officers:

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Carliss Bates, Secretary
City of Savannah



International Compost Awareness Week Planning

What are you planning for this week-long observance in May 2024? From holding a local event to simply sharing pre-developed social media to increase awareness, there is something for everyone to spread the news about composting and compost use.

Check out the [ideas](#) from the Compost Research and Education Foundation.

CPRG Grant Information Webinar

Are you an advocate fighting for a Zero Waste future? Do you have a Zero Waste project you need funded? Are you interested or already involved in Priority Climate Action Plans? Planning to apply for a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for your community?

If yes, join Institute of Local Self-Reliance on January 24, 2024 from 2:00 - 3:30 PM EST for this free webinar to learn about strategies to strengthen Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) and submit strong applications that include Zero Waste projects.

Featured speakers from state and MSA lead organizations and key advocacy groups will share approaches to developing holistic PCAPs, managing applications, and collaborating across sectors.

Presenters will also review model language for PCAPs, a key step in qualifying for funding, and strategies for receiving high scores on implementation project proposals. [Register now!](#)

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Georgia Recycling Coalition | Post Office Box 550667, Atlanta, GA 30355

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