



April 2026

Make Plans to Join Us for GRC's Earth Month Event



Join GRC as we wrap up Earth Month on Thursday, April 30 for a two-part experience that turns awareness into action. Start with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Keep North Fulton Beautiful Recycling Center from 2:00–4:00 PM and hear directly from recycling market experts to learn what happens to the recyclables. Then, keep the momentum going down the street at Pontoon Brewing from 4:30–6:30 PM for the GRC Earth Month Exchange—a relaxed gathering to reflect on Earth Month wins, connect with peers, and brainstorm how we continue to drive progress. Join us for one or stay for both and help turn Earth Month energy into year-round impact. Tour space is limited; registration required. [Learn more and RSVP today.](#)

ReMA Releases 2025 Impact Report

Washington-based Recycled Materials Association (ReMA) has released new data on the state of the recycling industry. ReMA President Robin Wiener says the association's 2025 economic impact report shows that the recycling industry is continuing to grow and thrive. The report found that the recycling sector generated \$183.6 billion in total economic impact in 2025 and supports more than 600,000 jobs in the U.S., with more than \$52 billion in total wages.

ReMA has an online tool featuring an interactive map that allows users to find the economic impact of the industry on a state level or a congressional district level. Wiener says this tool is valuable, especially as recyclers meet with local community leaders. [Read more.](#)

Legislative Update

- **Recycling Study Committee** - the **Senate Study Committee** on Improving and Increasing Recycling, by Senator Bo Hatchett (R-Cornelia), was created to evaluate and recommend improvements to Georgia's recycling systems, with a focus on market viability, infrastructure, and policy changes. It passed on March 31st during the final week of the legislative session.
- **Solid Waste Trust Fund (H.B.956)** broadens the authorized uses of the Solid Waste Trust Fund to include comprehensive implementation and enforcement of solid waste management programs statewide. [Learn more.](#)



GRC will keep you posted on any developments.

Register Today for April 15th Glass Recycling Foundation Grant Webinar



To help applicants prepare for its upcoming grant cycle, the Glass Recycling Foundation (GRF) is hosting a **virtual info session on April 15 at 1pm EST**. This is your chance to get ahead before applications open on May 11th!

What You'll Learn at the Workshop:

- Overview of the 2026 GRF Grant Cycle
- Eligible projects and funding priorities
- Key dates and deadlines
- Evaluation criteria and what makes proposals stand out
- Tips to strengthen your application
- Live Q&A with GRF leadership

Eligible grant applicants include non-profits, municipalities, state or county governments, public waste management districts, or private industries with a public partner.

[Register Today for Webinar](#)

Foam Recycling Grants Deadline: April 17, 2026

The Foodservice Packaging Institute's Foam Recycling Coalition is offering a major opportunity to expand foam polystyrene recycling across the United States. Since its inception, the grant program has enabled over 15 million additional residents to recycle foam polystyrene like cups, egg cartons, takeout containers and packaging materials. Facility operators, non-profits and solid waste authorities are encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to help establish or enhance foam polystyrene recycling in their communities. Eligible entities must operate a material recovery facility, manage a residential curbside recycling program, or manage a drop-off or convenience site recycling program. Apply [here](#).

Case Study: Pitkin County, CO

Despite remote access, difficult terrain and limited space, the Pitkin County Solid Waste Center is rising to a mountainous waste challenge turning constraints into creativity and deploying cuttingedge diversion strategies that push the boundaries of what a rural mountain facility can do. [Watch video highlighting the program's keys to success.](#)

News: Quick Links to Recycling Articles

[Battery Recycling Legislation Addresses Safety](#) | Waste Advantage Magazine

[Beauty Routines Need a Recycling Re-Set](#) | HELLO!

[Mining Silver from Solar Panels](#) | PV-magazine.com

TRP Recycling in America: PET Update



In late March, The Recycling Partnership (TRP) held the 2nd in a series of webinars addressing PET recycling in the US. Panelists from across the PET value chain (APR, WM, and Republic Services) helped identify practical, achievable solutions that can lay the groundwork for long-term stability. The panel surfaced several clear takeaways:

- What's happening with PET isn't a failure of recycling—it's a failure of demand. The technology and infrastructure are in place, but the system depends on

manufacturers and brands buying rPET. As a result of weakened demand, seven of 30 PET recycling facilities in North America have closed, eliminating more than 25% of total recycling capacity.

- PET is the anchor of both economics and public trust in recycling. If PET recycling fails, materials beyond PET could end up in landfills and confidence in the entire U.S. system could be undermined. It's critical to protect it to ensure system resiliency.
- Clear commitments to improve PCR uptake can help restore PET recycling short-term—it's one of the fastest ways to stabilize recycler operations. Temporarily prioritizing domestic rPET in procurement decisions can help preserve operating capacity and skilled labor at U.S. facilities.
- Swift action and leadership is needed today to advance both policy and voluntary corporate responsibility measures. Policy-based incentives (ex. recycled content mandates) and financial mechanisms (ex. tax credits) can help support domestic recycling capacity, technology upgrades, and longterm viability.
- The challenges PET faces have broader implications for the entire U.S. recycling ecosystem. It's a serious situation, but solvable.

TRP invites all to continue to join them and the industry at this critical point in time to maintain forward progress and ensure a sustainable future for PET recycling. Learn more by accessing the presentations and recordings linked below.

[Access the Presentation Slides](#)

[Access the Recording](#)

[Resource Recycling's RPET Resource](#)

[Association of Plastic Recyclers' Resource](#)

Winners Announced for GRC's Art Contest

Thanks to all the students who submitted artwork for our annual art contest. The judges were extremely impressed with the artwork. We are pleased to announce the following winners by age category:

Age Category 5-7

1st Place, Cheyenne Ocasek, Home School

2nd Place, Snow Adams, Home School

Ages 8-10

1st Place Winner, Harshitha Senthil Selvan, Settles Bridge Elementary School

2nd Place Winner, Aarush Suhas, Mashburn Elementary

Ages 11-13

1st Place Winner, Minseong Kim, Duncan Creek Elementary School

2nd Place Winner, Anh Nguyen, Coleman Middle School

Ages 14-19

1st Place, Minseo Kim, Mill Creek High School

2nd Place, Chelyn Park, Dekalb School of the Arts

Winning artwork will be unveiled on GRC's social media and website during Earth Week! Be sure to check out the amazing artwork. Thanks to our members for promoting the contest across Georgia!

Calendar of Events

Be on the Lookout! Membership Renewals Coming May 1st!

April 13-16, 2026	ReMA Conference	Las Vegas, NV
April 21-23, 2026	Sustainable Packaging Conf./IMPACT Conf.	Nashville, TN
April 22, 2026	Earth Day	
April 30, 2026	GRC Earth Month Event	Sandy Springs, Georgia
May 3-9, 2026	ICAW 2026	
May 7-8, 2026	GA Composting Council Spring Training	Griffin, Georgia

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