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Georgia Recycling Coalition INC.

November 2026 Issue

Register Today for the Georgia Composting Council Annual Meeting & Tour

Join GCC for their Annual Meeting this fall, including a tour on November 11th. The 1 ½ day meeting includes a special guest keynote speaker, networking, updates on our progress, a service project in partnership with Georgia Recycling Coalition, and much more!



Come learn, connect, and celebrate the many ways compost can help build healthier soils and a more sustainable future! See **full agenda.**

Register Today!

Help GRC Recognize Veterans in the Recycling Industry

Each year, GRC highlights workers in the solid waste and recycling industry in Georgia who have served in our military. **If you would like to submit a coworker or volunteer for recognition on Veterans Day, please complete the form by November 9th.** If we recognized a veteran from your organization last year, please feel free to submit their information again. We would be honored to recognize them again. **Submit** the veteran's information today.

Composting Grant Announced - Apply Today!

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in collaboration with the **Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR)**, has launched a request for applications for its Education and Outreach for Residential Composting Programs Grants (RCP Grants) to increase participation in and improve residential composting programs. Grants range from $75,000 to $250,000. Applications are due February 12, 2027. **An informational webinar is scheduled for November 10, 2026 from 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. ET. Learn more** or **register for informational webinar**.

The Recycling Partnership Releases Second Installment of 2026 State of Recycling Report

Earlier this Fall, **The Recycling Partnership** released the second installment of its **2026 State of Recycling Report**, the nation's most comprehensive assessment of the U.S. residential recycling system. The report examines the

packaging and printed paper that U.S. households discard into both trash and recycling, revealing a material mix that is becoming lighter, more varied, and more operationally complex to manage.

What comes out of the home shapes everything that comes next for the U.S. residential recycling system. Understanding how the material mix is changing helps producers, policymakers, communities, processors, and recycling leaders prepare collection, processing, and end markets to recover more material and return it to productive use. **Read report.**

Congratulations to the 2026 Connie Burns Scholarship Winner



At its Summit, the Georgia Recycling Coalition presented the 2026 Connie Burns Scholarship to Corbin Frech, an undergraduate student at the University of North Georgia majoring in interdisciplinary studies concentrating on business and natural sciences.

Not only is Corbin balancing the demands of college, but he is also making a tangible impact on Georgia's environment as a recycling attendant with Forsyth County Solid Waste & Recycling. His dedication to recycling and waste reduction demonstrates a deep commitment to environmental stewardship. We are proud to support his educational journey as he shapes a more sustainable future!

Corbin added, “As the recipient of the Connie Burns Scholarship, I have been provided utmost certainty that my career choice to pursue recycling is the right one for me. The amazing opportunity to network with others in the recycling industry, and learn from them, will most assuredly support my ability to keep America beautiful. As a county employee in the recycling and solid waste department, I spend much of my time at work cleaning up spills, moving materials from the wrong container to the right one,and trying to stop customers from putting contaminants into the containers. I have also visited the processing facility where we take our recyclable materials, and it is astounding how much infrastructure and labor it takes to sort materials that were already meant to be sorted. I hope that one day I can impose stricter guidelines for recycling centers so fewer contaminants make their way through the industry's supply chain.”

Congrats to Corbin! We wish him continued success.

Sanjurjo Receives Inaugural Hardegree Scholarship

Congratulations to the 2026 Gloria Hardegree Scholarship Recipient Colleen Sanjurjo with Keep North Fulton Beautiful! Colleen received a free registration to the 2026 Summit & Annual Meeting in Augusta. "I'm so grateful for this scholarship! I'm excited to come back to a conference full of people I've gotten to know this past year, can call on anytime, and we'll all continue to do



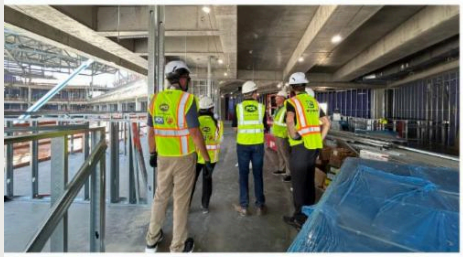
great work together across Georgia for a long time to come," remarked Colleen.

The Gloria Hardegree Scholarship provides educational and professional development opportunities for local recycling coordinators across Georgia and specifically provides funds for recipients to attend GRC conferences and events to learn and be inspired.

GRC Summit Highlights

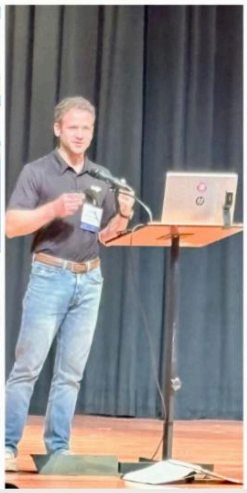
Thanks to everyone who attended our Summit & Annual Meeting in Augusta to connect, celebrate our 35th Anniversary, and hear recycling professionals discuss how the latest technologies are providing real-time insights about recycling; scaling waste audits with AI; college sustainability initiatives; building a better recycling program; impacts of sustainability & EPR on Packaging; managing mismanaged waste; recycling megatrends; EPD Solid Waste Characterization Study results; and sports and special event recycling. Special appreciation to our speakers, sponsors and exhibitors.


The Eagle Has Landed
A Partnership with Laurens County SWMA & Georgia Southern

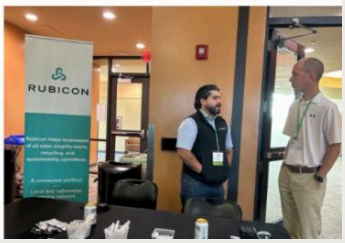
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Local Policy Toolkit Now Available

The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) has released its **Waste Less, Feed More: A Local Food Waste Policy Toolkit,** a resource for cities and counties outlining how to use local policy to reduce wasted food and strengthen recovery systems. **Read the full article** from BioCycle.

Calendar of Events

NOV 11-13	GCC Annual Meeting & Tour Griffin, Georgia
FEB 1-4	USCC 35th Annual Compost Conference Jacksonville, Florida
MAR 1-3	Plastics Recycling Conference / Resource Recycling Conference / Textile Recovery Summit National Harbor, Maryland
MAY 3-6	WasteExpo Las Vegas, Nevada

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