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Georgia Recycling Coalition INC.

October 2026 Issue



View Updated Schedule of Events & Register Today

Conference Schedule At-A-Glance: Take a Look at the Ideas, People, and Practical Sessions Shaping Recycling

From Sustainability to Stuckey's: The Business of Second Chances



Stephanie Stuckey
Stuckey's

Opening keynote session features Georgia native Stephanie Stuckey sharing her remarkable journey from spearheading sustainability initiatives with the City of Atlanta to facing the unexpected challenges of reinventing an iconic brand from the 1930s. As Chief Growth Officer of Stuckey's, she will discuss how she applies sustainability concepts in running the business from minimizing water consumption to supporting local agriculture and finds value in what others overlook.

Recycling Technologies & Advancements



Nikhil Balachandran
Zabble



Josh Mastromatto
Rego

Session will highlight how aligning policy goals with modern tools is transforming waste management from reactive to a proactive, measurable, and community-centered framework and how businesses, institutions, and communities are using everyday photographs and AI-powered analysis to identify material composition, contamination, and operational improvement opportunities.

Behind the Bin: Turning Sustainability Goals into Action at Live Events



Phoebe Breckenridge
Oak View Group



Hunter Scully
Oak View Group

What does it take to turn sustainability goals into working programs at a busy sports or live event venue? Join our dynamic closing keynote speakers as they share a behind-the-scenes look at the operational challenges and partnership opportunities involved in waste reduction and recycling, drawing on their work with venues in Georgia and across the country.

Education & Engagement on College Campuses

Session will explore the circular economy of research laboratories, share hands-on approaches to foster growth with recycling and sustainability initiatives, and discuss how to create systems that enhance circularity on campus and beyond.



Star Scott
UGA



Dinetria Wilson
GA State University



Mason Towe
UGA

From Pitch to Planet: Decatur's Sustainable Soccer Stories



Gael Doyle
City of Decatur



Allison Ericson
City of Decatur

Hear insights into the City of Decatur's successes & challenges, from its role in Decatur FC's zero waste initiatives to the recent and more complex opportunity to provide recycling at the Decatur WatchFest '26, the City's 34-day celebration of the FIFA World Cup.

Recycling Megatrends in the US and Georgia

Session will dive into the history and future of recycling in the US and GA, highlighting key trends and occurrences over the last fifty years from legislative and societal changes to collection approaches and MRF processing as well as global events and market developments impacting recycling.



Bill Moore
Moore & Associates

Impacts of Sustainability & EPR on Packaging

Session will take a closer look at how packaging is evolving to meet goals such as recyclability, recycled content, reusability, and source reduction.



Susan Cornish
Insight + Action

The Eagle Has Landed: Food Residuals Composting Program in Rural Georgia



Madison Crockett
Georgia Southern University



Michael Snipes
Laurens County Solid Waste Management

Session will highlight the innovative partnership between Georgia Southern University and the Laurens County Solid Waste Management Authority to compost food residuals from a university campus.

Georgia Solid Waste Characterization Study Results

Session will provide an high-level overview of the recently conducted Solid Waste Characterization Study in Georgia as well as highlights from the Post-Consumer Materials Management Plan. The presentation will feature an overview of the findings for GA's planning regions and local governments and touch on next steps for the second round of the study.



Sarah Knapp
GA EPD



Lena Sassone
GA EPD

Managing Mismanaged Waste: Developing Strategies to Reduce and Prevent Litter and Increase Recovery of Recyclables



Natalie Johnston-Russell
Keep Georgia Beautiful



Veronica Roof
HDR

This interactive session will highlight results of the 2026 Keep America Beautiful National Litter Study, a scientific research of the quantity, product types, and sources of litter in the country. Gain insights into programs in Georgia and nationally that successfully reduced litter and increased recycling of littered materials.

Building a Better Recycling Program

From building an equitable glass recycling network to demonstrating how communities can pair behind-the-scenes infrastructure improvements with highly visible outreach to build trust and enthusiasm for recycling, these local government recycling experts will share how they are building better recycling programs in Georgia.



Mendie White
Gwinnett County



Ryan Davis
Gwinnett County



Amy Hartline
Dalton-Whitfield SW Authority

Annual Meeting & Call for Nominations for 2027-2029 GRC Board of Directors

GRC's Annual Meeting will be held at 8:30 am on October 15th at The Kroc Center. In addition, GRC is seeking candidates committed to providing time and

resources toward governing our Coalition. According to the GRC by-laws, all Directors must be voting members in good standing at the time of the election and during tenure of office. Only one employee of a particular business entity or government agency may be a Director at any given time, unless otherwise provided by the Board.

Directors will be elected for three (3) year terms and can serve only two (2) consecutive terms. Directors will be elected at the GRC annual business meeting in October. The term of office for new directors will begin January 1, 2027.

Interested in applying? Email **info@georgiarecycles.org** for more information by October 9th.

Calendar of Events

OCT 14-15	**GRC Summit & Annual Meeting** **Augusta, GA**
NOV 11-13	**GCC Annual Meeting & Tour** **Griffin, Georgia**
FEB 1-4	**USCC 35th Annual Compost Conference** **Jacksonville, Florida**

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- Greif Recycling
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- Pratt Industries
- Shaw Industries Group
- Sibelco
- Stuckey's
- Waste Eliminator

SUSTAINER LEVEL

- ABC Recycling Group
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- PepsiCo
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- Smurfit Westrock
- Waste Pro
- Waste Wiz Consulting
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Mason Towe, Secretary
University of Georgia Office of Sustainability

Kenny Woodard
Pickens County

Denise Young
Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division

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