



Georgia Glass Recycling Stakeholders Gather to Identify Solutions

Summit Highlights Importance of Collaborating Around Recycling Glass

ATLANTA, GA, July 28, 2016 – The Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), the Georgia Recycling Coalition and the Glass Recycling Coalition convened stakeholder groups today for a Georgia Glass Recycling Summit in Macon.

Attendees listened to panelists representing municipalities, hauling and recycling companies, end market and glass customers. Speakers and presenters provided their unique perspectives on the opportunities, challenges and potential paths forward for recycling glass in Georgia.

The Glass Summit was the first of its kind, and demonstrated that collaboration is key when it comes to finding ways to make glass recycling work throughout the state. Individuals representing nearly 30 municipal, county and city recycling and solid waste programs were among the nearly 80 Summit attendees.

“It’s critical that we have everyone at the table to find solutions. We know that glass recycling can be successful if we have partners that are invested in making it work,” said Gloria Hardegree, executive director of the Georgia Recycling Coalition.

Recycling glass has many benefits: it saves natural resources and energy, helps improve air quality and supports local jobs and American manufacturing. The City of Decatur is an example of a Georgia municipality leading the way in keeping glass in the recycling stream. In conjunction with the City of Decatur, the stakeholders explored various options to return recycled glass to its highest use as bottles, jars, and fiberglass wherever possible.

“We know that people want to recycle glass and say it is important to recycle materials rather than send them to the landfill,” said Lynn Bragg, president of GPI. “Georgia should be one of the strongest markets for recycled glass with two significant glass container manufacturers and two glass processing facilities. It’s great to see so many partners at the table working together to give residents what they want – solutions to keep glass in the recycling stream.”

“As the second largest user of glass cullet in the United States, fiber glass manufacturers, with three plants in Georgia, are strong advocates of preserving and protecting the glass cullet supply throughout the state of Georgia,” added Angus Crane with the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA).

As a result of the summit, the group decided to pursue several next steps:

- The glass value chain, especially the markets and manufacturers, should begin direct contact with policy and decision makers.
- A workshop to explore regional business plans and creative financing strategies for MRF glass separating equipment.
- Bring together local citizen groups to reach out to community-level recycling programs to maintain/improve glass recycling opportunities.
- Open and transparent communication with citizens about glass recycling and the strong demand for recycled glass in Georgia.



- Continue the conversation at upcoming forums, including the Georgia Recycling Coalition Annual Conference in September.

For more information on the benefits of using recycled glass in the manufacturing process, please visit www.gpi.org.

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About the Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC)

The Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to complement and coordinate activities relative to recycling, to foster communications among professionals, organizations, government agencies and individuals, and to promote and enhance reduction and recycling programs throughout the state.

About the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)

The Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) is the trade association representing the North American glass container industry. Through GPI, glass container manufacturers speak with one voice to advocate industry standards, promote sound environmental policies and educate packaging professionals. GPI member companies manufacture glass containers for food, beverage, cosmetic and many other products. GPI also has associate members that represent a broad range of suppliers and closure manufacturers.

About the Glass Recycling Coalition (GRC)

The Glass Recycling Coalition (GRC) brings together a diverse membership of more than 25 companies and organizations representing glass manufacturers, haulers, processors, material recovery facility, brands that use glass to showcase their products, capital markets and end-markets to make glass recycling work. Established in April 2016, GRC is a non-competitive coalition of U.S. value chain members involved in glass recycling and dedicated to supporting the most accessible and viable glass recovery and recycling options for consumers. The coalition encourages financially sustainable mechanisms that produce quality cullet and strengthen glass markets. For more information, contact msegundo@recycle.com.