Welcome to GRC's monthly Green Sheet Electronic Update! We hope you find the information helpful.

Please send us releases, captioned photos and other great news that you want to share with the membership; email us at garecycles@mindspring.com

What Does Recycling Add to Georgia's Economy?

At our 4th Quarter meeting in Dalton, GA this month, Abby Goldsmith reported on economic factors based on data pulled from our Measure Georgia system for 2015. The conclusions below represent the need for more participation by local governments, processors and end-user manufacturers in this program. It's easy, proprietary, free except for a few minutes of staff time either monthly or quarterly, and reported only in aggregate tons by GRC. And we can provide you with tech assistance via the contractor for Re-TRAC, the system into which we built the Measure Georgia templates. This is important to our relevance in the state, region and nation—we know we have a robust industry in Georgia—we just need to back it up with strong metrics. If you are a local government, MRF/processor, or end user manufacturer in Georgia, contact us to get on board: garecycles@mindspring.com

Georgia does not have the data to fully estimate the impact of recycling on the State economy

Using factors from elsewhere, based on tons entered into Measure Georgia in 2015, recycling created 3,200 more jobs than if same tonnage was disposed

When indirect and induced effects are considered, this is more than 7,600 additional jobs

If all collectors, processors, and end users entered tonnage into Measure Georgia, estimate:

- Over 29,000 added jobs by recycling in the State
- With $15 to $20 billion impact on State economy

4th Quarter Meeting Re-cap

On December 8th, GRC held its final meeting of the year with tours of J&J Flooring, and Shaw's Reclaim to Energy facility followed by a luncheon program at the Mohawk Light Lab. It was a great day of learning more about the flooring industry's role in zero waste, higher beneficial use and the economic impact of recycling in Georgia. And to top it off, Tom Mills conducted a make and take compost workshop filled with tips...
Recycling Partnership Releases Curbside Recycling Study

The 2016 State of Curbside Report, released Tuesday, Dec. 13, was written by the nonprofit group The Recycling Partnership with grant funding from the U.S. EPA. The project’s lead researcher was Cody Marshall of The Recycling Partnership (see the related question-and-answer piece with Marshall). He and other experts gathered data on recycling programs in 465 cities across the U.S., making sure to include the 250 most-populous cities and each state capital. In all, the communities represent 29 percent of the homes in the U.S. that could potentially receive curbside recycling service.
Their report points to steps communities can take that are likely to significantly increase recycling weights. But the report also demonstrates that other oft-discussed strategies, such as collecting recycling on a weekly basis, may not boost recycling weights all that much.

Tis the Season to Donate!

Cleaning out the closets this season to make room for new things coming your way? Don’t forget to donate clothes and household items for a good cause: helping those with kidney disease. American Kidney Services offers home pickup and drop off opportunities. AKS is a local, non-profit Atlanta charity that strives to help kidney disease sufferers who are in financial need. In conjunction with American Kidney Fund, they take your used clothing donations and used household goods and turn them into direct monetary support for patients struggling to pay bills and rent because the cost of their medical care.

"American Kidney Services (AKS) has been at CHaRM recycling facility since April 2, 2015. As a recycling facility it's very important to provide as many recycling opportunities as possible as we strive for zero waste. Partnering with AKS was a perfect fit and our customers love the convenience it provides", said Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe, Executive Director of Live Thrive that operates the Atlanta CHaRM. For more info, visit http://www.akspickup.org/

Global Plastics Industries Join Hands to Combat Marine Litter

On December 12th seven new signatories were added to the Declaration of the Global Plastics Associations for Solutions on Marine Litter, or the Joint Declaration. "Plastic producers from around the world are coming together to keep used plastic out of the environment, and to further improve the sustainability of these energy and resource efficient materials", said Callum Chen, Secretary General of the Asia Plastics Forum. "Together, as a united, global industry, we’re involved in hundreds of marine litter prevention programs in all regions of the globe," added Chen. "But there is still much to do. Growing our ranks helps further grow our work."
The Global Declaration was launched in March 2011 at the 5th International Marine Debris Conference. To date, the Declaration has been signed by 69 plastics associations from regions across the globe. Recognizing their important role in fighting marine litter, these plastics associations have launched and are supporting projects in six key areas aimed at contributing to sustainable solutions. The six focus areas of the Global Declaration are education, research, public policy, sharing best practices, plastics recycling and recovery, and plastic pellet containment. In May, leaders from plastics organizations across the globe announced that there were approximately 260 projects planned, underway or completed.

Whatever You Celebrate This Season, do it with joy, peace and love...Happy Holidays, Season’s Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, Happy Kwanza, Joy to the World, and the best for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Thank you for your continued support of our great state recycling organization!

Sincerely,

Gloria Hardegree
Georgia Recycling Coalition