

# Georgia Recycles

Industry News	pg. 6
Resources	pg. 9
Conference Re-Cap	pg. 5
Compost Row	pg. 11

Volume 21 Issue 3

The Georgia Recycling Coalition Newsletter

Fall 2017

## *quest FOR quality*



The **Green Fence** launched by the Chinese government in 2013, was an initiative designed to ensure that bales of imported recyclables, including paper and plastics, contained those recyclables and no garbage or other materials. This summer (2017), the Chinese government addressed the issues more seriously with a new policy called **National Sword**.

With short notice to US recyclers of the new restrictions, along with lack of clarity and an unreasonable standard of no more than 0.3 percent of contaminants, the industry is struggling to meet the new requirements. The Chinese government believes they are being sent too much contamination and they plan to stop that. This is reason to be concerned as China imports close to 30% of the paper collected for recycling in the US, along with a significant volume of plastics.

What can the recycling industry do now to resolve some of these issues? **Collectors and local governments must increase curbside education and enforcement for cleaner materials going to MRFs. Processors will need to be more diligent in sorting and prepping materials for marketing. And the industry will once again need to consider more aggressive domestic market development.** Depending on export rather than growing our own infrastructure may need to curtailed to a large extent over the long term.

More than ever, **QUALITY** of recovered materials is our highest level challenge. Even with many educational efforts to reduce contamination over the past decade, we are not adequately lowering the levels of cords, food, film, hoses, batteries, toys, chairs and much more landing in recycling bins and carts. Higher quality standards will be the norm going forward; it's time to communicate relentlessly with the community on the importance of generating a marketable commodity.

So, how to accomplish this pivotal change in reducing contamination?

- Check the Resources page of this newsletter for info provided by the Recycling Partnership and the Recycle Terms and Tools created by More Recycling/American Chemistry Council
- Stress the meaning of recycling vs. reuse vs. proper disposal
- Concentrate on the positive of materials that have high value and should go into the cart; consider offering alternatives for recovery of hard to recycle or re-use items
- Focus your educational efforts on commodities markets (and we have many of these in Georgia); i.e. 15 paper mills using recovered materials; one of the largest aluminum recycling companies in the world; six manufacturers using recycled glass.
- Look for ways to increase participation and access for recycling “away from home” for easy to recycle items like aluminum & steel cans, corrugated boxes and PET bottles
- Investigate resources and vendors to assist with glass drop off options
- Use videos of MRF operations to explain the processing phase of recycling and how contaminants damage equipment and cause high levels of landfilled residuals
- Consider enforcement by tagging those who continually add errant materials to carts (see Feet on the Streets efforts on pg. 8 )
- For the meantime, don't consider adding new materials—except possibly cartons
- Communicate regularly with the processor of your material for feedback and issues

# President's Column

Fall 2017



As we all know, the holidays are the season of giving thanks, a time to reflect on what and who we are grateful for. It's a time to look beyond the hard times and the disappointments and focus on the positive. Unfortunately, one doesn't need to look hard to see the recycling industry has seen its share of tough times. It wasn't that long ago, the infamous Garbage Barge out of Islip, NY made all the headlines. Then came the Green Fence and now the China Sword seeks to destroy the efforts dedicated recyclers across the country strive for every day.

This is why organizations like the Georgia Recycling Coalition are so important. GRC members are on the front lines every day fighting alongside MRF's, municipalities, governments and trade associations to address contamination, to address stronger markets and to address better communication. There is no better resource to provide information, share best practices and promote the message that recycling is key to a better environment and a better economy.

With campaigns such as the "I'M IN, ARE YOU?", GRC was the first organization to explore the idea that one person can make a difference. The campaign proclaimed that every homeowner, every business owner and every student can make a difference by joining the campaign and doing their part.

GRC also serves as a library of resources. It provides networking and educational sessions, informational conferences and meetings and unparalleled opportunities for businesses and municipalities to grow their programs. GRC members get involved, stay involved and reach out to others to get involved.

*If you are grateful for GRC and the opportunity to work and grow in an industry that allows you to leave the world a better place, then join us on the front lines. Be a part of the crusade and help make Georgia a cleaner and greener place to live. I'M IN, ARE YOU?*

Marla Prince  
2017 GRC President

The Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that was formed to complement and coordinate the activities of professionals, organizations, government agencies and individuals related to recycling; to foster communications among those groups; to promote sustainable reduction and recycling programs; and to provide a forum to and from which its membership may enhance recycling efforts in Georgia.

## GRC 2017 Board of Directors

**Kevin Barkley**  
Macon Consolidated Government

**Bruce Battle**  
Burton Energy

**Ralph Brooks**  
Laurens County

**Karen Byrd Wilson, Secretary**  
Caraustar Recycling

**Cale Caudell, Vice President**  
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ERTH Products

**Marla Prince, President**  
Waste Management

**Kathy Reed**  
Keep North Fulton Beautiful

**Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe**  
Live Thrive

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

**LuAnn Chambers**  
Retired

**Hazel Mobley**  
Retired

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**Lynn Cobb**  
Keep Georgia Beautiful

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Retired

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 6-7, 2017

GA SWANA Fall Conference

Jekyll Island Club, GA

January 22-25, 2018

USCC Conference

Atlanta, GA

February 27-March 1, 2018

SERDC Measurement Matters Summit

Chattanooga, TN

March 4-7, 2018

SE Recycling Conference

Orlando, FL

March 12-14, 2018

Greenprints Conference

Atlanta, GA

March 19-22, 2018

Carolina Recycling Assoc. Conference

Cherokee, NC

March 26-28, 2018

AGLANTA Conference

Atlanta, GA

# GRC in the News

## Board Election Results

Congratulations to returning board members: **Kevin Barkley**, Macon Bibb Consolidated Government; Joe Dunlop, Athens-Clarke Co Recycling Div. and **Kathy Reed**, Keep North Fulton Beautiful. All three were elected to serve a 2nd term.

Also welcome newly elected board members: **Emily Archer**, Toter LLC and **Susan Wood**, Georgia EPD. They take office January 1st for a three year term. Thanks new and returning board members for your service, support and commitment to GRC and its programs.

## Spotlight on Board Members

**Peggy Whitlow Ratcliffe** is the Founder and Executive Director of Live Thrive Atlanta. Peggy started Live Thrive with organized community events to collect recyclable and household hazardous items that could not be left outside of homes for curbside pick-up. In 2010 Peggy organized the City of Atlanta's first household hazardous waste collection with the support of City Councilwoman Carla Smith. The event lasted four hours and served 650 attendees. These isolated collection events increased awareness about proper disposal but only made a small dent in the amount of household pollutants threatening our water system and overall health. Peggy with the support of the Live Thrive board of directors realized that metro Atlanta needed to have a permanent drop off facility that would be considerably more cost-effective and efficient and can better educate and engage metro Atlanta's growing population. Live Thrive began working with Council Members Carla Smith and Alex Wan to secure a permanent waste diversion site and in November 2014, Council Members Smith and Wan sponsored the Atlanta City Council's resolution for the **Center for Hard to Recycle Materials**, CHaRM, 1110 Hill Street in Southeast Atlanta. The grand opening for CHaRM, Atlanta's first drop-off facility for single stream recycling, household hazardous waste and bulky trash was held in April 2015. To date, CHaRM has diverted over 2000 tons harmful items that are not accepted in the current curbside recycling program. She has served on the GRC board for 3 years and works on the Communications committee.



## New Member Spotlight



A new PET processing facility based in Macon, Georgia; A1 Polymer Recycling is looking to expand into the Recycling Industry. Founded in 2015, A1 Polymer has been focusing on developing their processing capabilities and have begun processing as of Q2 2017. A1 Polymer is seeking to develop long term relationships with various PET manufacturers within Georgia and neighboring states to aid in salvaging along with handling or destruction of post-industrial PET scrap and quality control rejected materials. Their aim is to provide quality recycled PET to the market and end users along with prompt reliable full service recycling solutions to blow molding, injection molding, and thermoforming companies. The Macon based facility primarily handles PET bottles and preforms with the capabilities to be able to process upwards of a million pounds of PET on a monthly basis. The facility has robust processing capabilities including handling post-industrial and post-consumer PET, automated polymer and color sorting, granulation, de-dusting & label removal, washing capabilities, as well as RPET and PET reclamation services. A1 Polymer recycling is also available to those in need of quality tolling services regarding their PET scrap materials, and contaminated RPET materials. "We stand behind our materials, services, and our partners" said Gaurav Patel, CEO of A1 Polymer Recycling.

Contact Guarev Patel:

[A1PolymerRecycling@gmail.com](mailto:A1PolymerRecycling@gmail.com) • M: 229-296-1996



# Welcome New Members

## Patron

Amerisouth Recycling - Steve Zold

## Business

Johns Logistics LLC - John Hong

A1 Polymer Recycling LLC - Gaurav Patel

## Individual

Jaime Dice - Dice Writing

David Duke - Waste Industries

Amanda Renova - Waste Industries

Maggie McSweeney - Waste Industries

## Associate

Marion Reader - Gwinnett Co. Solid Waste

Melanie Miller - Gwinnett Co. Solid Waste

Jeff Lipscomb - Pratt Industries

Marie Johnson - Amerisouth

Natasha Dyer  
City of Atl Mayors Office Resilience

Kyle McGee  
Columbus Consolidated Government

# GRC SPONSORS - 2017-2018

## PARTNERS

Carustar Recycling

Coca-Cola Company

Georgia Beverage Association

Mohawk Group

Novelis, Inc.

Pratt Industries

Shaw Industries Group, Inc.

## SUSTAINERS

American Chemistry Council-Plastics Div.

GA Dept. of Community Affairs

PepsiCo, Inc.

Rubicon Global

WestRock Recycling

Waste Pro

## Patrons

Advanced Disposal

Amerisouth Recycling

Cox Enterprises

Cycle Tex, Inc.

Delta Air Lines

No. American Insulation Manufacturers Assoc.

Pull-A-Part, LLC

Republic Services

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

The Turner Foundation

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

The Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) is offering advertising in its quarterly newsletter. What better way to get the word out on what your organization is offering to the waste reduction and recycling community? Your ad will be seen by all GRC members and readers of the printed newsletter.

Take a look at our rates, consider the benefits, and give us a call!

### RATES:

Size:	Cost
Business Card	\$100
1/6 page	\$200
1/4 page	\$300
1/2 page	\$400
Full page	\$600



**Georgia  
Recycling  
Coalition**<sup>INC</sup>

### DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE:

- 25% discount for all GRC members
- 25% discount to non-members who advertise in 4 consecutive issues
- 50% discount to GRC members who advertise in 4 consecutive issues

**GRC MEMBERS RECEIVE  
ADVERTISING DISCOUNTS!**

For more info on placing an advertisement or for membership information call 404-634-3095.

# Conference Re-Cap



## 2017 Spirit of the Green

GRC honored six entities at its 26th annual conference in St. Simon's Island, Georgia on September 19, 2017. The **Spirit of Green Awards** is in its eleventh year of annually recognizing excellence in recycling and waste reduction in Georgia. The 2017 categories/winners include:

- **Environmental Stewardship ●  
Keep Carroll Beautiful**

Individual or Organization whose actions sustain the recycling industry's viability

- **Outstanding Government/Community Program ●  
Macon Bibb Consolidated Government  
City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Resilience**

Local programs that exemplify comprehensive and sustainable components and practices in recycling and waste reduction

- **Outstanding Institutional Program ●  
Georgia World Congress Center**

Entities that exemplify comprehensive and sustainable components and practices in recycling and waste reduction

- **New Member of the Year ●  
Ed Zito, American Kidney Services**

"Rookie of the year" new member who has brought leadership & innovation to the organization

- **Innovation Award ●  
CHaRM Athens-Clarke County**

Program or Individual developing original, unique, and potentially model programs or projects

## Connie Burns 2017 Scholarship Winner

Jake Hager of Berry College in Rome, GA was awarded the 2017 \$1000 scholarship and a trip to the 26th Annual Conference. Here is Jake's message: "I am grateful to be the 2017 recipient of the Georgia Recycling Coalition's



Connie Burns Scholarship. Over the last three years I have been delighted to be pursuing my interests in the area of Environmental Science at Berry College. I have a particular passion for community environmental relations and sustainability. The Connie Burns Scholarship will assist me with expenses related to my senior year at Berry College, along with attending the 26th Annual Georgia Recycling Coalition Conference. This occasion affords me the immense opportunity to meet wonderful people from around the state of Georgia that have been devoted to helping our state promote recycling, reduce waste production, and develop a more sustainable mindset within the state of Georgia. Thank you very much for this great opportunity, I am honored to represent Connie Burns' legacy."



Recognizing Partner Level Supporter Pratt Recycling



Sessions covered wide and varied topics



CHaRM Athens Clarke wins  
Spirit of Green Award



The "skeet squad"  
Taking Aim...literally!

# Industry News

## COX Updates Zero Waste Status



**Cox Conserves**

CELEBRATING **10 YEARS**

Atlanta—Eight corporate Cox locations have achieved zero-waste-to-landfill status. The announcement was timed to coincide with **America Recycles Day**, Nov. 15.

These eight locations join the **seven Cox locations** that achieved the zero-waste-to-landfill status in 2016. To date, the 15 locations have maintained a 90 percent, or better, diversion of waste from landfill.

**Cox Conserves**, the company's national sustainability program, is celebrating its 10th anniversary of focusing on waste management and carbon and water conservation. The program engages each of the company's major divisions: Cox Communications, Cox Automotive and Cox Media Group.

As a part of the Cox Conserves initiative, the company adopted a goal of achieving zero waste to landfill by 2024. The Cox Conserves recycling and waste diversion team has worked with individual locations to streamline operations, increase diversion and reduce overall waste to reach zero waste to landfill and to reduce the company's environmental impact.

## Measurement Matters



### Summit

Feb 27-March 1, 2018

Chattanooga, TN

To manage effectively our resources, efforts, and outcomes; solid waste managers and industry leaders need to speak the same language about the same materials. The Measurement Matters Summit is convening in Chattanooga to bring the top leaders and professionals in solid waste management, trade organizations, and industry to break new ground in understanding and defining measurement in materials management.

Go to [www.measurementmatters.net](http://www.measurementmatters.net) for more information or email [measurement@serd.org](mailto:measurement@serd.org) for more information on sponsorships.

## Recycling Reinvigorated!

**Recycle Plastic Bags, Wraps and Other Film Packaging**



During challenging economic times for recycling, continuing to recycle your plastic bags, wraps and film packaging becomes more important than ever. High-quality recycled plastic film—clean, dry, free of crumbs and other food residue—does have domestic end markets. And to make sure it has a home after it's been recycled, it's important for companies to use recycled plastic film in their products or packaging.

Is your local grocery store going above and beyond when it comes to plastic film recycling collection? What about your local community and plastic film recycling education? Let us know! Email us at [help@plasticfilmrecycling.org](mailto:help@plasticfilmrecycling.org).

Quote from an End-User

“Minimizing contamination in the recycling stream is critical for high-value end users.” - Derrick Lawrence, Director of Packaging, Seventh Generation

## Industry News (con't)

### ISRI Releases Economic/Environmental Impact Study Results

ISRI released a study highlighting the significant economic and environmental impact of the U.S. scrap recycling industry. The study, commissioned by ISRI and undertaken by John Dunham and Associates, looks at different kinds of economic activity – jobs and exports – and both direct and indirect economic impacts at the national, state, and congressional district levels.

The economic analysis shows that the U.S. scrap recycling industry is a major economic engine powerful enough to create 534,506 jobs and generate \$13.2 billion in tax revenues for governments across the country, all while making the old new again and helping to protect the earth's air, water, and land for future generations. The U.S. scrap recycling industry is particularly important because its operations are so widespread. In fact, the total economic activity generated by scrap recycling in the United States is \$117 billion

<http://www.isri.org/policy-regulations/economy#.WhR8S8Lru2w>



Bike Athens in Action at the Fix-It Clinic as part of the Athens-Clarke ARD week; see page 8 for details.

### National Sword Update



The Chinese government has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its intent to adopt new standards for the allowable contaminants thresholds for scrap imports.

The Chinese government notified the WTO Nov. 15 of its intent to adopt Environmental Protection Control Standards for Imported Solid Wastes as Raw Materials (GB 16487.2-13), which set the allowable contaminants thresholds for scrap imports, according to ISRI. The initial set of draft standards China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) issued in August of this year proposed a 0.3 percent limit for "carried wastes" across all secondary commodities.

In its Nov. 15 filing with the WTO, China proposed the following standards for contamination, which would apply beginning March 1, 2018:

- smelt slag, 0.5 percent;
- wood, 0.5 percent;
- paper, 0.5 percent;
- ferrous, 0.5 percent;
- nonferrous, 1 percent;
- electric motors, 0.5 percent;
- wires and cables, 0.5 percent;



China imports close to 30% of the paper collected for recycling in the U.S.

# Spotlight on Programs

## When Recycling Scores, the Community Wins!

On November 15, America Recycles Day, a full page ad was placed in the Atlanta Journal Constitution to promote the **Recycle For Good** partnership. Novelis, Inc, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, The Arthur Blank Foundation and Atlanta Habitat for Humanity collect aluminum bottles and cans at the stadium with proceeds going to purchase materials to build a house for a working family.



ALSO, on that day it was announced that **Mercedes-Benz Stadium** was recognized with **LEED Platinum certification**. Created by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system. Home to the NFL's Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United of MLS and many of the world's top sports and entertainment events, Mercedes-Benz Stadium is the first professional sports stadium in the world to achieve LEED Platinum Certification and has obtained more points than any other sports facility in the world with 88 total points. Recycling and composting are high priorities at the stadium.

## "Feet on the Streets": Efforts to Fight Contamination

This summer, The Recycling Partnership launched its latest contamination reduction pilot in Atlanta with a new "Feet on the Street" campaign along four recycling routes. The eight-week program was sponsored by a grant from the national nonprofit.



It began by training city employees who would be inspecting residential recycling carts, noting the amount and type of contamination, and tagging any problem carts with "oops" tags, including information on what to fix. Plastic bags are the city's top priority, along with food, liquids, electronics and other items that are unwelcome at the local material recovery facility operated by Pratt Industries. All of this data was recorded using the Rubicon Global app as part of a separate and ongoing technology pilot with the city.

Cascadia Consulting Group provided a new level of data analysis with detailed before-and-after waste characterization studies to track the pilot's effectiveness. Based on these results, Atlanta then plans to roll out a citywide campaign about contamination and participation in 2018. The project took place on four of the City's recycling routes including six diverse neighborhoods. The Department of Public Works and Mayor's Office of Resilience worked to help get the word out to these communities about the project in an effort to prepare and educate residents about proper recycling.

## Athens GA gets busy for 21st Annual America Recycles Day

Athens GA played a packed set list for America Recycles Day, from organics recovery to highlighting a local manufacturer using recovered aluminum. Athens-Clarke County's Recycling Division made sure to address reuse and illegal dumping issues too.

By collecting scrap tires all week at two locations for no cost, ACC Recycling leveraged excitement around ARD with ongoing efforts to combat illegal dumping. The amnesty was also promoted by Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, part of the ACC Recycling Division. Because the processing costs are covered through the Solid Waste Trust Fund, this event was open to the general public in the region.

And new for 2017, ACC Recycling added a bulky scrap drop-off amnesty event at the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM.) Ever seen a couch at a recycling drop-off site? We have! So this year we offered collection of bulky scrap for ACC residents. Early indications are we'll do it again as a single-day event. With minimal promotion, residents delivered approx. 40 cubic yards of brown goods (furniture, carpet, cabinets/shelving) and 30 yards of white goods (large appliances and scrap metal.)

A popular Fix-It Clinic highlighted the importance of reuse – living in a throw-away society doesn't mean you have to everything 'away'! Residents brought appliances, clothing, bicycles and small equipment to the CHaRM. Volunteers from area non-profits joined staff to help squeeze more life from everyday items.

ACC Recycling's in-house musician Mason Towe put together an evening of activity around a film screening of the documentary 'Landfillharmonic,' which chronicles a group of Paraguay students who build their own instruments from material recovered from a local landfill. The event highlighted Read for Recycling Week, and included a reading of 'Ada's Violin,' a children's book accompanying Landfillharmonic.

The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACC) requires every department to appoint a recycling coordinator to serve as a liaison between the Recycling Division. Many of these have become local recycling experts within their departments, fielding questions from the ever – popular 'Hey is this \_\_\_\_\_ recyclable?' to maintaining hard-to-recycle stations and delivering the material to the CHaRM.

ACC Recycling's Sustainable Industry Roundtable group gathered at Accurus Aerospace Corporation for its quarterly meeting. Attendees watched as huge billets of gleaming aluminum were machined into structural components for aircraft. Using various amounts of recycled content, Accurus provides approximately 200 jobs building military and civilian aircraft.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful used its community connections, tools from its Community Toolshed program, and scrap pallets (Thanks Eaton Corporation!) to build compost bins. University of Georgia volunteers spent a morning at CHaRM assembling compost bins for placement at each Clarke County middle school. Once installed these will divert food and garden scraps to beneficial reuse on the school grounds or back into the garden – all while providing countless teachable moments for students.

By leveraging volunteers, existing programs and funding with external funding and program promotion, ACC Recycling always works to maximize our outreach during America Recycles Week. For this 21st Annual ARD in Athens, we did it again!

# Resources

## Recycle More Plastic with Terms & Tools Resource



What are the Terms & Tools?

More Recycling (MORE), formerly Moore Recycling Associates, oversees the Terms & Tools, sponsored by the American Chemistry Council's Plastics Division.

This site helps community recycling programs more effectively educate their residents about which plastics to recycle. Our Outreach Builder tool lets you choose common plastics recycling terms that best fit your program, then download free images for your outreach materials or build a custom flyer that shows what can and can't be recycled in your community. Use these terms and watch your plastics recycling quantity and quality grow.

<http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/education/plastic-recycling-terms-tools>

## Recycling Partnership Offers Curbside Resources



Whether you want to fight contamination, recycle with carts or boost participation, the technical assistance and graphics for operationally-sound education help build a stronger, cleaner program.

<https://tools.recyclingpartnership.org/>

## Contact GRC

Email: [garecycles@mindspring.com](mailto:garecycles@mindspring.com)  
404-634-3095

## US EPA REGION 4 Releases 2030 Framework for Action: Achieving the Desired Integrated Solid Waste Management End State

EPA, Region 4 has released the combined Framework and Vision for 2030. The 2030 Framework for Action: Achieving the Desired Integrated Solid Waste Management End State in U.S. EPA Region 4 is part of a roadmap to implementing Sustainable Materials Management in the Southeast.

The Vision is meant to serve the continuing purpose of coalescing the many elements of sustainable materials management into a comprehensible whole. Together, they represent a means and a will to achieve ISWM within the Region 4 States.

EPA Statement: *"We understand that there may be differences on sustainable materials management, circular economy (supply chain) and integrated solid waste management planning. We respect those differences and we have identified the common ground that together we can push forward. We believe that this project will remain a work in progress, and this document will be updated, but the focus will remain steadfast. We expect to continue this dialog as we move forward from here."*

Find the link to the report on the GRC website: <https://www.georgiarecycles.org/tools-resources/publications/>



Have you seen our new website?  
[www.georgiarecycles.org](https://www.georgiarecycles.org)

# Commodity Column

## Creating Demand in Challenging Times



The Washington-based [Association of Plastic Recyclers](#) (APR) has announced the launch of its **Recycling Demand Champion Campaign**, a new program designed to expand market demand for recycled resins and to improve plastic recycling in North America. The campaign aims to increase the use of polyolefin (polypropylene or polyethylene) postconsumer resin (PCR) by focusing on “work in process” (WIP) items used in manufacturing, such as trash cans, pallets and tote boxes.

Demand Champions sign a letter of intent to identify and use these WIPs in their facilities and to require PCR content in them. As the program adds more participants, this will increase the demand for postconsumer recycled polyolefins.

“This program will drive demand for broad specification PCR produced from mixed residential plastics,” says Liz Bedard, director of the APR Rigid Plastic Recycling Program. “We have identified potential end markets for PCR in WIP durable goods such as crates, tote boxes, cans, pails, drums, trash or recycle bins, pallets, transport packaging and other items.” The initial Recycling Demand Champions are Berry Global, Campbell’s Soup Co., Coca-Cola North America, Envision Plastics, Keurig Green Mountain Inc., KW Plastics, Merlin Plastics, Plastipak/Clean Tech Inc., P&G and Target Corp.

ALSO, keep up with the ongoing work of this group addressing plastics:

**The New Plastics Economy - The Future Of Plastics:** Rethinking the global **plastics economy** and how we can implement a plastic packaging system change:  
<https://newplasticseconomy.org/>

## Post-Consumer Curbside Paper Prices Level Off

Recently, the market value for certain fiber grades has stabilized after a period of significant decline. The national average in mid-November of old corrugated containers (PS 11) was up 3 percent over October, recovering from a low of \$103.44 early October to the mid November average of \$106.88 per ton. This represents a dramatic drop of 41 percent over the past four months – OCC was trading nationally at \$180.00 per ton in July 2017. In March 2015, this grade was trading nationally in the \$81.00-per-ton range.

Sorted residential papers (PS 56, formerly PS 8 News) remained steady over several months and was trading mid-November at a national average of \$55.63 per ton. This still

represents a 47 percent drop over three previous months. It was trading at an average of \$104.38 per ton late August. Historically, this is still lower than June 2016 levels, when this grade was trading nationally at a comparative \$58.44 per ton.

These prices are as reported on the Secondary Materials Pricing (SMP) Index. This pricing represents what is being paid for post-consumer recyclable materials in a sorted, baled format, picked up at most major recycling centers.

## AF&PA's Brian Hawkinson Urges Programs to Maintain High Levels of Paper Recycling



At home, school and the workplace, paper recycling is widely accessible, well supported and highly effective. And it matters. It matters to the paper and paper-based packaging industry. Recovering this valuable resource extends the fiber supply and allows our industry to reuse its products to make new ones. Paper and paper-based packaging manufacturers reuse recycled paper every day. In fact, in 2016 U.S. paper and paper-based packaging manufacturers consumed more than 30 million tons of recycled paper to make new products from corrugated containers to paperboard boxes to writing paper and tissue.

It matters to communities. According to the United States EPA, paper and paper-based packaging are recovered from municipal solid waste streams at a higher rate than other materials. More than twice as much paper and paper-based packaging was recovered for recycling than was sent to landfills in 2016. It matters to the environment. In 2016, 67.2 percent of paper and paper-based packaging in the U.S. was recovered for recycling. That works out to more than 52 million tons.

The forest products industry accounts for approximately four percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, making more than \$200 billion in products annually and employing approximately 900,000 people. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states.

*Brian Hawkinson is the executive director of recovered fiber at the American Forest & Paper Association.*

# COMPOST ROW



In a year of rapidly growing composting infrastructure, **COMPOST2018**, the national gathering of the compost industry, will focus on the expansion of financing and business development, evolving technologies and new collection points such as events venues, with Green Sports Alliance chair Scott Jenkins as keynote speaker.

## ...AND TEN REASONS NOT TO MISS THIS CONFERENCE:

- #1. The temperatures in Duluth MN that day will be 22 degrees. In Atlanta, GA, it will be 52 degrees
- #2. Breaking a world record, Foundations of Composting will be taught by international/national compost experts Matt Cotton & Bob Rynk for the 132nd time
- #3. Mercedes-Benz Stadium, our next door neighbor, has a 14.5-acre roof, 71,000 seats and 1,264 beer taps. And we're touring it.
- #4. The producer of The Compost Story will be on a panel that is discussing Sustainable Soils.
- #5. The Trade Show has grown so big we have to hold it in two halls (114 booths of products and services to choose from)
- #6. Since you are in the hometown of Joe Lamp'l of PBS's *Growing a Greener World*, USCC's official compost spokesperson, you can attend his session!
- #7. See compost industry entrepreneurs make their pitch at the USCC Emerging Composter Challenge.
- #8. Watch USCC members kick tires at Equipment Demonstration Day. (Or you can kick them yourself--and watch them operate--at this massive machinery show.)
- #9. You can tour the Atlanta region's green infrastructure and sustainable sports and travel venues on one of our Sustainability in Action tours.
- #10. Meet the four new USCC board members and the 75 new members who have joined in the past year!

## International Compost Awareness Week

May 6-12, 2018

***Compost! Building a Better Future***

***Check out our Community Composting Facebook page:***

***<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCompostingGA/>***

# Join the GRC & "Get In The Loop"

The Georgia Recycling Coalition, Inc. (GRC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to complement and coordinate the activities of professionals, organizations, government agencies and individuals related to recycling; to foster communications among those groups; to promote sustainable reduction and recycling programs; and, to provide a forum to and from which its membership may enhance recycling efforts in Georgia.

Please choose a membership category, complete the information below, and return to:  
Georgia Recycling Coalition, P.O. Box 550667, Atlanta, GA 30355  
If you have any questions, or need additional information, call (404) 634-3095.

I would like to join at the following level:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner                    | (\$3,500 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer                  | (\$1,750 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                     | (\$875 or more)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Trade Association | (\$400)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government/Non-Profit      | (\$200)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual                 | (\$100)           |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve on the following GRC committee:

- Education       Membership Development       Communications  
 Programs       Special Events



P.O. Box 550667  
Atlanta, Georgia 30355  
404.634.3095  
Fax 404.653.0478  
[www.georgiarecycles.org](http://www.georgiarecycles.org)  
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## Dated Material