



Georgia Recycling Coalition

June 2020

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.

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

In times like these, community is crucial. We thank you for your continued support of GRC. We are proud to stand with you in the efforts to keep recycling essential in Georgia, as well as taking on the great challenges ahead of us together.

Membership Renewal Campaign Begins



With the disruption in business operations for some of our members, the GRC board made the decision to postpone our official membership renewal notices to June 1, 2020. So, even as our membership management system did send out notices on May 1st, we will begin the renewal campaign officially on June 1st.

Our upcoming member year runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, so the **renewal deadline will remain July 1st**. We will have a grace period to August 3rd. Members who have not renewed by September 1st will be placed into lapsed status. For now, we all have many tasks ahead as we attempt to get back to some level of normalcy and that should be our focus.

Our success is your success... a coalition, by definition, is *an alliance for combined action*. We are allies, partners and colleagues working together to keep recycling strong and working in Georgia. The success of our organization in fulfilling its mission is reliant upon people who commit time, energy and resources to its support. Thank you for your contribution to our collective success and **let us hear from you with comments, suggestions, etc. about how we may add value to your membership in GRC. Thanks to many who have already renewed!**

The Recycling Partnership Releases Impact Report

“As we navigate the impacts of COVID-19 as a nation, one of the tasks ahead is to rebuild a strong U.S. economy in a way that supports people and the planet,” said Keefe Harrison, CEO, The Recycling Partnership.



“Recycling will have a central role to play in the process of rebuilding the U.S. economy. Our 2020 Impact Report shows how we’re working with communities, corporate brands, and other industry-aligned organizations to move the U.S. from a linear economy to a circular economy.”

<https://bit.ly/2zPOUta>

#RecyclingMatters #CircularEconomy

Recycling is Essential to Critical Manufacturing Supply Chain



As the pandemic shelter in place orders became effective, it took only a few days for us to see the complexity and interwoven nature of our supply chain. Mills began contacting their suppliers to assure recovered materials would be available for their manufacturing process. The essential role of recycling in the packaging supply chain quickly became obvious across all traditional commodities. As an example,

over 75% of all paper mills in the U.S. use recovered paper in their operations.

With the closing of businesses deemed non-essential, the focus shifted to curbside. Volumes typically sourced from commercial sources all but dried up. Further complicating the situation, local governments were challenged with maintaining curbside programs due to worker safety concerns, access to PPE and some labor shortages and closures at processing facilities.

Meanwhile, innovation and sustainability commitments were in play to increase demand for many plastics, but much of that work was put on hold as companies prioritized, responding to current market needs for supplies in heavy demand. Many diverted to making protective equipment and supplies in lieu of their normal products. Some market demand waned while other commodities suddenly were in high demand—an unexpected shift and disruption at every turn.

Recycling however has proven over decades, despite seemingly overwhelming challenges, to be a resilient industry. Drop off sites that closed due to safety concerns began re-opening in May with new protocols in place and most by

appointment to assure physical distancing. And many curbside collections programs temporarily suspended in March/April are slowly coming back online.

But we are not ready to say life is back to normal (whatever that will be in the future)—in recycling--far from it. There are financial challenges ahead that we will need to sort out. What is important to note is that recycling is helping in the fight against Covid-19. Going forward, materials like recycled metals, plastics, paper, and glass have become critical feedstock to U.S. manufacturing. As one industry leader recently stated: *That means today's recycling may become tomorrow's hospital bed, ventilator, food package, toilet paper, or other essential supply during a pandemic.*

What we do is essential; stay safe and strong so we may continue to work together to fulfill our integral role in beating Covid-19.

Watch this NBC news clip from May:

<https://www.facebook.com/114288853688/posts/10158877189278689/?vh=e&d=n >

Municipal Measurement Program (MMP)



Data is going to be needed more now than ever in bolstering our messaging around the essential nature of recycling in the supply chain and circular economy. The MMP™ was designed by [The Recycling Partnership](#) & [Re-TRAC Connect™](#) to create a centralized database of municipal program information that government agencies can use to improve recycling in the United States. And GRC along with Georgia EPD is supporting this platform for use by local governments in Georgia. Thanks to many who are already set up and reporting; and we ask those who have not yet explored to take a look and let us know how we can assist in getting you involved: <https://www.municipalmeasurement.com/>

SWANAPALOOZA Rescheduled-Virtually



The event that was scheduled to take place in Atlanta in March but was postponed due to Covid-19 is now going to be virtual on June 22-25, 2020. Stay tuned for more details.

https://store.swana.org/store/events/registration.aspx?event=WEBCPALOOZ&utm_campaign=SWANApalooza%202020&utm_content=129940610&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-112312448792426

TWORIVERS ITAD SOLUTIONS JOINS TERRA'S "DONE WITH IT" MAIL-IN ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

[TwoRivers ITAD Solutions \(TIS\)](#) has joined [TERRA's Done with IT](#) program to provide a simple and safe electronics recycling mail-in



option for businesses and individuals from their Certified R2 facility in Lithonia, GA. **Done with IT** serves the entire continental U.S. as well as Canada with recycling and represents the largest network of e-Stewards and Certified R2 facilities in North America.

“While the electronics recycling industry has been deemed essential, most e-waste recycling programs have been suspended,” said Steven Napoli, President & CEO of TERRA. “Done with IT offers e-waste recycling and ITAD services from nation’s best recyclers for both businesses and consumers without the need for physical contact.”

Devices such as laptops, desktops, cell phones, hard drives, etc. can be shipped directly to TIS’ certified facility through Done with IT’s mail-in program. All data stored on retired devices will be completely destroyed in accordance with their stringent certifications and all equipment will be responsibly recycled or refurbished for reuse.

Spring Cleaning 2020

CITY OF ATLANTA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

COVID-19 CURBSIDE COLLECTION RESTRICTIONS

For the safety of our Solid Waste Services employees, residential collections are modified to the collection of "cart contents only." Contents placed outside the garbage or recycling cart will not be collected.

- All household trash must be placed in plastic bags and may not be placed loosely inside a trash cart
- If an item is too large to fit into a trash cart, you must schedule a bulk collection. IF IT DOESN'T FIT, SCHEDULE IT!
- All recycling must be loose, clean and fit inside your recycling cart.
- Contact ATL311 if you suspect your solid waste has been exposed to COVID-19
- Your weekly collection schedule remains the same

#IFITDOESNTFITSCHEDULEIT

QUESTIONS: visit www.atlantaga.gov/solidwaste
Use the ATL Solid Waste Services mobile app, or contact @ATL311

Connect with us: [@AtlantaPublicWorks](#) [@ATLPublicWorks](#) [@ATLPublicWorks](#) [@ATLPublicWorks](#) [@City of Atlanta, Department of Public Works](#)

Spring Cleaning went to a whole new level with stay at home orders in place from mid-March through May. Clean out along with more packaging increased residential waste by 25% or more in many communities. Residents made more trips to trash cans and recycle bins overwhelming many systems with piles of waste beside the carts at curbs. With most drop-off sites for non-traditional materials closed temporarily, cities and counties

were forced to place restrictions on curbside collection.

As options for textiles and household item drop offs get back up to speed, encourage citizens to use services like:

- American Kidney Services: https://www.akspickup.org/donation_pick_up_atlanta.html
- America's Thrift Stores: <https://www.americasthrift.com/donations/>
- USAgain: <https://usagain.com/>
- Atlanta Furniture Bank: <https://furniturebankatlanta.org/>
- Atlanta Tool Bank: <https://www.atlantatoolbank.org/>
- Goodwill: <https://goodwillsega.org/>
<https://goodwillng.org>

EPA RESOURCES FOR COVID-19 and RECYCLING RIGHT in a PANDEMIC

- EPA Administrator Wheeler's video message: <https://youtu.be/BcGonQ3rx3Y>
- Don't recycle Personal Protective Equipment video: <https://youtu.be/S1cERI3IbeY>
- Recycling during health crisis video: https://youtu.be/_ADZ8vH-r4M

Here is a link to the press release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-stresses-importance-recycling-and-proper-disposal-personal-protective-equipment>

And here's the Recycling During COVID-19 web page: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/recycling-and-sustainable-management-food-during-coronavirus-covid-19-public-health>

29th Annual Conference



We are tentatively planning for our annual conference, trade show and membership meeting on October 4-7, 2020 at King & Prince on St. Simons Island. As we move into additional phases of re-opening our businesses, governments and non-profit organizations, the uncertainty of safety for gatherings is at top of mind. So, we will continue to monitor to determine final plans and will keep you apprised as we move forward.

Stay safe, stay well, and stay strong.
#RecyclingisEssential

Joan Ellars Memorial

This spring, amid everything else, we lost a spirited colleague and loyal friend of GRC and KGBF. Described as larger than life, Joan always stepped up to help when needed and sought out the person in the crowd who looked lost. Her smile lit up the room wherever she went. Joan gave 33 years of service to the City of Marietta and we would like to plant a large tree in the Marietta City Cemetery in her memory. She cared so much about the preservation of this cemetery and put much effort into its care.

We need to raise \$3,000 for the tree and a plaque. This amount includes installation of both and guaranteed watering for one year. The tree will be planted on Arbor Day in February 2021. Please make your checks payable to the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation and mail them to 60 Executive Park S, Atlanta, GA 30329. All donations are tax deductible and all donors will receive a written acknowledgement. Thank you for your contribution.



Georgia Recycling Coalition

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2019-2020 Member Year

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