



Georgia EPD Awarded USEPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is a proud recipient of **EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant for State** and Territories in the amount of \$713K. The SWIFR grant will be administered by the Land Protection Branch's **Recovered Materials and Abatement (RMA) Program**. The RMA Program seeks to conduct a statewide post-consumer materials data collection effort, resulting in a comprehensive report that can be used by regional planning commissions, solid waste authorities, local governments, and industry.

This project aims to identify opportunities and strategies that will advance post-consumer materials recovery through waste diversion, material recovery infrastructure, market development, and management planning. The RMA program plans to solicit an advertisement for a contractor for this project through the Georgia Procurement Registry in the months ahead.

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides the largest EPA investment in recycling in 30 years to support National Recycling Strategy implementation and build a circular economy for all.

GRC News

Georgia Composting Council Approved by USCC

The **US Composting Council** recently approved its next state chapter in Georgia. The culmination of a year plus planning by **GRC**, **SWANA-GA Chapter**, and a **GA Petitioning Committee**, the council is moving forward in launching the chapter in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information!

Welcome New GRC Members!

Sustainer

Waste Pro, Bob Wolk

Government

Habersham County Government, Johnnie Vickers

Keep Haralson Beautiful, Gail Priest

Individual

Brad Dunning, Mark Dunning Industries

Business

B Green Services LLC, Angie Bekyarov

Busch Systems Business, Rebecca Rainey

GA Carpet Recovery, Kent Singleton

Non-Profit

Keep Carroll Beautiful, Martyna Griffin

Associate

Lynn Wheeler, Habersham County

Member Update: Welcome to Nathan Dumas with Monroe County and Ryder Leary, Keep North Fulton Beautiful's new Executive Director. Kathy Reed has taken a new Sustainability role at DeKalb County. Congrats to all!

Member News

Mohawk's Sustainability Efforts Highlighted in New Regenerative Materials Movement Book

Mohawk recently announced its role in the upcoming release of *The Regenerative Materials Movement*, featuring essays from 28 industry leaders who share their experiences and insights for overcoming the drawbacks of our materials economy. Their Chief Sustainability Officer Malisa Maynard contributed the chapter "Believe in Better through Emergent Thinking: Blueprint for the Future", which highlights Mohawk's commitment to sustainability. This book is a valuable resource for those interested in a deeper



understanding of regenerative materials for achieving health and wellness in the built environment.

Order Copy of the
Book Today!

Novelis Announces Contract with Ball Corporation

From waste360.com, **Novelis** will supply aluminum sheet to Ball's can making plants in North America. Novelis has secured all of the beverage can capacity from its new plant in Bay Minette, Alabama, underscoring the strong demand for the company's high-recycled-content beverage can sheet. The new plant, expected to begin commissioning in 2025, will be the first fully integrated aluminum manufacturing plant built in the U.S. in nearly 40 years and will have an initial capacity of 600,000 tonnes of finished goods primarily for the North American beverage can and automotive markets." [Read full article.](#)

PepsiCo

As part of [PepsiCo's pep+](#) (PepsiCo Positive) sustainable packaging journey to ensure packaging never becomes waste, **PepsiCo** is the first beverage company to commit to a North American roll out of paper-based solutions to replace plastic rings across multipacks that have traditionally used plastic rings.

WestRock

Sandy Springs-based WestRock closed a deal to merge with Dublin-based Smurfit Kappa. The merger will create a new company called Smurfit WestRock. [Read more](#)

Pratt

Pratt Industries, Inc., a Georgia-based recycled paper and packaging company, will build a new production facility in the portion of Warner Robins located in Peach County. The new location will create more than 125 jobs and over \$120 million in investment. [Read more.](#)

Sonoco

On September 8th, **Sonoco** Products Company, a diversified global packaging leader, announced the completion of its acquisition of the remaining equity interest in RTS Packaging, LLC. This further strengthens and expands Sonoco's 100% recycled fiber-based packaging solutions to serve growing consumer wine, spirits, food, beauty and healthcare markets. [Read more.](#)

Industry News

Georgia-Pacific Introduces EarthKraft Recyclable Unpadded Mailers

Georgia-Pacific, LLC announced it has expanded its EarthKraft™ line of curbside recyclable mailers to include an unpadded mailer for e-commerce shipments. The new

mailer, available in two sizes, is suited to ship apparel and other soft items that do not need padded packaging for transport. Amazon is a key GP EarthKraft™ customer and has been using the unpadded mailers since mid-July.

With the introduction of the unpadded mailer, the EarthKraft brand will now have two products in its portfolio. The newer mailer is similar to the recyclable padded mailers introduced by GP in 2020. Both mailers have been issued a Widely Recyclable label by the How2Recycle® program, allowing them to be deposited in any paper or corrugated recycling collection point, which for most consumers is their curbside recycling bin. EarthKraft unpadded mailers are produced at GP's facilities in Jonestown, Pennsylvania, McDonough, Georgia, and suburban Phoenix, Arizona.

Touting PET Packaging

Have you seen the pro-plastics documentary on your local PBS station? The PET packaging sector is featured in an episode of **Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid** — and a series of national commercials that promote the effort — that started in August. Plastics organizations behind the project include Amcor Rigid Packaging, the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), the Plastics Industry Association and Plastic Recycling Corp. of California. With PET packaging the focus, the five-minute video showcases facts about PET containers and the importance of recycling, and is available through more than 175 public television stations nationwide.

[Learn more and watch the video](#)

Plastics Industry Launches New Website and Videos

The **Plastics Industry Association** has launched recyclingisreal.com website to promote sustainability efforts and counter arguments that plastics cannot be circular. The trade group initially has four videos supporting companies and workers involved in plastics recycling and plans to add more every week. "This is about promoting and defending plastic recycling," CEO Matt Seaholm said. "This is one of the largest initiatives that this organization has ever launched."



Chasing Arrows

The "chasing arrows" logo is universally recognized as a sign to recycle, but the EPA is saying it's also universally confusing and is recommending tossing the symbol for plastics and replacing it with a new one. [Learn more.](#)

Trex Modifies Its Collection Program

According to **Waste Today**, Trex has expanded its **NexTrex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge** with a more streamlined structure that makes the program more accessible to

participants and easier to earn rewards and recognition. [Read more.](#)

Resources Available for Bag and Film Recycling

Find nearest location to you that accepts bags and film.

Learn ways to take action to reduce plastic waste.



[Check out the resources!](#)



The Carton Council of North America has launched a new podcast series, “Road to Recycling,” which takes listeners through the story of the food and beverage carton recycling journey and the partnerships and relationships pivotal to their success. The podcast highlights their collaborative approach, showcasing partners across the recycling value chain. Check out Road to Recycling’s first episode featuring Lindsey Walker of Emmet County Recycling, and Jason Pelz of the Carton Council, discussing the value, benefits, and ease of accepting cartons, along with some best practices for MRFs and communities.

[Listen now!](#)

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