

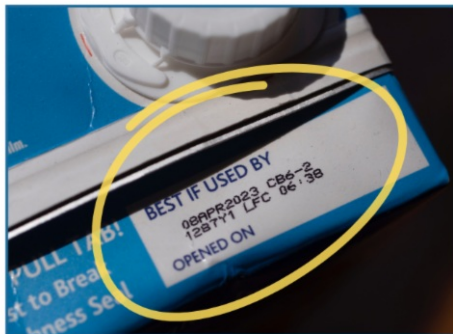
GREEN SHEET

JANUARY 2025



Industry News

Food Labels like “Best By” Create Confusion & Wasted Food



Many consumers believe date labels indicate when packaged foods are no longer safe to eat, but in fact that’s not correct. “All of those dates are really there for food quality. They aren’t there for safety,” says Donald Schaffner, a

food safety expert at Rutgers University. [Learn more](#) about labels and how you can provide feedback to FDA and USDA on labeling - part of their national strategy to reduce food waste.

Want to learn even more about efforts to streamline and simplify labels and actions that are being taken by stakeholders across the food system from manufacturers to retailers to standardize labels and reduce confusion about labels and food waste? Check out the resources available from ReFED. Click on the button to learn more.

[Labeling Initiatives](#)

WM released a report in late 2024 that emphasizes the importance of consumer households, businesses, policymakers and local municipalities working together to potentially improve the nation's recycling system. Based on a survey of more than 1,000 American consumers and businesses, the report summarizes data and takeaways with respect to recycling behaviors and perceptions to better understand opportunities to bolster recycling education, investments and accessibility in the U.S. It offers insight into education and access gaps as well as opportunities for greater collaboration. The data suggests that many Americans want to recycle, but some lack an understanding of how recycling works and the positive impact it can have on the environment.

[Read](#) the full report.

Safety Takes a Bad Turn



The solid waste industry was recently named on a national top 5 list. Unfortunately, it's not the kind of recognition we want—and we need everyone's help to change this. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics released its 2023 National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, revealing a troubling trend. Trash and recyclable materials collectors experienced an increase in the fatality rate, making this role the 4th deadliest job in the U.S. in 2023. This marks a sobering shift from its previous ranking as the 7th deadliest job in both 2021 and 2022.

Safety is not just a goal—it's a necessity. Together, we can help ensure that every member of our solid waste team returns home safely at the end of every shift. Let's work together to make this mission a reality. Join GRC as we address this issue in our 2025 webinar series featuring peers and safety experts.

2024 Recycling Markets Overview

Check out this insightful overview of recycling markets in 2024 from our friend and recycling expert Chaz Miller.



2024 Recycling Markets Overview

Member News

Ripple Commercial Service Now Available



2025 is going to be an exciting year for glass recycling in Georgia. Metro Atlanta restaurants, bars, country clubs, event venues, multi-unit housing, and more, will now have an opportunity to recycle all of the glass that flows through their businesses from wine and beer bottles to food jars.

While everyone knows recycling glass is the right thing to do (glass is infinitely recyclable!), it's also wonderful for Georgia's economy. The majority of glass processed at the SMI's College Park facility is used by local companies for bottle and/or fiberglass manufacturing.

GEORGIA RECYCLING COALITION

Art Contest

CALLING
ALL
ARTISTS!

WHAT RECYCLING MEANS TO ME

Help us celebrate America Recycles Day in Georgia by showcasing your talents!

Open to students age 5-19. Prizes awarded to winners in each age category.

Deadline to submit entry form is 01/25/25.



In celebration of America Recycles Day, the Georgia Recycling Coalition is excited to announce its America Recycles Day Art Contest for students ages 5-19. Help us celebrate America Recycles Day in Georgia by showcasing your talents! Tell us what recycling means to you in the form of a photograph, sculpture, painting, drawing, or poem.

We are also asking our members and partners to promote the contest in their community. Promotional materials are available.

[Learn more](#)

Calendar of Events

January 27-30, 2025
Compost 2025
Phoenix, AZ

February 16-19, 2025
SE Recycling Conference
Miramar Beach, FL

March 24-27, 2025

Carolina Recycling Association Conference
Wilmington, NC

March 24-26, 2025
Plastics Recycling Conference
National Harbor, MD

April 29-May 1, 2025
SWANA SE Meeting
Mississippi

May 5-8, 2025
Waste Expo
Las Vegas, NV

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