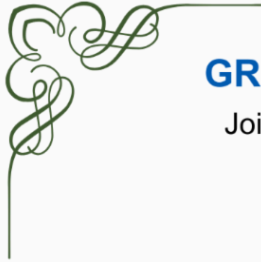


GEORGIA RECYCLING COALITION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2026

GRC Turns 35 This Year with Planning Sessions Underway

This month, the GRC Board of Directors is undertaking planning for the coalition in the short and long-term to ensure we fulfill our mission and bring you quality and timely training, resources and information. Several programs, events, and even a new campaign are in progress.



GRC Announces New Board Members

Join GRC in welcoming our new board members:

Joe Marburger, Circular Solutions

Kenny Woodard, Pickens County

Dr. Bina Jayapaul-Philip, Citizen Advocate



Congratulations to GRC's 2026 Officers

Carliss Bates, City of Savannah Sanitation Dept.

President

Jamey Moran, Ripple Glass

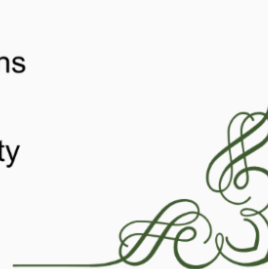
Vice-President

Joe Marburger, Circular Solutions

Treasurer

Mason Towe, UGA Sustainability

Secretary



We appreciate the service of the following board members who are leaving as their terms expire: Page Beckwith, Keep Newnan Beautiful; Jason Johnson Fulton Metals Recycling; Deena Keeler; and Scott Terrell, Jacobs Engineering. **Thanks to each of our board members for their service to our state recycling organization!**

Member News

Help Us Promote Our Annual Art Contest

GEORGIA RECYCLING COALITION

Art Contest

Help us celebrate America Recycles Day in Georgia by showcasing your talents! This year's theme is Recycling Really Works.

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

Deadline to submit entry form is 02/18/26.



The Georgia Recycling Coalition's annual America Recycles Day Art Contest is open to K-12 students in Georgia ages 5-19. This year's theme is Recycling Really Works. Deadline for students to submit their artwork is February 18th! [Learn more](#) and download the promotional flyer to share with schools in your community.

Industry News

Markets Take a Beating in 2025

Take a minute to read the end-of-year markets analysis from our colleague up north! As you may remember, Chaz Miller provided an overview and his perspective on recycling markets at our annual conference in October. Chaz is a semi-retired, 40-year veteran of the waste and recycling industry.

[Read the End-of-Year Markets Analysis](#)

Packaging Survey

After surveying thousands of consumers representing 66% of global GDP, McKinsey released its 2025 McKinsey Packaging Survey. According to McKinsey, a "key finding is the importance of a product's recyclability. It is the most important characteristic for US consumers when considering the sustainability of packaging, though a significant portion is also concerned with the level of recycled content and reusability... when asked to rank types of packaging based on their level of sustainability, US consumers surveyed perceive glass to be the most sustainable, followed by paper and metal." [Read more highlights from the McKinsey survey.](#)

EPA Addresses Battery EPR

Join the U.S. EPA on Tuesday, February 10 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm ET for a virtual roundtable on EPA's initiative to develop an **extended battery producer responsibility (EPR) framework**, as required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. During the roundtable, EPA will share an overview of common EPR elements for small and mid-format battery EPR. Participants will be invited to provide additional feedback on recommendations. Register [here](#) for the February 10th roundtable.

EPA welcomes experts across the battery life cycle, including battery producers, manufacturers of batteries and battery containing products, retailers, recyclers, and collectors or processors; states and municipalities; and others such as environmental, energy, or consumer organizations to participate. Questions or comments, email: batteries@epa.gov

Pratt Opens 100% Recycled Box Plant in Warner Robins

Pratt Industries celebrated the grand opening of its new 496,000-square-foot factory for manufacturing 100% recycled produce boxes in Warner Robins, Georgia, with a plaque unveiling and guests including U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

The plant is 496,000 square feet, uses recycled materials and creates more than 100 local jobs. Secretary Rollins says the factory supports farmers in many areas, such as providing customized, sustainable packaging that protects produce during stacking, transport and storage. Watch the full story in the video clip below.

Source: 41NBC News | WMGD-DT



Resource Recycling 2026 Conference Discount for GRC Members: Register Today!

The Resource Recycling Conference is the premier event for North America's municipal recycling community, bringing together professionals and

policymakers shaping the future of materials management. SRO participation is especially important to ensure state and local perspectives are part of national conversations. In 2026, the impact is even greater as the conference co-locates with the Plastics Recycling Conference and the Textiles Recovery Summit, giving attendees access to sessions across all three events.

★★★★ **DISCOUNT FOR GRC MEMBERS** ★★★★★

Resource Recycling invites GRC members to attend the conference at a discounted rate of \$575. Members can [register here](#) using the code **RRCGRC26**.

RESOURCE RECYCLING CONFERENCE
February 23–25, 2026
at the Gaylord Pacific, in San Diego, CA

Hey GRC members!
You can attend the 2026 Resource Recycling Conference for just \$575 when you register using your exclusive discount code below!

rrconference.com

Why attend?

- Co-located with our Plastics Recycling Conference and Textiles Recovery Summit with full access to all three events and networking opportunities with over 2,500 industry leaders.
- Deep dive into discussions covering EPR, Reuse, Composting, Legislation and more.
- Meals, networking breaks, evening receptions and an exhibit hall all help attendees exchange ideas and find critical partners.

Register today with your discount code!

RRCGRC26



Safe Battery Disposal Campaign Launched

The NWRA Foundation, The Battery Network (formerly Call2Recycle) and other partners have officially launched the new Safe Battery Disposal campaign. Resources are available on their new website. Woodsy Owl is the official mascot, reinvented from the original don't pollute campaigns of decades ago. After holding listening sessions throughout the US, including

one in Georgia, as well as kickoff events in 3 cities late last year, the campaign is ready for use in your communities. Interesting fact learned: they avoid using the term “battery recycling” and instead suggest using “battery recovery” or “proper/safe disposal”. Why? The recycling term leads citizens to automatically assume they can be placed in curbside bins or trash leading to continued contamination and potential fire incidents. The biggest challenge they identified going forward is convincing the public how dangerous batteries can be when mishandled. [Learn more.](#)

Tire Reuse in Europe (excerpt from article by Abhishek Agrawal)

"Across Europe, discarded car tires have long been an environmental challenge. They don't decompose naturally, occupy landfill space, and release toxic pollutants when burned. In the Czech Republic, however, one company has reimagined this waste as an opportunity. By transforming end-of-life tires into high-performance, noise-reducing barriers for highways and urban areas, they've turned a problem into a powerful sustainability solution.



The process involves shredding used tires into rubber granules, combining them with advanced binders, and pressing them into durable acoustic panels. Rubber's natural sound-absorbing properties make these barriers highly effective at reducing traffic noise for nearby communities. Remarkably, every kilometer of installed noise wall diverts thousands of tires from the waste stream, helping prevent millions of tires from ending up in landfills.

These recycled panels are weather-resistant, long-lasting, and low-maintenance—making them both environmentally responsible and cost-effective. What started as a recycling experiment is now a global example of how innovative thinking can convert waste into infrastructure that improves everyday life."

Links for the Latest News and Views

- [The Low Down on 2025 Recycling & 2026 Forecast \(Waste360\)](#)
- [New York Starts Vape Recycling Pilot \(Waste Advantage Magazine\)](#)
- [How to Deal with Space Junk \(Waste Advantage Magazine\)](#)
- [How to Modernize Recycling In America \(American Chemistry Council\)](#)
- [Textile Recycling Pilot in VA \(Waste Advantage Magazine\)](#)
- [Battery Embedded Product Drop Off in CA \(Waste Advantage Magazine\)](#)
- [Joint National Effort for Li-Ion Battery Recycling \(Waste Advantage Magazine\)](#)

2025-2026 Sponsors

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Greif Recycling	Pratt Industries	Newnan Utilities
Mohawk	Smurfit Westrock	Republic Services
Shaw Industries Group	Waste Eliminator	Sibelco
	Waste Pro	
	Waste Wiz Consulting	
	WM	

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Sanitation Department

Emily Groth
City of Mableton

Dr. Bina Jayapaul-Philip
Citizen Advocate

Jeff Lipscomb
JFL Environmental

Joe Marburger, Treasurer
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