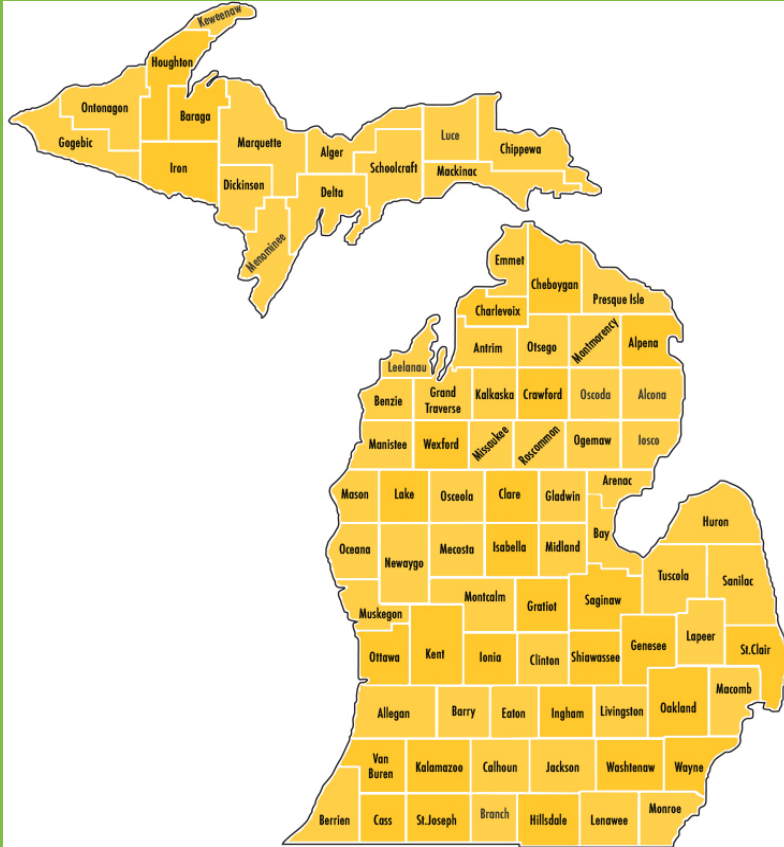




## National Issues and a Look Ahead

**David Biderman**  
Executive Director & CEO  
[dbiderman@swana.org](mailto:dbiderman@swana.org)



- **Largest association for the waste & recycling sector in the U.S. & Canada**
  - 10,700+ individual members – public/private
  - 47 chapters, including our new Michigan Great Lakes chapter
  - Thank you to Paul Sgricca for your leadership
- **SWANA's core programs focus on education, research, advocacy and safety – and advancing from solid waste management to resource management**
- **Have achieved Strategic Planning goal to be recognized solid waste expert by EPA and other federal agencies, Congress, national and local media**

## SWANA Structure and Components

- **SWANA has 7 Technical Divisions that develop policy and guide education**
  - Collection and Transfer
  - Communication, Education & Marketing
  - Landfill Management
  - Landfill Gas & Biogas
  - Planning & Management
  - Sustainable Materials Management
  - Waste Conversion & Energy Recovery
- **Applied Research Foundation (ARF)**
  - 4 subgroups conduct research on industry topics
- **Young Professionals**
  - MentorMatch connects YPs with mentors
  - Targeted education, networking, leadership

**COVID-19  
Confirmed  
SWANA is  
Industry Leader**



**HELP PROTECT WASTE & RECYCLING WORKERS NOW**

Solid waste collection is a critical and essential job as part of the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. You can help protect the health of the men and women who collect your trash and recycling during this vital time. The virus may survive for up to 24 hours on cardboard and two to three days on plastic. With a few simple steps, you can protect sanitation workers by reducing the possibility they will come into contact with potentially contaminated items.

- GARBAGE**
- Make sure all your trash is inside a closed plastic bag. If a bin or cart is provided, all materials must fit inside. No bags should be left over to the bin or cart.
  - Wash your hands before putting your waste containers out for collection. Sanitize or wipe handles and lids to further reduce exposure.
  - Please do not "space clean" at this time. Collection workers are working harder and more carefully right now, sometimes with fewer people. Do not add to the waste by cleaning garages, attics, closets, basements, etc. All material should fit into a container, if provided.

- RECYCLING**
- Recycling remains important during this time. The materials you put out for collection are turned into cardboard boxes, tissues, and paper towels that we need now more than ever.
- Tissues, paper towels, wipes, masks, latex gloves, or any other sanitary or cleaning materials used to protect you from the Coronavirus should NOT go into recycling carts or bins. (These items are never recyclable.) RECYCLED MATERIALS ARE OFTEN HANDLED BY WORKERS WHEN SORTED LATER.
  - Break down large cardboard boxes and cut them apart, if needed, to fit inside your recycling container. Recyclables that do not fit inside a container should not be put out.
  - Empty, rinse, and dry your bottles, cans, and other containers before you recycle them.
  - Food and liquids never belong to recycling.

**VISITOR FACILITIES**

If your community still allows members of the public to drop-off waste or recyclables at a facility please follow all safety policies and procedures required by that facility. These might include not paying with cash, keeping at least 6 feet of distance between you, other customers, and any employees, and unloading in the correct area to avoid requiring staff to handle discarded materials more than necessary. And of course, always follow all safety rules regarding speed limits, cell phone usage, and remaining near/in your vehicle.

# SWANA has shown leadership throughout the pandemic:

1. Persuaded governmental authorities to designate waste industry as “essential”
2. Provided documentation to workers to prove they are essential
3. Developed web [resources](#) for COVID docs/communications/news
4. Frequent webinars and outreach to elected officials, members and media

# SWANA

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

## COVID-19 Response



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

### STATE OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

David Biderman  
Executive Director and CEO  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
1100 Wayne Ave, Suite 650  
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Dear Mr. Biderman,

I write to you on behalf of all Marylanders to thank the Solid Waste Association of North America and our nation's waste management professionals for their tireless efforts throughout the ongoing public health crisis.

Solid waste management and recycling have remained essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and your industry has continued to diligently serve communities here in Maryland and across the continent. Dedicated waste collectors, recyclers, drivers, engineers, technicians, and other professionals have reported to work each and every day to ensure our neighborhoods remain safe and healthy, even as new safer-at-home policies have created additional stress on waste management systems. We thank them for their service during this time of great need.

I would also like to recognize the Solid Waste Association of North America for advocating on behalf of your industry and providing critical information and resources to workers, lawmakers, and the media regarding the impact of COVID-19 on waste management and recycling.

Our frontline workers continue to make incredible sacrifices, and the way we go about our lives will be significantly different for a little while longer. But as we look back on this moment in our history, I know that we will remember one another's courage and compassion in the face of unprecedented challenges. Together we are going to defeat this deadly virus, and together we will return stronger and better than ever.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan  
Governor

# SWANA

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) urges Congress to include investment in the nation's recycling infrastructure in any forthcoming legislation it considers either in response to the COVID-19 pandemic or separately. Recyclables serve as a critical and valuable domestic source for producing feedstock and are a job creator in every part of the United States.

SWANA represents public and private sector professionals committed to advancing from solid waste management to resource management through our shared emphasis on education, advocacy and innovation. For more than 50 years, SWANA has been the leading association in the solid waste field. Since the Chinese government instituted its National Sword policy to restrict the flow of waste to the country, SWANA has been educating officials at the federal, state, and local level, and has had a diverse impact on municipal recycling programs, and proposing responses and solutions to the challenges. Recycling is very popular throughout the United States, with 87 percent of households reporting that it is important to them.

COVID-19 threatens the future of recycling in the United States. Dozens of curbside recycling programs throughout the Nation have been suspended, and material recovery facilities at the local level for metal, plastic and glass are processed and converted into valuable feedstock for other industries. Some have closed. At the same time, demand has increased dramatically over the years due to changes in American consumption habits. Increased e-commerce requires more packaging, and plastic and tissue require more fiber, and beverage containers need plastic and other materials. Access to these materials, but our current system, further hampered by the

## COVID-19 Response

**#TrashDayThanks**

Learn more at  
[SWANA.org/COVID19Fund](https://www.swana.org/COVID19Fund)



# Sanitation Workers Support Fund

- Established by Glad and SWANA
- \$200,000 fund provided by Glad
- Providing financial assistance to front-line solid waste & recycling collection workers who:
  - Tested positive for COVID-19
  - Were laid off because of COVID-19 and continue to be unemployed, or
  - An immediate family member was a front-line solid waste or recycling collection worker and passed away as a result of the coronavirus

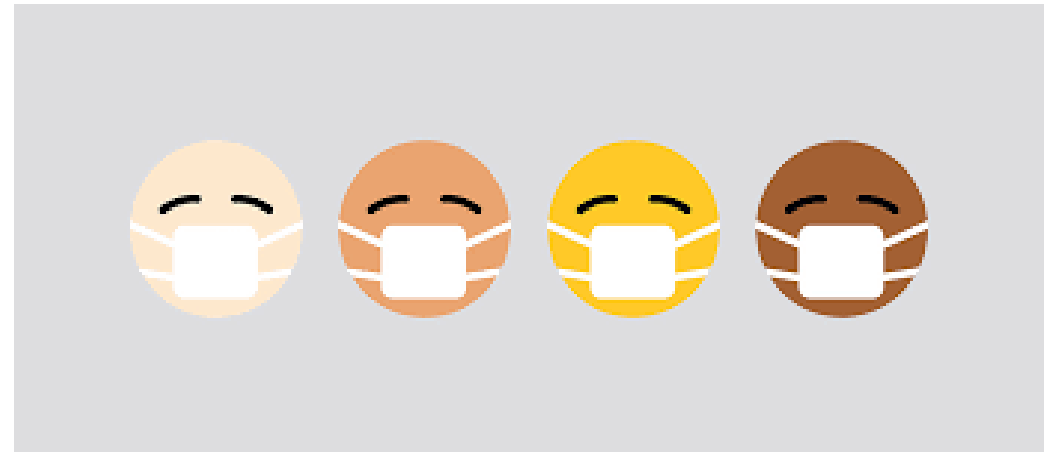
October 31, 2020 deadline



# SWANA was chosen by FEMA to distribute facial coverings to the waste and recycling industry

We took orders on our website and more than 2 million masks are being delivered to companies and local governments in all 50 states

Free Masks



**The COVID-19  
Pandemic  
Continues to Have  
Significant  
Impacts on Waste  
and Recycling**

**Residential waste peaked at a 20-25% increase and is now up 5-10%**

- Some local govts suspended curbside programs (recycling, bulky) due to need to collect trash
  - A few cities have hired contractors to assist
- About half have restored suspended programs as resid volume has decreased

**Commercial waste went down 20-25%**

- In several major cities the decline was 50% or more
- Currently down 8-10% nationwide

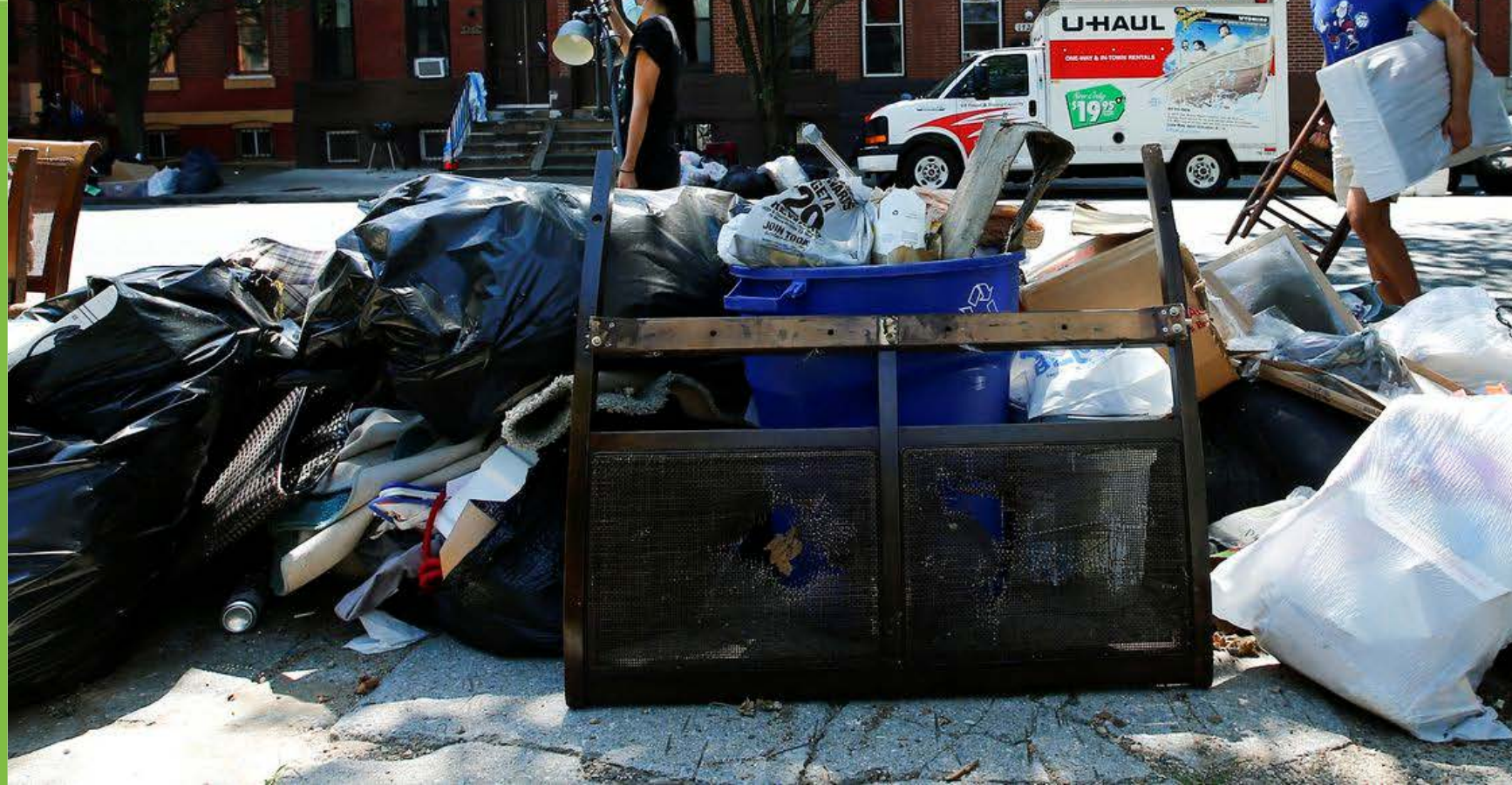


# PPE Litter Threatens Public Health and the Environment!





# Trash on the Street = Catnip for Reporters



## Reporters Seek SWANA's Guidance

**A growing number of national and local reporters contact SWANA to better understand impact of COVID-19**

- WSJ
- NBC News
- Discover Magazine
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- Voice of America
- [NPR](#)

<https://swana.org/news/swana-in-the-news>



# National Sword disrupted recycling programs throughout the United States – 100+ curbside programs suspended

## Impact of National Sword



## Response to National Sword (2017-2020)

- U.S. and Chinese companies investing in domestic paper/plastic (25+ facilities)
- Some local govts cut back on curbside or increased rates
- Emphasis on reducing **contamination**
- Recycling contracts renegotiated
- MRFs investing in new equip – robots/AI
- Brands making commitments to use recycled content
- Congress and EPA interested in supporting recycling



# EPA established an [America Recycles Network](#)

- 2018 ARD Pledge

- 2019 Summit & Innovations Fair

Nov 2020 - EPA will be issuing national strategy and goals

EPA - Recycling





**The issues we focused on B.C. (Before COVID) are returning to the front burner:**

**Recycling** – EPA [National Goals](#) and National Recycling Strategy; AR Summit 11/17

- Basel Amendment – Impact on Plastic
- China says no more imports starting in 2021
- Congressional action in 2021? (\$\$\$)

**PFAS** – high profile issue re landfill leachate

- Congress, EPA, Michigan & other States

**Worker Safety** – solid waste collection workers have the 5<sup>th</sup> highest worker fatality rate in U.S.

**Post-COVID-19**

**Safety: Nothing  
We do is More  
Important**

**SWANA has an award-winning [safety program](#) that provides info & resources for reducing accidents, injuries, and fatalities**

- Safety Ambassadors in every chapter
- Hauler Outreach
- Slow Down to Get Around
- OSHA Alliance
- [Five to Stay Alive](#)



## SWANA Safety Pledge

“I pledge to help everyone get home safe every single day. I will consider worker, customer, and public safety in every decision that I make.

My ultimate mission is to serve the community safely for myself, my co-workers, and those who depend on me. If I cannot do it safely, then I will not do it at all.”

*Take the pledge online @ [SWANA.org/SAFETY](https://www.swana.org/safety)*



## Busy Calendar of Fall/Winter Events

- **MRF Summit** – Nov 18-19
  - ISRI co-hosting – focus on recycling
- **Colombia grant training** – Nov/Dec
- **SWANA Annual Meeting** – Dec 9
- **Board of Directors Meeting** - Dec
- **WASTECON** – Jan 26-28, 2021
  - 9-10 Keynotes plus Networking
- **Safety Summit** – Feb 25, 2021

**Updating Manager of Landfill Operations  
(MOLO)**

**PLEASE PARTICIPATE!**

**THANK YOU**

