

**Waste Conversion Technology  
Conference & Trade Show**

**The 16th  
Waste Conversion  
Technology Conference &  
Trade Show  
(WCTC 2025)**

# Moderator & Speaker Compendium

August 11-13, 2025

The Dana on Mission Bay  
San Diego, California



Organized by:



Platinum Sponsor:



**EICM**  
ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT, LLC



**eFACTORTHREE**

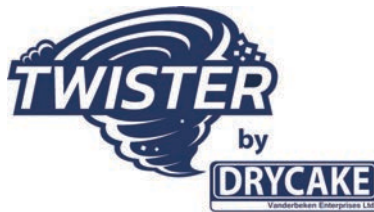


eFACTORTHREE



# SMART PIECES, THE RIGHT FIT, PROVEN RESULTS

SHRED IT, SCREEN IT, SIFT IT, SORT IT, DEPACK IT, CLEAN IT



SERVICE,  
INTEGRATION, SPARE  
& WARE PARTS

## VISIT US AT BOOTH 6

[sales@efactor3.com](mailto:sales@efactor3.com)

+1 (877) 801-3232

[efactor3.com](http://efactor3.com)

---

---

# Table of Contents

	Page
Conference Sponsor List.....	4
List of Exhibitors and Exhibit Hall Diagram.....	5
Conference Agenda:	
Opening Session .....	6
Session I: Investing in Sustainability: Market Forces, Resource Valorization, and Public Policy Levers.....	7
Session II: Fueling the Future: Overcoming Feedstock Challenges in Advanced Recycling .....	7
Session III: Modern Waste Conversion Technologies: Regulation, Integration & Public Engagement .....	8
Session IV: Biomass Conversion Technologies: An Overview of Opportunities and Obstacles .....	8
Session V: Closing Session - Waste Conversion Where Do We Go From Here!.....	9
Moderator & Speaker Profiles .....	10
Program at a Glance .....	Back Page

---

# Thank You Sponsors!

## PLATINUM SPONSOR:



eFACTORTHREE

## GOLD SPONSORS:



SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## SILVER SPONSORS:

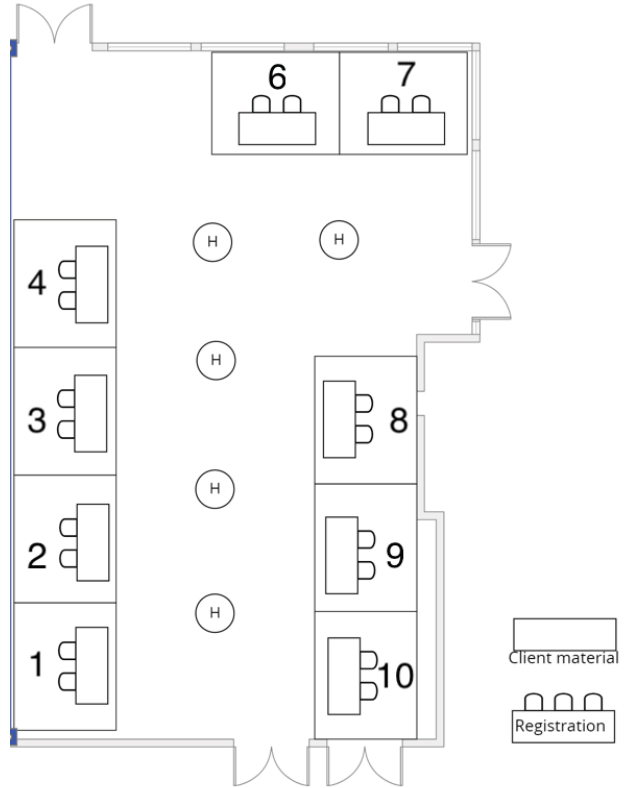


## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:



# WCTC List of Exhibitors

Organization.....	Booth #
Amandus Kahl USA Corporation .....	4
eFACTOR3, LLC .....	6
Energy Transaction Advisors, LLC (ETA) .....	8
Sierra Energy.....	7
Southwest Research Institute.....	3
Vecoplan, LLC .....	2



## Key Exhibition Times

### Monday, August 11, 2025

Exhibitor Setup: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

### Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Continental Breakfast: 7:15 am - 8:00 am  
 Refreshment Break: 10:00 am - 10:30 am  
 Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
 Refreshment Break: 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
 Reception: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

### Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Continental Breakfast: 7:45 am - 8:30 am  
 Refreshment Break: 10:00 am - 10:30 am  
 Exhibitor Breakdown: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

---

# Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show

## Agenda

### Monday, August 11, 2025

=====

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Mission Bay Ballroom Foyer
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Exhibitor Set up	Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Welcome Reception	Mission Bay Ballroom Terrace

### Tuesday, August 12, 2025

=====

7:15 am – 6:30 pm	Registration Open	Mission Bay Ballroom Foyer
7:15 am – 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific
8:00 am - 10:00 am	<b>Opening Session</b>	Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset

Welcome: **Eugene (Gene) Jones**, Executive Director, Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc.

Moderator: **Timothy E Kelley**, President and CEO, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC) (Invited)

***Changing Landscape of Biomass Conversion Projects Under New Federal Administration***

Scott Vanderau, Partner, Energy Transaction Advisors

***Biosolids Conversion and Assured PFAS Destruction***

Jim Henderson, Vice President of Business Development, Heartland

***Scale-up and Demonstration of Waste Conversion Technologies***

Eloy Flores, III, Southwest Research Institute

***Sierra Railroad Company: California's Green Hydrogen Solution***

Mike Hart, CEO, Sierra Railroad Company

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025 (Continued)**

=====

10:00 am - 10:30 am      Break: Exhibit Hall      Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific

10:30 am - 12:00 pm      **Session I:**      Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset  
**Investing in Sustainability: Market Forces,  
Resource Valorization, and Public Policy Levers**

Moderator: **Ron Sherga**, Sustainability Advisor, CheckSammy

***Blue Blue Capitalization: Increasing Value Through Sustainability***

Dr. Andrea Neal, Ph.D., President & Board Member, Blue Capital, LLC

***Trends and Perspectives in Bioresource Valorization - Pathways,  
Insights, Economics, and Barriers in Commercialization***

Michael Long, Principal, Thermochemical Engineer, Long Thermochemical

***Los Angeles County's SB 1383 Infrastructure and  
Procurement Strategy***

Kawsar Vazifdar, P.E., M.S., ENVSP, Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Works

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm      Lunch (Provided)      Mission Bay Ballroom Terrace

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm      **Session II:**      Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset  
**Fueling the Future: Overcoming Feedstock Challenges in  
Advanced Recycling**

Moderator: **Brian Bauer**, CEO and Co-Founder, Resynergi, Inc.

***Feedstock Preparation for Advanced and Mechanical Recycling***

Lennart Bendfeldt, Solutions Manager, eFACTOR3, LLC

***The Challenges in Solving One of the Two Biggest Cost Drivers of  
Advanced Recycling – Feedstock Acquisition and Preparation***

Kevin DeWhitt, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, PDO Technologies, Inc.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm      Break: Exhibit Hall      Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific



---

---

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025 (Continued)**  
=====

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm      **Session III:**      **Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset**  
**Modern Waste Conversion Technologies: Regulation,**  
**Integration & Public Engagement**

Moderator: **James Swart**, Director, Special Projects, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)

**Speakers:**

**Kawsar Vazifdar**, P.E., M.S., ENVSP, Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

**Jon Angin**, Director of International Solid Waste Services, Tetra Tech

**Nick Kohr**, Director of Engineering, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm      Reception: Exhibit Hall      **Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific**

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025**  
=====

7:45 am - 12:00 pm      Registration Open      **Mission Bay Ballroom Foyer**

7:45 am - 8:30 am      Continental Breakfast      **Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific**

8:30 am - 10:00 am      **Session IV:**      **Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset**  
**Biomass Conversion Technologies:**  
**An Overview of Opportunities and Obstacles**

**Speakers:**

**Scott Vanderau**, Partner, Energy Transaction Advisors, LLC (ETA)

**Dr. Andrea Neal**, Ph.D., President & Board Member, Blue Capital, LLC

10:00 am - 10:30 am      Break: Exhibit Hall      **Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific**

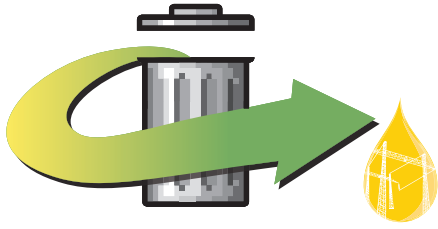


---

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025 (Continued)**

=====

10:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Session V: Closing Session - Waste Conversion Where Do We Go From Here!</b>	Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset
12:00 pm	Adjourn	
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Exhibitor Breakdown	



**Waste Conversion Technology  
Conference & Trade Show**

**Moderator and Speaker Profiles**

# EUGENE (GENE) JONES

Eugene (Gene) Jones, CEO, Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc. (SWIX) and Executive Director, Waste Conversion Technology Association, Inc.



## Bio:

Gene Jones serves as Executive Director of the Southern Waste Information Exchange (SWIX), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which has been operating since 1981 assisting businesses and municipalities with their waste management and remediation issues.

With over 40 years of experience, Gene specializes in building strategic relationships with waste and remediation firms. He brings a vast knowledge of various environmental sectors from organizing and managing conferences such as;

- the PFAS Forum,
- the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Conference & Trade Show,
- the Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show,
- the Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show,
- the New Life for Closed Gas Stations Conference and Exhibition,
- the International Symposium on the Redevelopment of Manufactured Gas Plant Sites,
- the National Conference on Waste Exchange and Resource Reuse, and
- Florida Remediation Conference.

as well as in managing associations such as:

- Florida Agricultural Plastics Recycling Cooperative
- Florida BioFuels & BioEnergy Association, Inc.,
- Recycle Florida Today, Inc.,
- International Society of Technical & Environmental Professionals, Inc.,
- Florida Brownfields Association, Inc., and
- Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc.

Gene is a Martial Arts practitioner and has his 8th degree black belt in Shaolin GoJu and a 5th degree black belt in Nisei GoJu. Gene is also the Author of [Instant Self-Esteem: Empowering Self-Confidence](#) and [The Mindful Sensei](#).

Gene is also the inventor of the [Soap Bag Saver](#), which he designed for the reuse of leftover soap bars.

# TIMOTHY E. KELLEY



Timothy E Kelley, President and CEO, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC)

## Bio:

Timothy E. Kelley is the President and CEO of Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC). As CEO, he is responsible for the effective execution of the region's strategic economic development plan and has implemented numerous local initiatives that strengthen the regional economic vitality. Tim's vision for the Imperial Valley comes from a comprehensive understanding of the Southwest border region and its effect on local, state, and global economies. His international experience comes from extensive travels and interactions with business and civic leaders in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. He has also been successful in bringing foreign direct investment opportunities throughout the state of California. Tim is the President of the Board of Directors of TeamCalifornia, a statewide organization that promotes international trade and investment for California, a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce San Diego-Imperial District Export Council; and a member of the Board of Directors of Cleantech San Diego. In addition, Tim serves on several other boards and commissions related to economic development, workforce, and education, and serves as a member of the Imperial County Workforce Development Board, as well as chairman of their Business and Marketing Committee. Tim is also active in many civic and community-based organizations that promote sustainable economic prosperity in Imperial Valley. He is a past president and current board member of the Imperial Valley Community Foundation, secretary and treasurer of Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation, past president and current member of the Brawley Rotary Club, past chief executive, and current member of the Brawley Elks Lodge #1420. He serves as treasurer of the Brawley Community Foundation and chairman of the Brawley Airport Commission. In addition, he is responsible for Imperial Regional Alliance, Inc., a nonprofit organization that brings educational, financial, and employment opportunities to the Imperial Valley. Tim received a Bachelor's in Communications Arts and Sciences from the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Southern California. Tim also holds many certificates and received recognition for his work in all aspects. Tim resides in Brawley, California with his wife, Marisa Kelley.

# SCOTT VANDERAU



## Presentation Title:

***Changing Landscape of Biomass Conversion Projects Under New Federal Administration***

Scott Vanderau, Partner, Energy Transaction Advisors, LLC

## Abstract:

A description of Biomass Projects in Development in USA. Influence of Trump Administration energy directives, to likely include coal & biomass as feedstock. Economics & market dynamics of about 10 such projects in development.

## Bio:

Scott is Founder & Partner of ETA, a boutique consultancy serving diverse clients in the Energy, Power and Infrastructure sectors. Recent focus has been on Biomass Conversion by Gasification and Pyrolysis.

# JIM HENDERSON



## Presentation Title:

### ***Biosolids Conversion and Assured PFAS Destruction***

Jim Henderson, Vice President of Business Development, Heartland

## Abstract:

Heartland's HelioStorm™ is an ultra-high temperature ionic plasma synthesis reformer conversion technology. This compact, modular system enables efficient on-site processing of materials that are typically disposed of agriculturally or via landfill upcycling them into valuable outputs. Heartland's HelioStorm™ system is compact and modular, and able to be scaled to accommodate waste streams of any size. Heartland's HelioStorm technology is deployed with a companion, novel dryer technology as a distributed service alleviating the burden of operations, maintenance, and disposal.

Operating without thermal oxidation, HelioStorm™ fully decomposes PFAS at extreme temperatures, converting up to 95% of the mass into renewable syngas and innocuous solid char. The process produces no harmful byproducts such as tars, oils, or acid gases, enabling reliable, environmentally-sound conversion of biosolids. HelioStorm™ reduces the need for traditional waste disposal methods while creating sustainable energy resources. HelioStorm™ excels in upcycling for energy recovery. High energy syngas can be used as input fuel for an electrical generator to produce power for the plasma synthesis reformer and waste heat for biosolids drying. This produced syngas can provide approximately 75% of the overall energy needed for biosolids processing. The operational efficiency of HelioStorm™ also translates into direct economic benefits. The system's efficiency reduces both capital and operational costs, while minimizing the need for secondary treatment. By treating waste on site, Heartland's solution also reduces transport and disposal costs offering a more sustainable and economical alternative to conventional waste management.

## Bio:

Jim Henderson is Vice President of Business Development for Heartland, bringing 37 years of experience in municipal and industrial wastewater treatment, potable water management, specialty chemicals application, and residuals solutions. Throughout Jim's career, he has been responsible for developing and implementing business plans for targeted market segments and identifying opportunities and platforms for growth. At Heartland, Jim leads global business development for the full suite of the company's technologies including HelioStorm™, LTC Dry™, and its award-winning Concentrator. Jim works with a broad array of clients to develop sustainable, waste-to-energy strategies focused on landfill diversion and destruction of contaminants of emerging concern such as PFAS.



---

## ABRAHAM GUTMAN ROMERO

---



### Presentation Title:

#### *Scale-up and Demonstration of Waste Conversion Technologies*

Abraham Gutman Romero, Research Engineer, Southwest Research Institute

### Abstract:

SwRI has prior experience in producing chemicals from feedstocks like biomass, municipal solid waste and plastics as well as upgrading from petroleum sources through process improvements in areas like solids feeding and pumping, energy savings and associated engineering solutions. Through numerous and diverse projects completed over decades SwRI promotes an achievable and sustainable energy and material economy. This presentation will cover the different facets of scaling-up and upgrading different feedstocks to renewable fuels chemicals while competing with fossil-based petrochemicals.

### Bio:

Abraham Gutman is a chemical engineer with experience in designing process systems and conducting research across the chemical, gas, and petroleum industries. He has played a key role in the development and scale-up of pyrolysis-based technologies for converting biomass and other feedstocks into fuels and chemical intermediates. His work also supports broader decarbonization and waste conversion efforts. Abraham holds a degree in Chemical Engineering from Brigham Young University.



# MICHAEL HART



## Presentation Title:

*Sierra Railroad Company: California's Green Hydrogen Solution*

Michael Hart, CEO, Sierra Railroad Company

## Abstract:

Sierra Railroad Company (SRC) aims to comprehensively address California's wide array of emission and waste issues. Mainly, there is a dearth of renewable hydrogen fuel, fueling infrastructure and safe hydrogen transportation to meet vehicle fleet demands. Simultaneously, landfills are emitting out-of-control methane emissions (per NASA) and sewage sludge is riddled with per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

SRC aims to address these issues using its subsidiaries, Sierra Northern Railway and Sierra Energy. Sierra Energy's FastOx gasification technology will produce green hydrogen for Sierra Northern Railway's hydrogen powered locomotive (successfully built and tested in March 2025). This can then be easily scaled up for other rail networks and achieve negative emissions by shifting to hydrogen rail powered by negative carbon intensity hydrogen.

## Bio:

Mike Hart has been the CEO of Sierra Railroad Company for 30 years, leading its freight, passenger, and real estate divisions to significant environmental achievements, including the development of America's first hybrid hydrogen locomotives in collaboration with the State of California. His company, Sierra Northern Railway, was named the "Most Environmental Railroad" in 2024. Additionally, as Director of Sierra Energy, he collaborates with public agencies, academia, and industry on environmental and regulatory issues. Sierra Energy is working with Sierra Railroad Company to develop locomotives powered by hydrogen fuel cells and batteries using Sierra Energy's zero-emission FastOx gasification technology. Sierra Energy's FastOx gasification can take any type of waste and convert it to clean energy, including hydrogen, with no emissions. His work has earned him prestigious recognitions such as the "Environmental Hero" from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a Railway Age Influential Leader, and a "Champion of Change" from the Obama administration. Hart is an alumnus of the University of California at Davis, Singularity University, and Stanford Business School's Advanced Management Program, and serves as an Edmund Hillary Fellow in New Zealand.

# RON SHERGA



Ron Sherga, Sustainability Advisor, CheckSammy

## Bio:

Recently, Mr. Sherga served as the first ever Circular Economy programme director for INEOS/BP, between January 2019 and April, 2021. Key advisor on a sustainable strategy team for a large wealth fund with large chemical firms as part of their portfolio between June 2021 and December 2022.

In this role, he was part of the leadership team developing a large chemical recycling project for PET polymers back to basic feedstocks. His primary task was developing large scale, sustainable, raw material sources for the plants. Ron convinced BP leaders to scale up from a small pilot project to a billion-dollar global rollout named Infinia. Ron was also tasked with exploring other areas within BP that were seeking guidance on Circular solutions; retail, Castrol Oil, Wind/Solar, and Carbon offset group. Most recently, Ron was VP of innovation and membership for Cyclyx from 10-2022 thru 5-2025.

Ron has played key roles in various end of life materials solutions:

1. Textile recycling industry
2. E scrap
3. Packaging scrap
4. Auto scrap recovery

He has also advised on other solutions/processes regarding polymer waste:

1. Plastics to oil
2. WTE
3. Plastics to monomers
4. Integration with virgin polymer usage

Key business activities since 2005:

- Director of one of the five largest plastics recyclers in North America – oversaw multiple facilities and operations- Infiltrator Water Systems/Champion Polymer Recycling
- Pivotal role in C-11 turnaround and successful exit acquisition
- Various Plastics industry associations committee member or founder
- Advisor to Cradle to Cradle on polymer value chain
- MIT CERTIFIED in Clean Energy Ventures
- CALRECYCLE CLIMATE CHANGE GHG OFFSET GRANT RECIPIENT
- Key strategy and commercial advisor to numerous large waste companies, recyclers, and polymer Mfrs.
- Due diligence advisor to Private Equity groups as subject matter expert in materials, equipment and procurement for M&A projects
- Advisor on alternative financing instruments-Green Bonds, Grants and Transition Bonds
- Recognized leader in alternative materials and procurement/feedstocks
- [JSRI.org](https://www.jsri.org/) Design for Recycling Award winner 2017
- Recycling Trailblazer Award by Recycling Today and GIE MEDIA
- Issued patents in Recycling related technologies- Founder Ecostrate SFS Inc.-acting chairman
- First ever Programme director of Circular Economy for BP (now INEOS)
- Led feedstock efforts and pre-process design for large-scale project for chemical Recycling of plastic in EU and NA
- Key creator of consortium to support chemical recycling of polymer waste
- Featured in Circular Economy for Dummies released in April 2021

Personal; Ron enjoys golf, running, trail biking, hiking, fly fishing and advocacy work for people with disabilities. Ron Sherga is married with three grown children and his 4 year old grandson the center of his universe and has been active on a national basis on issues regarding children with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

## DR. ANDREA NEAL, PH.D.



### Presentation Title:

***Blue Blue Capitalization: Increasing Value Through Sustainability***

Dr. Andrea Neal, Ph.D., President & Board Member, Blue Capital, LLC

### Abstract:

Discover how Blue Capitalization techniques can de-risk your waste conversion projects and unlock new value.

### Bio:

Andrea C. Neal, PhD - Dr. Neal is a Visionary Circular Carbon Recovery and Transitional Fuels Innovator. For 20 years, Dr Neal has been at the forefront of Blue Economy Business and Technology development as a senior executive and founder of six companies developing; blue circular economy models for monetization of non-recyclable plastic, blue-energy production, environmental detection and remediation systems, financing and GHG reductions wraps to help generate Blue Capital to drive circular carbon recovery.

## MICHAEL LONG



### Presentation Title:

*Trends and Perspectives in Bioresource Valorization - Pathways, Insights, Economics, and Barriers in Commercialization*

Michael Long, Principal, Thermochemical Engineer, Long Thermochemical

### Abstract:

This presentation explores current trends in bioresource valorization, highlighting current and near-future pathways for the conversion of biomass and waste resources into valuable products such as renewable fuels and chemicals. Drawing from experiences gained through years of technical pilot site development and project management, as well as a world-wide network of leading collaborators, the presentation will examine key insights into the technical, economic, and regulatory challenges facing commercialization. Additionally, perspectives on the future of bioresource markets will be discussed, focusing on emerging opportunities for successful technology development and overcoming commercialization barriers. The presentation aims to provide an entry level, yet comprehensive, introduction to emerging technological pathways, an overview of the current state of bioresource valorization, and review of market forces impacting project economic viability.

### Bio:

As Principal of Long Thermochemical, Mr. Long provides strategic advisory, process engineering, and research services throughout the bioresource and decarbonization economy. After 10 years at the cutting-edge of thermochemical RnD and commercialization, he founded the consultancy to address the industry-wide need for an agile consortium of experienced practitioners to assist in commercialization of these projects by providing critical-path solutions - where needed, as needed. The consultancy, with its world-wide network of leading research and industry collaborations, assists both public and private clients in bioresource assessment and project conceptualization through detailed engineering and system commissioning efforts. Previously, as Director of Research and Development at West Biofuels, Mr. Long managed the company's research activities and coordinated collaborations with public and private partners. He managed the daily efforts of RnD staff and subcontractors while leading the development of thermochemical and catalytic synthesis processes on multiple demonstration systems at pilot and engineering scales. Mr. Long authored the winning proposal for the 1st U.S. pilot demonstration project for woody biomass to RNG with Power to Gas upgrading and has managed multiple publicly funded projects demonstrating the conversion of bioresources to products including: RNG, FT liquids for SAF and Renewable Diesel, Hydrogen, Alcohols, and Advanced Carbons. His research is featured in publications including, "Renewable Natural Gas Production from Woody Biomass via Gasification and Fluidized-Bed Methanation." He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, San Diego and PhD Candidacy in Biological Systems Engineering at the University of California, Davis.



## KAWSAR VAZIFDAR, P.E., M.S., ENVSP



### Presentation Title:

#### *Los Angeles County's SB 1383 Infrastructure and Procurement Strategy*

Kawsar Vazifdar, P.E., M.S., ENVSP, Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

### Abstract:

This presentation will outline Los Angeles County Public Works' approach to complying with California's SB 1383 requirements to divert organic waste from landfill disposal. The presenter will highlight challenges, such as developing anaerobic digestion infrastructure in densely populated urban areas, and an ongoing analysis to identify suitable sites in the County. Procurement of products created from recovered organic waste, including renewable natural gas and compost, is not only a requirement of SB 1383, but it also creates demand for end products which will in turn support the anaerobic digestion marketplace. Increasing the availability of recovered organic waste products requires more anaerobic digestion infrastructure – highlighting the need for a circular organic waste economy to embed SB 1383 compliance into Southern California's waste management landscape.

### Bio:

Kawsar Vazifdar works at Los Angeles County Public Works in the Environmental Programs Division. She manages a team that develops, analyzes, and implements environmental policies. Ms. Vazifdar leads The Southern California Conversion Technology Project, which promotes the development of infrastructure creating renewable energy and fuels from municipal solid waste. In addition, she is responsible for implementing single-use plastics policies in unincorporated County and implementing sustainable waste management programs at County facilities. Last, Ms. Vazifdar tracks sustainability metrics and coordinates sustainability reporting on behalf of Public Works' Environmental Services branch.

---

## BRIAN BAUER

---



Brian Bauer, CEO and Co-Founder, Resynergi, Inc.

**Bio:**

Brian Bauer, CEO of Resynergi, is a distinguished leader with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford and a graduate of the UCLA business program. With a robust background in advanced telecommunications systems, he holds 25 years of experience as a marketing and business manager. A notable achievement is a successful exit from TriAccess Technologies, which specialized in fiber-to-the-home semiconductors. His unique blend of technical expertise and strategic business acumen has been pivotal in driving Resynergi's success in the sustainable energy sector.

## LENNART BENDFELDT



### Presentation Title:

#### *Feedstock Preparation for Advanced and Mechanical Recycling*

Lennart Bendfeldt, Solutions Manager, eFACTOR3, LLC

### Abstract:

This presentation explores the transformative journey of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) towards fuels and energy recovery, emphasizing the importance of cutting-edge equipment to enhance efficiency in the process. The overarching goal is to systematically segregate MSW into specific materials or ingredients, creating a streamlined and sustainable approach to waste-to-energy conversion.

### Bio:

Lennart has been an integral part of the eFACTOR3 team for a cumulative period of 5 years. As our Solutions Manager, he leverages his extensive knowledge of recycling applications and our products to assist our staff and clients in selecting the best equipment and resolving their most complex recycling challenges. Lennart's experience and expertise make him a valuable asset in providing innovative solutions to our clients.



## KEVIN DEWHITT



### Presentation Title:

***The Challenges in Solving One of the Two Biggest Cost Drivers of Advanced Recycling – Feedstock Acquisition and Preparation***

Kevin DeWhitt, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, PDO Technologies, Inc.

### Abstract:

Regardless of project scale, all advanced recycling technologies are currently challenged with the costs associated with the “care and feeding” of their conversion process equipment. This presentation will examine the author’s 25-year history with conversion technologies and how each generation of effort was governed by the tools and technologies and constraints of the day, and how each step forward solved certain challenges but created others. The presentation will conclude with a list of best practices for feedstock acquisition and preparation for the current generation of companies in this growing space.

### Bio:

Kevin DeWhitt is the founder of PDO Technologies Inc., a company dedicated to keeping plastic waste out of the natural environment. For the past 7 years, PDO Technologies has advanced its plastic waste conversion technology, making it economically efficient, carbon neutral and operable in the most remote corners of the world. Partnering with mechanical recyclers and local communities, PDO creates micro-circular economies, processing the hard-to-recycle plastic waste.

Prior to PDO, Mr. DeWhitt founded Agilyx Corporation, (originally, Plas2Fuel), a first of its kind, plastic-to-crude oil technology company. Agilyx raised more than \$150 million from green-tech angel investors, venture capitalists and strategic partners, becoming the leader in chemical recycling. Mr. DeWhitt led the development efforts as Chief Technology Officer, resulting in commercialization in 2012 at three project locations in the USA. Mr. DeWhitt has been granted one international and eight national (US) patents related to PTF technology.

## SESSION III

### MODERN WASTE CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES: REGULATION, INTEGRATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Moderator: **James Swart**, Director, Special Projects, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)

#### Speakers:

**Kawsar Vazifdar**, P.E., M.S., ENVSP, Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

**Jon Angin**, Director of International Solid Waste Services, Tetra Tech

**Nick Kohr**, Director of Engineering, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

### SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Waste conversion technologies present both opportunity and complexity for jurisdictions seeking to modernize their solid waste systems. This session explores the current regulatory and operational environment shaping waste conversion, particularly from the perspectives of California, Pennsylvania, and broader North America.

We'll examine the substantial regulatory hurdles—such as California's SB 1383 organic diversion requirements and air emissions restrictions in Pennsylvania—that often limit viable conversion options to anaerobic digestion and other organic-based systems. International insights will highlight how scale and regulatory frameworks differ abroad, providing a contrast to the North American experience.

The session will also delve into the integration of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) into broader waste management systems. Participants will hear how WTE can serve as a primary pillar in an integrated strategy, supported by upstream sorting and downstream diversion techniques. Case studies from SWANA's Applied Research Foundation (ARF) report will offer data on the refurbishment and construction of WTE facilities, including capital costs, capacity, lifespan, and lessons learned.

Attendees will also explore how due diligence—evaluating waste stream composition, existing infrastructure, environmental regulations, and community goals—is essential for effective planning. Finally, the discussion will address public perception and education, featuring real-world outreach efforts from LCSWMA and LA County.



#### Swart Bio:

James W. Swart is an association professional and currently serves as the director of special projects for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). In his role, James oversees SWANA's education and training initiatives, including certifications, volunteer activities, subject matter expert groups, and governance for the organization.

Before joining SWANA, James was the director of education and leadership development for the National Apartment Association, providing leadership for NAA's leadership development programs and non-credential education. James received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biosystems Engineering and his Master's in Agricultural Education, Leadership and Communications from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



#### Vazifdar Bio:

Kawsar Vazifdar works at Los Angeles County Public Works in the Environmental Programs Division. She manages a team that develops, analyzes, and implements environmental policies. Ms. Vazifdar leads The Southern California Conversion Technology Project, which promotes the development of infrastructure creating renewable energy and fuels from municipal solid waste. In addition, she is responsible for implementing single-use plastics policies in unincorporated County and implementing sustainable waste management programs at County facilities. Last, Ms. Vazifdar tracks sustainability metrics and coordinates sustainability reporting on behalf of Public Works' Environmental Services branch.



#### Angin Bio:

Jon Angin is the Director of International Solid Waste Services for Tetra Tech, a global consulting engineering firm. He has more than thirty-five years of experience in the solid waste management and recycling industry, ranging from strategic planning and project development to direct operating experience. Over the course of his career, he has taken a leadership role in assisting both public and private sectors in building long range sustainable strategies for solid waste management collection, recovery and disposal.



#### Kohr Bio:

As Director of Engineering, Nicholas (Nick) is responsible for overseeing the planning, design, and construction of capital projects and infrastructure improvements across all LCSWMA facilities. He has over 15 years of professional experience in the engineering and solid waste management industries. He holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania. Prior to this role, Nick held various engineering and project management positions since his start in 2013.



## SCOTT VANDERAU & DR. ANDREA NEAL



### Presentation Title:

#### ***Biomass Conversion Technologies: An Overview of Opportunities and Obstacles***

Scott Vanderau, Partner, Energy Transaction Advisors, LLC (ETA) and  
Dr. Andrea Neal, Ph.D., President & Board Member, Blue Capital, LLC

### Abstract:

This session offers a comprehensive overview of advanced biomass conversion technologies, including gasification, pyrolysis, and plasma arc systems. Mr. Olliver and Mr. Vanderau will explore the science behind each process, their respective efficiencies, feedstock compatibility, environmental impacts, and end-product applications. Attendees will gain insights into how these technologies can transform agricultural and organic waste into valuable fuels, chemicals, and energy—supporting circular economy goals and reducing landfill dependency. Ideal for stakeholders in waste management, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture sectors.

### Vanderau Bio:

Mr. Vanderau is a partner at Energy Transaction Advisors and a chemical engineer with 25 years of experience in the energy and chemical process industries. Mr. Vanderau has specialized in process modeling/design and technical/financial reviews of alternative energy and chemical projects by providing consulting services related to project development, project finance, acquisition, and federal incentive programs. He has managed and participated in projects related to blue and green hydrogen, waste and biomass to transportation fuels, renewable power, carbon capture and sequestration, and chemical processing. He has participated in the development of fertilizer, fossil power, gas storage, and renewable power projects, performing process modeling, air permitting support, and contract review for these projects.



### Neal Bio:

Dr. Neal is a Visionary Circular Carbon Recovery and Transitional Fuels Innovator. For 20 years, Dr Neal has been at the forefront of Blue Economy Business, Climate Change, and Technology Development, as a senior executive and founder of five companies. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Purdue University, and a PhD from The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

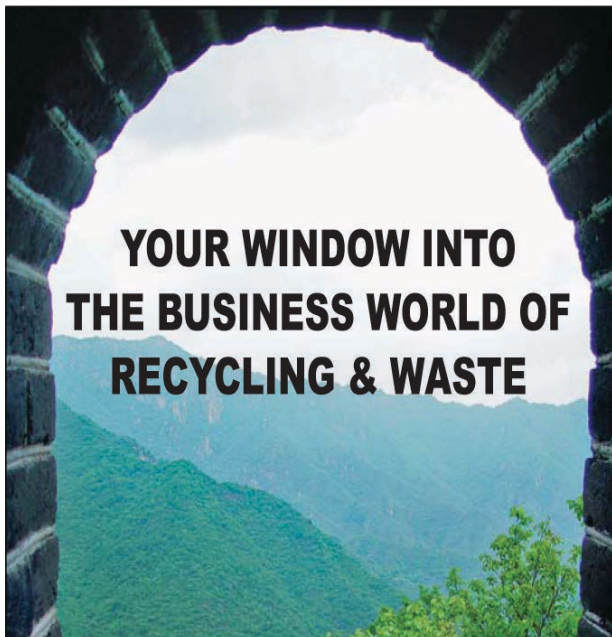
Vecoplan®

# Waste Conversion Solutions

With Vecoplan shredding and recycling systems challenging waste residuals can be transformed into refuse-derived fuel. Our efficient pre-shredding, shredding, and separation equipment ensures superior-quality and clean burning fuel.



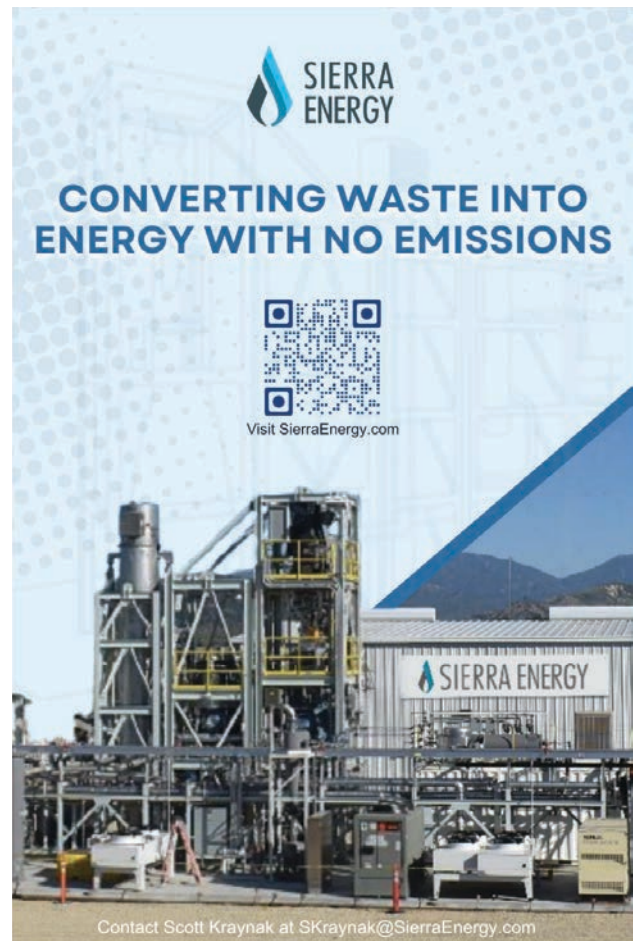
  (336) 850-0859 | [www.vecoplanllc.com](http://www.vecoplanllc.com)




**YOUR WINDOW INTO  
THE BUSINESS WORLD OF  
RECYCLING & WASTE**


**SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER...**  
Call **877-777-0737** and ask for a free trial subscription or visit [AmericanRecycler.com](http://AmericanRecycler.com) to subscribe today.

 **American Recycler**  
NewsVoice of Salvage, Waste and Recycling



 **SIERRA ENERGY**

**CONVERTING WASTE INTO ENERGY WITH NO EMISSIONS**



Visit [SierraEnergy.com](http://SierraEnergy.com)

Contact Scott Kraynak at [SKraynak@SierraEnergy.com](mailto:SKraynak@SierraEnergy.com)



waste  
today

recycling  
today

CONSTRUCTION &  
DEMOLITION  
RECYCLING



## UNMATCHED ACCESS ACROSS THE INDUSTRY

**WEBSITES:** RecyclingToday.com | WasteTodayMagazine.com | CDRecycler.com

**E-NEWSLETTERS:** Recycling Today Weekly | Auto Shredder | Plastics Recycling Report | C&DR | Waste Today Weekly | Recycling Today Global Report

**CONFERENCES:** Battery and Critical Metals Recycling Conference | Scrap Expo | Paper & Plastics Recycling Conference | MRF Operations Forum | Corporate Growth Conference

**SUBSCRIBE:** To subscribe to our magazines or newsletters, please visit any of our websites and select "Magazine" and then "Subscribe."

**ADVERTISE:** We offer unrivaled access to industry decision-makers through print and digital channels.

recycling  
today  
MEDIA GROUP

CONTACT OUR TEAM THROUGH ANY OF OUR WEBSITES OR BY CALLING 1-216-393-0300



## For a greener future

Southwest Research Institute® is an independent, nonprofit, applied research and development organization headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, with more than 3,000 employees and an annual research volume of nearly \$798 million.

We accelerate process development by expediting the design, build-up, and operation of pilot plants of innovative process conversion technologies. Our capabilities include:

- Scale-up, optimization, and troubleshooting of alternative chemical and petroleum processes
- Conducting laboratory validation or proof-of-concept experiments
- Modifying and operating standard refinery pilot plants to produce test quantities of materials (liters to drums)
- Providing independent third-party testing and analysis for the oil and gas industries.



SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[swri.org](http://swri.org)

Visit us at Booth No. 3

### WE SUPPLY SUSTAINABILITY THAT CAN BE MEASURED IN TONS PER HOUR

- ➔ **We Offer:** Flat Die Pellet Mills for Waste and Plastics
- ➔ **Increase Bulk Density** and Reduce Storage & Transport Cost
- ➔ **Create New Revenue** with Alternative Fuel from Waste Feedstock.
- ➔ **Test Before you Invest!** Not sure if Pelletization works for your material? We'll prove it.



Scan to learn more!



Visit **AMANDUS KAHL** Booth# 4 at the Waste Conversion Technology Conference 2025

- ➔ **Contact us to learn more!**
- ☎ 470-303-9844
- 🌐 [www.AKAHL.com](http://www.AKAHL.com)
- ✉ [Neubacher@amandus-kahl-group.de](mailto:Neubacher@amandus-kahl-group.de)





# KEEP INFORMED.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH THE RECYCLING & WASTE INDUSTRY



# Waste Advantage

WASTE. RECYCLING. SUSTAINABILITY.

Waste Advantage Magazine is **the only publication that keeps readers informed** with articles, news and products pertaining to the **waste and recycling industry**. Plus, we provide a MarketPlace for our readers to shop for equipment, products and services.

**Sign up for a print or digital subscription or join our informative newsletter.**

**wasteadvantage.com**

Print Magazine • Digital Magazine • Website • E-Newsletter • MarketPlace • Sponsored Content • On-Demand Webinars

Print and digital advertising available. Call our seasoned staff today to develop the perfect marketing plan for you.

Marcus Rubio: 800-358-2873 x3 [marcus@wasteadvantagemag.com](mailto:marcus@wasteadvantagemag.com)

Bobby Roos: 800-358-2873 x2 [bobby@wasteadvantagemag.com](mailto:bobby@wasteadvantagemag.com)



# Where Waste & Resource Management Professionals Go to Think



**Register  
Now!**

Visit [swana.org](http://swana.org)  
to learn more  
about this premier  
conference

[swana.org/events/rcon2025](http://swana.org/events/rcon2025)



**RCon**<sup>TM</sup>

Powered by SWANA  
Nov. 12-15 • Columbus, OH

# WCTC Contact/Lead Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_







**SERC**  
SOUTHEAST RECYCLING  
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

**It's All about the Business of Recycling!**

## **39th Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show**

**Conference:** February 15-18, 2026

**Trade Show:** February 15-17, 2026

---

**Venue:** Hilton San Destin Beach Golf Resort  
& Spa in Miramar Beach (Destin), FL

---

### **Conference Features:**

- ♻️ 400+ Recycling Industry Leaders
- ♻️ 50+ Exhibitors
- ♻️ Educational Sessions
- ♻️ Business Networking Events

If you are interested in Sponsoring or Exhibiting,  
please contact **Nicki Mayfield** at 850-558-0609 or by email at [nicki@eicmlc.com](mailto:nicki@eicmlc.com)

**Website:** [www.SoutheastRecycling.com](http://www.SoutheastRecycling.com)



# Waste Conversion Technolgoy Conference & Trade Show (WCTC 2025)

## Program at a Glance

Monday, August 11, 2025		
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration Open	(Mission Bay Ballroom Foyer)
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Exhibitor Set up	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Welcome Networking Reception	(Mission Bay Ballroom Terrace)

Tuesday, August 12, 2025		
7:15 am - 6:30 pm	Registration Open	(Mission Bay Ballroom Foyer)
7:15 am - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast - Exhibit Hall	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)
8:00 am - 10:00 am	<b>Opening Session:</b>	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset)
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Break - Exhibit Hall	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Session I: Investing in Sustainability: Market Forces, Resource Valorization, and Public Policy Levers</b>	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset)
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch - Provided	(Mission Bay Ballroom Terrace)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Session II: Fueling the Future: Overcoming Feedstock Challenges in Advanced Recycling</b>	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset)
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Break - Exhibit Hall	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Session III: Modern Waste Conversion Technologies: Regulation, Integration &amp; Public Engagement</b>	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset)
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Reception - Exhibit Hall	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)

Wednesday, August 13, 2025		
7:45 am - 12:00 pm	Registration Open	(Mission Bay Ballroom Foyer)
7:45 am - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast - Exhibit Hall	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)
8:30 am - 10:00 am	<b>Session IV: Biomass Conversion Technologies: An Overview of Opportunities and Obstacles</b>	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset)
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Break - Exhibit Hall	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Marina/Pacific)
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Closing Session - Waste Conversion Where Do We Go From Here!</b>	(Mission Bay Ballroom - Sunset)
12:00 pm	Closing Comments and Adjournment	
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Exhibitor Breakdown	