



SOUTHEAST RECYCLING
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

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

**Conference: February 15-18, 2026
Trade Show: February 15-17, 2026**

Moderator and Speaker Compendium



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Always Working For A Sustainable Tomorrow®

WM is investing in technology, its people and infrastructure to make recycling more effective, accessible and sustainable.

In 2023, we're proud to have recovered over 15 million tons of material, making us North America's largest recycler and helping to strengthen every part of the circular economy.

Paper	Organics	Plastic	Metal	Glass
7,880,038 tons	3,761,350 tons	510,254 tons	505,220 tons	552,122 tons

Learn how at
sustainability.wm.com



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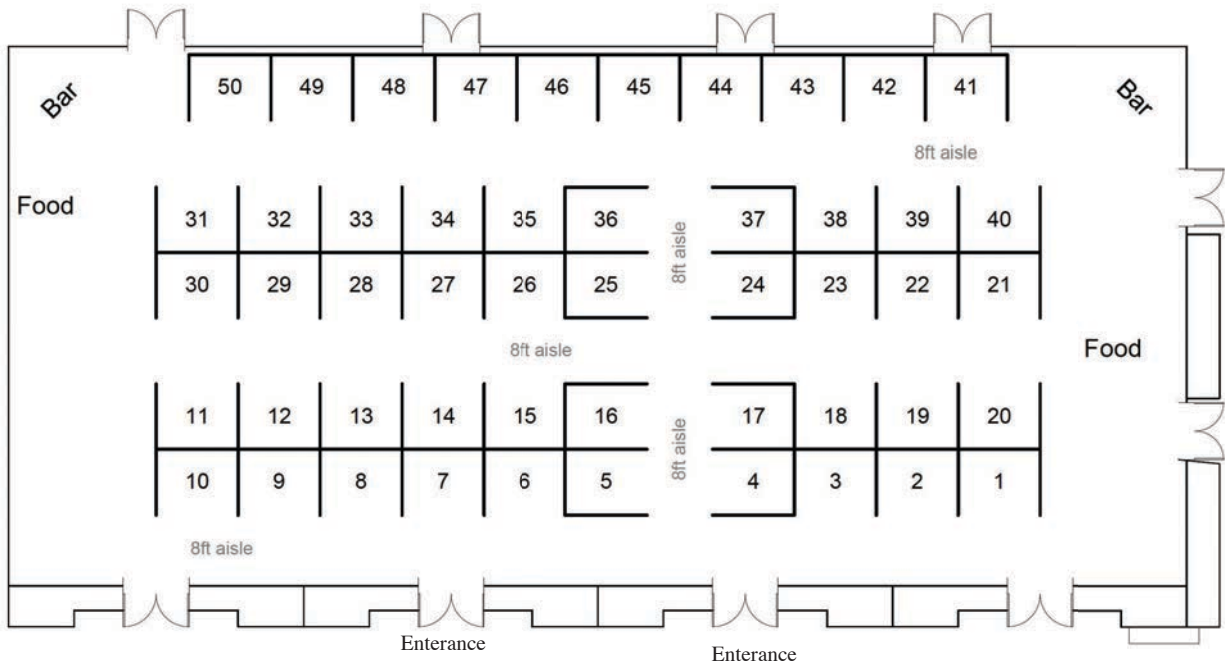
SILVER SPONSORS:



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List of Exhibitors



ACCENT.....	44	Recycling Equipment, Inc. (REI).....	12
American International, Inc.....	33	Recycling Today Media Group.....	20
AMP.....	3	River Bend Molding.....	28
Balemaster.....	47	RRT Design & Construction.....	9
Carolina Recycling Association.....	35	Sibelco.....	48
Compactor Rentals of America.....	49	Sierra International Machinery.....	4
Cram-A-Lot.....	17	Sort Line Consulting and Design.....	50
Davis Industrial.....	31	Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc.....	TBD
eFACTOR3.....	24	Stadler America, LLC.....	14
Endura-Veyor, Inc.....	8	Sustainable Generation, LLC.....	23
EPPCO LLC.....	7	Tank Holding Corp.....	42
Fetch Waste Solutions.....	2	Trex Company, Inc.....	18
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Hallco Industries, Inc.....	37	VLS Environmental Solutions, LLC.....	30
Harris American.....	25 & 36	WastAway.....	32
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Idaho National Laboratory.....	29	WM.....	45 & 46
JMI Resource.....	40		
Leadpoint.....	21		
Lindner Recyclingtech America.....	19		
Machinex Technologies, Inc.....	5		
Macpresse Europa / MP North America, LLC.....	16		
Marathon Equipment Company.....	27		
MAXAM Tire.....	15		
Max-Pak.....	38 & 39		
Polymer Products Inc.....	43		
Recycle Florida Today, Inc.....	TBD		

TBD = To be determined

Agenda

Sunday, February 15, 2026

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1:00 pm - 6:30 pm Registration Open (Room: Emerald Ballroom Foyer)

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Exhibitor Setup (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Pre-Conference Workshop:** (Room: Coral Ballroom A & B)
EPR, Capital, and Markets: The Forces Reshaping U.S.
Recycling in 2026

Moderator: **Mark Neitzey**, Director of Sales, Van Dyk Recycling Solutions

***Critical EPR Developments Shaping the U.S. Landscape:
What You Need To Know***

Jason Bergquist, CEO, RecycleMe - North America

***Financing Circularity in a Challenging Climate: Innovative Sources
of Capital for Circular Solutions***

Ray Hugel, Director of Closed Loop Catalytic Capital & Private Credit,
Closed Loop Partners

Recycling Markets Update

Angela Webb, Chief, Recycled Products & Marketing,
Maryland Environmental Service

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Welcome Reception – Exhibit Hall (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

Sponsored by:



Monday, February 16, 2026

=====

8:10 am - 7:00 pm Registration Open (Room: Emerald Ballroom Foyer)

8:10 am - 8:50 am Continental Breakfast – Exhibit Hall (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

8:50 am - 10:00 am **Opening Session** (Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)

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

Moderator: **Charmayne Watson**, Account Manager, Greif Recycling

Keynote Presentation:

***Beyond Simply the OCC Recycling Rate: An Exclusive First Look
at Historical Ground-Truth Data***

Myles Cohen, Board Member, VIPA USA

10:00 am - 10:30 am Refreshment Break – Exhibit Hall (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

10:30 am - 12:00 pm **Session I:** (Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
AI in Recycling:
From Business Strategy to Processing Solutions

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

Panelists:

Vincent Hunt, Founder & CEO, The Bureau of Creative Intelligence

Peter Lakanen, President, Platinum Web Development

Ting Zhang, Head of Business Development, Glacier

Raghav Mecheri, CEO, Visia

Daryl Arias, CEO & President, Nix Waste

David Marcouiller, Executive Vice President Sales Engineering,
Machinex Technologies

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch (Room: Coastal Ballroom B & C)
Sponsored by:



Monday, February 16, 2026 (Continued)

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Session II: (Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
**The Future of Recycling:
Technologies & Trends Shaping 2026 and Beyond**

Moderator: **DJ VanDeusen**, President, President, Harris American

Recycling Equipment In 2026

Cameron Cecil, VP of Business Development,
Recycling Equipment, Inc.

***Battery Detection and Removal in Material Streams:
A Multi-Sensor Approach for Enhanced Safety
and Regulatory Compliance***

Edel Rodriguez, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing, STEINERT

***Scaling Recycling: Challenges and Opportunities in
MSW Processing***

John Kelsey, Chief Commercial Officer, AMP

Vibratory Screening for Various Waste Streams

Bob Huffer, Director of Recycling, General Kinematics Corporation

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Refreshment Break – Exhibit Hall (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Session III: (Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
**Innovations in Waste Conversion:
Pyrolysis, Green Tech & Biomass Optimization**

Moderator: **Dave Robau**, CEO & Chief Scientist, National Energy USA

***Pyrolysis as a Sustainable Solution for Agricultural Plastic
Waste Management***

Dr. Steve Wong, CEO, Fukutomi Recycling Ltd. and Lisa Puckett,
Chief Compliance Officer, BayArea Compliance (BAC)

Discover New Revenue Streams Through Green Technologies

Steve Napolitan, CEO, WastAway

***Enhancing Biomass Flowability for Entrained Flow Gasification:
The Role of Densification, Torrefaction, and Blended Waste
Processing***

Dr. Jordan Klinger, Researcher, Idaho National Laboratory - BEA

Monday, February 16, 2026 (Continued)

=====

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Session III:
Innovations in Waste Conversion:
Pyrolysis, Green Tech & Biomass Optimization
(Continued)

(Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)

Navigating Carbon Credits: A Path to an Additional Revenue Stream from Waste Biomass

Varsha Ramesh Walsh CEO, Offstream

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

ReMA PSI Chapter Meeting

(Coral Ballroom D)

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Reception - Exhibit Hall
Sponsored by:

(Room: Emerald Ballroom)

Raffle Proceeds to benefit:



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RMHC



Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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8:00 am - 11:30 am Registration Open (Room: Emerald Ballroom Foyer)

8:00 am - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast – Exhibit Hall (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

8:30 am - 10:00 am **Session IV:** (Room: Coral Ballroom A & B)
Advancing Recycling: Innovations to Recover More, Waste Less

Moderator: **Lynne M. Coe-Leavitt**, Department Manager,
Idaho National Laboratory

Recycling the Unrecyclable

Lennart Bendfeldt, Solutions Manager, eFACTOR3

Reducing Contamination in the Recycling Stream

Neal Yancey, Principle Engineer, Idaho National Laboratory - BEA

Developments in Sorting Film and Flexible Packaging at a MRF

Mark Neitzey, Director of Sales, Van Dyk Recycling Solutions

10:00 am - 10:30 am Refreshment Break - Exhibit Hall (Room: Emerald Ballroom)

10:30 am - 11:30 am **Session V:** (Room: Coral Ballroom A & B)
**Sustainable Materials Management and
Innovative Recycling Initiatives**

Moderator: **Karen Moore**, Florida Department of Environmental
Protection

***How To's, Do's and Don'ts for Controlling Odors and Emissions
in Composting Facilities***

Dan Collins, P.E., Organics Consultant, Sustainable Generation, LLC

Treading New Ground in Tire Policy

Stratton Kirton, Vice President of Corporate Affairs,
Liberty Tire Recycling

11:00 am - 6:00 pm **Golf Tournament**
Golfer Sign-in 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Shotgun Start 12:30 pm



11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lunch On Your Own

12:30 pm - 5:00 pm Networking Session (On your own) SERC Adjourns at 5:00 pm



Recycle Florida Today Statewide Recycling Summit

(Room: Coral Ballroom A & B)

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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NOTE: A separate registration fee of \$157 is required to attend the RFT Summit.

7:30 am - 8:00 am Registration Open and Networking with Breakfast

8:00 am - 8:15 am **Welcome and Opening**

Session summary: Opening welcome, housekeeping, and association updates.

8:15 am - 9:15 am **Session #1 – Recycling Innovation & Operations**

Session summary: Looking at the future of technology, automation, and artificial intelligence in solid waste and recycling programs.

Speakers:

Fred Cornell, AD REM - *Technology Optimization for Electronics, Metal & Plastic Recycling*

Patrick J. Owens - *SMM 2030: Redefining Waste as a Strategic Asset in the Era of Automation and Accountability*

Evan Williams, Cambridge Companies, Inc., Office of Sustainability - *The Future of Trends Impacting Facility Design and Operations*

9:15 am - 9:20 am Session Transition



Recycle Florida Today Statewide Recycling Summit

(Room: Coral Ballroom A & B)

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (Continued)

9:20 am - 10:20 am

Session #2 – Advancing Solid Waste & Recycling: Regulatory Updates, Systems Innovation, and Promoting Responsible Recycling

Session summary: Hear how solid waste, landfill, and recycling industries are undergoing significant changes, as communities in Florida grow, including a share on how a pilot program in Kansas City MO that tested three recyclates in the road to show better performance and promoting solid waste management solutions, and how Osceola County, Florida launched the Responsible Recycling Osceola program, to make recycling meaningful, fun, interesting, visible, and community powered

Speakers:

Ralph Demeo, Adams and Reese - *Legal, Regulatory, & Policy Update on Solid Waste, Landfills, and Recycling in Florida*

Olivia English, LiveGreenUSA - *Trash to Roads - A Systems Approach to Innovation*

Paul Conover and Nicole Enverga, Osceola County – Office of Sustainability - *Advancing Solid Waste & Recycling: Regulatory Updates, Systems Innovation, and Promoting Responsible Recycling*

10:25 am - 10:30 am

Session Transition



Recycle Florida Today Statewide Recycling Summit

(Room: Coral Ballroom A & B)

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (Continued)

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Session #3 – Modern Composting in Action

Session summary: This session highlights how a County Organics Compost Facility is advancing large-scale, how facilities are enhancing their ability to recover organics from packaged food waste and divert material from landfills, and a county program that empowers residents with composting knowledge, promotes sustainable food practices, and creates a valuable soil-building resource for the community.

Moderated by **Levin Gaston**, Gaston Tree Debris Recycling, Florida
Composting Council Chair

Speakers:

Steven Birchfield, Maryland Environmental Service - *Depack Attack*
Eva Maria Pabon, UF-IFAS Extension-Osceola County –
A Collaborative Approach to Reducing Food Waste
Dan Collins, Sustainable Generation - *Covered Aerated Static Pile
Composting: Reducing Organics Loading to, and GHG/VOC
Emissions From, Landfills*

11:30 am - 11:35 am

Session Transition

11:35 am - 12:10 pm

Session #4 – Legislative Mid-Session Update (virtual share)

Session Summary: Hear an update of the waste and recycling bills from
the 2026 Florida Legislative Session.

Speakers:

Willie Puz, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, FL
Recycle Florida Today, Inc. Legislative Committee

12:10 pm - 12:15 pm

Closing Remarks and Adjourn



SERC 50/50 Raffle

**Winner Can Select to Take
Half the Pot in Cash
or a Bottle of
15 Yr Pappy VanWinkle!**



Drawing to take place in the
Exhibit Hall at 6:30 pm at the
Monday Night Reception

Proceeds to benefit:





SERC Moderator and Speaker Profiles

**Moderators and Speakers appear
in order of listing on the agenda.**

MARK NEITZEY



Mark Neitzey

Mark Neitzey, Director of Sales, Van Dyk Recycling Solutions

Bio:

Mark has been involved in over 200 recycling equipment projects in the last 24 years, including: simple roll cutting and baling sites, large baling systems, wood waste screening, C&D sorting systems, an automated MSW/fuel system, commercial sorting systems, PET/ Plastics sorting systems, various single stream sorting systems and system retrofits. Mark lives in Houston, TX and travels throughout North America, gaining a broad perspective on the industry and its current trends.

JASON BERGQUIST



Presentation Title:

Critical EPR Developments Shaping the U.S. Landscape: What You Need To Know

Jason Bergquist, CEO, RecycleMe - North America

Abstract:

In this presentation, Jason will explore the evolution of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the U.S., beginning with a roadmap of how the current landscape emerged. He'll cover the core principles of EPR, the status of adoption across states, and the significant challenges created by a fragmented and politically complex environment. Drawing on insights from the 2025 data reporting cycle, Jason will highlight key lessons learned, particularly for plastic and packaging producers. He will examine the barriers to harmonizing EPR standards and the implementation issues caused by regulatory fragmentation. Jason will also focus on areas where Producers can "lean into" Harmonization. The session will conclude with best practices for effective EPR adoption to enhance environmental outcomes and support more unified compliance strategies.

Bio:

Jason Bergquist is the CEO at RecycleMe - North America, the consulting division of Reclay Group International. With more than 35 years of industry experience, Jason has led commercial and municipal waste divisions, material recovery operations across six states, and bottle bill redemption programs in Maine, New York, and California. His career spans the U.S., Europe, and Asia, bringing a global perspective to recycling and resource management. Jason holds a Juris Doctor (JD) from John F. Kennedy School of Law and has provided regulatory guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, container deposit legislation, Superfund compliance, and hazardous waste management.

RAY HUGEL



Presentation Title:

Financing Circularity in a Challenging Climate: Innovative Sources of Capital for Circular Solutions

Ray Hugel, Director of Closed Loop Catalytic Capital & Private Credit, Closed Loop Partners

Abstract:

The gaps and bottlenecks of our current recovery and recycling system are more apparent—from collection to sortation to processing infrastructure and innovations. Financing is needed to support these solutions, but given volatile macroeconomic environments, companies and municipalities are hesitant to make the necessary investments and frequently struggle to find the funds needed to fill those critical gaps. Traditional financing sources often lack the flexibility and risk tolerance needed to support novel solutions and capital-intensive projects that may lack a clear line of sight to scale or profitability. However, there is a world of alternative financing that has yet to be tapped—and is increasingly important today. Catalytic capital, which prioritizes both environmental impact and financial returns, can be a critical tool to de-risk these projects, providing patient capital and crowding in more traditional financing partners over time.

Bio:

Ray is Director and Co-Head of Closed Loop Catalytic Capital & Private Credit, the firm's private credit and catalytic capital investment strategy. He contributes to the origination, underwriting, structuring, execution and portfolio management of opportunities utilizing flexible and risk-tolerant debt capital to build the circular economy. He has worked with private companies, nonprofits and municipalities to structure financing solutions ensuring the long-term success of numerous circular economy projects across the U.S., leveraging the broader Closed Loop Partners ecosystem to build connectivity and growth across the sector. He has led investments into several large-scale projects including the financing of LRS's state-of-the-art material recovery facility in Chicago, and the financing that allowed for the distribution of 162,000 brand new recycling carts to the residents of the City of Kansas City.

ANGELA WEBB



Presentation Title:

Recycling Markets Update

Angela Webb, Chief, Recycled Products & Marketing, Maryland Environmental Service

Abstract:

This presentation will provide a concise, data-driven overview of current recycling market conditions across key commodities, including paper, plastics, metals, and organics. Angela Webb will highlight recent pricing trends, demand drivers, and volatility factors, along with how policy changes, EPR initiatives, and brand sustainability commitments are reshaping end markets.

Bio:

Angie Webb serves as the Chief of Recycled Products & Marketing with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), where she oversees the marketing and distribution of recycled commodities collected through curbside recycling programs, as well as the state's signature soil amendment products, Leafgro® and Leafgro GOLD®, produced in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. With 19 years of experience in the recycling and solid waste management industry, Angie has developed deep expertise in sustainable materials management, product branding, and market development for recycled materials. Her leadership has helped expand the visibility and market reach of locally produced compost and soil products, supporting Maryland's circular economy and environmental sustainability goals. She is passionate about transforming what was once considered "waste" into valuable resources that support healthy soils, cleaner communities, and a greener future.



Gene Jones

Gene Jones, Executive Director, Southern Waste Information eXchange, 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.

CHARMAYNE WATSON



Charmayne Watson

Charmayne Watson, Account Manager, Greif

Bio:

Charmayne Watson is employed with Greif – Mobile Recycling, as an account manager with over 30 years' experience in the recycling industry; her territory includes all areas of the United States with a primary focus in the Southern Region. She began her career starting curbside paper recycling partnership within the city, helping businesses start or enhance recycling programs and supplying recycling MRF's. Now she is procurement for Internal as well as outside Mills. Representing Greif, she professionally serves as treasurer of the Alabama Recycling Coalition and Keep Mobile Beautiful Inc., past Secretary of BEE@Greif and a member of GWN Colleague Resource Groups. Her belief.... "Building lasting relationships is relevant in having a successful career".

Charmayne is a graduate of Troy State University with a degree in Business Administration. Charmayne is very active in her community and volunteers in various capacities. She is an active member with Mobile Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, where she made a lifetime commitment to serve the community. Her spare time includes cheering for my favorite football and basketball teams which consist of Alabama, New Orleans Saints and Golden State Warriors all of whom have struggled this season. You may also find her on Facebook influencing...fabulous \$5 fashion accessories.

MYLES COHEN



Presentation Title:

Beyond Simply the OCC Recycling Rate: An Exclusive First Look at Historical Ground-Truth Data

Myles Cohen, Board Member, VIPA USA

Abstract:

In 2022, Myles Cohen partnered with one of the prominent international business news organizations to better understand the OCC recycling rate. This multi-month effort resulted in a tremendous amount of learning regarding the calculation of the OCC recycling rate, and was featured at a national recycling conference, covered at a session at SERC in 2023.

Subsequently, in 2024, the AF&PA developed a new calculation methodology for determining the OCC recycling rate, which Cohen refers to as a "calculation correction". Since then Cohen has built and developed a very robust methodology of OCC recovery, which he makes available to a select group of clients, but will reveal elements of this at SERC for the first time publicly.

What you will see in this session, for the first time ever, is 3 to 4 years of OCC recycling data with details such as:

- Breakdown of recovery from RESIDENTIAL versus ICI.
- Trends of the above for selective generators, representing approximately 40,000 locations for 2021 to 2024, with some actual examples of national and even state-wide data for some generators of OCC.
- New information on OCC LANDFILLED

With OCC representing ~70% of total paper recovery in the U.S.A., as well as the largest packaging item generated (more than plastic, glass or metal packaging generated or recovered), this is a session that you will not want to miss.

Bio:

Myles Cohen serves on the board of VIPA USA, the largest independent seller of recovered fiber globally. He is also the founder of recycling and sustainable packaging advisory firm Circular Ventures, LLC. Myles has served as president of Pratt Industries' recycling division and on the company's executive committee. Prior to Pratt, he was President of Sonoco Recycling and on their Management Committee. He is a past president of Paper Stock Industries, ReMA's national chapter for paper recyclers and producers.



SESSION I

Session I:

AI in Recycling: From Business Strategy to Processing Solutions

Moderator: **Gene Jones**, Executive Director, Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc.

Session Description:

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how recycling systems operate—from optimizing business decisions to transforming real-world processing performance. This session provides a practical overview of today's most impactful AI applications, highlighting how facilities are deploying machine learning, optical sorting, and data-driven automation to improve material quality and increase recovery rates. Speakers will share case studies on successful AI integration, advancements in sorting technologies, and the measurable impacts on MRF efficiency and profitability. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of where AI delivers value today and how these tools are shaping the future of recycling operations.

Panelists:

Vincent Hunt, Founder & CEO, The Bureau of Creative Intelligence

Peter Lakanen, President, Platinum Web Development

Ting Zhang, Head of Business Development, Glacier

Aoife Duna, Head of Revenue, Visia

Daryl Arias, CEO & President, Nix Waste

David Marcouiller, Executive Vice President Sales Engineering, Machinex Technologies



Gene Jones

Gene Jones, Executive Director, Southern Waste Information eXchange, 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;

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- 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.



Vincent Hunt

Vincent Hunt, Founder & CEO, The Bureau of Creative Intelligence

Bio:

Vincent Hunt is a Frontier Technologist and Author whose work lives at the intersection of technology, human creativity, and the future. For over two decades, he has explored the edges of innovation—where imagination meets machines, and possibility becomes practice.

Recognized for his **human-centered, future-facing approach to complexity**, Hunt helps leaders and the organizations they serve **expand, amplify, and preserve their creative capacity** in a time of rapid technological change.

Whether delivering **keynotes that inspire bold thinking**, facilitating **immersive experiences that unlock creativity**, or writing **works that illuminate the path ahead**, his mission is clear: to **safeguard and scale human creativity in the age of machines**.

The Bureau of Creative Intelligence

At The Bureau of Creative Intelligence, we believe creativity is one of humanity's most vital resources — and that in the age of machines, its expansion, amplification, and preservation are more important than ever. We partner with organizations that recognize two truths: that creativity is the soul of innovation, and value creation, and that AI, when embraced as a partner, can strengthen rather than weaken that soul. Whether serving creative teams seeking to safeguard their genius or human-centered organizations building cultures of creativity, we help leaders demystify AI, build confidence in symbiotic creativity, and unlock the capacity and confidence needed to thrive in the future.

Tagline

Expand. Amplify. Preserve.

The Bureau of Creative Intelligence

- Creativity is one of humanity's most vital resources.
- Creative intelligence is both sacred and strategic.
- The future must be designed, not drifted into.
- Imagination is limitless—and it must be expanded, amplified, and preserved.



Peter Lakanen

Peter Lakanen, President, Platinum Web Development

Bio:

Peter Lakanen began his career building and leading the IT and software development team at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Waste Management.

As the founder of Platinum Web Development, over the last 30 years, he has built and managed large, complex data-driven projects for a wide range of clients, including:

- Southern Waste Information eXchange
- Hopping Green & Sams
- State Library and Florida Archives
- Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
- Florida Center for Public Management

A lifelong artist, Peter has been working with AI art systems since 2021 when he was using VQGAN to write his first prompts. As a pseudonymous AI artist, his work was selected to be shown at the Superchief Gallery in Los Angeles in 2022 and he was chosen to be an official NFT NYC 2025 Artist with work shown in Times Square. Additionally, he is one of Silicon Valley tech evangelist Robert Scoble's 3,500 AI artists in the world to watch.

Peter is currently using AI for his clients in a number of ways:

- Creating AI videos for social media marketing.
- Using AI as a force multiplier for coding and development.
- Incorporating AI into database searches for client systems to enable imperfect matches for complex data.
- He is also actively exploring the use of AI agents for office automation tasks.



Ting Zhang

Ting Zhang, Head of Business Development, Glacier

Bio:

Ting Zhang is the Head of Business Development at Glacier, a recycling startup building AI and automation to help recyclers, brands, and governments measure and improve recovery rates for their highest-priority recycled commodities. Glacier works with dozens of innovative recyclers across the US, major brands including Amazon and Colgate-Palmolive, and municipal and government agencies including the City of Phoenix and Michigan Department of Environment. Glacier's circularity work has been featured in several leading publications, including Recycling Today, Packaging World, Waste Dive, CBS, NBC, Fortune, and TechCrunch. Ting is passionate about advancing circularity and fostering long-term partnerships in the recycling industry. Before joining Glacier, Ting built a career at the intersection of finance and technology, and delivered market-defining strategies for both pioneering startups and global leaders like J.P. Morgan and Moody's.



Raghav Mecheri

Raghav Mecheri, CEO, Visia

Bio:

Raghav Mecheri is the Founder and CEO of [Visia](#), the first general-purpose physical intelligence platform for the heavy economy. Since founding in 2022, Visia has deployed curated, low-error, AI-powered solutions across a broad range of sensors, focusing on optimizing specific, high-value segments of facility operations. The company has partnered with 30+ public and private operators spanning waste, recycling, metals, energy, and materials to drive on-site efficiency through AI-driven operations playbooks, including Material Controls (detection of batteries, tanks, and unwanted materials), Audit Automation, and Process Optimization. Visia has been the recipient of numerous awards, including Fast Company's World Changing Ideas and Cemex Ventures' Top 50 ConTech Startups of 2025. Raghav holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Columbia University, where he focused on the development of Intelligent Systems.



Daryl Arias

Daryl Arias, CEO & President, Nix Waste

Bio:

With over 15 years in the recycling and commodities industry, Daryl Arias has built and operated recycling supply chains across the Americas and Europe, specializing in recovered fiber and plastics. His career spans sourcing, trading, logistics optimization, and quality risk management for municipalities, MRFs, and industrial generators.

In recent years, Daryl has transitioned into AI-driven system design, applying artificial intelligence to real world recycling challenges contamination reduction, material identification, operational efficiency, and ESG-grade data reporting. He focuses on deployable AI, not theory, helping organizations modernize legacy operations and unlock new economic value from waste streams.

His work bridges the gap between industrial reality and emerging technology, proving that AI can be both profitable and sustainable when built by people who understand the ground truth.



David Marcouiller

David Marcouiller, Executive Vice President Sales Engineering, Machinex Technologies

Bio:

As Executive Vice-President Sales Engineering, David applies his extensive expertise in sorting system design to ensure Machinex solutions meet the highest quality standards and adapt to evolving market needs. He oversees every stage of project realization, from layout development, proposal preparation, and contract negotiation to coordination with R&D and project management teams, ensuring all systems are delivered on time and to specification.

DJ VANDEUSEN

DJ VanDeusen

DJ VanDeusen, President, Harris American

Bio:



DJ VanDeusen is currently the President of Harris American Company, one of 9 companies that comprise the Avis Industrial Corporation portfolio. Harris American was formed in April 2025 bringing together 3 size reduction and compaction equipment manufacturers with nearly 300 years of combined business operations: American Baler, Harris Equipment, and International Baler. Headquartered in Cordele, GA Harris American has manufacturing locations in Cordele and Baxley, GA, Bellevue, OH and Jacksonville, FL. DJ joined Avis Industrial as the President and General Manager of Harris in 2021 and also continues to serve as the President of FAMCo Service & Machine, an Avis portfolio company based in Punxsutawney, PA. He has been part of the waste and recycling industry for 15 years including 3 years as the Senior Vice President of Recycling at Smurfit Westrock. DJ's career also includes 20 years with General Electric garnering executive leadership experience in operations, business development, mergers & acquisitions, and finance and is a graduate of the GE Financial Management Program.

CAMERON CECIL



Presentation Title:

Recycling Equipment In 2026

Cameron Cecil, VP of Business Development, Recycling Equipment, Inc.

Abstract:

I will highlight the latest trends in recycling equipment and how machinery can improve efficiency, safety and maximize material recovery. We will look at the benefits of new equipment and how to maximize performance. We will also look at examples of customized solutions that can support attendees operations and bottom line.

Bio:

Cameron Cecil is a dedicated and innovative professional at Recycling Equipment Inc. REI is a leader in the design and manufacturing of industrial recycling equipment. With a deep passion for sustainability and environmental stewardship, Cameron has played an integral role in helping REI develop advanced recycling systems that not only improve efficiency but also reduce the carbon footprint of waste management processes. Cameron joined REI at the beginning of 2022 and is currently the Director of Sales and Marketing. Over the past 3 years he has contributed to over 100 successful installations of cutting-edge systems in diverse industries, ranging from manufacturing facilities to large-scale recycling centers. Cameron's expertise lies in understanding customer needs, customizing recycling solutions, and ensuring that every project delivers measurable results in waste reduction, resource recovery, and cost savings. Prior to joining REI – Cameron spent almost 6 years with Vecoplan LLC focusing on paper recycling as the Director of Sales for North America. With a strong technical background and a commitment to driving innovation, Cameron stays ahead of industry trends, researching new technologies, and promoting the adoption of next-generation recycling machinery. Cameron is particularly focused on advancing equipment and systems that enhance efficiency, automation and safety. Outside of REI, Cameron enjoys playing golf and spending time at the lake with his wife Taylor and daughter Lucy.

EDEL RODRIGUEZ



Presentation Title:

Battery Detection and Removal in Material Streams: A Multi-Sensor Approach for Enhanced Safety and Regulatory Compliance

Edel Rodriguez, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing, STEINERT

Abstract:

This presentation will discuss an integrated sorting system utilizing X-ray transmission, color recognition, 3D detection, and induction sensor technologies for efficient battery detection and removal from material streams. The multi-sensor approach demonstrates effectiveness in mitigating lithium battery fire hazards within material recovery facilities while enabling compliance with extended producer responsibility (EPR) standards for end-of-life material management. The system's implementation addresses critical safety concerns in material sorting operations while advancing sustainable waste management practices.

Bio:

Edel Rodriguez, the Vice President of Sales at STEINERT US, 20 years of process and separation knowledge to his role. STEINERT US, a pioneer in magnetic and sensor sorting solutions, stands out for its dedication to the circular economy. Edel's proficiency in solution sales, coupled with a passion for sustainability, fuels the company's growth trajectory and underscores his role as a key player in advancing environmental responsibility within the industry.

JOHN KELSEY



Presentation Title:

Scaling Recycling: Challenges and Opportunities in MSW Processing

John Kelsey, Chief Commercial Officer, AMP

Abstract:

Even where recycling programs exist, about three-quarters of recyclable material still winds up in the trash. With municipal solid waste volumes expected to grow by 70% by 2050, this problem will only compound. But new sorting innovations—especially AI-driven systems that separate commodities and organics directly from mixed waste—can change that trajectory. These technologies hold fewer labor demands while enabling higher reliability, tighter quality control, and the ability to divert more than half of landfill-bound waste into reusable products at costs often lower than landfill hauling. They're also improving safety, consistency, and handling of dirty waste streams—bringing a level of performance into the realm of the possible.

Bio:

John Kelsey serves as chief commercial officer for AMP, where he leads the company's commercial strategy and growth initiatives. With more than three decades of experience in the environmental services industry, Kelsey has a proven track record of driving revenue growth, operational excellence, and strategic expansion.

Prior to joining AMP, Kelsey spent 34 years at Clean Harbors Environmental Services, a leading provider of environmental and industrial services in North America. During his tenure, he held various senior leadership roles, including senior vice president of technical services, where he focused on customer solutions, process improvement, and margin enhancement. He also played a pivotal role in managing the employee lifecycle across multiple operational and sales functions, leading strategies and tactics on recruiting, training, incentives, and retention. Kelsey's career began as a chemist and driver, and he advanced through more than 10 different sales and operational positions. He led multiple acquisition integrations, including spearheading the integration of corporate accounts. Kelsey holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Syracuse University and a master's degree in environmental management and policy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

BOB HUFFER



Presentation Title:

Vibratory Screening for Various Waste Streams

Bob Huffer, Director of Recycling, General Kinematics Corporation

Abstract:

The use of different Vibratory Screening Technology at different stages of recycling processes for various waste streams. Touching on the importance of size separation through vibratory screening in both C&D and MSW processes and how important it is to downstream processes and optimizing recovery rates.

Bio:

Bob Huffer is General Kinematics' Director of Recycling. With over 30 years of experience at GK, Bob has extensive knowledge of the challenges Recyclers face today. In his previous roles in Design Engineering and Service Manager, Bob gained a wide range of technical knowledge in many different processes and developed a keen eye for GK Vibratory Solutions. Currently located in SW Florida, Bob works with many recycling facilities throughout North America. He has a BS in Engineering from Illinois State University.

DAVE ROBBAU



Dave Robbau

Dave Robbau, CEM, LEED AP, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Garbologist, National Energy USA

Bio:

Dave Robbau is the visionary leader behind National Energy's mission to transform tough environmental challenges into resilient energy and essential services. Known as the "Chief Garbologist," Dave has spent his 23-year career working at the intersection of national security and critical infrastructure as an Environmental Scientist with Air Force Special Operations Command developing innovative solutions that convert waste into energy security for the Warfighter.

With decades of experience in sustainability and energy resilience, Dave brings a rare combination of pragmatism, innovation, and purpose-driven leadership. He is deeply committed to building infrastructure that not only performs technically, but meaningfully improves communities, strengthens mission assurance, and drives long-term value.

Dave leads National Energy with a belief that waste shouldn't be a burden, but a tool to build community resilience, energy stability, and environmental progress.

DR. STEVE WONG AND LISA PUCKETT



Presentation Title:

Pyrolysis as a Sustainable Solution for Agricultural Plastic Waste Management

Dr. Steve Wong, CEO, Fukutomi Recycling Ltd. and Lisa Puckett, Chief Compliance Officer, BayArea Compliance (BAC)

Abstract:

The presentation will highlight the role of pyrolysis in addressing the growing challenge of agricultural plastic waste. By converting discarded and often illegally incinerated plastics into valuable resources, pyrolysis offers a cleaner, circular alternative that mitigates environmental harm while creating economic opportunities

Wong Bio:

Dr. Wong is a veteran of the global plastics recycling industry with more than three decades of hands-on experience in resource recovery, policy advocacy, and sustainable solutions. He is the Founder and Managing Director of Fukutomi Recycling Limited, a pioneer in the recycling of post-consumer plastics across Asia, and has been instrumental in shaping industry practices that support a circular economy. Dr. Wong is actively engaged with international organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where he has represented the recycling industry in negotiations on the global plastics treaty. He has also spoken at major industry platforms such as the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) and Plastics Recycling Show (PRS), emphasizing the importance of rethinking how recyclable materials are perceived and valued. In his leadership roles, he has consistently advocated for pragmatic approaches to waste management, particularly in addressing agricultural and fisheries plastic waste. His current work focuses on advanced recycling technologies, including pyrolysis, as viable solutions to reduce environmental pollution while recovering valuable resources from discarded plastics. Recognized as both an industry leader and sustainability advocate, Dr. Wong bridges the gap between policy and practice, offering insights into how innovative recycling strategies can transform waste challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth.



Puckett Bio:

Lisa Puckett is a nationally recognized environmental health, safety, and compliance leader redefining how regulated industries approach sustainability, risk, and accountability.

With more than 15 years of experience operating inside healthcare, biotech, laboratory, and municipal environments, Lisa has built her career at the intersection of regulation, operational reality, and environmental truth.

As **Founder & CEO of BayArea Compliance** and **Founding Executive Director of NETZERO360™ Sustainable Waste Solutions**, Lisa leads compliance-first sustainability programs that embed OSHA, EPA, RCRA, DOT, FDA, CLIA, CAP, and state requirements directly into waste, materials management, and ESG execution. Her model replaces greenwashing with chain-of-custody, replaces assumptions with audit-ready proof, and replaces cost escalation with measurable control.

In 2026, Lisa was appointed to the **Board of Directors of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC)**, contributing national leadership on policy, circular systems, and responsible materials recovery. She also serves as **Vice Director for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Technical Committee on Education, Marketing & Communications**, a six-year leadership track influencing how sustainability and solid waste practices are communicated, taught, and operationalized across North America.

Her work consistently bridges the gap between regulators, operators, and executive leadership, ensuring that sustainability initiatives withstand inspection, protect communities, and deliver real environmental outcomes.

STEVE NAPOLITAN



Presentation Title:

Discover New Revenue Streams Through Green Technologies

Steve Napolitan, CEO, WastAway

Abstract:

There's gold in your household trash. WastAway - a green tech waste-to-fuel innovator - is pioneering processes that turns MSW into a variety of biofuel products that rev ROI.

Bio:

Steve Napolitan brings more than two decades of entrepreneurial leadership, strategic innovation, and human-centered business transformation to the company. His work over the years with municipalities, utilities and environmental innovators gives an acute understanding of how cities can integrate technology and sustainability without compromising budgets or community well-being.

Napolitan's focus on regenerative business models and circular economy design aligns perfectly with WastAway's core mission: converting waste streams into clean energy and usable resources. Under his leadership, WastAway will continue partnering with cities to divert waste from landfills, reduce emissions and create new economic opportunities — proving that caring for the planet and strengthening communities are not opposing goals but deeply interconnected responsibilities.

JORDAN KLINGER



Presentation Title:

Enhancing Biomass Flowability for Entrained Flow Gasification: The Role of Densification, Torrefaction, and Blended Waste Processing

Dr. Jordan Klinger, Researcher, Idaho National Laboratory - BEA

Abstract:

Gasification is a promising method for converting biomass into high-value products such as biofuels and hydrogen, addressing future energy demands while minimizing environmental impact. This study investigates the effectiveness of combined mechanical and thermal preprocessing techniques, specifically densification, torrefaction, and blended waste processing, in modifying the physicochemical properties of biomass to enhance its suitability for gasification systems.

Mechanical techniques, including densification and pulverization, alongside thermal techniques such as torrefaction and steam explosion, were examined. This talk overviews pilot-scale preprocessing on biomass, treated biomasses, and blended municipal solid waste (MSW) and biomass as feedstocks for gasification. Feedstock quality, variability, and variability improvements as a result of preprocessing to benefit gasification is also approached using advanced infrared (IR) sensor technology and traditional laboratory methods. These findings contribute to methods of including wastes into waste-to-energy pathways, and practical implications for gasification technology.

Bio:

Dr. Jordan L. Klinger is a Senior Research Engineer at Idaho National Laboratory with extensive experience in biomass and waste preprocessing, thermochemical conversion, and granular mechanics. He holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. and B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University. Dr. Klinger leads a diverse portfolio of R&D projects focused on the relationships between biomass attributes and preprocessing, conversion performance, and granular flow behavior. He has designed and developed novel testing devices to accurately probe biomass and waste properties and has mentored numerous staff scientists, engineers, post-doctoral appointees, and interns. Dr. Klinger has a robust and rapidly growing publication record with over 100 publications in relevant fields. He has been involved in significant research grants and collaborations, including projects on advanced feedstock preprocessing systems for bioenergy and biopower, feedstock processing systems for gasification systems for converting waste biomass and municipal solid waste into syngas and hydrogen, and waste separations and co-product formulation. His work has earned him multiple nominations and awards, including the INL Vision Award. Additionally, he has served as an adjunct assistant professor at Michigan Tech University, contributing to research and mentoring in the field of waste-to-energy and biomass conversion.

VARSHA RAMESH WALSH



Presentation Title:

Navigating Carbon Credits: A Path to an Additional Revenue Stream from Waste Biomass

Varsha Ramesh Walsh, CEO, Offstream

Abstract:

Waste and recycling operators are often sitting on a significant, untapped revenue opportunity: one that turns low-value or costly biomass residues into high-quality carbon credits. From agricultural byproducts and forestry residues to wood waste and organic discards, many materials already moving through waste and recycling systems can qualify for durable carbon removal when managed the right way.

This talk introduces carbon credits in practical terms: what they are, why buyers are paying a premium for durable removals, and how projects like biochar transform waste streams into long-term carbon storage. We'll walk through the core question most operators have: Is my waste stream eligible? That includes what types of biomass qualify, how counterfactuals are evaluated, and why documentation and traceability matter just as much as the technology itself.

Most importantly, we'll show how waste-to-value carbon projects can be designed to deliver real climate impact and new, repeatable revenue - without requiring waste operators to become carbon market experts. Using real projects as examples, this session highlights a clear, achievable pathway to monetize existing operations, reduce risks, and unlock a new financial upside from materials you already manage every day.

Bio:

Varsha Ramesh Walsh is the CEO and co-founder of Offstream. She founded the company after spending five years in the carbon markets as a project developer, broker, and buyer. Now, she focuses on helping carbon project developers streamline reporting and adapt to evolving standards.

LYNNE M. COE-LEAVITT



Lynne M. Coe-Leavitt

Lynne M. Coe-Leavitt, Department Manager, Idaho National Laboratory

Bio:

Lynne Coe-Leavitt holds a Master of Science Degree and is a Department Manager at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) overseeing research for increasing the value of low-value feedstocks to support the bioeconomy. This research takes place in the Biofuels National User Facility (BFNUF) and includes removal of contaminants and applying fractionation technologies to recover value from MSW and e-waste streams. Additionally, she manages mechanical/electrical engineers and research technicians that design, test and conduct Large Scale System Research. Other research focus areas are on pre-processing of various waste materials for alternative energy sources and design of autonomous robotic systems for real-time remote use and/or hazard mitigation.

LENNART BENDFELDT



Presentation Title:

Recycling the Unrecyclable

Lennart Bendfeldt, Solutions Manager, eFACTOR3

Abstract:

This presentation explore innovative ways of recycling hard to process materials like carpet, AG Film and artificial turf. The presentation will demonstrate full system solutions - from shredding and liberation to washing, drying, and extrusion - showing how modern engineering and integrated technologies turn complex, contaminated waste streams into valuable, resusable materials.

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.

NEAL YANCEY



Presentation Title:

Reducing Contamination in the Recycling Stream

Neal Yancey, Principle Engineer, Idaho National Laboratory - BEA

Abstract:

The Biomass Feedstock National User Facility has, since it began in 2013, focused research on increasing the value of low-value feedstocks to support the bioeconomy. Part of that effort has been aimed at removal of contaminants like rock, soil, tramp metal, and other inorganic and non-productive organic fractions. More recent interest in recovering or utilizing MSW and e-waste has led the researchers at the BFNUF to utilize the same or similar fractionation technologies to purify or increase the value from these otherwise unrecoverable waste streams which are destined for landfill disposal. This presentation reports the recovery rates observed using air classification, screening, metal recovery/removal, and density separation as it is used to create higher value chemicals and/or feedstocks for bioenergy from MSW, E-waste, and other similar waste streams.

Bio:

Neal holds a BS and MS degree from Utah State University in Environmental Engineering.

Neal has been an engineer at the Idaho National Laboratory for over 25 years, much of that time spent in research in the Bioenergy program. Neal is currently the Operations Manager for the Biomass Feedstock National User Facility, a facility established to support preprocessing of marginal to no value waste streams from agriculture, forestry, and other industries and convert them into higher value feedstocks that can be used to supply energy and support energy independence for the United States. Neal leads a team of researchers at the User Facility that supports research for the bioenergy industry for the United States and worldwide.

Neal has contributed to many publications on the topic as well as participated on multiple conferences as a panel member or to be the lead technical program presenters. Neal's area of research at the Idaho National Laboratory is in material size reduction and flow and has spent the majority of his career developing lower cost alternatives and processes for handling highly variable feedstocks like corn stover, forest residue, MSW and other feedstock.

MARK NEITZEY



Presentation Title:

Developments in Sorting Film and Flexible Packaging at a MRF

Mark Neitzey, Director of Sales, Van Dyk Recycling Solutions

Abstract:

Film and flexible packaging have long challenged material recovery facilities (MRFs) due to contamination, equipment fouling, and limited end-market demand. This presentation will highlight recent developments in sorting technologies, system design, and operational strategies that are improving the recovery of films and flexible packaging at MRFs. Topics include advances in optical sorting, mechanical separation, and preprocessing approaches, as well as lessons learned from pilot projects and full-scale deployments. The presentation will highlight technology that helps properly prepare film and flexible to be processed by sensor based optical sorting. This presentation will also discuss how improved sorting performance is aligning with evolving end-market specifications, extended producer responsibility initiatives, and recycled-content goals, offering practical insights for MRF operators, policymakers, and brand owners seeking to increase recovery while maintaining system efficiency.

Bio:

Mark has been involved in over 200 recycling equipment projects in the last 24 years, including: simple roll cutting and baling sites, large baling systems, wood waste screening, C&D sorting systems, an automated MSW/fuel system, commercial sorting systems, PET/Plastics sorting systems, various single stream sorting systems and system retrofits. Mark lives in Houston, TX and travels throughout North America, gaining a broad perspective on the industry and its current trends.

KAREN MOORE



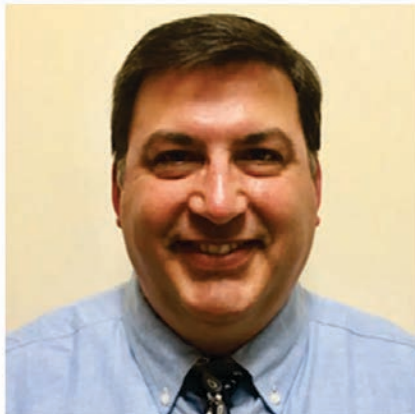
Karen Moore

Karen Moore, Environmental Administrator, Division of Waste Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bio:

Karen Moore is currently the Environmental Administrator for the Waste Reduction (Recycling) and Waste Registration Section for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. With 20 years of environmental experience, Karen previously worked as the recycling coordinator in North Carolina and the Department's Recycling Program, as well as, the successful Florida Green Lodging Program prior to her working as an engineer for the Petroleum Restoration Program.

DAN COLLINS, P.E.



Presentation Title:

How To's, Do's and Don'ts for Controlling Odors and Emissions in Composting Facilities

Dan Collins, P.E., Organics Consultant, Sustainable Generation, LLC

Abstract:

Composting is becoming increasingly more complex with the introduction of food waste, animal by-products and biosolids. As the organic waste feedstocks become more putrescible, and more scrutiny is given for air and water quality protection is resulting in a transition away from traditional windrowing turning towards controlled composting technologies. This presentation will discuss the causes of odors in composting, what trends are emerging in compost technology and finally how to establish sustainable best practices for mitigating odors. Key Learnings: Composters will learn how simple mistakes can lead to big problems, these are the do's and don'ts. As more complex feed stocks enter the composting process, composters will need better technology with enhanced control. Keeping a clean site and having a consistent environmental operations plan will assist in mitigating odors.

Bio:

Dan Collins is a veteran in biosolids management and organics recycling, bringing over three decades of experience in wastewater treatment, solids handling, and composting strategy. As a licensed Professional Engineer in Illinois with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University Northwest, Dan has devoted his career to transforming how municipalities view and manage organic waste. Dan began his career with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) in 1987, rising from intern to Section Head of the Biosolids Division. There, he led efforts to eliminate landfill disposal of biosolids, reduce operating costs, and launch a successful composting program, culminating in the District earning Platinum Certification from the National Biosolids Partnership. Since 2017, Dan has served as a consultant for Sustainable Generation® and GORE® Cover, as well as firms such as Greeley and Hansen, Donohue & Associates, and Brown and Caldwell. His work focuses on feasibility studies, master planning, and full-scale implementation of composting programs for wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), guiding clients toward Class A, odor-free biosolids products. A strong advocate for compost's environmental and economic value, Dan uses a triple-bottom-line analysis to help clients make informed decisions about resource recovery. He's especially passionate about demonstrating how compost offers long-term soil benefits through its macro and micronutrient content, providing a sustainable alternative to conventional fertilizers.

STRATTON KIRTON



Presentation Title:

Treading New Ground in Tire Policy

Stratton Kirton, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Liberty Tire Recycling

Abstract:

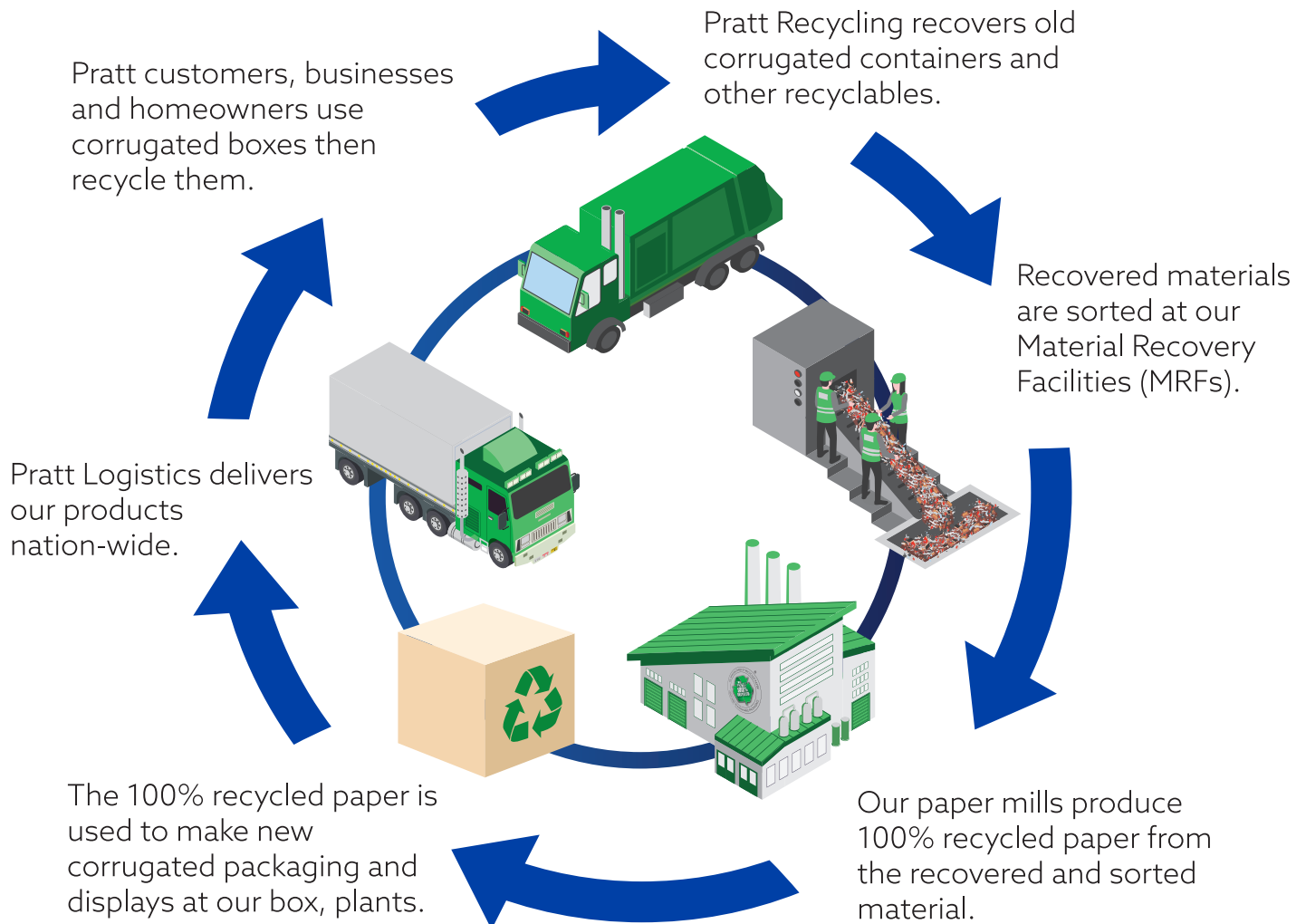
After decades of stagnant waste tire laws, we are seeing movement across a number of states, including many in the southeast. My presentation will look at what recent regulator and legislative changes have happened across the U.S. with a special focus on the southeast and what drove those changes (and are we seeing any positive outcomes). My presentation will also look at what are emerging best practices to keep more waste tires in the flow (legal recycling or disposal) and move more rubber to higher and better uses.

Bio:

Stratton is the vice president of government affairs at Liberty Tire Recycling, the largest tire recycling company in North America. Previously, he was a partner at Penta Group, where he advised clients on strategy and public policy with a focus on sustainability in industry. He also worked for U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre, a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, and for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, a senior member of the Senate Commerce Committee. He serves on the boards of the non-profit Rural Investment to Protect Our Environment, the Synthetic Turf Council, and far too many community organizations. He is a native of Florida but now lives in Maryland with his wife and two children.

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Key to the Week:
In this week's issue, we cover the latest in the pulp and paper industry, including market developments, price changes, and company news. We also provide a comprehensive overview of the industry's current state and future outlook.

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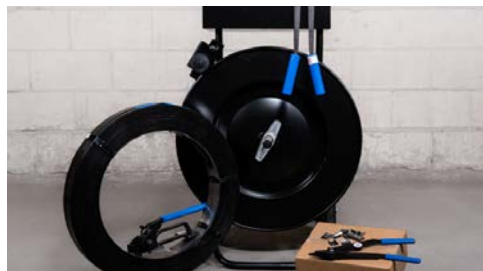
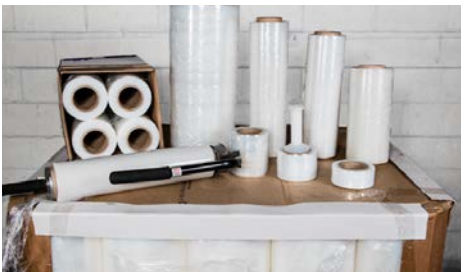


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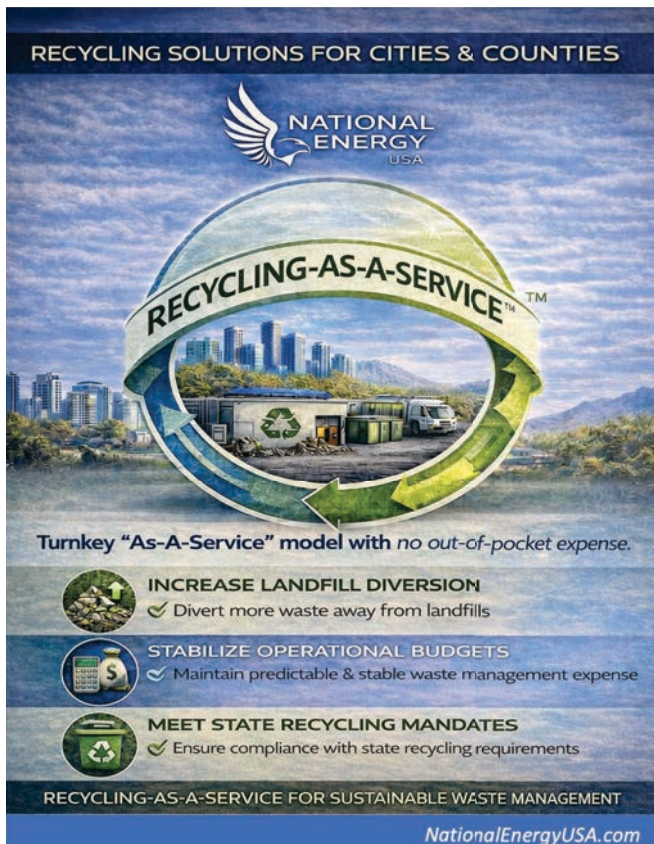
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**Carolina Recycling Association's
36th Annual Conference
& Trade Show**

March 16 - 19, 2026
**Embassy Suites - Kingston Plantation
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www.cra-recycle.org/2026conf/



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It's All about the Business of Recycling!

**The 40th Southeast Recycling
Conference & Trade Show**

Conference: February 16-19, 2027
Trade Show: February 16-18, 2027

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

Website: www.SoutheastRecycling.com



Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show

Program at a Glance

Sunday, February 15, 2026		
1:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Registration Open	(Room: Emerald Ballroom Foyer)
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Exhibitor Setup	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Pre-Conference Workshop: EPR, Capital, and Markets: The Forces Reshaping U.S. Recycling in 2026	(Room: Coral Ballroom A and B)
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
Monday, February 16, 2026		
8:10 am - 7:00 pm	Registration Open	(Room: Emerald Ballroom Foyer)
8:10 am - 8:50 am	Continental Breakfast - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
8:50 am - 10:00 am	Opening Session	(Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Refreshment Break - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Session I: AI in Recycling: From Business Strategy to Processing Solutions	(Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch - Entrance through Exhibit Hall	(Room: Coastal Ballroom B and C)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Session II: The Future of Recycling: Technologies & Trends Shaping 2026 and Beyond	(Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Session III: Innovations in Waste Conversion: Pyrolysis, Green Tech & Biomass Optimization	(Room: Coral Ballroom A - C)
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	ReMA PSI Chapter Meeting	(Room: Coral Ballroom D)
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Reception - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
Tuesday, February 17, 2026		
8:00 am - 11:30 am	Registration Open	(Room: Emerald Ballroom Foyer)
8:00 am - 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Session IV: Advancing Recycling: Innovations to Recover More, Waste Less	(Room: Coral Ballroom A and B)
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Refreshment Break - Exhibit Hall	(Room: Emerald Ballroom)
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Session V: Innovation & Compliance: Strategies for Problematic Materials and Emerging Policies	(Room: Coral Ballroom A and B)
11:00 am - 6:00 pm	Golf Tournament	Raven Golf Club
11:30 pm - 12:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)	
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Networking Session (Networking on Individual Basis)	
Wednesday, February 19, 2026		
7:30 am - 12:15 pm	Recycle Florida Today Statewide Recycling Summit	(Room: Coral Ballroom A and B)
	Note: A separate registration fee of \$157 is required to attend the RFT Summit.	