

Georgia Recycling Coalition

Green Sheet Update



Welcome to GRC's monthly Green Sheet Electronic Update! We hope you find the information helpful.

Please send us releases, captioned photos and other great news that you want to share with the membership; email us at garecycles@mindspring.com

In This Issue

[We're Turning 25!](#)

[Quote of the Month](#)

[25th Annual Conference Theme Announced](#)

[Are Your Numbers Showing?](#)

[CHaRM ATL Update](#)

[USDA/EPA 50% Food Waste Reduction by 2030](#)

[Glass Recycling Update](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

Quick Links

[Join the GRC About Us](#)

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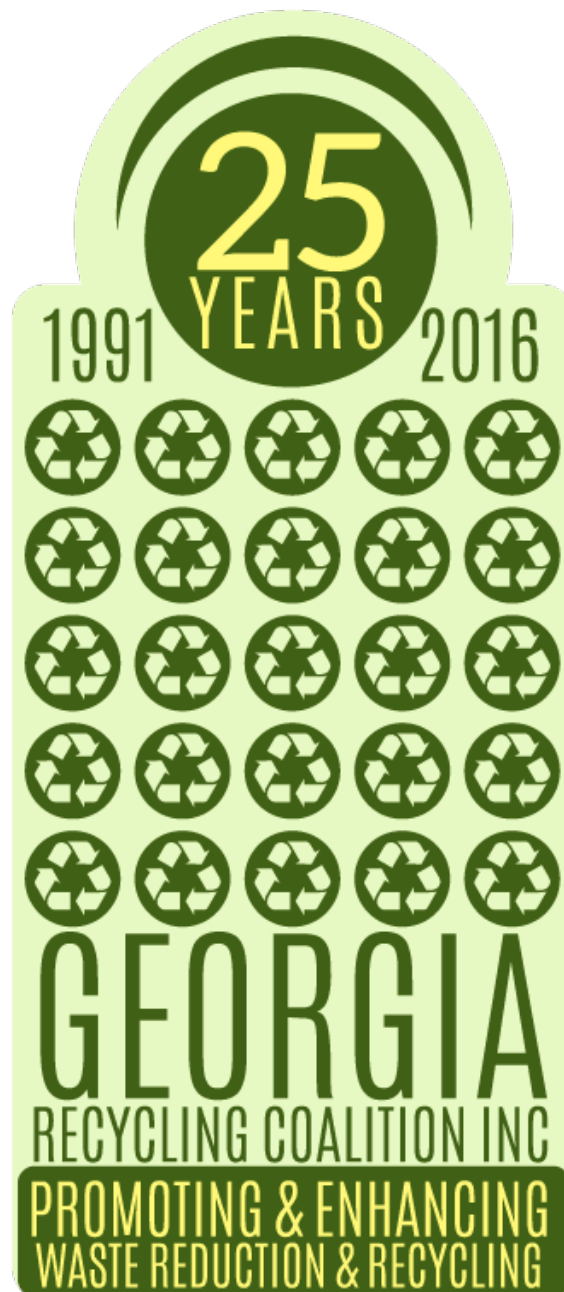
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We're Turning 25 in 2016!



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

"Men and women have constantly intervened in nature, but for a long time this meant being in tune with and respecting the possibilities offered by the things themselves. It was a matter of receiving what nature itself allowed, as if from its own hand. Now, by contrast, we are the ones to lay our hands on things, attempting to extract everything possible from them while frequently ignoring or forgetting the reality in front of us. Human beings and material objects no longer extend a friendly hand to one another; the relationship has become confrontational. This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si, Chapter 3, Paragraph 106

**25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE THEME
ANNOUNCED...**



ARE YOUR NUMBERS SHOWING?

For the first time since 2011, GRC was able to provide the state with aggregate metrics for recycling in Georgia as reported by local governments that have been



participating in the Measure Georgia program. We say a huge THANK YOU for those governments who have set up Re-TRAC accounts and reported quarterly on your tons. Now we will no longer be "N/A" in regional reporting. We also thank the processors (MRFs) and end users for their reporting-those aggregates will be used in the future to create economic and environmental impact statements. There is still much work to do to reach our goals, so if you have not yet, please consider getting involved; here are the links to get you started:

https://connect.re-trac.com/register/measuregeorgia_localgov

https://connect.re-trac.com/register/measuregeorgia_mrf

https://connect.re-trac.com/register/measuregeorgia_enduser

If you need technical assistance, please ask via email: garecycles@mindspring.com and we will respond!

CHARM ATL UPDATE

The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM), a permanent recycling facility for household hazardous waste, bulky trash, and hard to recycle materials in the city of Atlanta recently announced some results. In their first 93 days of operation in 2015, this facility has had 11,625 metro Atlanta residents visit to recycle or responsibly dispose of: (more info www.livethrive.org)

- 31,396 gallons of paint
- 15,757 gallons of toxic chemicals
- 168,654 lbs. of electronics
- 2,210 lbs. of Styrofoam
- 2,600 lbs. of lightbulbs
- 9,452 lbs. of batteries
- And over 14,000 tires



On March 10th they are holding a fundraiser at Piedmont Park in Atlanta, featuring Yacht Rock Revue; tickets are only \$50 and you also may also be one of only 1000 purchasers of a \$100 chance to win a 2016 BMW i3. So, check out: <http://livethrive.org/fundraiser/> and support this worthwhile cause and have some fun!

USDA/EPA 50% Food Waste Reduction by 2030



Rethink Food Waste Through Economics and Data ([ReFED](#)), represented by Mission Point Partners, Resource Recycling Systems,

and BioCycle's Nora Goldstein, provided a sneak peek into the food waste study findings at the January US Composting Council conference.

The initiative is a collaboration of over 30 businesses, non-profit and government leaders to not only define the country's food waste situation but to create a roadmap to reduce it - moving toward that national goal.

Read more about the ReFED project and preliminary study findings in our most recent blog post: [Following the Food Waste Crumb Trail](#). The final report is expected to be released March 7th.

Glass Recycling Update

First, thanks to all who responded to our recent glass recycling survey. Our executive director has spent many hours in the past few weeks on this subject-



responding to media articles, being interviewed by media outlets, speaking to groups, and corresponding with members and glass industry representatives. Suffice to say there are issues. But, **the fact remains that there are markets for recycled glass in Georgia.** And yes, the markets for all commodities have been strained to say the least; and predictions are they will not improve much in the near short term. And yes, contamination has had an effect on processors.....and not just from glass. GRC is working with our members to create a more comprehensive list of glass drop off options for citizens and some of you are working locally on that same goal. We need to assure that Georgians remain committed to recycling and not become skeptical of an industry that depends on their motivation to sort recyclables from trash in order to feed our mills and sustain investment in recycling. It is a jobs security, economic development and environmental must that we stay on course and look at all recovered materials as commodities. We will report more on the survey results in future issues. In the meantime, ramp up local outreach and education efforts, and keep the communication lines open.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 30, 2016	GRC Quarterly Meeting- Facilities Tour (Details Forthcoming)	Atlanta, GA
April 8-10, 2016	Dogwood Festival Eco-	Piedmont Park Atlanta, GA

	Park	
May 1-7, 2016	International Compost Awareness Week	
June 2016 (TBD)	GRC Quarterly Meeting (Details Forthcoming)	Macon, GA
Sept. 18-21, 2016	GRC 25th Annual Conference	King & Prince St. Simon's Island, GA

Thank you for your continued support of our great state recycling organization!

Sincerely,

Gloria Hardegree
Georgia Recycling Coalition