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

Renew Your Membership

Just a few days left before the final deadline to renew your membership for the GRC July 2016-June 2017 Member Year.

The deadline for renewal is June 30, 2016; as always we understand that some of you may have had to wait until after July 1 for new budget cycles to begin, so we will have a grace period to a month later. The final reminders will go out from the membership management system on July 27th. The new renewal deadline is August 1, 2016.

Our success is your success... a coalition by definition is an alliance for combined action. We are allies, partners and colleagues working together to keep recycling strong and working in Georgia. The success of our organization in fulfilling its mission is reliant upon people who commit time, energy and resources to its support. Thank you for your contribution to our collective success... and happy 25th Anniversary!

25th Annual Conference REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Make sure to register early for the best rates and make your Hotel reservation before the block fills or the Aug 18 deadline

Ways to be involved:
Exhibitor ● Sponsor ● Attendee ● Golf

Handle all of the above online at: http://georgiarecyclingcoalition.wildapricot.org/

In observance of our 25th Anniversary, we are searching for

25 Conference Champions...
Marla Prince, Vice President
Waste Management

Kathy Reed
Keep North Fulton Beautiful

Peggy Whittow Ratcliffe
Live Thrive

Todd Redmon, Treasurer
Shaw Industries Group Inc

Michelle Wiseman
City of Atlanta Sustainability Office

...to sponsor our annual conference, trade show and membership meeting.

September 18-21, 2016
$500 per sponsor
Commitment Deadline: August 15, 2016

YES, I will be a GRC Conference Champion:
http://georgiarecyclingcoalition.wildapricot.org/

Keeping Andalusia Beautiful

Fresh off a wildly successful 11th Annual Bluegrass Festival, the Executive Director of Keep Milledgeville-Baldwin Beautiful, takes to the blog this week to describe the efforts that his organization took to make the festival a minimal-waste event. Thanks to KMBB, an event that drew nearly 600 people had a cumulative 4 bags of waste taken to the local landfill. Thanks Andy!

There are many things all people have in common, and of those, having a good time is a favorite. All across our planet people like to get together for food, music and all sorts of fellowship. Some rituals date back millennia, and new traditions are created every day.

In planning a celebration, of any sort, people can focus on sustainability. Specifically, people can strive to reduce their impact on our planet by planning minimal waste events. The amount of fun doesn't have to be sacrificed to make an event more environmentally responsible. In fact, the fun can be continued afterwards in knowing that your impact on the earth was minimized.

Andalusia hosted its 11th annual Bluegrass Festival as a minimal waste event. The food and beverage vendors used recyclable materials and Keep Milledgeville Baldwin Beautiful provided recycling bins for their disposal. Volunteers were on site to help facilitate. In addition to providing a family-friendly event featuring world-class musicians, hopefully this year's festival will inspire others planning events to consider more responsible waste management options.

So after banjos and mandolins are put away, we can whistle and hum those tunes in the months to come knowing that the fun had on the farm did not come with a hidden cost.

USAgain Announces Earth Month Challenge GA Winners
Winners were recently announced in the ninth annual Earth Month Challenge sponsored by clothing recycler USAgain. Across Georgia, 14 schools participated in the challenge and together collected 3,113 pounds of textiles, which the company says helped prevent 46,695 pounds of carbon emissions. The month long Earth Month Challenge competition encourages students to collect clothes and shoes for re-wear, reuse, and recycling.

First-place winner was Clark Atlanta University. In Mableton middle-schoolers at Lindsey Middle School placed 2nd with 393 pounds of clothes collected. Lisa Moore Williams, Principal, said, “Every student needs to be made aware of the impact that all of our trash and unwanted items has on our environment. Programs like USAgain's Textile Recycling fundraiser help us to deliver this message to not only our students but to the people living in the community around our school.”

The University of Georgia finished third.

AF&PA Releases 2016 Sustainability Report

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) recently released its 2016 Sustainability Report, showcasing the U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, tissue and wood products manufacturing industry's commitment to sustainability across the value chain, including progress toward achieving the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 sustainability goals.

2016 AF&PA Sustainability Report highlights:

- Greenhouse gas emissions from AF&PA member facilities were reduced by 16 percent, surpassing the 15 percent reduction goal ahead of schedule.
- The safety incidence rate was improved by 40.8 percent, surpassing the 25 percent improvement goal. The industry's vision remains one of zero workplace injuries.
- Over 63 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. has been recovered for recycling for each of the past seven years, reaching a record 66.8 percent in 2015.
- Pulp and paper mills self-generate, on average, about two-thirds of their energy needs from biomass and renewable fuels.
- The paper and wood products manufacturing industry uses combined heat and power technology to generate 97.6 percent of the electricity it produces on site.
- Water used by mills for production of paper and wood products is reused ten times, on average.

For a detailed overview of the industry's progress, including the full report, a video of highlights and other materials, visit http://sustainability.afandpa.org.
Repurposing Taken to New Levels

Check out this short video featuring repurposed materials.
Lucky to have a location in Georgia!

https://youtu.be/Ma7a1ybU1dE

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

Sincerely,

Gloria Hardegree
Georgia Recycling Coalition