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

**GRC Conference-24th Annual Completed!**

Panelists lead by Bill Moore of Moore & Associates discuss issues, solutions and best practices in the opening plenary session. (L-R) Dave Bellon, QRS; Nancy Womack, Caraustar; Evan Koplin, Schnitzer Steel; Shawn State, Pratt Recycling; along with moderator LuAnn Chambers, Caraustar.
Exhibitors interacted with attendees during the Trade Show portions of the conference; pictured are Christina Pedelty of Caraustar and John Conyers of Shaw Industries Group.

GRC President Michelle Wiseman (center) recognizes GRC sponsor level member Pratt Recycling for their ongoing support of GRC. Accepting the plaque are Dawn Smith and Jeff Lipscomb of Pratt.
Participants in the "Don't Be Out of Sorts" workshop learn to sort, identify, weigh and log recyclable materials. Thanks to Joe Dunlop of Athens-Clarke Co. Recycling for his training expertise.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS:
**Platinum:** Pratt Recycling & Georgia Baler and Compactor  
**Gold:** Caraustar, Coca-Cola, Georgia Beverage Association, Glass Packaging Institute, Mohawk Group, Novelis, and Shaw Industries  
**Bronze:** Dart Container Corp and Waste Management  
**Special Contributor:** Emory Recycles

Spirit of Green Awards Presented

The Georgia Recycling Coalition (GRC) honored four entities at its 24th annual conference in St. Simon's Island, Georgia on August 18, 2015. The Spirit of Green Awards is in its ninth year of annually recognizing excellence in recycling and waste reduction in Georgia. The 2015 categories/winners include:

- **Environmental Stewardship**  
**USAgain, LLC-Atlanta**  
Individual or Organization whose actions sustain the recycling industry's viability

- **Outstanding Government/Community Program**  
**Hall County Resource Recovery**
Local programs that exemplify comprehensive and sustainable components and practices in recycling and waste reduction

- **Outstanding Institutional Program**
  UGA Athletic Association
  May include college, university, military installations or campus/industrial entities

- **Volunteer of the Year**
  LuAnn Chambers, Caraustar Recycling
  GRC Members who have provided the organization with value added benefits toward achieving the mission

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**A Bag's Life Challenge in North Fulton Schools Launched**

On September 10, 2015, A Bag's Life officially kicked off a North Fulton elementary schools competition at Mimosa Elementary in Roswell, GA. The competition between schools is designed to educate students about the importance of plastic bag recycling and keeping plastic film out of the landfill. From September 10th to November 12th participating schools will collect bags and a long list of other film plastics generated in households; volunteers will take them to participating collection sites to be weighed and logged. Schools that reach collection benchmarks will receive special cash prizes, while the school that collects the most bags PER STUDENT wins a Trex park bench, made from recycled plastic bags. All participating schools receive a bird house made from Trex boards.
Local Sponsors include:
Georgia Recycling Coalition * Fulton County * Keep Johns Creek Beautiful
Keep Roswell Beautiful * Sandy Springs Recycling Center * City of Alpharetta * A Bag's Life  Trex Company * North Fulton Evergreen Schools * Keep North Fulton Beautiful

Trex is the world’s #1 decking brand and the inventor of wood-alternative composite decking. They are committed to creating low-maintenance, high-performance decking materials and other recycled content products from plastic film.

Cartons More Recyclable than Ever

Access to Carton Recycling is Growing!

The Carton Council is proud to share another recycling milestone! As of July, 55 percent of U.S. households can now recycle their food and beverage cartons in their communities. This is in large part thanks to you, the many facilities, communities and industry stakeholders who have helped us reach this achievement.

Over the past six years, we have witnessed the impressive trajectory of carton recycling access, from being available to just 18 percent of households, to now reaching 64 million households in 10,500 communities. We are
proud of this accomplishment, which is making carton recycling the "new recycling normal" in the U.S.

Reaching 55 percent access is especially important because it means we are only five percent away from 60 percent. According to the Federal Trade Commission, 60 percent represents a "substantial majority" of the population having access to carton recycling. At that point, carton recycling will be truly mainstream. Please help us continue our progress and get there!

Check out Jason Pelz's Perspectives post to read more about what reaching 60 percent means.

Recycle-Bowl School Recycling Competition

Registration is now open for this year's Recycle-Bowl competition, which promotes waste reduction and recycling education in K-12 schools. A school in your state could be the national winner of this competition!

We ask that you share this information with your network and encourage you to recruit a sponsor for a first-place prize in your state.

For detailed information on how to register, click here.

Important Dates:

Registration is open until Oct. 13

The competition takes place from Oct. 19 to Nov. 15
It's not too soon to start planning -- and to register for -- America Recycles Day.

If you're looking for ways to promote America Recycles Day or tools to host a successful event check, out our toolkit page.

Register your events here!

Some tools that might be especially helpful to your network, are our Go to Guides, Media Advisory, News Release Template and Email Copy for Newsletters.

Webinar Dates:

Sep. 23, 2-3 pm - ARD Workplace Recycling

Oct. 7, 3-4 pm - ARD/R-B Event Organizers

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

Sincerely,

Gloria Hardegree
Georgia Recycling Coalition