



**Henry McMaster**  
Governor

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Harry Lightsey**  
Secretary

**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**10:00 AM – 11:30PM**

**Meeting ID: 895 7896 3090**  
**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89578963090>**  
**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

**RMDAC**

Dr. Andy Spicer, USC Darla Moore School of Business  
Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel  
Chad Prescott, Mid Carolina Steel  
Norman Chandler, Republic Services  
Chris Fisher, GlassWRX SC  
Joseph McMillin, Atlas Organics  
Jay Spears, Continental Tire  
Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County

**ABSENT**

Wes Westbrooks, BMW  
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling  
Tina Green, Mumford Industries  
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers  
Elizabeth Morgan, City of Rock Hill  
Kristen Brown, WasteZero

**GUESTS**

Glenn Odom, Retired  
Senator Ronnie Sabb, Representative  
Rep. Cezar McKnight, Representative  
Rep. Carl Anderson, Representative  
Mike Crain, Dutton Polymers  
Kenny Barnes, Congressman Clyburn Assistant  
Michael Baker, Baker Transportation  
Gilleon Frieson, Williamsburg Economic Developer  
Jayla Frieson, Student  
D'Asia Green, Williamsburg County  
Michelle LaRocco, Georgetown County  
Alexandra Miller, DHEC  
Fredrick Morris, Palmetto Synthetics  
John Oliver, Sonoco Recycling  
Henry Poston, Palmetto Synthetics  
Beyonka Wilson, Williamsburg County Economic Development



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Caleb Brady, Palmetto Synthetics

Nik Castevens, Palmetto Synthetics

**STAFF**

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce

April Chaffins, SC Department of Commerce

Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce

Eileen Patonay, SC Department of Commerce

Paul Buchenroth, SC Department of Commerce

Mark Hendrick, SC Department of Commerce



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## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Dr. Andy Spicer motioned to call the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

## **MINUTES**

The March 17<sup>th</sup> RMDAC meeting minutes were approved.

Dr. Andy Spicer: welcomed the guests and speakers.

## **Henry Poston and Nik Castevens presented information on Palmetto Synthetics.**

Henry: The President of Palmetto Synthetics welcomed everyone to the facility, and asked Nik Castevens to give a presentation about the company.

Nik: The company was founded in 1997 in Kingstree, SC. Palmetto Synthetics manufactures staple fiber in combinations of polymers, additives, and unique features to offer solutions to our customers. Palmetto Synthetics is a major advocate of green and sustainable production methods within the fiber industry, and we offer a range of environmentally friendly products to our partners. The 350,000 square foot facility (Palmetto Synthetics) can dedicate over 85 million pounds of fine (1.5-to-45) and course (45-to-2000) denier fiber on three and two spinning lines respectively. A wide variety of uses for the product. The fine denier markets are automotive, apparel, hosiery, contract upholstery, and military. Palmetto Synthetics has multiple recycling lines capable of re-pelletizing material, which may include recycled bottles, internal waste, and customer waste. Palmetto Synthetics does not send any waste to the landfill.

## **Gilleon Frieson presented information on Williamsburg County.**

Gilleon: Williamsburg Economic Developer welcomed everyone to Williamsburg County. Gilleon gave a brief overview concerning the economic development of Williamsburg County. Williamsburg is the six largest county in the state as far as land area, and the largest rural county in the state. Many existing industries in the county. Williamsburg has a landfill. The partnership with Commerce provides resources and great opportunities for community, business, and workforce development.

## **SC Department of Commerce Updates**

Economic Impact: Sustainability is a core part of business, but it's also a core part of our agency as we heard from our secretary. For three decades the SC Department of commerce has staffed recycling market development programs. We are unique in the country for the economic development agency to have a focus on recycling from a business perspective. The recycling industry is strong and continues to grow. While the environmental benefits of recycling are well recognized, what is less known is that recycling adds significantly to South Carolina's economy. By turning waste into valuable raw material, recycling stimulates economic development, creates jobs and increases tax revenue as well as generates income for businesses and local governments from the sale of recyclables. There is a high demand for recycled material in all three industries have strong recycling needs and those continue to grow.



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The Recycling Market Development Advisory Council is made up of 14 governor-appointed members who advise on pathways for growing the state's recycling industry and make recycling market program recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly each year.

South Carolina's recycling industry includes about 300 companies and is a diverse network of public sector entities and private companies. It is comprised of haulers, collectors, processors, brokers, recycling equipment sales and manufacturers and end-users or manufacturers who take recycled material feedstock and make recycled content products from them. It is a \$13B industry in SC. Our recycling team at commerce works to stimulate demand for recyclable materials and recycled content products. Recycling mean business in SC.

South Carolina's recycling industry continued to grow in 2021 despite a global pandemic as 6 new or existing companies made \$522 million in capital investments and announced 536 jobs, according to the S.C.

More and more, our existing industries and those companies we are trying to attract to South Carolina are committing to ambitious and admirable sustainability goals. Being driven by investors, consumers and employees, companies are no longer just talking about sustainability but are now tying action, capital and employee salaries to meeting those goals.

South Carolina has an opportunity to leverage and accelerate progress by working with our financial institutions and existing industry to set actionable targets and goals that support their needs, while also protecting our natural resources. We recognize that to attract and retain, we need to support companies through access to clean energy, new green technologies and opportunities to invest toward their water positive, net-zero and zero waste goals right here in our state.

#### Your Bottle Means Jobs (YBMJ):

- CPRC began 2011
- SC & NC
- Goal: Increase plastic bottle recycling collection in the Carolinas

NC: 95,000 tons plastic containers landfilled

SC: 35,000 tons plastic containers landfilled

\$52 million that could be money here in our state once again, but we had to once again trying to connect that messaging and trying to get people to think different.

Connecting messaging with Real People, Real Jobs. The messaging connections makes it relatable connection recycling to employment. The YBMJ video highlights what happens when you recycle your bottle and how many jobs are connected to recycling your plastic bottle.



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If every household in the Carolinas would recycle (2) more bottles a week, it would create 300 jobs. Since plastic bottles are everywhere and they are on the college campuses, a Mascot Recycling Challenge was created to engage and connect with the colleges.

The challenge was 5 weeks (October 1 – November 2, 2021).

The Goal:

- Encourage Colleges/Universities to recycle plastic bottles
- Bring awareness to the economic and environmental benefits of recycling your plastic bottles in the Carolinas
- Support green jobs in the Carolinas

Participated Schools:

- Appalachian State University
- Clemson University
- Coastal University
- Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- Medical University of South Carolina
- NC State University
- University of North Carolina Wilmington

Winners:

**UNC WILMINGTON**

Most Likes and Shares Across All Social Media Platforms, over 5,000 likes and shares

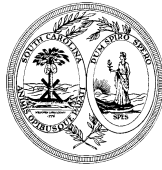
**NC STATE**

Most Plastic Bottles Recycled, over 240,000 plastic bottles

The YBMJ presentation led to a discussion on how to capture more feedstock for the state of South Carolina. It was mentioned that states that have a Bottle Bill are able to capture clean material. From the discussion it was noted, there are many opportunities to expand recycling but the funding for infrastructure is a key component to expansion.

Food Waste: Atlas Organics a developer and operator of compost facilities across the US we currently have 11 operational facilities and adding the 12<sup>th</sup> processing facility. Atlas Organics process about 454,000 tons per year of contracted feedstocks with an annual capacity of about 750,000 tons per year. Atlas Organics employ about 163 people.

The composting process is extended area that is a static pile. Feedstock is typically from municipalities or large-scale contractors which includes yard waste, food waste, and biosolids. Once composted, the material is sold back into agriculture landscaping home gardening markets as a soil amendment.



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Atlas Organics has developed new technology. They have designed really sophisticated backing controls partnering with a wastewater company that allow remote monitoring on all our sites. The site in California, can turn the blowers on from the office in South Carolina and monitors the temperature.

Atlas Organics won a bid with Lexington County to design, build, and operate a yard waste to food waste on their existing yard waste facility composting operations. They took over the facility on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and it working on phase one in the design and acquiring the right permeants for the facility, so they can take food waste in the Fall. The Lexington site will be fully operational that will have a solarized off the grid units.

### **RMDAC**

#### Recycling Legislation - Cardboard Ban Recommendation:

- South Carolina has 60 companies in the value chain for recovery of paper and old corrugated cardboard (OCC) products.
- Provides the opportunity to capture about 281,150 tons annually of OCC
- Corrugated cardboard makes up a significant portion of the garbage

South Carolina has an estimated 60 companies in the value chain for recovery of paper and old corrugated cardboard (OCC) products. Collectors of these materials are primarily commercial recycling haulers and accumulators of material.

Once sorted and baled, paper and OCC go to end-users such as West Rock, Greif and Sonoco. We have 4 recycled content paper mills in SC (Sonoco, Greif and West Rock) that have a consistent demand for clean, separated cardboard. The demand for material has only increased with Sonoco project Horizon. Project Horizon, is Sonoco's \$115 million investment to transform its corrugated medium machine in Hartsville to a state-of-the-art uncoated recycled paperboard operation with annual production capacity of 180,000 tons. "The conversion of our corrugated medium machine (#10 machine) to URB is expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2022.

In NC Wayne county and Orange County have cardboard bans. States like NC that have material bans in place have seen increases in recycling rates on that commodity.

Recycling OCC keeps these valuable materials in the supply stream, and also has the added benefit of helping companies meet their Environmental Social and governance (ESG) goals. As brands continue to have an increased demand sustainable packaging, landfill bans can not only secure that supply, but also offer the added benefit of a reduced the carbon footprint



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## **MARKET UPDATES**

Carpet: Nylon 66 is in high demand, but short supply. Nylon 6 is in strong demand right now and price is stable. Polypropylene carpet, is in high demand. PET carpet is still a challenge.

Glass: Expecting the glass market to drop off. The mix single stream still has a negative \$25 plus shipping.

Solid Waste: Solid waste I solid and continues to grow. Waste volumes continue to grow.

Paper: OCC, \$145 per ton. Mix paper, \$75 per ton. SOP, \$240 per ton.

Metal: Steel market is doing great. Scrap prices have been down two months in a row. Cooper market has seen a drop to about a \$0.25 1b. The roll-off containers have doubles in prices. Aluminum prices are high.

Plastics: The virgin side of is going up. It's getting difficult to find the PET material. Gas prices are going up. Containers ships are going up. Need oil to be above \$65 to have a good movement for recycling PET.

Organics: Compost is moving to \$20.83 cents per yard in South Carolina and the tipping fee average was \$32 per ton in South Carolina.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURN**

The RMDAC board meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

The next RMDAC meeting will be on July 21, 2022.