



Henry McMaster
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SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Harry Lightsey
Secretary

Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 2022
10:00 AM – 12:45 PM

Meeting ID: 847 3431 3373
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84734313373>
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

RMDAC

Wes Westbrooks, BMW
Tina Green, Mumford Industries
Norman Chandler, Republic Services
Dr. Andy Spicer, USC Darla Moore School of Business
Chris Fisher, GlassWRX SC
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling
Elizabeth Morgan, City of Rock Hill
Michelle LaRocco, Georgetown County
Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel
Chad Prescott, Mid Carolina Steel
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers
Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County
Jay Spears, Continental Tire

ABSENT

Joseph McMillin, Atlas Organics
Kristen Brown, WasteZero

GUESTS

Glenn Odom, Retired
Elizabeth Vance, WasteZero
Rep. Bill Hixon, Representative
Senator Tom Young, Representative
Rep. Bart Blackwell, Representative
Rep. Melissa Oremus, Representative
Mayor Briton Williams, City of North Augusta
Will Williams, Western SC
James Sutton, City of North Augusta
Jason Sikes, City of North Augusta
Jim Clifford, City of North Augusta
Rachelle Moody, City of North Augusta
Jenafer McCauley, City Council
Terra Carroll, North Augusta Chamber of Commerce
Alexandra Miller, DHEC



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STAFF

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce
April Chaffins, SC Department of Commerce
Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce
Ray Davidson, SC Department of Commerce
Joni McDaniel, SC Department of Commerce
Mark Hendrick, SC Department of Commerce



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CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Wes Westbrooks motioned to call the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

MINUTES

The July 21st RMDAC meeting minutes were approved.

Wes Westbrooks: welcomed everyone.

WECOLME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Anna DeLage thanked the Council, guest, and the City of North Augusta for hosting RMDAC. She discussed the purpose of RMDAC and why it's important to support the economic growth of South Carolina's recycling industry.
- Mark Hendrick gave oversight on the meeting and introduced the elected officials.
- Mayor Briton Williams discussed how the City of North Augusta owns and operated their MRF. He discussed the challenges and welcomed everyone to the City of North Augusta.
- Representative Bill Hixon welcomed everyone to the City of North Augusta and shared how he wants to help, learn, and find ways to make recycling better. Rep. Hixon is proud to serve the State and represent the City of North Augusta.
- Representative Melissa Oremus welcomed everyone to the City of North Augusta.
- Representative Bart Blackwell welcomed everyone and shared how it's hard to find ways to recycle plastics. He wants to understand the process of recycling plastics.
- Senator Tom Young welcomed everyone to the City of North Augusta. He discussed the importance of recycling and how it creates jobs.
- After introductions, discussions on the following topics:
 - How to introduce a Bill and get it passed
 - Theft at metal yards
 - Catalytic Converter Law
 - The challenges of recycling mixed plastics
 - Pyrolysis (Advance Recycling) – Bill S.525

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Will Williams acknowledged the importance of recycling and how it supports economic impact in South Carolina. He discussed job creation, the importance of partnerships, and the value each company brings to the area. He highlighted the following companies:
 - US Fibers
 - Green Energy Bio Fuel
 - Valley Proteins
 - Bridgestone
 - Ridge Recyclers



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RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Recycling Economic Impact: 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.

The Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) supports the economic growth of South Carolina's recycling industry through:

- Building recycling markets
- Increasing material recovery
- Promoting the recycling value chain

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.

The Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) is required by the 1991 South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act to submit an annual report by March 15th to the Governor and General Assembly. Each year a list of recommendations to the general assembly. This fall an ad hoc committee was established to investigate state policies to advance recycling. The committee reviewed policies including bottle bills, EPR, material bans, incentives and fees.

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. Recycling is a \$23 billion industry in SC. The 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. Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council.

1 out of every \$11 of investment from new business and expansions from SC in 2021 went to expand recycling infrastructure. SC had a record year for investment and the recycling industry was certainly a part of that 5 year \$1.7B investment over 2,100 jobs.



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Three Steps in Building a Better Recycling System

- Recycling Access
- Take the Action to Recycle
- SC Recycling Processing Capacity

As Green Fence was launched in Feb 2013 and National Sword was announced 4 years later, SC was poised and ready to take recycled material because processors were ready and able to take recycled bottles and post-industrial material. Where other states scrambled to find outlets for material, SC stood firmly with strong processing capacity.

Elizabeth Morgan (City of Rock Hill): Rock Hill, South Carolina is city is located in the north-central area of South Carolina approximately 20 miles south of Charlotte, NC along the I-77 corridor. Rock Hill is a growing community of over 70,000 residents, and the City encompasses over 36 square miles. Rock Hill is the largest city in York County, SC and the only major South Carolina city in the Charlotte area.

Collecting and Hauling

- 24,255 Residential Customers
- 1,598 Commercial Customers
- Recycle Tonnage FY22 3,324

Cooperation

- Consistent communication with the MRF
- Shared goals
- Shared outreach and education events
 - Environmental Education Liaisons
 - America Recycles Day
 - Earth Day Birthday
 - Communication
- Cooperation on disposal from illegal dumpsites

Contamination

If a load is contaminated the City works with York County MRF to resolve the problem. The County MRF provides a material tracking form which provides information on the contaminate. The City of Rock creates educational material to reduce contamination and help citizens recycle right.

Cost

- MSW \$43/ton
- Recycling \$50/ton
- Outreach and Education \$10,000



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- Reference Guide
- Magnets
- Posters
- Text messaging
- Truck Wraps
- Postcards

Michelle LaRocco (Georgetown County):

- **Location:** Between Myrtle Beach and Charleston
- **Area:** 813.55 square miles
- **Population:** 62,680
- **County Seat:** City of Georgetown

Georgetown County Department of Public Service Mission

To effectively and transparently serve the public by creating connectivity and resilient infrastructure, preserving our environmental resources, and planning for current community needs and future generations.

Georgetown County Department of Public Service Vision

To ensure Georgetown County is a premier place to live, work and play, through sustainable development and equitable opportunity for both public and private sectors.

Georgetown County Department of Public Service Values

Integrated: Ensuring unity of effort within the department, across county government, and with all elements of the community.

Collaborative: Creating and sustaining broad and sincere relationships among individuals and organizations to encourage trust, advocating ethical practices, public stewardship and continuous improvement.

Professional: Providing education, training and experience, while advocating ethical practice, public stewardship and continuous improvement.

Environmental Services Department

- 75 Staff Members
- 4 Sections:
 - 29 Full Time
 - 46 Part Time
- Responsible - Solid Waste and Recycling Services
- Sustainability Promotion
- Environmental Education
- Community Outreach
- Funded in the Environmental Services Fund
 - Tipping Fees - \$45 per ton – (SC state average \$38)
 - Household Fees - \$44 per residence



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Recycling

- 15 Convenience Centers
- Commercial Paper Program
- Household Hazardous Waste & Paint Recycling

Successes

- Litter Patrol and Grant
- Summer Library Programs
- Increased Social Media Outreach
- Internship program partnership with Coastal Carolina University (CCU)/GeorgetownRISE

Challenges

- Non-County & Commercial Traffic
- Tire Recycling
- New Electronic Waste Statewide Program

Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

- Onsite sorting of mixed recyclables; residents pre-sort at centers
- Bales sold to recycling broker
- Modernization and increased volume
- 10,000 square foot facility
- 1 Bottles sort line
- 2 Balers

Alex Miller (SC Department Health and Environmental Control):

Office of Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling Overview

- Created as mandated by the Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991
- Assists local governments through:
 - Technical and educational assistance to local governments
 - Waste tire, used motor oil, and solid waste recycling grants
- Have a team of eight including a full-time in-house graphic artist

Programs/Campaigns

- Recycle South Carolina
- See a Tire Pile, Report it!
- U Recycle (College Recycling Program)
- Recycle Right SC
- Take-Action SC
- Don't Waste Food SC
- Green Government Initiative



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- Smart Business Recycling Program

Recycling by the Numbers in FY21

	City of North Augusta	Aiken County	South Carolina
Population	24,379	168,808	5,118,425
Total MSW Recycled (tons)	2,992	13,742	1,183,984
Total MSW Recycling Rate (%)	-	12.1	23.9
Total MSW Disposed	-	100,166	3,772,282

Funding Possibilities

- SC DHEC
 - The **Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Program** is funded by a \$2 fee on appliances and lead-acid batteries charged upon purchase at the retail level. The grant program funds projects that can demonstrate a positive impact on a local government's efforts to reach their recycling and waste reduction goals. Fiscal year annual basis. (scdhec.gov/grant-funding-local-governments)
- The Recycle Partnership
 - **Residential Curbside Recycling Cart Grant** - funding to convert bin or bag based curbside recycling programs to carts or to implement new cart-based curbside recycling programs
 - **Small Town Access Fund** - funding stream to support recycling programs in U.S. towns with populations of less than 50,000
 - Other possible funding available (recyclingpartnership.org)
- Southeast Recycling Development Council
 - **Recycling Infrastructure Grant** – funding for physical infrastructure additions, including new recycling program carts, recycling collection or processing equipment, etc; can also cover recycling outreach materials. (serdc.org)
- Additional Sources
 - Carton Council
 - Glass Recycling Foundation
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



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Educational & Outreach Material

- Recycle Right Residential Recycling Guide
- What is Contamination/Prevention postcards
- Recycling's Dirty Dozen Poster
- Promotional Material
 - Cart Stickers
 - Truck Wraps
 - Postcards/Bill Inserts
 - Door Hangers/Cart Tags

CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA

Rachelle: welcomed everyone to the City of North Augusta and introduced James Sutton and James Sikes.

The North Augusta Department of Public Services (James Sutton & Jason Sikes) provided an historical overview of the City of North Augusta Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

The historical events:

- 1991: State legislature enacted the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 requiring each county/region to ensure all local governments participate in the solid waste management plan, including source separation, resource recovery (recycling), or all of the above.
- 1992: North Augusta Mayor & Council approved funding to open the MRF.
- 1993: The MRF opened to process solid waste and commingled recyclables for City sanitation customers, various government agencies, and commercial haulers.
- 2014: City invested \$1.2 million in new processing equipment to recover more recyclables from the solid waste stream.
- 2016: Staffing was significantly reduced at MRF by 20 workers when the South Carolina Department of Corrections closed the Lower Savannah Pre-release center. Staff was supplemented by 6 temporary workers and 5 Federal inmates.
- 2020: Due to the ongoing recycling crisis the City discontinued its Blue Bag Recycling Collection Program.
- 2021: Fire Destroyed 75% of Recycling Facility.
- 2022: Building support facility and replacing recycling equipment by year-end.

CLOSING REMARKS

RMDAC Retreat: Hosted by Atlas Organics in Spartanburg, South Carolina (Nov. 17-18, 2022). Save the date and more information soon to come.



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NORTH AUGUSTA MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY

RMDAC and guest toured the MRF.

ADJOURN

The RMDAC board meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

The next RMDAC meeting will be on November 17-18, 2022.