



Henry McMaster
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Harry M. Lightsey III
Secretary

Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting
Thursday, July 17th, 2025
SC Department of Commerce
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600, Columbia, SC
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

RMDAC

Norman Chandler, Republic Services
Christopher "Chris" Fisher, Coastal Waste & Recycling
Jean Cecil Hudak, NP Strategy
Tina Green, Mumford Industries
Angel Lara, Mid Carolina Steel and Recycling
Edwin "Ed" Marr, Horry County Solid Waste Authority
Kenneth "Glenn" Odom, Emertius Member
Adam Padgett, Green Energy Biofuel
Becky Berube, United Catalyst Corporation
Jay Spears, Continental Tire
Dr. Andrew Spicer, Darla Moore School of Business
Morgan Crapps, Redwood Materials

ABSENT

Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymer Group
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco – Account Development & Administration
Kevin Richardson, City of Rock Hill

GUESTS

Secretary Harry Lightsey III, SC Department of Commerce
Terrell Prested, SC Department of Commerce
Ashley June, SC Department of Commerce
Carla Edwards, SC Department of Commerce
Kristen Austin Gunter, SustainSC

STAFF

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce
Joseph Henshaw, SC Department of Commerce



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CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Tina Green (Chair) motions to call the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

MINUTES

May meeting minutes are approved.

WELCOME INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Anna DeLage provides an introduction to the Department of Commerce International Trade program.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE OVERVIEW

- Carla Edwards gives an overview of the International Trade program.
 - The main goals of the program are to increase the number of South Carolina companies that export as well as expand markets and sales for existing exporters.
 - This contributes to the Department of Commerce's mission as bringing South Carolina's products overseas can increase the state's global standing.
 - The program provides exporters with advisement, training opportunities, connections with public and private resources, and opportunities to attend international trade shows and missions.
- Carla Edwards discusses how International Trade affects the recycling industry.
 - Several recycling companies already take advantage of the International Trade Program's offerings.
 - Provided summary of recent trade policies that may affect the recycling industry, including information on tariffs and exemptions for key materials and companies.
 - Discussed strategies companies use to navigate a changing international market.
 - Provided contact information for follow-ups.
Cedwards@sccommerce.com.

PROGRAM UPDATES AND EVENTS

Anna DeLage provides an update of the Department of Commerce Recycling program.



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- The Recycling program has confirmed a budget for the new fiscal year of \$325,000, aiming to add one employee to the recycling team this fiscal year.
- Regional factsheets are in development, aiming to influence local decision makers to promote recycling and a circular economy.
- Anna DeLage attended and presented at Next Cycle Michigan Summer Showcase, an accelerator academy and pitch competition focused on circularity, featuring 18 programs divided between two cohorts (tech and organics).
- Provided information for several upcoming meetings and conferences.
 - The RMDAC Retreat will be in Columbia, SC from September 24-25.
 - The retreat will consist of a dinner the evening of September 24th, then a meeting at the University of SC Darla Moore School of Business Center for Sustainable Development on September 25th.
 - Staff are collaborating on a Sustainability B2B matchmaker event October 23rd.

WELCOME SECRETARY LIGHTSEY

Anna DeLage welcomes and introduces SC Secretary of Commerce, Harry Lightsey III.

SECRETARY LIGHTSEY'S DISCUSSION

Secretary Lightsey discusses his thoughts and plans for the Department of Commerce Recycling program and RMDAC.

- Confirmed the continued effort to support the recycling team as the agency meets its mission and vision. The mission is to create economic opportunities to increase choices for all South Carolinians. The vision is to embrace the future to ensure South Carolina's sustainable advantage.

RECOGNIZING COUNCIL MEMBERS: CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Anna DeLage presents certificates for continued RMDAC Service and SCDES Recycling Service.

- Chad Prescot receives RMDAC Service Award, recognizing 8 years of continued support and service.
- Anthony "Wes" Westbrook receives RMDAC Service Award.
- Ashley June receives SCDES Recycling Service Award.

MARKET UPDATES



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Metal: Ferrous scrap has slowed, although it has been getting better in the last few weeks. Uncertainty from tariffs is driving markets and business's decisions. Metal imports may slow due to high interest rates on cars, which slow overall production. Copper market is facing an issue with supplier arbitrage.

Tires: There is a recent trend of tires being shipped to India for pyrolysis, with the majority of the UK's tires and nearly 10% of US tires being exported to India. South Carolina's Senate Bill 171 has rescinded the administrative collection allowance and \$1 per tire recycling credit. Disposal fees are sitting around \$150/Ton for documented tires, roughly \$400/Ton for non-documented tires, and roughly \$400/Ton for off-road tires. No tail off in terms of tonnage yet. Investments in Retread or the authorization of rubber modified asphalt may increase tire recycling.

Petroleum (Oil): Renewable diesel and biodiesel are up over 30% since January 1, returning to July 2023 levels. This shift is influenced by higher production and tax credit clarity.

Glass: Relatively steady, slightly down currently but there are hopes to bring the South Carolina glass market back up by September.

Paper:

Aluminum: Aluminum is down 50% over the last 45 days, trading at \$0.45/pound. While there were strong gains last week the market is still trending down. There was a 25% tariff on Aluminum products enacted in April.

Carpet: Carpet sales have dropped dramatically, specifically in CA and NY. Hardwood and Laminate are dominating flooring. Less nylon 6 and 66 are being produced and carpet manufacturers are switching to PET carpet. PET carpet has very little market value, and while it can be made from recycled products it cannot be recycled itself. There are also certain restrictions on it, for example a certain percentage of materials need to be recycled but it cannot be from PET bottles in California.

SC Commerce:

Municipality: Critical minerals are in a tough spot as they are reliant on other countries, which leaves them especially vulnerable to tariffs. Both the public and private sectors want to increase battery collection programs. As of right now, 70-90% of battery recycling goes through Redwood Materials.

Recycling: The recycling industry's credit rating overall has dropped. Recycling insurance is up, with plastics and non-universal recycling industries affected the most. Creditors have little faith in the industry overall, with the industry facing a lot of skepticism and conservatism. PET bales are down 30% in July. Recommendations include



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running recycling more like a business and pushing local governments to promote recycling and recycling education.

Solid Waste: The Teamsters union currently has a rolling strike going on across the country, notably in Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles, and Atlanta. Labor costs will increase as a result and will be reflected across the industry. While there are no union shops in South Carolina, the cost of moving recycling material will increase, and the Solid Waste industry is still feeling issues caused by hurricane Helene. Overall, Solid Waste is holding and going well.

Adjourn: 11:45 AM