



Henry McMaster
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Harry M. Lightsey III
Secretary

Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting
Virtual
Thursday, July 9, 2026
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

RMDAC

Ed Marr, Horry County
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling
Becky Berube, United Catalyst Corporation
Adam Padgett, Green Energy Biofuels
Andrew Spicer, University of South Carolina
Tyrone Ellis, Trane Technologies
Samantha Yager, City of Columbia
Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel
Chris Fisher, Fisher Recycling
Gabriel Matos, Republic Services

GUESTS

Glenn Odom, Retired; Emeritus Member

ABSENT

Tina Green, Mumford Industries
Jay Spears, Continental
Morgan Crapps, Redwood Materials

STAFF

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce
Adriana Diotalevi, SC Department of Commerce
Shelby McIntyre, SC Department of Commerce

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ed Marr (Vice Chair) motions to call the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

MINUTES

The minutes from the May 2026 meeting were reviewed. The recycled aluminum market pricing was flagged as needing correction. Board moved to approve minutes upon correction.



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INTRODUCTIONS

Gabriel Matos from Republic Services introduced himself. Gabe will be representing the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal industry. The board went around to introduce themselves.

STATE & INDUSTRY UPDATES

- Regional Roundtable Highlights and Themes
 - Anna DeLage presented survey results and themes from the Midlands regional roundtable. The themes were as follows:
 1. Economics favor disposal over diversion
 2. The region is growing faster than its recycling infrastructure
 3. Industry tools exist but are not widely known or useful
 4. The recycling industry has a story worth telling
 5. Policy reform is a prerequisite for progress
 - Anna DeLage presented the Steel and Iron Bill H.4709, which requires most SC public construction projects to use US-produced iron and steel.

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE & RETREAT UPDATES

- Anna DeLage discussed the September 10th-11th Upstate Roundtable and Retreat
- Council members participated in a survey that anonymously asked them several questions:
 - What is the single biggest opportunity to strengthen SC's recycling economy?
 - Answers included: Policy advancement, tax incentives, circular product design, strengthening market for generators, national security & critical minerals, developing end markets, changing market structures, logistics, matching generators with consumers and trying to bring more generators on-line by identifying the barriers to their entry and trying to bring down those barriers when possible, and the national defense sector has opportunities (nationalism and national protection, precious metals, etc.).
 - Which topics should RMDAC spend the most time advancing this year?
 - Batteries/Critical minerals – 70%
 - Market development – 60%



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- Policy recommendations –60%
- Business Engagement – 30%
- Recycling Infrastructure – 30%
- Education & Awareness – 30%
- Food Waste & Organics – 20%
- Plastics – 20%
- End-Market Expansion – 10%
- Workforce – 10%
- Other – 10%
 - Andy suggested we shift policy recommendations to stakeholder dialogues thinking through opportunities, rather than just constraints, in recycling.
- What would make the retreat most valuable for you?
 - Networking, Consensus on policies and priorities
 - Taking what we learned from this year's workshops and developing a work plan for next year around those critical issues that were identified.
 - Learning from the diversity in the room: see the same issue from multiple perspectives
 - Better understanding of RMDACs priorities and work plan for next year
 - To leave with an action plan for the rest of 2026-2027. How do we capitalize on these roundtables and affect some change.
 - Leave with clear set of priorities, defined ownership, and actionable outcomes.
 - Understanding others main issues, networking and how can we expand RMDAC in SC govt

RMDAC NEW BUSINESS

Anna DeLage discussed business updates.

- Upcoming meetings
 - September 10th: Upstate Roundtable (Greer, SC)
 - September 10th-11th: RMDAC Retreat (Greer, SC)
 - October 29th: Low Country Roundtable (Summerville)



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- Anna will be speaking at the Council of State Governments Southern Legislative Conference about South Carolina's Recycling Market Development Program

MARKET UPDATES

- Each board member gave brief updates on the current state of their respective markets.
 - Carpet: Prices have risen on post-industrial carpet material, which may in turn drive up interest in post-consumer carpet.
 - Paper: OCC prices have increased \$10, now at \$100 per ton. This increase has been building over the past few months as paper mills compete for material, and the upward trend is expected to continue in the coming months. SOP and mixed paper are also up.
 - Plastic: Rising oil prices amid renewed geopolitical conflict are pushing up plastic costs. More recycling foreclosures are expected, and capital investment is likely to remain on hold until market conditions stabilize.
 - County: Tire regulation is out for comment; state is working to update Solid Waste management plan
 - Trane Technologies: The market is trending toward repair over replacement, increasing demand for remanufacturing options. This shift is straining supply chains and creating resiliency challenges.
 - Renewable fuel: Biodiesel end-product pricing is expected to hold flat, but feedstocks have dropped sharply (18%). Increased imports and planned refinery maintenance shutdowns are adding volatility to the sector.
 - Recycled Aluminum: Analysts expect the market to remain in a supply deficit, with tariffs on aluminum still in effect.
 - Metals: The copper market saw volatility last month but has since stabilized \$6.16/lb; aluminum prices remain steady \$3,300/T prime.
 - Solid Waste: Labor retention remains a challenge, and OCC recycling economics are tightening as rebates are less robust than in the past, putting pressure on margins.
 - Municipality: Significant effort has gone into collection operations this summer, with a focus on protecting workers from extreme heat.

Adjourn: 11:11 AM