



NEWSLETTER

FALL / WINTER 2020

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Our sponsors have been very supportive through this very difficult year. Find more on the next page, including web links.

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ARKANSAS RECYCLING COALITION RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL PAPER FOUNDATION GRANT

ARC has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from International Paper's Conway Plant and the International Paper Foundation. Funds will support ARC's Recycling/Sustainability Educational Summits, benefiting students and teachers throughout Arkansas and ARC's Professional Summit, educating the community on recycling and sustainability.

IPGiving.com



The International Paper Foundation is one of the ways International Paper strives to reach its vision to be among the most successful, sustainable and responsible companies in the world. Started in 1952, the foundation annually provides millions in grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to address critical needs in the communities where its employees live and work. Funding priority is given to programs related to its signature causes: education, hunger, health & wellness, disaster relief, and initiatives that improve the planet. Visit their website for more information.

A very special THANKS to our wonderful sponsors for their support through this very difficult year

DIAMOND



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GOLD



SILVER



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Message From the President

ARC Newsletter Fall/Winter 2020 Greetings fellow Recyclers; I hope this message finds you in good health and excited about the future of recycling. Certainly, 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us as we have gone through conditions our country has never faced in the past. The pandemic has created difficulties and new challenges in every corner of our country and in all parts of our economy. During these times, many communities have redoubled their commitment to recycling by streamlining their services and delivering even more value. America has found itself playing catchup in developing markets for domestic recyclables. While foreign markets have been good to us over the years, we have learned that many of those markets can be closed off at the whim of authoritarian governments. We have also found that many of the products that are vital to our health and well-being can also be restricted without regard to normal economic factors or human wellbeing. Talks have increased about the development of extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs that may offer some financial help for local recyclers. Recycling provides many benefits in the areas of energy, environment, economy, and society. It would be great if our local recycling programs could be paid for by some of those benefits. Instead, our local recycling programs only get paid the going commodity price for their recovered materials. We will need to watch closely as EPR programs begin to take shape around the country and in Arkansas. Things are really shaping up for a great year in 2021. The ARC/Virco Professional Summit will be held March 17, 2021, at the Sherwood Forest in Sherwood and will be larger than ever. Expanding the Summit will allow us to offer six Continuing Education Units (CEU) needed for operator license renewal. I like to finish on a high note and I can't think of anything better than to let you know that the 2021 ARC Conference will be held in the new Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort in Hot Springs, September 13-15, 2021. We are excited to be among the first to enjoy the new facility and all it has to offer. We are looking forward to our 30th conference with great anticipation. We believe that it will be one of the best that we have ever hosted. We are focused on relevant topics and will have some of the best presenters from across the country, and from right here in Arkansas. I look forward to seeing you in Hot Springs.



Al Drinkwater,
President Arkansas Recycling Coalition

ARC's MISSION is to function as a non-profit coalition of individual, community, nonprofit, government, NGO and private enterprise members dedicated to advancing the principles of REDUCE, REUSE, REPURPOSE, and RECYCLE as the Primary Means of SUSTAINABLE Waste Management in Arkansas.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Keep up with the latest ARC news and happenings:

facebook.com/arkansasrecyclingcoalition

ARC's 30th Annual Conference & Tradeshow



We are excited to be hosting our 2021 Conference & Tradeshow in Hot Springs at Oaklawn's beautiful new hotel and convention center on September 13-15, 2021, so enter the date in your calendar and make plans to join us there. More information about the conference will be coming your way in the coming weeks and months.

ARC Awards

As with our other programs, COVID has had an effect on the 2020 ARC Annual Recycling Awards Program. The 2020 awards will be chosen, the recipients notified, and the presentation will be made concurrent with the 2021 award presentations at the 2021 ARC Conference and Tradeshow. The 2021 conference will be held September 13 – 15, at the Oaklawn Convention Center in Hot Springs.



Revolution Announces \$20M Expansion, Will Create 60 Jobs

By Arkansas Business

Revolution of Little Rock, parent company of Delta Plastics of Little Rock, announced Wednesday plans for a \$20 million, 36,000-SF expansion of its 100,000-SF manufacturing facility at the Little Rock Port. The company expects to create 60 new jobs over the next two years. It already employs 290 at the site.

State, local and company officials made the announcement at 10 a.m. at the facility, 8801 Frazier Pike. Attendance was limited because of COVID-19 restrictions. "The partnerships we formed and the support we have received at the local and state levels for this expansion project is a testament to the strength of the Little Rock community and the great state of Arkansas. We are grateful to work with such exceptional people who are committed to economic growth and environmentally sustainable business solutions," CEO Sean Whiteley said in a news release. "Based on increased business demand, strong customer relationships and our strategic growth plan, the time is right to move forward with this major expansion."

Revolution qualified for three incentives from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission: Advantage Arkansas, which provides a state income tax credit of 1% of total payroll; Tax Back, which provides sales tax refunds on building materials, taxable machinery and equipment; and \$450,000 from the Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund.

Nucor-Yamato Steel asks: What Would You Do?



By: **Chrissie Gray and Kylee Clanton**

At Nucor-Yamato Steel, our teammates are continuously looking for ideas to reduce waste, reuse, and recycle materials to lower our environmental footprint and offer value throughout our community. In the last few years, one of these major efforts has been focused on the reduction of wood waste sent to the landfill. After much research, it was found that a large portion of the volume sent to the local landfill was in the form of shipping boxes, pallets, railroad ties, dunnage and other scrap woods that were just looking for a new home. There had to be a method to cost efficiently recycle these wastes! A few of our teammates on our waste reduction team did some investigation and discovered that shredding wood into mulch might just be that method! After researching various options, the team presented the idea and cost justification to the management group who showed overwhelming support! So far, this has kept 4,695 tons of wood waste out of the local landfill, saved \$216,000 in landfill fees and saved \$47,000 in transportation related costs! As we move forward, NYS will allow neighboring facilities to utilize the equipment to reuse their former wood wastes and help further provide high quality, low cost mulch to our community! This made way too much sense to us, what wood you do?

Rotochopper electric horizontal grinder system at work!



Rotochopper EC-366 Grinder



The grinder at work!



Wood waste



The outcome!



VIRCO MANUFACTURING CLEANUP DAY

Eighteen volunteers from the VIRCO Manufacturing Plant, Conway, participated in cleanup efforts on September 10th. Volunteers collected twenty 30 gallon bags of trash and tires along 1.75 miles on Amity Frontage Road in Conway.



Did You Know?

We have our very own, soon to be famous Author among us; Carol Bevis.

Carol has recently had a book of poems published and it is now available on Kindle. To read:

[Amazon.com/Kindle Books/Carol Bevis/Literature Poetry](https://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Books/Carol-Bevis/Literature-Poetry)

The book will be released in paperback in the coming weeks and available at most major book stores. Let's put Carol on the Best Seller List.



ARC/VIRCO Professional Summit

This summit will be held on March 17, 2021 at the Sherwood Forest Event Center, Sherwood, AR. It will be extended from the usual three hours to six hours this year. DEQ will be on hand to speak and to issue Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) to solid waste license holders who are in need of credits for this period. Registration will be open soon on the ARC website:

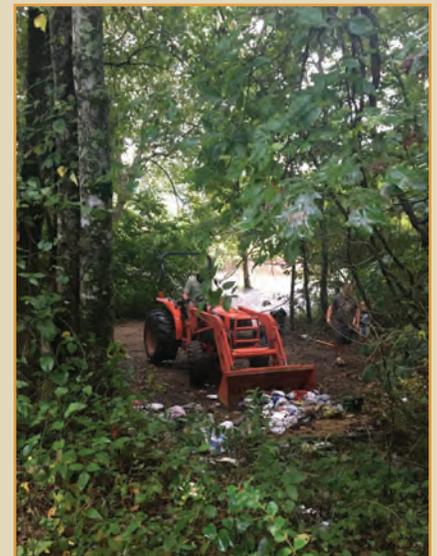
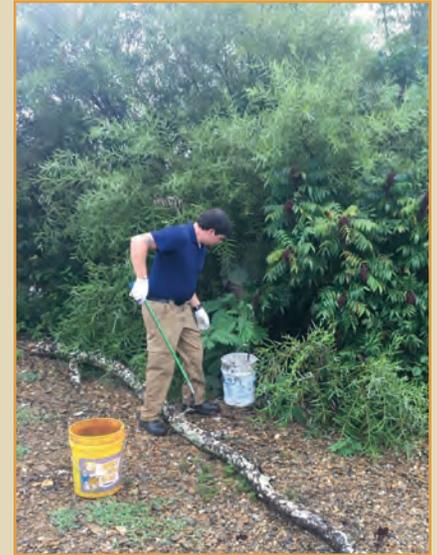
[Arkansas Recycling Coalition](#)

Save The Date!



RECYCLE SALINE AT WORK

Recycle Saline has been busy with cleaning up Saline County. With the addition of Hunter Schelle, Environmental Enforcement Officer for Recycle Saline, they have been going full force with cleaning up. On August 25, 2020 they received a complaint regarding illegal dumping at a popular swimming area called 10 Mile Creek. This area is frequented by many on the weekends and over the past several months the litter and illegal dumping had built up. After investigating this area there were no responsible parties found for the clean-up. Recycle Saline worked hard to organize a clean-up event within two days to beat Hurricane Laura washing the debris down-stream. With the help of Stephanie Sharp from KARK Channel 4 News they recruited some volunteers, and 10 Mile Creek was cleaned up. The clean-up cleared out 1,840 lbs. of material that was hauled to the landfill.



Upcoming Webinar

U.S. EPA: New International Requirements for Exports and Imports of Plastic

November 23, 2020 : 1:00 PM (CT)

This webinar will explain the new international requirements for exports and imports of plastic recyclables or scrap. In May 2019, 187 countries decided to significantly restrict international trade in plastic scrap and waste to help address the improper disposal of plastic waste and reduce its leakage into the environment. As a result of these changes adopted under a treaty called the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, international shipments of most plastic scrap and waste will be allowed only with the prior written consent of the importing country and any transit countries, effective January 1, 2021.

[Register Here!](#)





EPA's Town Hall: America's Recycling Landscape Today – A Regional Perspective

November 19, 2020

Moderated Panel Discussion

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm CST

Question and Answer

EPA will host a recycling Town Hall with a panel of experts discussing the recycling landscape from a municipal, regional, and nationwide perspective. The discussion will include recycling feedstock contamination, environmental education for consumers, how to increase resiliency in recycling systems, improving infrastructure, improving domestic markets, and so much more! A special message from EPA's Region 6 Administrator, Ken McQueen, will also be included.

Panelists Include:

- Ken McQueen, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 6
- Deanna DeBose, Environmental Scientist, Sustainable Materials Management, EPA Region 6
- Robert Smouse, Assistant Director, Solid Waste Services, City of Fort Worth
- Alita Kane, Community Program Coordinator, The Recycling Partnership
- Tamara Cook, AICP, Senior Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Discussion Topics Include:

- Recycling Measurement Framework (2019) and Strategic Plan
- Education to Combat Contamination from Local and National Perspectives
- Improving Recycling Efficiencies
- Supporting Success for the Recycling of Tomorrow

Intended Audience:

This virtual town hall is intended for a diverse audience including but not limited to local government entities, recycling coordinators, councils of government, solid waste management districts and authorities, and residential consumers.

To Register

Questions? Contact Deanna DeBose, EPA Region 6:

debose.deanna@epa.gov

Grant Opportunities and New Circularity Research



You are eligible for this grant opportunity if your organization is a public, private, or non-profit Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operator, or a post-MRF or secondary processor, or a mixed waste, or municipal solid waste facility. See more attached and below.

Dear State Recycling Leaders,

I want to make you are aware of new aluminum can capture equipment grants for MRFs and of new research analyzing the circular performance and potential of U.S. beverage containers.

Aluminum Can Capture Equipment Grants for MRFs

My organization, the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI), which represents U.S. metal can manufacturers and their suppliers, released research earlier this year that found while used beverage cans (UBC) provide significant/critical revenue to MRFs, up to 25% of UBCs that flow through MRFs are missorted. These missorted cans can be effectively captured with additional aluminum can capture equipment (e.g., second eddy currents and robots) that can pay for itself from the additional revenue generated by capturing and selling more cans. To help spur more of this equipment in MRFs, CMI announced a grant program for 2021 funded by beverage can makers Ardagh Group and Crown Holdings. With a more immediate deadline, Ball Corporation released a RFP for aluminum can capture equipment (attached).

New Circularity Research

A new report titled *Recycling Unpacked: Assessing the Circular Potential of Beverage Containers in the United States* concluded that aluminum beverage cans have the highest circular performance in today's U.S. recycling system and the highest circular potential. The material flow analyses in the report show visually how aluminum cans, glass bottles, and plastic PET bottles are flowing through the U.S. waste management system. It finds that more than 80 percent of beverage cans collected for recycling are recovered and turned back into new beverage containers, compared with 59 percent of glass bottles, and only 13 percent of plastic PET bottles. In addition to the analysis of current circular performance, the report analyzed the carbon emission reduction potential for the three beverage packaging types under three future scenarios – 100-percent collection, 100-percent sortation, and a national deposit system. In each future scenario, the aluminum can delivered the highest carbon emission reduction potential. For example, once a 100 percent deposit collection rate is achieved for each material type, the total emissions impact reduction potential for recovering one metric ton of aluminum cans is three times higher than plastic PET bottles and 42 times higher than glass bottles. Please check out the full report [here](#) and the press release [here](#) for more information.

Thank you for checking out and sharing the grant opportunities and research! Please email me if you have any questions. Best wishes for good health to everyone across the country.

Thanks again,

Scott Breen

Vice President of Sustainability

202-232-4677 (o); 847-207-1019 (m)

[Grant & Research Info](#)

SERDC Publishes MRF Study

The Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC), with support from the Glass Packaging Institute and the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association, surveyed the recycling Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the eleven state SERDC region. Several recycling programs in the Southeast have recently discontinued the acceptance of glass containers in their collection programs, citing restrictions and/or fee increases from the Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) that sort their collected material for marketing. The survey sought to identify the specific challenges leading to the suspensions of glass program acceptance.

Findings

- SERDC staff contacted a total of 90 MRFs and received 61 responses to the survey, for a response rate of 68%.
- Glass is accepted at 50 of 61 that listed their accepted materials list MRFs.
- Of the 50 that accept glass, eight (8) accept only source separated glass.
- The majority of MRFs (39) reported accepting glass as a part of single stream.
- Feedback received: Glass recycling remains problematic for most MRFs, primarily due to equipment damage, contamination in other materials and market value.
- MRFs are interested in investing in equipment improvements to improve glass recycling.
- The low market value of glass prohibits many smaller MRFs from accepting in residential mix.

Learn more and access the full report:

Glass Recycling Study



Dates to Remember!

2020

November 15	America Recycles Day
November 18-20	AEF Conference (virtual)
December 7-10	WASTECON 2020 – Grapevine, TX

2021

February 22-24	Plastics Recycling Conference 2021 – Washington, DC
March 17	Professional Summit, Sherwood
March 14-16	SERC Conference, Orland, FL
April 6-8	MORA, Hilton, Branson, MO
April 6-9	SWANA Conference, Holiday Inn, Springdale
April 26-28	WasteExpo, Las Vegas
May 2-8	International Compost Awareness Week
May 3-5	Plastics Recycling Conference and Trade Show, Washington DC
September 13-15	ARC Conference, Oaklawn Convention Center, Hot Springs
October 6-8	AEF Conference, Hot Springs



Making a Difference....

Commitment to Corporate Sustainability

Everything that we do leaves an environmental footprint. Because we only have one habitable planet, Eco Solutions 4 U dedicates itself to providing sustainable management plans that will benefit businesses and positively affect the earth and our communities.

Our team understands that every business and client is unique, so we don't just create a generic plan for the companies we work with. We carefully analyze their production flow and identify the most efficient form of waste management to come up with solutions that will increase their efficiency and drive their sustainability initiatives.

Who We Are

Eco Solutions 4 U is not a recycling company. It is a sustainability management company that is committed to establishing collaborative client partnerships as well as providing practical and rewarding sustainable options. We make sure that our solutions will enable businesses not only to financially grow but also to act responsibly to the planet's preservation.

Brent Cox
President

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