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The Newsletter of the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter

Summer 2018

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Letter from the President

August 2018

I just came back from our summer conference in Palm Beach where we celebrated our Chapter's 40th Anniversary! It was great to see some of our veterans who shared their memories of the early days in a session with a couple of our up and coming young professionals. Thank you to Tim Hunt and Warren Smith for imparting your knowledge, wisdom and experiences. I think we all learned something, and you kept us entertained.



We had more than 200 people pre-registered for this event, along with over 30 exhibitors and sponsors. Golf at the PGA National Resort was HOT, but it is July in Florida ... and mini glow golf after a fabulous dinner on Monday night was a lot of fun. Our 50/50 raffle is becoming a popular tradition with this one raising \$600 to help Florida students attend the WASTECON student design competition (someone won \$600 as well).

Besides the interesting and informative technical sessions on both mornings, the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) hosted a tour of their beautiful facilities, which was very well attended. Following lunch on Tuesday, the round table discussions were insightful and motivating, and prizes were awarded to some of the lucky folks who stayed until the end.

If you're heading to WASTECON in August in Nashville, don't forget to attend the awards luncheon and support our own Mark Hammond who is winning the Robert L. Lawrence Distinguished Service Award. Mark is a past president of SWANA and of the Florida Chapter, and will be retiring as Executive Director of SWA at the end of this year. We all wish Mark a long and happy retirement and hope he continues to attend some of our events after he qualifies for our retired member rate!

We're going to mix things up a little next year by holding a conference with an emphasis on safety in conjunction with our Road-E-O in March in lieu of our traditional winter meeting. I hope you'll consider attending and staying to see our best drivers, heavy equipment operators and mechanics in action—they truly deserve our support!

Meanwhile, enjoy the rest of your summer. Personally, I'm looking forward to autumn...

Sincerely,

Tammy L. Hayes
SWANA FL Chapter President

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When Investing in Your Fleet, Remember This One Critical Factor

Dave Riordan, Lytx, Chief Client Officer

Are you investing in your employees—arguably the more important part of the safety equation? Here are four ways to invest in your employees that we’ve observed with our clients over the years. On top of paying big returns, not one of these will cost you any cash.

#1: Hiring and Training in Alignment with Your Company Culture

Safety is one of your core values and, in fact, it’s part of your company’s DNA. When you hire new employees, do you talk to them about their attitudes about safety? About what they see as their role in keeping themselves and their communities safe? Asking these simple questions can bring home the point that the company relies on the employee to maintain high standards in safety.

When you train the drivers, you likely spend quite a bit of time on the safe and fuel-efficient operation of your fleet vehicle, but do you talk about collision prevention? Making safety a priority in training—and refreshing the topic with video clips showing drivers what they can do to decrease risk—shows that safety is a choice, not just a slogan.

#2: Clear, Concise and Enforceable Policies

Company policies aren’t meant to sit on a shelf and gather dust. Effective policies are clear to anyone who reads them, concise and enforceable. Just having the policy isn’t enough. Consistently enforcing policies, especially when it comes to safety, underscores that you’re serious about keeping your employees safe and serves as a common point of understanding for anyone who has responsibility for safety, whether for their own, or for others on their team.

#3: Saying Thank You for a Good Job

Pausing to recognize good employees isn’t just good manners. Everyone loves to be told that they’re doing a great job when they’ve worked hard to exceed expectations. Giving a public thank you for consistently safe driving can motivate a driver to continue putting safety first. Some clients use video clips of praise-worthy driving to share at safety or team meetings as a reminder to the entire group of what safety can look like.

#4: Ongoing Skills Development

Why does an experienced PGA golfer still have a swing coach? Because there’s always room for improvement. Their philosophy? If skills aren’t getting sharper, they’re getting duller, and the same could be said for safety. For drivers, investing time to focus on individual skills like cornering or following distance, especially using video clips to show where there’s room for improvement, can help turn professional drivers into the champions they’re meant to be. Some choose a different skill or safety behavior to focus on each month to get the whole team engaged in better performance. For example, making November “No Rolling Stop” Month keeps that behavior top of mind long enough for good habits to take root.

For more information, contact Robert Donahue, Commercial Leader, Government for Lytx, at rdonahue@lytx.com.



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Landfill Wastewater Sources and Leachate Collection Systems

Ramon Rivera, Diamond Scientific

Many landfills generate wastewater from various sources both on and offsite, including landfill leachate, LFG condensate, wastewater from washing trucks and equipment onsite, as well as drained free liquids, stormwater, contaminated groundwater, wastewater originating from laboratories, washing floors, and wastewater recovered from pumping wells. These different sources of landfill wastewater as well as leachate collection systems commonly used by landfills are discussed in more detail below.

Landfill Leachate
Landfill leachate consists of wastewater that has leached from the solid waste piled up on the landfill. This liquid may be rainwater that has filtered through the waste pile or it may be liquid that has come from the waste itself. Very often it is a combination of both and contains dissolved or suspended particles or contaminants that were removed from the waste as it passed through the material.

This wastewater can potentially migrate into the broader environment over time. As water moves through a landfill, it can leach constituents of concern that are present in the waste pile, transferring them deeper into the substrate below. This poses a potential environmental and public health risk as both soils and groundwater can become contaminated.

However, new permitted landfill operators take steps to prevent migration offsite where they can contaminate the environment. A common preventative method is to install a liner at the base of the

landfill combined with a leachate collection system. The liner prevents the leachate from penetrating the soil below and drains into the leachate collection system where it is collected and disposed of appropriately. Other methods of leachate collection include using trenches, slurry walls and similar containment options.

Various factors affect the amount of leachate generated, which varies from landfill to landfill depending on the



type of waste that is accepted, the depth of the waste fill, the compaction of the waste, annual rainfall and age of the landfill, as well as landfill operating practices such as shredding waste, the amount of daily cover applied and capping.

Landfill Gas Condensate
Landfill gas condensate forms when a liquid condenses in the landfill gas collection system as gas is extracted from the landfill. Hazardous gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are generated by microbes as they break down the waste on the landfill. These gases need to be removed to prevent the buildup of gases that can result in explosions onsite, as well as offsite should these gases migrate offsite.

A gas collection system traps water vapor as it condenses in the gas collection system. This condensate consists of volatile compounds and makes up a relatively small component of the total amount of wastewater generated by a landfill. According to estimates from an EPA survey of 158 landfill sites that generate landfill gas condensate, flow rates for LFG condensate range from 3 gallons per day to 11,700 gallons per day, with the median daily flow rate being around 343 gallons.

Contaminated Ground Water
Groundwater is fresh water that has filtered through the soil and rock substrate and collected below the landfill in a zone where the soil has become saturated. This groundwater can become contaminated with pollutants that are leached out of the landfill waste as water passes through it. Landfill leachate can contaminate groundwater sources when a landfill has no liner to prevent the flow of leachate to the surrounding

soil, or it can occur at landfills that have a landfill liner system installed, but where contaminants collected in the liner system are released into the surrounding soil. Contamination of groundwater can also occur if the water table rises to such an extent that it penetrates the landfill or the leachate collection system. According to the EPA, there are approximately 163 landfill sites across the US that generate contaminated groundwater. Daily flow rates at these sites range from 6 gallons to 987,000 gallons per day, with 12,800 gallons being the median daily flow rate.

Recovering Pumping Wells
Contaminated groundwater is not only generated during water pumping operations onsite, but

also by various other operations that can also produce a stream of wastewater. For example during the construction and maintenance of wells, and also when water is purged from wells during sampling operations. Wastewater generated during these activities typically has a very similar composition to that of the local contaminated groundwater. An EPA survey of the landfill industry pinpointed 50 landfill sites where wastewater is generated from recovering pumping wells. Daily flow rates ranged from 0.3 gallons (minimum flow rate) to 80,200 gallons (maximum flow rate) with a daily median flow rate of 136 gallons.

Leachate Collection Systems
In order to comply with landfill effluent guidelines, many landfill sites employ some method of collecting landfill leachate to prevent it from migrating offsite together with suspended or dissolved contaminants derived from the waste pile that could potentially contaminate surrounding soil and groundwater. The leachate collection system’s function is not only to prevent pollutants from migrating offsite with leachate, but it also controls the level that the leachate is allowed to accumulate to above the liner before it is channeled away for collection.

Components of a Leachate Collection System
In order to be effective, the leachate collection system typically consists of a number of single components that collectively make up the whole system. Very often two primary leachate collection systems are needed: 1) an underdrain collection system that is installed at the base of the landfill during the construction phase, which removes leachate from the bottom of the landfill; and 2) an outer peripheral system, which can be added once landfill operations are in full swing, and thus is often a method employed to remediate leachate issues that crop up once the landfill is operating.

The underdrain system consists of a highly permeable drainage layer constructed out of porous granular material that facilitates lateral diversion of the leachate, and a non-permeable liner that forms the base of the system, which prevents leachate that filters down from the waste pile above from penetrating the soil and groundwater below. When the leachate reaches the non-permeable liner it builds up until saturated, whereupon pump systems serve as an effective mechanism to divert it to a drainage point within the collection system.

Types of Leachate Collection Systems
A number of different leachate

collection systems are used in the landfill industry. A survey conducted by the EPA in 1992, gravity flow drain fields were used at 50 percent of landfills. Today, landfills in the U.S. used compound leachate collection systems consisting of a leachate liner and leachate collection pipes, leachate/ gas extraction wells, collection sumps with risers, perforated drains flowing to a pump station, with flow pipes channeled to a drainage basing, holding pond or storage tank.

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Qualifying Geosynthetic Materials for Construction of Landfill Lining Systems or Final Covers

Ali Khatami, Ph.D., P.E., Vice President, National Expert for Landfill Design and Construction Quality Assurance, SCS Engineers

Sometimes material specifications for a specific project, i.e., lining system or final cover system, may be a performance-based specification and does not specify the type of product to be used in construction. What does the engineer need to do when the selected contractor submits a product for approval in accordance with a performance-based specification? Or, what should the engineer do when the owner purchases the material and identifies a product for use based on the performance-based specification?

Specifications that the author prepared in the past are performance-based and include a qualifying procedure whether the product is introduced by a contractor or owner. This qualifying procedure is specifically left to the engineer to carry out by laboratory testing of typical samples of the specific product to be used in construction. Typical reported values by the manufacturer or test results submitted by the contractor or owner are not acceptable under these procedures. Since the engineer takes the liability of accepting a specific type of product for

this or her project, the engineer should have the right to perform laboratory testing before the product is approved



Rolls of geomembrane delivered to project site.

for use in the project, which only makes sense in the world of taking liabilities.



Rolls of GCL delivered to project site.

The testing performed by the engineer for qualifying a product are not counted toward conformance testing of materials delivered to the site. The qualifying procedures are

solely for accepting a certain type of product to be used in the project, but the specific rolls of pre-qualified product manufactured for use in engineer's project must go through the required conformance testing specified in the specifications before use in the project.

The process of qualifying a product, ordering the qualified product, and performing conformance testing on the pre-qualified materials takes time. The engineer needs to build the necessary timing for the involved stages of approval into the construction schedule. If the material is purchased by the owner, the owner needs to have the timeline in mind to allow the engineer to carry out all necessary testing for the approvals to be in place before construction begins.

Whether the qualifying procedure for a product should be repeated from one project to the next depends on how the performance-based specification is written. Sometimes, the engineer accepts a product that was qualified for use in a prior project as long as the product has not changed since last use in accordance with statements by the manufacturer. If the performance-based specification includes such options, it is highly recommended that the time period between a prior project and the next project be identified in

the specification. This means the product must go through a qualifying process if the previous set of qualifying data is older than a certain number of years set in the specifications even if the product has not changed for many years.

The time period is based on engineer's judgement; the author normally uses five years in his specifications. During a five-year period, if the product changes or if any reported value by the manufacturer associated with the product specifications change, the qualifying process must be repeated for a new project irrespective of the number of years passed since a recent past project.

Ali Khatami, Ph.D., P.E. is Vice President, National Expert for Landfill Design and Construction Quality Assurance for SCS Engineers. He can be reached at akhatami@scsengineers.com.

Photos courtesy of SCS Engineers.



Rolls of geotextile delivered to project site.



Rolls of GCL being unloaded at project site.

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Uncertain Times ... Tough Decisions for Solid Waste Agencies

Marc J. Rogoff

Have you ever heard of the Chinese proverb, “May you live in interesting times”? What is noteworthy about the expression is that, based on recent research, it is not Chinese, but probably American and has been in popular vernacular for almost three generations.

The main point of the phrase is that “interesting times” should be good to live in, but when faced with the constant drum beat of doom and gloom voiced in the 24-hour news cycle of politics, wars, street violence, and the like, it seems kind of an ironic curse. We all live in an increasingly complicated world, even down to deciding between the 30 or so kind of coffee drinks to select at the ubiquitous Starbucks or choosing entertainment from the thousands of shows on cable TV.

If we are intuitively equating interesting with complex, exciting, or uncertain, then we are certainly living in interesting times in the solid waste industry. But, then again, from the prospective of a long-time solid waste practitioner, our industry has been anything but boring over the last three decades. When I started my career as a newbie Resource Recovery Administrator for Hillsborough County, FL back in the early 1980s, we had unlined and leaking landfills, little, if any, curbside recycling, rampant illegal dumping and no real means to pay for the costs of new and improved systems. It was a tough sell to convince county or city commissioners to establish mandatory

collection and disposal ordinances when the citizens they represented said they generated no garbage. Those were heady times, but we in the solid waste industry persevered and got the infrastructure constructed and rules/ regulations established.

When I view the uncertain times we live in and the tough decisions faced by solid waste agencies, I see immense opportunities for implementation of smart technologies and application of cost optimization techniques, all of which can improve customer service. Let me get up on my soap box and tell you what I really think:

- *“Smart” or Emerging Technologies*—Up until recent times, garbage collection changed little, if at all. It has relied on manual, back-breaking effort. Automation and the implementation of cameras, side-looking radar, and GPS systems makes waste collection safer and more efficient. Implementation of autonomous collection vehicles over the next few decades can only improve our industry’s safety record.
- *Cost Optimization Tools*—When I started in solid waste in the 1980s, I was happy to receive cost/budget sheets by my county finance department every quarter. How could you run a department and be cost effective? As a new manager, I toyed with new DOS spreadsheet software such as VisiCalc and Lotus 1-2-3 to try to make sense of a multi-million-dollar operation. We are now at

the cusp of having benchmarking data and information available at the touch of a button, enabling managers and decision makers to control and track operational costs in real time. Much of this is based on and the efforts of associations like SWANA.

- *Financial Planning*—The old DOS tools that we had in the 1980s and 1990s did not allow much, if any, “what if” analysis. That is the ability to change various assumptions at a whim without extensive re-programming or re-entering of data. Nowadays, the scenario modeling tool in the newer versions of Excel can be easily used to provide decision-makers the answers they need to establish different rates or levels of service. I have used this tool effectively to compare various transfer station locations in terms of net present value or predictions of cash flow with various collection rate structures.
- *Improved Customer Service*—We live in an age now with back office software and smart tablets that we can use to re-program collection routes on the fly and service new accounts. Our citizens can use Web-based tools on their smart phones to sign up for bulk waste or special waste pickups, find up-to-date information on materials recycling, or provide details on customer satisfaction that once had to be done door-to-door or through phone surveys.

- *Public Outreach and Engagement*—Social media tools have changed the way we engage the public. In the “olden days”, we had draftsman develop foam boards using manually lettering tools. There was not much science available on how to run meetings effectively. Today, we have the advantage of computer software to cost-effectively prepare multi-media presentations, gather responses from public presentations, analyze feedback, and deploy the results on Web-based applications to the public.

Lastly, I need to turn my attention to the current impacts on recycling in the U.S. Operation Blue Sky/ National Sword promulgated by the Chinese government with its bans on recyclable imports and mandates on allowable contamination levels is, in my opinion, a generational wakeup call for our industry, just as the transition from leaking dumps to engineered landfills was a generation ago. There will be great pain as our industry suffers with declining markets in China that once paid relatively high commodity prices. It will take a concerted public education effort to minimize contamination levels and new technology and manpower at existing MRFs to cull out these contaminates in the incoming waste stream.

In my opinion, we will need to change the way we price recycling services either by raising the effective rate or developing long-term reserve funds to maintain funding for these services through the peaks and valleys of the marketplace. We need less reliance on landfill tipping fees to subsidize recycling and more towards integrated system fees or assessments. Above

all we need to be more transparent in our pricing of these services. The popular perception that disposal is a cost, but recycling is revenue has to change. Long term, the issue of recycling markets will only be firmly settled when the country’s tax policy is changed to reward recycling rather than subsidizing the price of virgin materials. Only then can we truly move towards a circular economy for recyclable materials.

Marc J. Rogoff, Ph.D. is a Senior Consultant with Geosyntec Consultants. He can be reached at (813) 810-5547 or mrogoff@geosyntec.com.

Reflections of a Solid Waste Professional: Keeping Scale Facilities Current with Available Technologies

How Pinellas County, FL Solid Waste Operations evolved and adapted technology to better serve its customers.

Warren Smith and Deb Bush

From its inception in 1983, Pinellas County, FL’s Department of Solid Waste Operations has provided its private, business and municipal customers with modern scale facilities and processes. The initial scale facility consisted of three inbound and one outbound in-ground covered deck scales, scale attendant booths and office, computerized weighing, records and billing systems, and a camera system. When comparing Pinellas County’s solid waste scale facilities to other comparable counties, these facilities and services were preeminent and forward-looking.

Even with such modern facilities, as the county continued to grow, opportunities for improvement became obvious. For example, during peak collection days and times, especially coupled with peak seasonal waste generation and/or holidays, traffic backups and delays at the scales could become excessive, often cueing traffic in three lanes—more than 1,000 feet on the scale road to the facility entrance. As could be expected, such conditions created dissatisfied customers (especially municipal customers), as well as increased stress on scale house and

operations staff.

In the early 2000s, while brainstorming possible solutions to upgrading a 20-year old scale system, an idea emerged: why couldn’t we also develop a fully automated Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for municipal waste trucks, similar to the Florida Turnpike’s “Sun Pass”? After obtaining information from the Florida Turnpike Authority, Waste Management’s Broward North Waste-to-Energy facility, and other municipal entities, an internal “technical committee” was formed consisting of scale house staff,

Utilities and County finance staff, landfill and waste-to-energy contractors, major municipal and commercial customers, and the county’s scale system vendor, Mettler-Toledo, to implement the changes. Major goals were to upgrade scale software, simplify internal routing of waste to the six onsite disposal/processing locations and to establish at least one Sun Pass type scale lane, to

be exclusively dedicated to municipal waste trucks. In order to accomplish all of the upgrades, it was determined there could be another more cost-effective method than patching the existing system, but this would require



Card reader with card. Since the system is paperless, no entry ticket is printed for a reweigh customer. All transaction data is transferred to the card by the system. The customer is given the card and sent to the appropriate location. When they return, they give the card to the attendant and all information is automatically populated into the system. The attendant can give them change, refund the deposit amount or whatever is needed to complete the transaction. The cards can be reused limitlessly.

a bid process. So, the technical team was expanded to include the county’s Purchasing and Business Technology Services Departments.

The key customer-desired features for the new scale system became part of a very detailed Request for Proposal and



Unattended kiosk.

included:

- Real time remote account access for customers
- Automatic transaction bar codes to automate entry into municipalities’ systems
- A “paperless” system
- Ability to accept credit cards
- Internal audit system of each scale activation
- High speed transaction time
- Capability to tie each transaction to video captured by three specific cameras (overhead, operator/driver and license tag)
- “Automatic” customer invoicing
- At least one fully automated scale

Through this process, the county selected a new scale system vendor, Paradigm, Inc. Also, as part of the scale system upgrades, additional platform scales and roads were added,



Full approach view to scalehouse.

to include:

- An additional outbound scale
- Two fully unattended scales for the landfill contractor
- One fully unattended inbound scale
- Two existing scales with the capability to “flex” between attended and unattended

The new scale system became fully operational in October 2010. Use of the automated scales is not mandatory and are used primarily by the county’s larger municipal customers. Surprisingly, only the cities of St. Petersburg and Largo chose initially to use the automated scales. It took almost six years for all other municipal customers to realize the convenience and efficiency of using the (RFID) lanes.

The upgraded scale system has provided the following desired benefits: (1) Greatly reduced vehicle cueing by providing more scales and faster transaction times, and by removing onsite contractors’ trucks from customer lines; (2) Fully automated scales have both reduced “human error” and reduced



Scale lane with Transcore RFID reader.

the required scale house staffing; (3) Automation and taking credit cards has resulted in much faster transaction times (30 to 45 seconds); (4) Ability to “flex” between attended and unattended scales has increased staff use and reduced operational restrictions; (5) A more efficient and simplified reporting system, reducing required financial/transaction reports from 32 to 4; and, (6) Includes redundancy for much of the system including the internet service provider.

Deb Bush serves as Division Manager for Public Outreach & Partnerships—which includes scale house operations and management—for Pinellas County Solid Waste Operations. She can be reached at (727) 464-7803 or dbush@pinellascounty.org.

Warren Smith served as Director, Pinellas County Solid Waste Operations from 1999 to 2006 and is retired. Warren can be reached at (727) 515-0006 or wsmithc10@aol.com.

Reflections of a Solid Waste Professional is a periodic recounting of events and happenings—some humorous, some not—during the 30+ year career of Warren Smith, SWANA Florida member since 1980.

Photos courtesy of Pinellas County Solid Waste.

Member News

City of Clearwater Launches a Strawless Summer Challenge

Plastic straws are a hot topic item as their effect on marine animals is being discussed around the world. While single-use plastics have devastating effects on the ocean, with the EPA stating that more than 100,000 marine mammals and 1 million seabirds are killed by plastic every year, they also take a toll on our ability to produce high-quality recyclables. The small nature of plastic straws does not allow them to be processed by most material recovery facilities. Thus, not only are plastic straws non-biodegradable but they are also non-recyclable and, in many cases, just unnecessary.

I work as a Recycling Specialist for the city of Clearwater Solid Waste/



Recycling department. While ocean health is near and dear to my Floridian heart, it is also my job to address contaminates in the city’s recycling stream. I saw the momentum building on plastic straws and wanted to use this to my advantage to create positive change. After speaking with the regional manager of Florida’s Surfrider Foundation, I received the idea to create a Strawless Summer Challenge in order to address the effect of plastic straws on our local ecosystem and recycling program. The voluntary challenge is hosted by the city of Clearwater Solid Waste/Recycling Department and lasts from June 1 to August 31. Participation is fairly simple—businesses that chose to enroll in the challenge were asked not to provide plastic straws unless requested by a customer.

To date, the Strawless Summer Challenge has been very successful. It received immense media attention and was largely supported by our residents. Forty-two businesses decided to participate in the challenge and their feedback on the experience has been positive as well. In addition to being successful, the challenge is also fairly easy to run, as I stop by a handful of businesses each week just to check in and take photos for our social media efforts. Many of Clearwater’s neighboring cities have also asked to copy the challenge. On August 31, all businesses that successfully complete the challenge will receive a certificate



of achievement and have their photo placed on the city of Clearwater Web site.

I have to admit that Clearwater’s response to plastic straws has been very surprising to me and I am beginning to see a similar trend take place globally. Plastic straws serve as a leverage point for getting people to change their habits, one step at a time. All it took was one iconic video of a sea turtle with a straw up her nose, a little statistical information about plastic’s effects worldwide, and a tangible yet catchy suggestion of how consumers can have an immediate effect on this problem by “skipping the straw”. If your municipality or company is looking for a way to improve the quality of your recyclables, improve the environment, and engage the public in a way that highlights your organization, I highly suggest hosting a challenge that focuses on single-use plastics.

For more information, contact Sheridan Boyle, Recycling Specialist for the City of Clearwater Solid Waste/ Recycling Department, at (727) 562-4933 or e-mail sheridan.boyle@myclearwater.com.

JMI Covers and VLS Recovery Services Join Together to Recycle Woven Coated Polyethylene Material

Woven coated polyethylene has become a useful tool for several different industries across the country. Its strength-to-weight ratio makes it the perfect material for supersized covers in agricultural, landfill, advertising, and sports markets.

This material is used to cover temporary outdoor storage piles of soybeans, corn, sugar beets and wheat in the agricultural industry. In the landfill industry, the material is used as an interim cover for cells that are partially full but not ready for final cover operations. The advertising industry has been radically changed by the introduction of printed woven coated polyethylene for highway billboards around the country. Its lightweight

brought material cost savings, labor savings, and longer-term viability to the applications.

Regretfully, for many years it was believed that the material was not able to be recycled after it had been used. The introduction of foreign materials during use in the above-mentioned applications seemed to eliminate the product from being a viable alternative

in the recycled plastic market. In 2016, JMI Covers and VLS Recovery Services joined together to begin

a recycling effort that would take the woven coated polyethylene material that is used for temporary grain storage and use it as a source for new energy. This project is in its beginning stages but shows enormous potential to reduce the amount of this material finding its way into landfills across the country by more than 7 million pounds per year. Additionally,



construction allows it to be installed using a fourth of the labor that was needed for its predecessor. In the sports market, nearly all of the infield, pitcher mound and home plate covers used in high school, college and major league baseball are manufactured using woven coated polyethylene. Its introduction into these markets

large corporations reap the benefit of additional green credits as they sign up for the program.

The program has been very successful in part because JMI Covers handles all of the logistics for their customers. Once a customer decides to participate in the program, they contact JMI when

the cover material will be available for compaction. JMI then dispatches a flatbed semi that has been retrofitted with a mini excavator and a baler. The JMI owned and operated truck arrives on site and bales all of the materials that will be recycled placing the bales in a convenient location for site operations. As a number of sites are completed, JMI works with a logistics company to run a route picking up a full truckload of the previously baled material. These bales are then delivered to VLS Recovery Services for the final recycling.

At this time, the only materials that are eligible for this program are materials that are distributed by JMI Covers. In the future as the program expands, they hope to be able to recycle woven coated polyethylene material that has been distributed by other manufacturers around the country.

For more information, call (985) 386-6000.



Geosyntec
consultants

Uncertain Times...
Tough Decisions for
Solid Waste Agencies

There Are Opportunities for Smart Technologies,
Cost Optimization, and Improved Customer Service

!

Issues

- Significant new and ongoing regulatory issues
- Higher labor, energy, fuel, equipment, and insurance costs
- Uncertain and changing market for recyclables
- Political pressure to do more with less
- Perception that private sector can provide better service at reduced cost and with less governmental risk
- Increasingly-engaged public calling for more recycling and implementation of zero waste goals

!

Challenges

- Numerous competing priorities
- Effective change requires comprehensive evaluation of current organizational, financial, and operational activities
- Public and elected officials may lack knowledge of costs, risks, or sustainability of implementing new programs
- Well-intentioned new activities can have unintended consequences upon existing systems and finances

No matter what pressures your organization is facing, becoming more efficient in every facet of your operation - from collection routing, solid waste and recyclables collection, manpower allocation, vehicle maintenance, billing, to better use of municipal resources - improves operational and financial performance.

How Can Geosyntec Help?

Our team of solid waste advisors includes seasoned experts that can help with:

- Rates Structure and Level of Service Analysis
- Long-Term Planning and Optimization
- Annual Budgeting and Financial Modeling
- Closure/Post-Closure Accounting (GASB #18) and Financial Assurance
- Review of Franchise Agreements and Fee Reimbursements
- Leasing or Purchasing Equipment
- Bidding Out Municipal Operations
- Collection Routing Assessment Studies
- Recycling Markets
- Emerging Waste Conversion Technologies such as Composting, Anaerobic Digestion, and Gasification
- Grant Application Assistance
- Public Outreach, Engagement, and Education Programs
- Communications Materials and Infographics

We offer unrivaled expertise in objectively reviewing, analyzing, and measuring operational outcomes and key performance indicators and comparing them to industry benchmarks using custom models.

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16 Talking Trash

Talking Trash 17

Celebrating 40 years of Advancing the Solid Waste Profession in Florida

Marissa Segundo, APR, LEED GA, Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)

SWANA members celebrated 40 years of advancing resource management through their shared emphasis on education, advocacy, and research at this year's summer conference in Palm Beach Gardens. The conference teed off on the greens of the PGA National Resort & Spa for a sold-out golf outing. The conference agenda kicked off with the chapter annual business meeting with the announcement of the 2018-2020 directors and recognition of service to SWANA.

A unique panel paid homage to SWANA FL's four decades by featuring Young Professional moderators interviewing veteran solid waste professionals, Warren Smith and Tim Hunt about the dramatic changes the solid waste industry has experienced during their tenure. The Chinese Import Ban Panel focused on the profound effect of contamination in the recycling stream. The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County opened its doors for a tour of their new waste-to-energy facility

and transfer station. At a cocktail reception, attendees networked and shared SWANA memories and snapped selfies in commemorative SWANA FL 40th Anniversary photo frame. After a dinner, sponsored by Autocar, SWANA members brightened the night with mini glow golf.

The last day featured panels on Pinellas County's organics pilot program, effects of leachate on wastewater treatment and unconventional leachate treatment. The morning wrapped up with recycling education and policies regarding lifecycle analysis for recyclables. The popular industry roundtables wrapped up the event with discussions of safety, contamination, communications and more.

Share your SWANA memories and tell us what you value about your membership by completing this brief Chapter Survey by August 25: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWANAF40>



Congratulations

2018-2020 Directors

Nathan Mayer
Solid Waste Authority of
Palm Beach County

Allan Cole
Orange County Solid Waste

Bill Pickrum
City of Dunedin

Becky Hiers-Bray
Nassau County Engineering
Services

Longstanding Chapter Support

David Deans
Retired

Warren Smith
Retired

Bob Hauser
Retired

Tim Hunt
Timothy F Hunt Jr & Associates

Mark Hammond
Solid Waste Authority of Palm
Beach County

Webinar Program CONTINUES...

Florida Sunshine Chapter is a member of the SWANA Webinar Program. This allows Chapter members to attend SWANA live webinars with no out-of-pocket cost. The registration fee has already been paid for by your Chapter.

Chapter members can register themselves for SWANA Webinars online at SWANA.org. All you need is to enter the Chapter's **NEW** Debit Card Code at the time of registration.



Visit <http://www.swanafl.org>. Webinar Program information is under "Committees/Training."

Limited number of registrations available at this time.

Earn CEU's

All individuals that attend a webinar can earn continuing education units.

empower

SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter has purchased credits/registrations in the SWANA Webinar Program for member use. To use, members need only:

- Select live webinar from SWANA's offerings.
- Register and enter Florida Chapter code listed below.

Visit

<https://swana.org/Education/eLearning/ChapterWebinarProgram.aspx> for more information.

inspire

To allow as many members to benefit as possible:

- View the webinar in a large room and invite others from your agency to attend.
- Coordinate with other smaller agencies to host a webinar viewing. Dorothy Couch, Bridges BTC, will help with coordination: dcouch@mybridges.org, 321-494-6848.



educate

When a group views a SWANA Webinar through the Chapter Webinar Program, all attendees can receive Continuing Education Units (CEU's). To apply for CEU's:

- Provide a sign-in sheet to certification@swana.org.
- Include the webinar title and date, name of the person who registered to receive the logins, and the name and SWANA ID Number of each of the participants.

SWANA's Training Department will allocate CEU credits for SWANA Certified professionals who attended the webinar and are verified Chapter members.

NEW Florida Chapter Webinar Program

Debit Card Code is: **FL150617**

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Upcoming Events

**2019 SWANA FL
Safety Symposium &
Chapter Road-E-O**
March 21-23, 2019
Hilton St. Petersburg
Carillon Park
St. Petersburg, FL

**2019 SWANA FL
Summer Conference**
July 28-30, 2019
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
Tampa, FL

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