

Talking... TRASH

The Newsletter of the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter

Spring 2024



SYNERGY 2024

Uniting to Advance Florida
Resource Management

SWANA FL 2024

Summer Conference

Rosen Plaza Hotel | Orlando, FL

July 14-16

Register online at
<https://cvent.me/4PGKWw>



Call for Papers

2024 SWANA FL Summer Conference

July 14-16, 2024
Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL

**We're heading back to the Orlando for SWANA FL's next conference,
and we want you to be a part of it!**

Please consider joining us at the SWANA FL 2024 Summer Conference as a presenter. This is a great opportunity to share your projects, innovative ideas and success stories. Come share information with colleagues and be part of this exciting event. Get your abstracts in today!

**Preference will be given to group activities,
discussion panels, team building sessions and interactive presentations.**

Suggested Topics:

- Solid Waste Facilities Operation and Design
- Solid Waste Challenges at the Curb
- Waste Reduction/Recycling/Zero Waste
- Staffing (Acquisition and Retention)
- Safety Practices
- HHW and Customer Drop Off Facilities
- Aging Infrastructure/Disposal Capacity
- Implementing New Technologies
- Contract Management
- Organics Management
- Regulatory Challenges
- Solid Waste System Management

*** Abstract Deadline – Tuesday April 30, 2024**

EXTENDED!

Speaker Benefit – Reduced conference registration!

Submit an abstract on any of these topics, or another pertinent subject of your choice, to: <https://cvent.me/olbOgz>

1) An abstract of **500 words or less** that includes:

- Presentation title and the presenter's name, affiliation, address, phone/e-mail;
- A brief description that summarizes the session and indicates why this is significant to the industry; and
- Identifies three key takeaways that indicate how the attendee will benefit from the presentation.

SALES PITCHES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

2) A Biographical Sketch, highlighting career and presentation experience

Questions? Contact the Chapter's Program Chair:
Keith Howard, keith.howard@hdrinc.com 941-321-8205

Letter from the President

April 2024

Summer is fast approaching—summer break for students, family beach time, and, of course, hurricane season. As we prepare for this season, remember to let staff know how to get their family plans ready, so that while working pre-, during, and post-storm they have the peace of mind that their families are taken care of while they are serving our communities. While solid waste workers may not be officially titled first responders, I feel they are as close as you can get since solid waste is one of the first services to get back to work after a major storm event.



Not only should we think about the storms we see coming, but also those weather events that tend to sneak up on us like heat and lightning during our notoriously hot and stormy summer days. Protecting our people from heat exhaustion, and worse, heat stroke, is a priority during these 95+ degree days. Drink plenty of water, take breaks from the sun and heat, and watch each other for signs of distress. Look out for those quickly developing storms that can be just as, or more powerful in some cases, than a hurricane and carry with it deadly lightning. Lightning can travel miles from a storm, so finding safe shelter during a fast-developing summer storm is important to remember even if it lasts only a few minutes.

We are looking forward to uniting this summer at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando for the SWANA Florida summer conference, *Synergy 2024: Uniting to Advance Florida Resource Management*. We will have an exhibit hall featuring great suppliers and service providers, as well as technical presentations on the important developments in our industry. So, please consider joining us from July 14th to July 16th to connect with colleagues and expand your network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Timmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

Jason Timmons
SWANA FL President

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Landfills: A Major Source of Renewable Natural Gas

Corina Sheridan

Through the conversion of landfill gas into renewable natural gas, landfill owners can have a double impact on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding methane emissions, while producing a renewable alternative to fossil natural gas. Fourteen percent of methane emissions in the U.S. come from landfills, representing the third largest human contributing source of this potent greenhouse gas.

Landfills are not only a major source of methane emissions worldwide, but they are also an immediate available source of renewable energy.

Renewable natural gas (RNG) can be created from landfill gas (LFG) and injected directly into the existing gas distribution network as a replacement for fossil natural gas. Unlike other renewable energy sources, doing nothing with this gas means wasting the resource that, ultimately, becomes a pollutant in the atmosphere versus implementing it as a catalyst to the energy transition.

In the Sunshine State, of the 39 currently open landfills, 27 of them have RNG potential. If every landfill with RNG potential implemented a landfill gas to renewable natural gas project, more than 820,000 tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions per year would be avoided by using this RNG to replace fossil fuels. This is equivalent of the CO₂ emissions

LFG to RNG is a purification process where carbon dioxide, nitrogen, oxygen, and other impurities are removed from the landfill gas, resulting in a methane-rich gas compliant with pipeline specifications.

EPA's RFS Program

The RNG created from LFG is monetized in two ways: first, through the sale of the natural gas as a fuel, and second, through leveraging the environmental attributes associated with low carbon fuels. As an environmental attribute, the RNG is highly valuable to obligated parties and participants in the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. Originally authorized under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded under the Energy

Independence and Security Act of 2007, the RFS program was created by Congress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand the nation's renewable fuels sector, while reducing reliance on imported oil.



Figure 1

www.rngcoalition.com/infographic

from 84 million gallons of gasoline consumed; this is enough gas to supply more than 235,000 homes.¹

LFG is comprised of methane, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, oxygen—in addition to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other trace pollutants. Converting



Figure 2

A landfill gas to RNG facility, with approximately 1,000scfm, produces approximately 200,000 MMBtu (60 GWh) of renewable natural gas.

Last year, the EPA further expanded the program, which has caused a significant increase in the demand for RNG and the associated fiscal value of the associated environmental attribute, also called RINs. The RFS program is currently the most financially attractive platform to commercialize the RNG environmental attributes. In recent years, the voluntary market has mirrored the growth of the RFS program, driving increased demand for RNG.

Opportunities

Recent improvements in technologies have allowed landfill owners to implement LFG to RNG projects, regardless of their landfill gas composition and flow. The EPA has recognized the significance of the opportunity to generate revenue from landfill gas. A technical guide

is available from the EPA for landfill operators considering LFG use projects: www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-01/lmop_rng_document.pdf.

Corina Sheridan is Business Development Director at WAGA Energy. She can be reached at corina.sheridan@waga-energy.com. For more information on RNG as a tool valorize landfill gas, visit www.waga-energy.com.

Note

1. Based on the [EPA Gas Equivalencies Calculator](http://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator): www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

Check Out the New SWANA FL Store

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new [online store](#)! The new store provides members with the opportunity to purchase a variety of quality shirts and hats with the SWANA FL logo. Get your apparel today and represent the chapter at your next business meeting or show your SWANA FL pride at our upcoming chapter events!



Let's Talk Recycling!

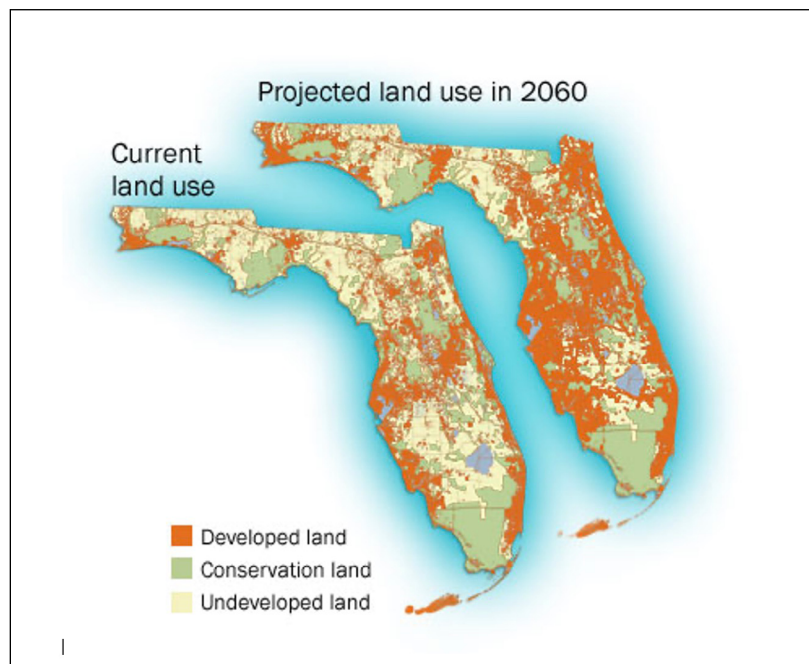
Keyna Cory

Recently, I saw a map of Florida and what it may look like by 2060. It was shaded with red, showing areas of population growth, green for the protective areas like national forests and the Everglades, and tan for undeveloped land. The map showed that by 2060, there would be a lot of red and a good bit of green but very little tan. What does this mean? Not a lot of choices for a new landfill. So, what should we do? Turn away people who want to move into our state to help limit the red? Or make sure that we use the undeveloped land cautiously? My suggestion is let's limit the amount you send to the landfill and recycle more.

Three "Rs"

There are three "Rs" to waste management. First, reduce waste. Who needs 50 pairs of shoes? Well, let's not go there. However, when I want to buy a new pair, I donate a pair or two to Goodwill. Here is where the second "R" comes in ... reuse. Donating items to Goodwill serves two purposes. First, it keeps items out of our landfills. In 2022, Goodwill in Florida diverted more than 82,000 tons of items from landfills. Second, money received from the sale of donated goods goes towards helping those with barriers to employment receive training to find and keep jobs.

The third "R" is for recycling. The Florida Beverage Association is working to get "Every Bottle Back." It is amazing to see three major soft drink competitors—Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Dr. Pepper—working together on this campaign. These major corporations are collaborating to help ensure their 100% of recyclable plastic bottles become new bottles, and don't end up in our oceans, rivers, and beaches.



616 million pounds of cardboard, 25 million pounds of mixed plastic, and 11 million pounds of mixed paper, in addition to many other items. As a company, Publix diverted more than 53% of its waste from landfills and works to increase its recycling numbers each year.

Recycling Facility

If you think the recycling industry is dying, think again. WM will break ground in mid-2024 on a new \$80 million state-of-the-art recycling facility in Pembroke Pines, Florida – WM Recycling South Florida. The new facility will deploy the latest in recycling processing technology including AI and robotics and is replacing WM's Reuter Recycling Facility, which is already the largest volume recycling facility in the southeastern U.S.

WM Recycling South Florida will be built to process up to 60 tons per hour. This will result in a 75% increase in the production of marketable recycling materials, ensuring the long-term viability of sustainable recycling programs throughout south Florida.

A Vital Role

Florida residents and businesses play a vital role in the growth and success of recycling in our state. Do your part to reduce waste, reuse items where possible, and recycle your paper,

Companies like Publix also see the value of recycling. Publix began its recycling program in the 1970s by working with paper manufacturers to recycle cardboard. Since then, its recycling program has grown tremendously to cover a variety of items including flexible plastics and molded foam containers.

Through customer and company-wide recycling initiatives in 2022 alone, Publix recycled more than



Rendering of new WM facility

cardboard, plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs, aluminum and steel cans, and glass containers. Together, let's have a positive impact on our precious environment and growing economy.

Keyna Cory is the Executive Director for the Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation. She can be reached at (850) 728-1054 or e-mail keyna@flrecycling.org.

Solid Waste Solicitations

If you have a project to procure and want to get the word out, SWANA FL can help. Please e-mail a brief summary of your project to info@swanafl.org. Please be sure to include any necessary links and contact information for people to reach out for more information.

Advertising Opportunities Available

It's not too late to reserve a space in the Summer issue of Talking Trash.

Job Openings

Post an employment notice on the SWANA FL website and in the YP newsletter for FREE!

Email info@swanafl.org
or visit www.swanafl.org
for more information.

Member News



FORCE Corner – Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE)

Miriam Zimms, FORCE Technical Manager, Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI)

Organics Recycling Events Page

Where do you go to learn more about organics recycling happening in Florida or beyond? The header page of the Events calendar and the Training drop-down sub-page (e.g., certifications and workshops) provide that support. The chronological calendar of educational Events provides dates of conferences targeting the public, private, and institutional sectors eager to network and learn more about organics recycling in Florida and across the U.S. The Training subpage provides links to educational institutions and compost organizations who offer training and workshops in Florida and across the country geared towards facility operators or owners. Also, included on this page is the training modules prepared by KCI staff for the current regulations to permit or register a Florida organics recycling facility.

If you would like to recommend an appropriate event or training related to the FORCE goals for Florida that is not currently featured, please reach

out to Miriam Zimms at mzimms@kesconsult.com. Since 2001, FORCE has served as a clearinghouse for historical and current educational and research information for Florida’s agricultural, public, private, and institutional sectors fostering organics recycling business throughout Florida.

For more information, visit www.floridaforce.org/events.

Resources Page for Florida Schools And Food Waste Management

Visit the FORCE website school food waste sub-page and hover your mouse over it to explore innovative information for Florida school food waste reduction programs, including, but not limited to the following resources: 1) FDACS Role, 2) Food Recovery Importance, 3) School Food Waste Challenge, 4) Resources for Schools, 5) School Gardens, 6) Share Tables, 7) Food Donations, 8) Starting a Food Donation Program, and 9) Food Donation Programs. This subpage contains a plethora of information to learn the language and the important role that food waste management plays in the Florida school system. According to the USDA, K-12 schools have a special role in not only reducing, recovering, and recycling food waste on their premises, but also in educating the next generation about recovering wholesome, excess food for donation. It also serves as an important conduit for reducing food to conserve nature’s resources and natural resources in food production. The information on this page is intended to provide Florida-specific information to Florida schools (K-12). Help FORCE spread the word to the appropriate contacts for the schools in your area or to schools your kids attend.

For more information, visit <https://floridaforce.org/school-food-waste/>



SWANA Announces 2024 Technical Division Award Winners

SWANA announced the recipients of the 2024 Technical Division Awards, celebrating outstanding achievements and innovations in solid waste management. “The Technical Division Awards spotlight exemplary programs, facilities, and individuals dedicated to advancing sustainable waste management practices. We are excited to congratulate this year’s award winners that represent a diverse range of organizations and individuals whose remarkable contributions have significantly impacted the industry,” said SWANA Executive Director and CEO Amy Lestition Burke.

The awards cover a broad spectrum of categories, from community-driven awareness campaigns to facility excellence in waste conversion and energy recovery. Each accolade highlights the commitment to innovation and service within the industry. The awards ceremony was held on April 16 at SOAR in Phoenix, AZ. “This recognition is a testament to our members’ commitment to excellence and innovation in the waste management industry. Your dedication exemplifies SWANA’s goal of driving progress in our industry. Your achievements inspire us, and we are proud to honor your contributions. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor,” said SWANA President Art Mercer.

Congratulations to the 2024 Technical Division Award winners:

Greenberg, Retired President of GT Environmental, Inc.

Collection & Transfer Technical Division Award

- **Distinguished Individual Achievement Award: Marc Rogoff, Senior Consultant, Geosyntec Consultants**

Communication, Education & Marketing Technical Division Awards

- Distinguished Individual Achievement Award: Ramona Simpson, Operations Manager – Environmental/Fleet, Town of Queen Creek
- **Outstanding Awareness Campaign: City of Orlando, Solid Waste**
- Outstanding Social Media Campaign: Surfrider Foundation
- **Game Changing Tools: Pinellas County Solid Waste**

Landfill Management Technical Division Award

- Distinguished Individual Achievement Award: Timothy Mitchell, Project Manager, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Planning & Management Technical Division Award

- Distinguished Individual Achievement Award: Michael

Landfill Gas & Biogas Technical Division Awards

- Hall of Flame: Joseph P. Curro, Principal Engineer, CDM Smith
- Eternal Flame: Tim Torrez, Environmental Manager, Republic Services

Sustainable Materials Management Technical Division Awards

- Advancement Award: David Lammers, Graduate Student and Engineer, University of South Dakota and Total Component Solutions
- Organization Award: City of Austin – Austin Resource Recovery
- Organization Award Honorable Mention: City of Carlsbad – Sustainable Materials Management Division

Waste Conversion & Energy Recovery Technical Division Awards

- Trailblazer Distinguished Individual Achievement Award: Jean Lucas, President & CEO, Eco Waste Solutions
- **Facility Excellence Award: Pinellas County Waste to Energy Facility**

For more information, visit SWANA.org.

SWANA FL Scholarship Program

Every year SWANA FL awards up to two scholarships, each valued at \$2,000 per student, per school year. The application deadline is May 1, 2024. Information about the student scholarship and application guidelines can be found on the SWANA FL Website.

Three Additional Scholarships Are Available

In addition to the Florida SWANA student scholarships, three additional scholarships are available through SWANA International.

To apply for these scholarships, students need to submit their complete application to info@swanafl.org by May 1st. The Florida Chapter will review and score the applications based on eligibility criteria provided in the application packet. After scoring, the Florida Chapter will submit one candidate per category to SWANA International for consideration.



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Sponsorship Opportunities

We invite you to become a sponsor of the SWANA FL 2024 Summer Conference. As a conference sponsor, your organization will be recognized as a valued supporter. All general and exclusive sponsors will receive recognition as follows:

- * In pre-conference promotional emails
- * On the SWANA FL website
- * On conference signage
- * On screen prior to the conference general sessions and during all breaks

By actively supporting this event, your organization will benefit by strengthening its prominence as a leader in the solid waste industry and by increasing your network of contacts and established partners within SWANA. Registration deadline for sponsors to be included in participant materials and on signage is June 21, 2024.

GENERAL

- Platinum Sponsor - \$2,500
- Silver Sponsor - \$1,500
- Gold Sponsor - \$2,000
- Bronze Sponsor - \$1000

EXCLUSIVE *(available on a first-come, first-served basis)*

- Sunday Welcome Reception - \$4,000 - includes sole recognition at the reception, table signage and one full-conference registration
- Monday Lunch - \$5,000 - includes sole recognition at lunch, table signage and one full-conference registration
- Monday Dinner - \$6,000 - includes sole recognition at dinner, table signage and one full-conference registration
- Tuesday Lunch - \$5,000 - includes sole recognition at lunch, table signage and one full-conference registration
- Conference Bags - \$1,500 **plus** the cost of selected bag - includes logo on bags that will be distributed to all attendees
- Name Badge Lanyards - \$1,500 **plus** the cost of selected lanyard - includes logo on lanyards that will be distributed to all attendees

Have other sponsorship ideas? Contact us at 727-940-2393 or info@swanafl.org and let us know.

Please note, conference registration is only included with the \$4,000+ sponsorship packages. If you plan to attend the conference, and are not selecting one of those exclusive sponsorships, please register separately. Hope to see you all in Orlando!

To become a sponsor, register online at

<https://cvent.me/4PGKWw>

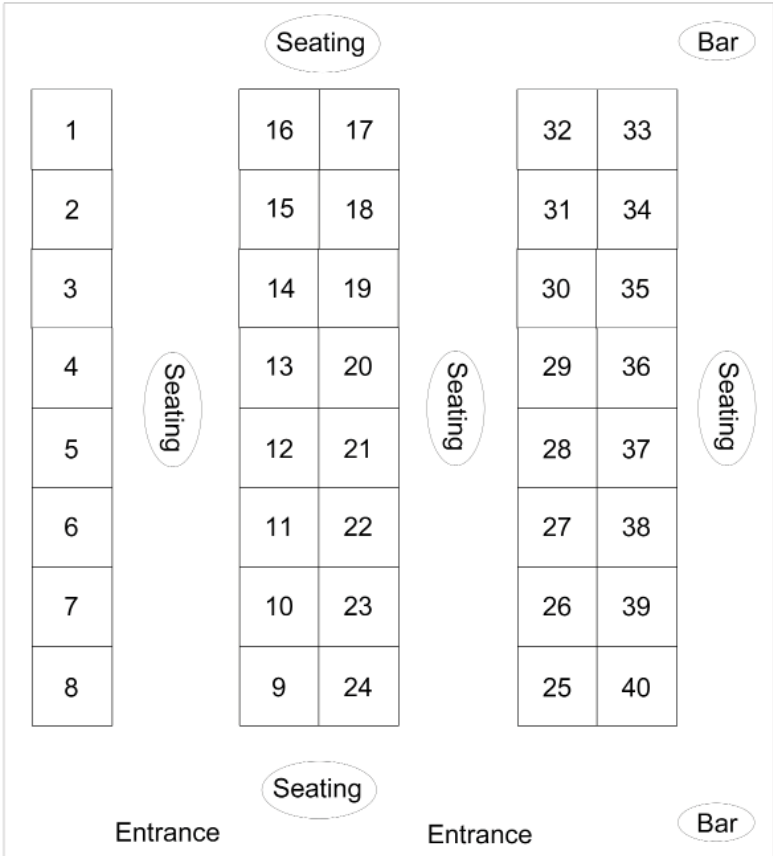


Exhibitor Information

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your products and services during Florida's premier solid waste conference. The SWANA FL 2024 Summer Conference will take place July 14-16 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, FL.

- ⇒ **Act quickly!** There are limited booth spaces available.
- ⇒ The Exhibit Hall will be in Ballroom CD, which is adjacent to the general session.
- ⇒ The welcome reception, breakfasts, lunches and breaks will be in the Exhibit Hall.
- ⇒ All 8' x 10' booths include a 6-foot table and two chairs.
- ⇒ Booths are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed.
- ⇒ If you register by June 14, booths are only \$900 for members and \$1100 for non members.
- ⇒ Each exhibitor registration includes one full-conference registration. Each additional person at the booth must register for the conference separately.
- ⇒ Registration deadline for exhibitors to be included in participant materials and on signage is June 21, 2024.

Enhance your product awareness and brand recognition! Increase your sales and outreach capabilities!



Exhibitor Schedule

Sunday
1 - 4:30 p.m.
 Set-Up
(All exhibits must be set by 4:30 p.m.)

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

Monday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Breakfast, lunch and breaks in exhibit hall.

Tuesday
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Breakfast, lunch and breaks in exhibit hall.

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Tear-Down
(All exhibits must be removed by 5:00 p.m.)

Questions?
 Contact SWANA FL at (727) 940-2393 or email info@swanafl.org.

Talking Trash Newsletter

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Chapter Administrator:
Crystal Bruce

Upcoming SWANA FL Events

2024 Chapter Road-E-O
April 26-27
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

2024 Summer Conference
July 14-16
Orlando, FL

2025 Winter Conference
February 23-25
Gainesville, FL

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