

# Talking... TRASH

The Newsletter of the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter

Fall/Winter 2024



*Happy  
Holidays*

from the SWANA Florida  
Sunshine Chapter

Wishing you all the joys of the  
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the coming year!

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## 2025 SWANA FL Winter Conference February 23-25 | Gainesville

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Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

# Letter from the President

December 2024

As we close out 2024 and ring in 2025, we think back to the challenges and successes that we experienced through a difficult storm season across our great state. Once again, solid waste professionals showed their grit and determination in both the private and public sectors to serve our communities in their time of need. We do it without the need for praise, kudos, or a back slap. We do it because we must, and the solid waste industry is an essential part of recovery for fellow residents, families, and friends. Please extend our heartfelt and warmest thank you to your staff and partners for all they did this year through a challenging season.



We look ahead to 2025, thinking about better times and the potential opportunities to learn and grow from our experiences. Be a part of that experience by attending the SWANA FL Winter Conference in Gainesville, FL, from February 23-25, 2025, and hear from experts in the field, including sessions with researchers from the Hinkley Center and other great presenters. We will also have the opportunity to visit the University of Florida's Sustainable Materials Management Research Lab to see the cutting edge in laboratory research in the solid waste field.

Again, I wish you all a very Happy Holidays and New Year, and may we continue to all thrive in 2025!

Sincerely,

Jason Timmons  
SWANA FL President

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# PFAS Pretreatment Standards Are in Motion for Landfills

Joel Woolsey,  
Nicole Robey, PhD, and  
Jim Wally, PE

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the often discussed “emerging contaminants,” have finally emerged from the halls of academic discussion and into real-world regulations with the recently published drinking water regulations. According to the U.S. EPA’s roadmap and plans in motion in several states, their impacts on landfills may soon be felt.

If you have somehow missed this discussion, PFAS are a class of man-made organic chemicals that were discovered in the 1930s and have been used in commercial and industrial applications since the mid-20th century. PFAS exposure and



*Treated Leachate vs Untreated/Raw Leachate.*

accumulation have become a cause for concern among environmental and public health professionals. Because PFAS are used to provide stick- and stain-resistance in numerous consumer products from clothing to cereal boxes, they are present at significant concentrations in solid waste, and landfills have become significant deposits for PFAS accumulation,



*Treated Leachate Discharge and Storage.*

with the potential to release PFAS to the environment via leachate and landfill gas. From another perspective, because landfills are a point of concentration for PFAS wastes, they may have an important role in keeping PFAS out of the environment. Unlike wastewater plants, landfill operators will have little-to-no ability to limit their incoming PFAS loads. Lacking any current economical PFAS destruction technologies, lined landfills, for better or worse, are currently the best solution to our society’s PFAS problem by aiming to provide a place to contain PFAS until viable options that destroy PFAS become available.

## Next Steps

Although discussions and roadmaps have been published since 2016, the 2024 finalization of primary drinking water limits for six PFAS compounds indicates that U.S. EPA is preparing to institute regulations with specific PFAS thresholds. Among US EPA’s next steps, according to the [Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15](#), is the effluent limitation guidelines (ELGs)

for major potential emitters of PFAS—one major concern being the “Landfill Category.” If a landfill is currently discharging leachate to a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility, PFAS ELGs may require pre-treatment of that leachate for PFAS. More work is being done by the U.S. EPA to study sources of PFAS going into wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) with the goal of helping them limit their PFAS load by requiring PFAS pretreatment for their customers with heavy PFAS loads.

Several states have adopted the EPA advisory and guidance levels and have been exploring enforcing more stringent limits including pre-treatment standards for PFAS in wastewater. In 2022, the U.S. EPA released [guidance for states in implementing PFAS pre-treatment standards](#) that align with the U.S. EPA PFAS Strategic Roadmap. Examples of states that have proposed or implemented



*Reverse Osmosis Membrane Vessels.*

pretreatment standards include [New York, which is debating changes to regulations to require pretreatment of leachate before discharge](#); Florida, where the [State Senate introduced](#)

[a bill \(1692\)](#) in January 2024 to impose discharge limits on PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) (the bill died in March); and [Michigan, where 95 WWTPs have Industrial Pretreatment Programs with PFAS limits](#).

Although we all know leachate is highly variable, PFAS in leachate is likely to continue to be a major concern for federal and state regulators. On average, one type of



*Untreated/Raw Leachate Aeration and Storage.*

PFAS, PFOA, has concentrations approximately 200 times higher than its corresponding limit. In response to potential pretreatment standards and other regulations on the horizon, the solid waste community is increasingly likely to need to bear the cost of PFAS measurement and treatment to continue serving the important role of the landfill—a place to store waste to protect human health and the environment.

## An Effective Solution

Three years ago, the New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) started preparing to address these potential upcoming pre-treatment standards that would prevent offsite leachate disposal from the New River Regional Landfill. In 2021, we teamed with

the University of Florida researchers to quantify PFAS levels in leachate and potential treatment options. The study suggested that reverse osmosis and nanofiltration membranes are effective in separating PFAS. As we were looking for onsite leachate pre-treatment options to meet the color and ammonia concentrations specified by the WWTP that receives our leachate, we considered a membrane treatment system. The system, supplied by Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC, was installed and commissioned in 2022. The results collected to date suggest that the system is effective in treating ammonia and color to the levels specified by our WWTP, as well as PFAS below the U.S. EPA maximum contaminant levels (MCL), where applicable.

It is just a matter of time before landfills feel the full weight of regulations addressing PFAS in landfill leachate. As a result, leachate management issues are expected to magnify in coming years. Onsite treatment of leachate will likely become a standard practice. NRSWA’s membrane treatment system has proven to be highly effective at removing regulated PFAS to undetectable levels while also being a cost-effective solution that can be implemented at most, if not all, landfill sites.

*Joel Woolsey is Assistant Director for New River Solid Waste Association.*

*Nicole Robey, PhD, is Project Manager at Innovative Waste Consulting Services, LLC.*

*Jim Wally, PE, is Project Manager at Innovative Waste Consulting Services, LLC.*

*For more information, e-mail [jwoolsey@nrswa.org](mailto:jwoolsey@nrswa.org)*

Photos courtesy of New River Solid Waste Association.

## References

- [www.epa.gov/eg/current-effluent-guidelines-program-plan](http://www.epa.gov/eg/current-effluent-guidelines-program-plan)
- [www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-12/NPDES\\_PFAState%20Memo\\_December\\_2022.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-12/NPDES_PFAState%20Memo_December_2022.pdf)
- <https://nyfederation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/pdf2024/09%20Clarkson.R.pdf>
- [www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1692](http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1692)
- [www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/industrial-pretreatment/pfas-initiative](http://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/industrial-pretreatment/pfas-initiative)

## Check Out the SWANA FL Store

Our [online 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!

# Understanding and Managing Landfill Fires: A Guide to Surface and Subsurface Hazards

Laila Al-Khalaf, E.I., M.S.E. and Stephen Townsend, E.I., M.S.E.

While essential for waste management, landfills can pose hazards when not properly managed. One of the more pressing challenges is the risk of landfill fires, categorized into two main types: surface and subsurface fires. Understanding their causes and appropriate management strategies is vital for maintaining safety, compliance, and can financially benefit the facility with early identification of potential situations.

## Surface Fires

Surface fires are directly visible and can be caused by several factors, including hot loads (items in a post-combustion state that are smoldering or can be re-lit), lightning strikes, vehicle malfunctions, and chemical reactions within the newly placed waste. Dry and hot environmental conditions often exacerbate these fires. A surface fire is easily identifiable due to the readily visible smoke and flames, as seen in **Figure 1**.

In the event of a surface fire, the immediate response is critical. Personnel should call the fire department and then mobilize heavy landfill equipment to the area from a safe distance. A fire professional should lead a well-coordinated action plan. The mobilized equipment is vital in containing the fire and preventing its spread by removing flammable materials such as wood and fuel from the area and bringing in soil to smother the flames, thereby reducing the oxygen supply.

After extinguishing the fire, it is imperative to notify the appropriate regulatory agency. This notification



Figure 1 - Surface fire at a landfill.

should include details about the fire's cause, duration, damage, and the measures taken for remediation in line with the landfill's operating permits.

## Subsurface Fires

Subsurface fires, or subsurface oxidation, are less apparent and can often go unnoticed until



Figure 2 - Subsurface fire due to compromised infrastructure.

visual signs like smoke or ground settlement are observed. These subsurface occurrences can arise from compromised infrastructure, over-extraction of gas from the landfill gas collection system (GCCS), the nature and composition of the waste itself, and the answer may remain unknown. A depiction of a subsurface fire due

to compromised infrastructure is in **Figure 2**. Other visual indicators of a subsurface fire include stressed or dead vegetation around a landfill gas well, ground settlement, or visible smoldering.

Monitoring gas data trends from wells is critical in preventing fires, as early detection can lead to effective prevention and proactive solutions. Data indicators of a potential subsurface fire include an increase in the well temperature, a methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) ratio greater than one, and elevated carbon monoxide (CO) levels above approximately 100 ppm. When these gas data trends are present for a well, the well may no longer be in a methanogenic cycle and is shifting into an oxidation phase. An example of this shift is graphically depicted in **Figure 3**.

As these warning signs are detected, personnel should isolate the area by closing the air, force main, lateral piping, header valves, and closing wells within a 500-foot radius of the affected area. Further measures include placing two feet of soil to smother the area, extended by 10 feet in all directions. Monitor ground temperatures and CO levels continuously until the data reflects normal levels. Once data trends

indicate the subsurface fire has subsided, the isolated vacuum, air, and forcemain piping can be gradually reopened.

## Preventative Measures

Preventative measures include diligently placing daily cover material atop the newly placed waste. Daily cover is not always required for every facility, but this can be an important factor in prevention. Additionally, the segregation of known reactive waste materials can prevent unexpected reactions within the active face of the landfill. Proactively identify waste streams to reduce the probability of an incident, reducing the facility's risk for fire.

Maintaining landfill gas infrastructure and ensuring its functionality is vital to preventing potential fires. A compromised vacuum or airline in the system can be enough to trigger a reaction and start a fire. In addition, proper shut-off valve placement can aid in extinguishing a fire when it is present.

Recently, lithium-ion batteries have become a source of ignition in landfill fires as they are hypersensitive to exploding in the presence of water.

These batteries are typically small, such as those in vape pens, making them especially hard for even the most trained landfill spotters to see. Therefore, educating citizens on disposal needs and drop-off locations is an important preventative measure. We recommend implementing immediate response plans for both types of fires to manage and mitigate risks effectively.

In summary, proactive measures such as segregating known reactive waste materials, monitoring gas data trends, maintaining infrastructure integrity, and educating citizens on proper waste disposal habits can significantly reduce the likelihood of fire incidents. By adhering to these practices, landfill operators and citizens can enhance safety, ensure compliance, and protect the environment and their community.

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*for clients all over the Southeast Region. Prior to joining SCS Engineers in 2019, she worked as a project engineer at a civil firm focused on land development, including permitting, site layout design, and wastewater, water, and stormwater design. She can be reached at (813) 270-0518 or e-mail: [Lal-khalaf@scsengineers.com](mailto:Lal-khalaf@scsengineers.com).*

*Stephen Townsend, E.I., M.S.E., is a Project Professional for SCS Engineers. He is responsible for overseeing, performing and tracking Title V Compliance for SCS's clients with regards to Landfill Gas Engineering. Stephen works closely with Southeast Region clients and provides as-needed engineers for Solid Waste and Landfill Gas Projects. Since joining SCS in 2018, he has provided some solid waste assistance but has a primary focus of landfill gas assistance for municipal and private clients across the Southeast. Stephen can be reached at (352) 246-5195 or e-mail [stowensend@scsengineers.com](mailto:stowensend@scsengineers.com).*

**Figures courtesy of SCS Engineers.**

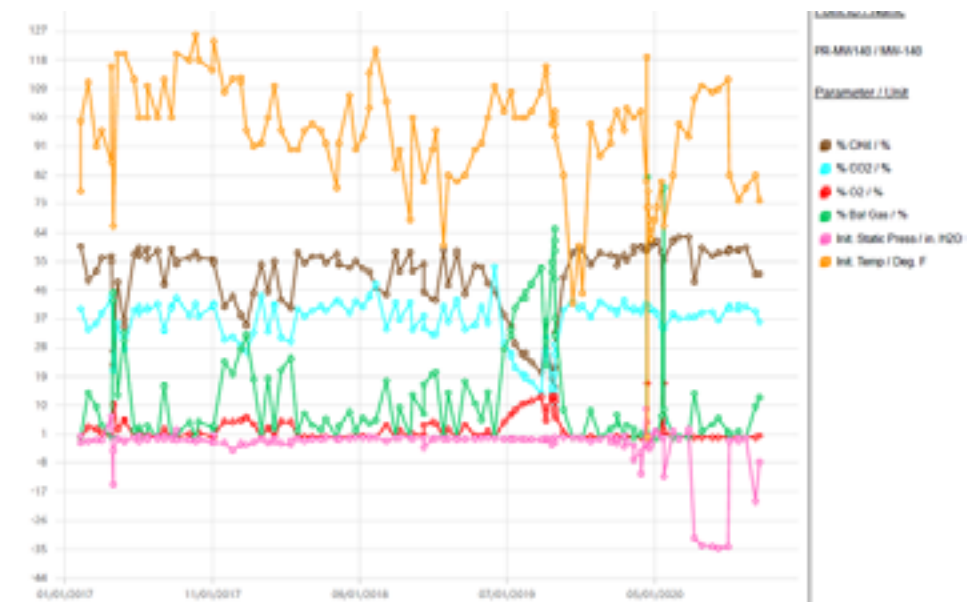


Figure 3 - Graphical depiction of oxidation phase in well data.

# Groundwater Investigation and Management at Landfills: Insights and Best Practices

Fauve Herron, EI and Whitney Rodriguez, PE

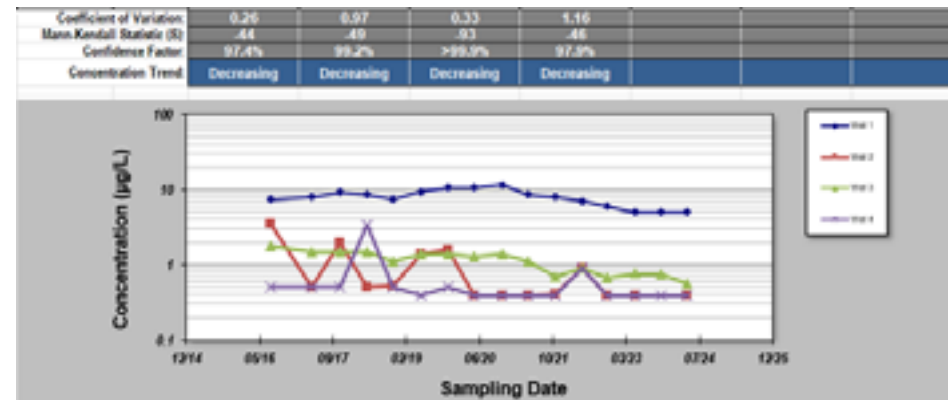
Groundwater management at landfills is a complex yet critical area of environmental engineering. Whether in operation or closed, it is essential to monitor groundwater at landfills to manage leachate, contaminants, and operational issues properly.

Our SCS team analyzed two projects—one involving an active landfill and the other a closed landfill. Active landfills typically exhibit higher leachate levels due to ongoing waste deposition and exposure to precipitation. In contrast, closed landfills with



Field sampling for monochloramines in the groundwater at a Florida landfill.

geomembrane closure systems are designed to minimize water infiltration.



Generated Mann-Kendall statistical analysis graphs using the GSI Mann-Kendall Toolkit.

## Case Study: Active Landfill

In our case study involving an active landfill, we identified specific areas requiring increased monitoring due to elevated leachate indicators. Our team conducted a historical data review to determine background levels for the site compared to current laboratory results, allowing for the identification of migration patterns and areas of focus. Leachate indicators—substances such as ammonia, sodium, and chloride—can signal problems in groundwater. If these compounds, typically absent in the natural groundwater, are detected, it may indicate leaks from the landfill or associated infrastructure. Monitoring these indicators is crucial, particularly when levels exceed state standards or background levels.

Metals also play a significant role when assessing groundwater quality. Florida, for example, has naturally occurring metals such as arsenic and iron. However, if these metals become elevated beyond state standards, they may require prompt attention. By focusing on

flagged areas rather than the entire site, landfill operators can avoid unnecessary extensive sampling and related costs.

## Case Study: Closed Landfill

Our team worked on a closed landfill project and highlighted issues related to gas migration rather than leachate. The landfill had transitioned to a semi-active gas venting system to comply with updated regulations. SCS conducted detailed monitoring and statistical analysis of more than 50 groundwater monitoring wells to assess the extent of gas migration and its impact on groundwater quality.

In addition to chemical sampling, we recognized the importance of biological assessments in understanding groundwater conditions. We conducted microbial sampling to identify bacteria capable of degrading chlorinated compounds, which are of concern in groundwater affected by landfill operations. While the results showed some microbial presence, the populations were insufficient to facilitate effective dechlorination.



Typical groundwater monitoring well at a Florida landfill.

This finding underscored the need for a multifaceted approach, combining chemical data with biological analysis to evaluate the site's conditions comprehensively. While enhancing microbial activity in the groundwater could accelerate dechlorination, logistical and cost considerations made this impractical at the time. However, natural microbial degradation of contaminant concentrations is occurring at a slow rate.

## Communication and Collaboration

Effective groundwater management hinges on communication between engineers and landfill operators. By engaging operators in discussions about potential sources of contamination—such as damage to the leachate collection system—we can better understand the dynamics at play and take proactive measures.

Regular monitoring is vital so engineers can compare and analyze groundwater samples with historical background levels.

For instance, if a report of contaminant exceedances occurs, reviewing previous records and lab accuracy can provide context and aid in identifying the source of issues. Attributing exceedances solely to landfill operations is a mistake; they may be due to natural influences like changes in rainfall

or seasonal variations, emphasizing the need for comprehensive analysis before jumping to conclusions.

The complexities of groundwater investigation and landfill management demand a thorough understanding of environmental science and regulatory frameworks. We can ensure that landfill operations protect our invaluable groundwater resources by fostering collaboration and employing innovative strategies.

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*Whitney Rodriguez, PE, is a Project Manager with SCS Engineers. She can be reached at (813) 758-4706 or e-mail [wrodriguez@scsengineers.com](mailto:wrodriguez@scsengineers.com).*

**Images courtesy of Fauve Herron, EI**

## Advertising Opportunities Available

It's not too late to reserve a space in the Spring 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](mailto:info@swanafl.org) or visit [www.swanafl.org](http://www.swanafl.org) for more information.

# Case Study: A Public-Private RNG Partnership



The WAGABOX® Facility in Steuben County, NY.

The New Bath Landfill in Steuben County, NY, is paving the way for small to midsized landfill gas to RNG projects. As the first landfill in the U.S. with a gas flow of 1,000 scfm to successfully convert landfill gas into renewable natural gas (RNG), it demonstrates that even landfills of this size can harness the benefits of RNG production—thanks to the innovative WAGABOX® technology.

## The First of Its Kind in RNG Production

Operated by Steuben County in Bath, NY, the New Bath Landfill accepts ~150,000 tons per year of MSW. Steuben County’s experience with landfill gas beneficial use projects going way back, long before RNG. In 2009, a developer began operation of a traditional low-btu landfill gas to electricity project using two Caterpillar 3520s generating 3.2MW of power. The developer operated the previous LFGTE project project from 2011 to 2019, when it ceased operations for economic reasons.

However, the developer owned the gas rights in perpetuity, which meant the county had to purchase the gas rights back from the developer. The county then owned the obsolete

gas-to-electric facility. Eventually authorized by the Governing Board to evaluate other uses for the gas, it ultimately led the county to release a public RFP in July 2020. The county required a long-term project partner, with the right technology, financials, the capabilities to invest the required capital, and the capability to design a viable gas

interconnection solution. The gas flow at the time of the RFP was below 650 scfm, containing approximately 19% nitrogen, and up to 1,300 ppm H<sub>2</sub>S. The RFP team included county staff, Barton & Loguidice, and Environmental Attributes Advisors. After almost a year evaluating proposals and talking to prospective partners, Waga Energy was selected and performed due diligence on the project to confirm its feasibility. A gas rights agreement was executed in December 2021 between the county and Waga Energy for an initial 20-year term.

Commissioned in March 2024, the WAGABOX® technology combines two cutting-edge technologies for upgrading landfill gas, ensuring that the RNG produced exceeds the standards for injection into natural gas pipelines. The WAGABOX® inlet capacity is 1,000 scfm of landfill gas

and can accept up to 30% nitrogen. The unit fits in less than a half an acre footprint, and a 3-mile gas pipeline was built to connect the local gas distribution system, which is owned and operated by Corning Natural Gas. “Waga Energy offered the most sustainable solution, utilizing 100% of the landfill gas, which caught our interest. The Waga team proved to have exceptional technical and professional expertise to successfully develop this project,” said Eric Rose, Commissioner of Public Works for Steuben County, NY.

## Benefits to the County and Community

The Waga Energy solution provided a new revenue source for the county and landfill gas collection system



Delivery of the cryogenic distillation column.

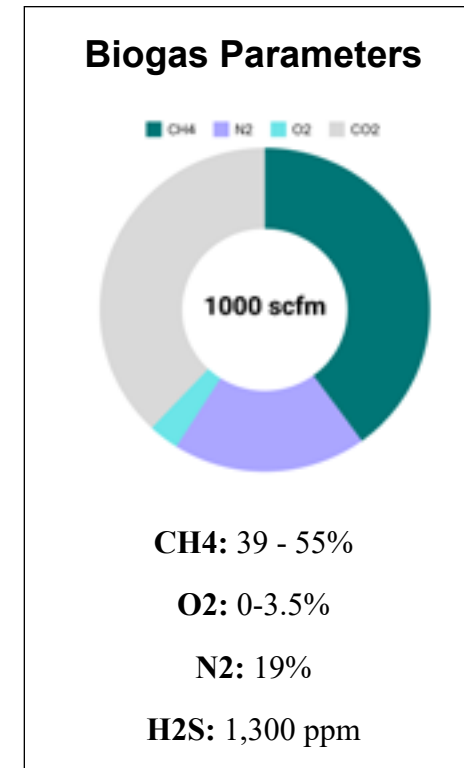
expansion, producing 220,000 MMBtu/year. The energy produced from this project is capable of serving around 4,000 households, or 10% of the households in the county.

Increased revenue from an otherwise wasted resource meant the county can hire a third-party wellfield technician company, who have been making improvements to ensure the county

is delivering the maximum amount of gas to the WAGABOX® unit. As a result of the wellfield expansion and the RNG project, the landfill has been able to increase the landfill gas collection by 40% since the unit started operating in March of 2024. The RNG project also supported county approval for air permit expansion for its landfill.

This first of its kind RNG project, due to its relatively small flow, was made possible through a collaborative public-private effort involving Steuben County who had a vision for this project, trusted consultants B&L and EA Advisors, had the support of a local gas utility company, Corning Natural Gas, and a reliable RNG partner, Waga Energy.

For more information, visit <https://waga-energy.com/en/steuben-county-wagabox-unit>.



# 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, 2025. 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](mailto: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.

## Congratulations to the 2024 scholarship winners!

Ryleigh Clark  
Central Maine Community College

Anjali Maddukuri  
University of Florida

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## Member News

### Santa Rosa County Employee Learns Cost-Saving and Revenue-Boosting Tips Through Scrap Metal and Electronic Waste Dismantling

#### Kaz Szymoniak

In Santa Rosa County, one dedicated employee has found a way to not only reduce waste, but also generate additional revenue for the county through a combination of hands-on learning and practical application. By working with a local scrap metal dealer and diving into the complexities of electronic waste (e-waste) management, Jake Motsco, Landfill Service Technician II at the



Santa Rosa County Environmental Department, has developed an efficient process for dismantling computers, separating valuable components, and capitalizing on commodity pricing.

#### Learning the Ropes at the Scrap Metal Dealer

The journey began with a visit to a local scrap metal dealer. By interacting with industry experts, Jake learned the intricacies of different commodity pricing and how to maximize returns from scrap materials. One of the key takeaways was understanding the value of separating materials based on their composition—particularly materials like copper, aluminum, and steel,

as well as precious metals like gold and silver found in older electronics.

Through these conversations, Jake also learned how to identify and separate different types of e-waste, particularly old computers. This knowledge empowered him to dismantle electronics more efficiently, extracting high-value components from general e-scrap and ensuring that the county was receiving fair compensation for recyclable materials.

#### Dismantling Computers for Maximum Value

When Jake began dismantling old computers, he applied his newfound knowledge to carefully separate components into categories: circuit boards, hard drives, power supplies, and individual metals. Each of these categories has its own pricing structure, and the more organized the materials, the higher the potential return. For example, circuit boards often contain precious metals like gold and silver, while copper wiring can be sold for a premium.

By separating and categorizing components, Jake ensured that the county was able to extract as much value as possible from each computer. Not only did this approach reduce employee idle time at the Household Hazardous Waste facility, but it also turned what would have been low-value general e-scrap into a higher revenue-generating resource.



### Boosting County Revenue

As a result of his efforts, the county has seen a significant increase in the revenue generated from electronic waste. Jake's attention to detail and his understanding of scrap metal pricing have allowed the county to optimize its recycling process. The return on materials like copper, aluminum, and gold—when properly separated—has added thousands of dollars to the county's budget, which are funds that can be reinvested into other community projects.

#### Conclusion

Through a combination of curiosity, hands-on learning, and a commitment to sustainability, Jake has turned a simple visit to a scrap metal dealer into a resourceful strategy for cost-saving and revenue generation. His efforts not only provide a model for effective e-waste management, but also demonstrate how small changes can lead to significant financial benefits for local governments. By applying the lessons learned from the scrap metal industry, the county is now able to recycle more efficiently, reduce waste, and keep valuable resources in circulation—all while increasing revenue.

*Kaz Szymoniak is an environmental professional with nearly 15 years of experience in solid waste management and compliance. As an Environmental Manager for Santa Rosa County,*

*he leads a team of 40 employees, overseeing landfills, recycling, and waste management programs. His expertise includes leachate treatment, groundwater remediation, landfill gas management, and hazardous waste disposal. A graduate of the University of West Florida with a degree in Environmental Studies, he is a certified Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO), a certified Manager of Composting Programs, and a member of SWANA and NAHMMA. Kaz actively participates in community outreach and has been recognized as an Extraordinary Employee by Santa Rosa County for his leadership and teamwork. Kaz can be reached at [KazS@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:KazS@santarosa.fl.gov).*

### MSW Consultants Announces New Project Manager

Kathy Mantz has joined MSW Consultants as a Project Manager. Kathy has worked in the solid waste industry in both the public sector and private sector markets, including the West coast and south Florida regions. She is serving in the firm's municipal waste management consulting practice where she helps county and local governments navigate increasingly sophisticated industry dynamics and optimize their materials management systems.

*Kathy Mantz can be reached at (800) 679-9220 x 21 or e-mail [kmantz@mswconsultants.com](mailto:kmantz@mswconsultants.com).*



### FORCE Corner Miriam Zimms

The Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) announces the relaunch of the FORCE website. The updated platform has been designed to better serve organics recycling professionals, researchers, and agency partners in Florida by providing streamlined access to resources, programs, and collaborative opportunities.

Key updates include:

- **Enhanced navigation** for easier access to critical information
- **Updated content** to reflect the latest initiatives and partnerships
  - o **Compost Facilities** – includes eight different maps of more than 400 Source-Separated Organics Processing Facilities – yard waste, manure blending, animal by-product, food waste, biosolids, solid waste, anaerobic digesters, plus community (local) compost programs.
  - o **R&D Bibliography** – database of more than 1,000 peer reviewed organics recycling research studies or articles in 22 different categories.

- o **Resources** – includes Food Waste, Plastic Alternatives, Technology, Yard Waste and more.
- o **What's New** – includes site updates and Florida Organics industry news.
- o **Presentations, Training, Events and more**
- **Improved functionality** to support your work in safeguarding Florida's natural resources

Explore the new site at [www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org) and discover how FORCE is continuing to support research, collaboration, and environmental protection across the state.

We look forward to hearing your feedback as we strive to enhance our collective impact.

FORCE's mission is to provide a framework to promote organics recycling and serve as an educational clearinghouse of information for the Florida organics recycling industry and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

*Miriam Zimms is the FORCE Technical Manager and Director of Programs for Kessler Consulting, Inc. For more information, visit [www.kesconsult.com](http://www.kesconsult.com).*

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2025 SWANA FL Winter Conference

February 23-25 | Gainesville

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center



Register online at <https://cvent.me/GlvPYV>

## Sponsorship Opportunities

We invite you to become a sponsor of the SWANA FL 2025 Winter 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 conference signage and in conference app
- \* On the SWANA FL website
- \* 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 January 31, 2025.

### 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
- Tuesday Lunch - \$5,000 - includes sole recognition at lunch, table signage and one full-conference registration
- Student Sponsor - \$3,000 - Support SWANA's future! - includes one full-conference registration
- 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](mailto: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 Gainesville!

To become a sponsor, register online at <https://cvent.me/GlvPYV>.

## 2025 SWANA FL Winter Conference - Register Today!

Join us February 23-25 for the 2025 SWANA FL Winter Conference at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center. You won't want to miss this opportunity to network with solid waste industry colleagues, earn continuing education hours and enjoy the Gainesville area. Make plans to attend as we **Innovate, Educate and Elevate!**

Our program committee has developed an interesting and educational agenda of sessions and speakers who will discuss the latest developments in the solid waste industry. This will be an excellent time to share with and learn from your peers.

**Event Description:** This multi-day conference will include general sessions on best practices in the solid waste management profession, networking events and more.

**Who Should Attend:** Local, state and municipal government solid waste directors, managers, regulators, operators and coordinators; in addition to private sector consulting engineers and suppliers of materials and equipment used in the management of solid waste.

Additional details can be found on the [SWANA FL Website](#). Register today!

## Legislative Committee

Get more involved with SWANA FL by serving on the Legislative Committee. If you ever wanted to have the inside scoop on proposed legislation that could impact the waste and recycling industry, then this Committee may be for you. Here is what you can expect... This Committee will meet weekly for an hour from about two months before session starts, until all monitored bills have been acted upon. As a Committee member you can expect to be assigned specific bills to monitor and will be required to provide written and verbal updates each week. At this time, travel to Tallahassee is not required.

If you want to learn more, contact the Legislative Committee Chair Willie Puz at 561-640-8914 or [wpuz@swa.org](mailto:wpuz@swa.org).

## 2024 SWANA International Road-E-O

The 1st and 2nd place winners of our 2024 SWANA FL Road-E-O represented our chapter in October at the 2024 SWANA International Road-E-O in Dublin, Georgia. Congratulations to Jason Gray with the City of Largo who won 2nd place (Front End Loader). Way to go!





## Talking Trash Newsletter

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## Upcoming SWANA FL Events

**2025 Winter Conference**  
February 23-25  
Gainesville, FL

**2025 Chapter Road-E-O**  
May 1-2  
Lakeland, FL

**2025 Summer Conference**  
July 20-22  
Orlando, FL

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