

Talking... TRASH

The Newsletter of the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter

Summer 2026

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Letter from the President

August 2026

As another exceptionally hot Florida summer continues, our industry's frontline professionals remain committed to serving our communities safely despite challenging heat, severe weather, and demanding operating conditions. Please continue to remind colleagues to stay cool, hydrated, and safe as we wrap up the summer and head into the fall season. Also, with schools opening again soon, we should remain mindful and diligent when operating in school zones and around school buses to keep those little ones safe.

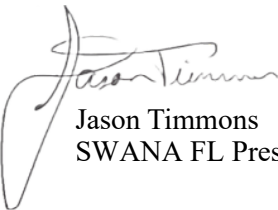


One of the highlights of the summer was gathering at the 2026 SWANA Florida Summer Conference in Orlando, where we had a record attendance of nearly 350 participants. The outstanding technical sessions, legislative updates, networking opportunities, and discussions surrounding fleet management, landfill operations, PFAS, leachate treatment, organics management, and other emerging industry issues reinforced the tremendous knowledge and expertise within our Chapter. Thank you to our speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, committee members, and attendees who made this year's conference such a tremendous success.

Our Chapter continues to grow and evolve. I would like to thank and congratulate our outgoing and newly elected Directors as well as thank every volunteer who contributes their time and expertise to strengthen SWANA Florida. The dedication of our Board, committees, technical division leaders, Young Professionals, sponsors, and members ensures that our Chapter continues to provide valuable education, networking, leadership opportunities, and advocacy for the solid waste industry statewide. This summer also provided an opportunity to recognize Waste & Recycling Workers Week and celebrate the individuals who keep our communities clean, healthy, and safe every day. Their professionalism and commitment deserve our appreciation not only during one designated week but throughout the entire year.

As we look ahead, SWANA Florida remains committed to delivering timely communications through Talking Trash, expanding professional development opportunities, and hosting high-quality conferences and events that help our members stay informed and connected. The conversations we have today about innovation, safety, sustainability, and operational excellence will continue to shape the future of our industry for years to come. Thank you for your continued dedication to serving Florida's communities and for your support of the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter. Together, we will continue advancing our profession through collaboration, education, and leadership.

Sincerely,


Jason Timmons
SWANA FL President

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Building Reliability: Inside Santa Rosa County's New Landfill Maintenance Facility

Kaz Szymoniak

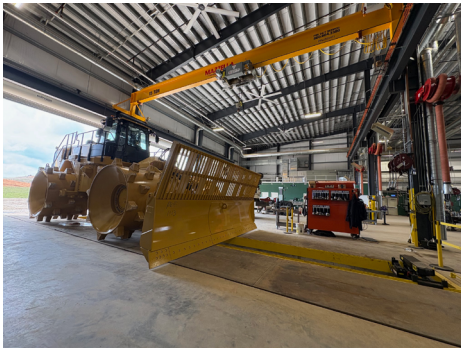
Santa Rosa County is nearing completion of a new landfill maintenance facility (LMF) designed specifically to support heavy equipment maintenance and repair operations at the Central Landfill. The 17,000-square-foot design-build facility was developed around the operational needs of landfill maintenance staff and the demanding service requirements of large, high-wear landfill equipment used daily in landfill operations.



Santa Rosa County's new 40-foot-tall, 17,000-square-foot landfill maintenance facility was delivered through a design-build approach with construction by Emerald Coast Constructors and construction quality assurance services provided by HDR Engineering. The facility was designed to support safe, efficient in-house maintenance operations for the county's landfill fleet.

Operational Features

The facility features three drive-through service bays (six bays in total), allowing equipment to enter and exit without backing, improving both safety and workflow efficiency. High-load service areas use recessed 1-inch steel plate flooring designed to accommodate landfill compactors, including CAT 836K units, without damaging the concrete floor system. A 15-ton overhead bridge crane provides safe lifting capacity for major component repairs, while a preventive maintenance and inspection pit includes explosion-proof lighting, ventilation, and a 10,000-pound bridge jack capable of traveling the full length of the pit to support undercarriage and drivetrain repairs.



Recessed 1-inch steel plating allows Santa Rosa County's CAT 836K landfill compactors to safely operate inside the new landfill maintenance facility without damaging the shop floor.

Dedicated welding and fabrication areas, compressor and lube rooms, tire service equipment, organized storage spaces, and fluid distribution systems were incorporated throughout the facility to improve efficiency and reduce cross-traffic within the shop. Fluid reels installed throughout the bays support proper lubrication practices while minimizing manual handling of oils and fluids. The facility also includes an 18,000-pound light-duty truck lift to support maintenance of support vehicles and fleet assets.



Santa Rosa County's multi-level wash bay was designed to safely accommodate landfill compactors and tracked equipment while supporting efficient cleaning and environmentally responsible operations.

The facility includes a multi-level covered wash bay designed for pre-service cleaning of landfill equipment and vehicles. Elevated work platforms provide technicians safe access to large equipment during cleaning operations. The wash bay is equipped with hot water, high-pressure and high-volume wash systems, compressed air, hose reels, a sediment sump pit with removable heavy-duty grating, and an oil-water separator to support environmentally responsible operations.



The facility was designed with employee safety and support in mind, featuring high-bay LED lighting, exhaust extraction systems, climate-controlled workspaces, and energy-efficient ventilation throughout the shop.

Inside Support Systems

Employee safety and support were central priorities throughout the design process. The facility includes office space, break areas, restrooms, high-bay LED lighting, vehicle exhaust extraction systems, and climate-controlled employee areas. Industrial warehouse fans equipped with independent variable frequency drives were carefully coordinated around crane travel paths to maintain airflow without interfering with maintenance activities. Multiple electrical heaters provide climate control throughout the shop, while office and support spaces are fully air conditioned.

The building is also equipped with a state-of-the-art Energy Recovery Ventilator system that improves indoor air quality and energy efficiency by introducing fresh outside air while recovering energy from exhausted air. High-speed fiber internet and facility-wide wireless connectivity support digital inspections, maintenance tracking, equipment diagnostics, operational communications, and site security throughout the shop.



Custom 1-inch steel beam tables were incorporated directly into the facility's structural framework, creating durable and functional workspaces while highlighting the innovation and practicality of the design-build approach.

Several structural support columns were also incorporated into custom steel beam tables, creating durable work surfaces that maximize usable shop space and reflect the project's practical, maintenance-focused design approach.

An Efficient Facility

The Santa Rosa County Landfill processes more than 1,000 tons per day of combined municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris and operates both Class I and Class III disposal areas. Approximately 50 pieces of heavy equipment and fleet vehicles are maintained in-house, including multiple landfill compactors, numerous waste

handler dozers, and ancillary equipment by a dedicated maintenance team consisting of the landfill foreman, diesel mechanics, and fuel and oil technician staff.

The nearly \$7 million facility is expected to improve workplace safety, reduce equipment downtime, extend equipment service life, expand in-house repair capabilities, and support more environmentally responsible maintenance operations. Project leaders credited the facility's success to early and continuous collaboration between maintenance staff, building officials, designers, and contractors throughout the design-build process. Many operational and layout decisions were intentionally pushed to the lowest practical level, allowing the diesel mechanics and maintenance personnel who work on the equipment daily to play a major role in shaping the facility's design, functionality, and workflow. Their direct involvement not only helped create a more practical and efficient maintenance facility, but also fostered a strong sense of pride and ownership in the finished project.



Santa Rosa County Landfill Mechanic David Pugh earned First Place and the prestigious TOP GUN Award at the 2026 SWANA FL Road-E-O Mechanic Competition, reflecting the expertise and professionalism of the county's maintenance team.

Santa Rosa County's investment in modern maintenance infrastructure is matched by the expertise of its personnel. Landfill Mechanic David Pugh recently earned First Place and the overall TOP GUN Award at the 2026 SWANA FL Road-E-O Mechanic Competition, highlighting the professionalism and technical capabilities of the county's in-house maintenance team.

Kaz Szymoniak is an environmental professional with more than 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. He can be reached at KazS@santarosa.fl.gov.

Florida’s Landfills Are Quietly Fueling a Cleaner Transportation Future

Scott Brinner

Florida’s solid waste facilities sit on an underused asset: methane. Every landfill, and many wastewater and agricultural operations across the state, generate gas that has historically been flared or vented. Today, that same byproduct is being converted into renewable natural gas (RNG), a pipeline-quality, carbon-net-neutral fuel. Florida is emerging as a proving ground for what that conversion can accomplish, both for fleet operators managing fuel volatility and for the solid waste facilities generating new value from existing materials.

Florida’s RNG Infrastructure Is Already Operating at Scale

RNG Facilities at [Vero Beach](#) convert landfill gas into vehicle fuel at operational scale, feeding local heavy-duty and transit fleets. An RNG operation under development in [Manatee County](#) ties methane capture directly to measurable local impact. Both projects result in emissions reductions equivalent to removing millions of gallons of gasoline and diesel annually while powering thousands of homes. Florida-based Nopetro Energy’s decade-long fueling partnership with Orlando’s [LYNX transit system](#) demonstrates how landfill-derived fuel performs reliably in daily, high-mileage public fleet operations.

Why This Matters for Florida Fleets Now

Diesel prices have surged amid global market volatility, regularly exceeding \$4 locally but going as high as \$8 in certain states, while RNG has held steady in the

\$1.75 to \$2.25 per gallon range. That price stability, combined with federal incentives like the [Section 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit](#), gives Florida fleet operators a domestic, waste-derived fuel option that insulates them from the price



Nopetro Energy’s Vero Beach Facility removes CO2 to produce methane of over 95% purity, exceeding fueling standards. Courtesy of Nopetro.

swings hitting diesel-dependent operations statewide. For Florida’s landfill and solid waste facilities, this shift represents a growing opportunity to convert an existing byproduct into a revenue stream and a decarbonization asset, without waiting on out-of-state supply chains.

A Model Validated Nationally

Florida’s results track a pattern already proven elsewhere. A [recent report](#) confirms California’s RNG program recently posted its sixth consecutive year of carbon-negative transportation performance under the state’s [Low Carbon Fuel Standard](#)—the only clean fuel option to achieve that distinction, delivering more than 25% of total transportation emissions reductions. National RNG supply has grown [400%](#) since 2018, with 2025 marking a [second](#)

[consecutive year of record growth](#) in new production facilities. State regulators nationally are increasingly [recognizing RNG](#) as a strategic energy resource rather than just a compliance mechanism—a shift Florida’s own facilities have already achieved.

What It Means for Florida’s Solid Waste Professionals

This growth signals an expanding market for Florida landfill gas offtake agreements, new capital investment in gas collection infrastructure statewide, and a stronger case for methane capture projects that were previously considered only from a regulatory compliance standpoint. As fuel volatility continues, landfill gas-to-RNG conversion is not a future concept for Florida, but a current model already operating at scale, with

room to expand across the state’s solid waste infrastructure.

Scott Brinner is Executive Vice President of RNG Solutions, Nopetro Energy. He can be reached at (813) 892-6688 or sbrinner@nopetro.com.

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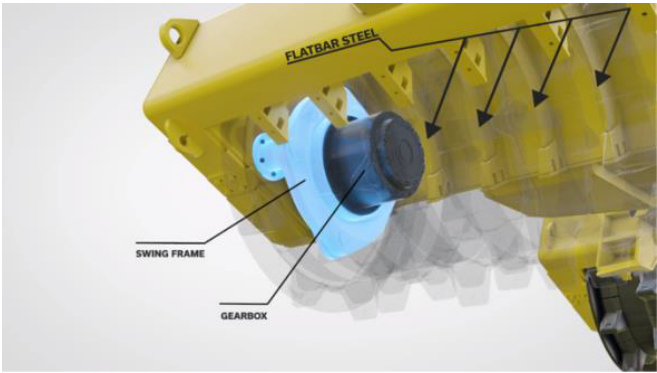
The No Wrap Landfill Life
Co-Authored By Lee Lassiter & Dusty Zeigler

Wrapping in the landfill does not sound very rhythmic, but there is a whole lot of wrapping happening on the working face of landfills! Whether it’s wire, cable, rope, string, or even plastics, these materials seem to cling to all types of equipment traversing garbage in the fill, causing operators’ headaches. Hold your lyrics though, there is a landfill compactor out there that is designed for a “no wrap life”. The Tana Landfill Compactor, first built in the 1960s, is now ‘mashing’ trash in landfills all over the world. Tana is said to be the world’s first compactor designed for the sole purpose of saving airspace, and it certainly uses its engineered efficiencies to do just that!



forget the flat bar steel drum guards underneath the housing, which disallow materials from infiltrating the interstitial space. Grab your tortilla maker... There are Wire Cutters mounted on the front and back sides at the end of each drum. Set at less than 3 mm and adjusted periodically for maximum efficiency, these cutters capture wire while using the weight and force of the machine’s hydraulics to provide strong and constant cutting action.

Though Tana stands on a squat 66 inch diameter drum size, the 2 feet 9 inches of Ground Clearance is a very lofty comparison to other compactors. There are no underside mechanical gearboxes or drivetrain systems for wrappers to become lodged for a day’s ride around the landfill. Farewell to the shadow tail of mattresses, no more remoras hitching rides for a ten-hour work shift. The Tana rolls right on over the foams and the wire coils.



To learn more about Tana Landfill Compactors, visit <https://www.humdingerequipment.com/products/landfill-compactor/>. If you have questions about Tana landfill compactors or drum wrapping, contact your regional sales manager or local dealer, who can be found at <https://www.humdingerequipment.com/sales-service/>.

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The always obvious difference about Tana is the tandem full-width drums, which together are the most essential features of the machine. Comparably, three and four-wheeled compactors are prone to material blow-out and materials wrapping in between wheels. With Tana’s Drums, the space between wheels is eliminated, allowing the full-width drums to elude the dangling wrappers! So, what if the drum cleats pull that proverbial intertwined ball of fence wire up toward the drum housing? Well, between each corrugation of drum cleats, there are cleaner bars on both the front and rear of the drum. In a peeling-like fashion, these cleaners force the wire away from the drum housing as the drum rolls. Much like presents on Christmas day, it is a swift unwrapping. Cleaner bars are typically set closer than 10 mm and adjusted periodically. Let’s not



Spotting out those wiry nests and cling-ons comes as an easy chore in the Tana’s cab due to its all-glass and forward cab mount design. Ensnared atop the forward section of the machine is the two-door high-visibility operator’s office, where the operator can see from eyebrows to bootstraps. Being able to avoid the snare before it happens eliminates downtime and the rigors of removing all wrap.



Why Florida Needs the Safe Battery Collection and Recovery Act

Keyna Cory

This session, the Florida Legislature came close to taking an important step forward with the Safe Battery Collection and Recovery Act, SB 912, sponsored by Senator Stan McClain. Although the bill ultimately did not pass, supporters are expected to file the legislation again during the 2027 Legislative Session. As batteries become increasingly common in everyday life powering everything from cell phones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes, and electric vehicles, Florida’s waste and recycling systems must adapt to address the growing safety and environmental challenges associated with improper battery disposal.

Fire Risks

One of the most important aspects of SB 912 is that it would modernize outdated statutory definitions related to batteries and battery management. Florida’s existing laws were written long before lithium-ion batteries became a standard part of consumer products. Today, these batteries are everywhere, and when they are improperly thrown into household trash or curbside recycling bins, they can create dangerous fires at recycling facilities, transfer stations, landfills, and even inside collection trucks.

Across the country, waste and recycling operators have reported a dramatic increase in fires caused by damaged or improperly disposed lithium-ion batteries. These fires threaten worker safety, damage expensive infrastructure, interrupt recycling operations, and create significant costs for local governments and

private companies. In some cases, fires can smolder for days and release harmful pollutants into the air.



Fire in truck in Hillsborough County.
Courtesy of Hillsborough County.

SB 912 would help address this growing issue by establishing a battery stewardship organization that would coordinate and support the safe collection and recovery of batteries throughout Florida. Stewardship programs are designed to create shared responsibility among manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and waste professionals to ensure batteries are managed safely at the end of their useful life. By creating a statewide framework, Florida could improve battery recovery access, reduce fire risks, and keep hazardous materials out of landfills.

Educational Campaigns

Education will also play a critical role in addressing this issue. Many Floridians simply do not realize that batteries should never be placed in standard trash or recycling bins. Fortunately, Florida already has strong educational resources that can help raise awareness.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s “Take Charge Florida” campaign (<https://floridadep.gov/TakeChargeFlorida>) provides consumers with important information about safe battery handling, storage, and recycling options. The campaign encourages residents to properly prepare batteries for recycling and understand the risks associated with improper disposal.

In addition, the National Waste & Recycling Association has partnered with Woodsy Owl on the “Skip the Bin, Turn Your Batteries In” campaign.

This national educational initiative uses simple messaging to remind consumers that batteries do not belong in curbside recycling or household garbage. Campaigns like these are essential to changing public behavior and protecting workers and facilities across the waste and recycling industry (<https://batterysafetynow.org/>).



Batteries are becoming increasingly common in everyday life, powering everything from cell phones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes, and electric vehicles.

Photo by John Cameron on [Unsplash](#).

SWANA is on top of this issue with the Lithium-Ion Battery Workshop along with sub-work groups on *Communications & Outreach*, *Facility & Vehicle Safety* and *Advocacy & Public Policy*. The website has great resources for you to use to educate your community about safe battery collection and recovery options (<https://swana.org/key-initiatives/safety/lithium-ion-batteries>).

Modernizing State Law

While SB 912 did not cross the finish line this year, the conversation surrounding battery safety and recovery is far from over. As battery use continues to grow, too will the need for responsible collection, recycling, and recovery systems. Refiling the legislation in 2027 will provide another opportunity for Florida to modernize state law, improve public safety, and support a more sustainable future for communities across the state.

Keyna Cory is President of Public Affairs Consultants, a governmental consulting and public affairs firm based in Tallahassee, FL. Through her extensive experience in government relations and public policy, she has worked closely with the solid waste and recycling industry to advance legislative priorities and advocate for policies that support sustainable waste management and recycling initiatives. She can be reached at keyna@flrecycling.org.

Advertising Opportunities Available

It’s not too late to reserve a space in the Fall/Winter Talking Trash.

Job Openings

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

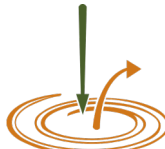
Email info@swanafl.org or visit www.swanafl.org for more information.

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!



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Commentary: The Last Bag of Garbage: Why Modern Solid Waste Is Really a Real Estate Problem

Ed Grayson

Every great community begins with optimism. An architect imagines homes. A planner imagines neighborhoods. An engineer imagines roads. A mayor imagines opportunity. No one imagines garbage.

That is precisely the problem. Before the first home is built, before the first family moves in, someone should answer one simple question: *Where will the last bag of garbage go?* Wherever people live, they create waste. Yet, we rarely plan for that reality with the same discipline we apply to every other piece of community infrastructure.

The Greatest Challenge

For decades, we have treated solid waste as a disposal problem. It isn't. It is a land-use problem. Every solution begins with the same requirement: land. Land that must be preserved years—often decades—before it is needed. Land that must survive competing development pressures, political cycles, and public resistance long before a permit is ever filed.

Our industry's greatest challenge is not technology. It isn't labor. It isn't regulation. It isn't even disposal. It is the belief that disposal can always be figured out later. The moment a



subdivision is approved, a clock starts ticking—not on the homes, but on the waste system that must support them.

The landfill that is not permitted yet. The transfer station nobody wants. The rail corridor that's already being developed. The parcel that will never again be affordable. Communities do not run out of landfill capacity. They run out of time to preserve it.

When communities preserve options, they gain flexibility. When they do not, costs rise.

Choices shrink and public opposition hardens. By the time a disposal crisis becomes visible, the opportunity to prevent it has often already passed. This is not simply an infrastructure challenge.

It is a leadership challenge.

In Order to Succeed

The most important decisions in solid waste are rarely made at a landfill, transfer station, or recycling facility. They are made years earlier—in comprehensive plans, zoning hearings,

capital budgets, and conversations where tomorrow's growth is being imagined.

Tomorrow morning, millions of Americans will place their garbage at the curb. Most will never think about where it goes. Most will never think about the millions of decisions, investments, permits, partnerships, and people required to make that single collection happen. That is exactly how it should be.

Our profession succeeds precisely because it is invisible. We are judged solely by failure because success is implied. No one will think about it but someone must—years before that bag is ever filled. Because by the time the public asks where the garbage is going, the answer has already been decided or worse ... no one ever did.

Edward Grayson is Former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation. He can be reached at Edward.Grayson@icloud.com.

The 2026 SWANA Florida Summer Conference Was One for the Record Books!

Corina Sheridan

From July 19–21, solid waste professionals from across Florida and around the country gathered at Signia by Hilton Bonnet Creek in Orlando for what became the largest SWANA Florida Summer Conference in Chapter history. With 349 attendees, including 53 exhibitors, this year's conference demonstrated the incredible momentum and continued growth of our Chapter and our industry.

The response from our industry partners exceeded all expectations. Demand for exhibit space was so strong that we had to expand the exhibit hall and overflowed into the hallway to accommodate the many organizations that wanted to participate. We are incredibly grateful to every attendee, exhibitor, sponsor, speaker, volunteer, and committee member whose support made this event such a success.

The conference kicked off Sunday evening with a lively Welcome Reception, where attendees reconnected with colleagues, met new industry peers, and set the stage for a few days of education, collaboration, and networking. The evening was followed by a very popular Casino

Night, which brought plenty of laughs, friendly competition, and an opportunity for attendees to unwind together after a full day of conference activities.

One of the most exciting aspects of this year's conference was seeing participation from well beyond Florida. Our regional conference



continues to attract professionals from across the country, creating new opportunities to exchange ideas, build relationships, and strengthen the solid waste community.

The technical program featured a wide variety of timely and engaging topics, with sessions that were exceptionally well attended throughout the conference. From

collection operations and landfill management to landfill gas, renewable natural gas, waste-to-energy, engineering, and emerging industry challenges, attendees had access to practical information, innovative solutions, and valuable lessons learned from peers and industry experts. The conference agenda also included dynamic roundtable discussions that encouraged open dialogue, collaboration, and the sharing of real-world experiences—one of the hallmarks of the SWANA Florida Summer Conference.

A special thank you goes out to our Young Professionals (YP), who had an outstanding presence



Keith Howard, David Gregory, and Jason Timmons



throughout the conference. It was exciting to see so many emerging leaders actively participating in educational sessions, networking events, and conference activities. The enthusiasm, engagement, and energy they brought to the event are a testament to the bright future of Florida's solid waste industry.

Of course, the setting couldn't have been more fitting. The Signia by Hilton Bonnet Creek provided a beautiful backdrop for networking and education, and true to form, Florida reminded us what summer is all about—with sunshine, warm temperatures, a few afternoon showers, and plenty of humidity.

Thank you again to everyone who attended, exhibited, presented, sponsored, and volunteered. Your enthusiasm and commitment continue to make the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter one of the strongest and most engaged chapters in the country. We look forward to building on this momentum and seeing everyone again at our upcoming Chapter events!



Florida
Legislative
Update

With the 2026 Florida Legislative Session coming to an end, the final disposition of bills that could have impacted the waste and recycling industry have been posted to the SWANA FL webpage [under the NEWS tab](#). Here are some highlights:

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

- [CS/HB 1245: Biosolids Management](#)
- [HB 145: Suits Against the Government](#)

Bills Approved by the Governor

- [CS/CS/CS/SB 290: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#)
- [CS/HB 1217: Prohibited Governmental Policies Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)
- [CS/CS/HB 1019: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#)
- [CS/HB 1285: Biosolids Management](#)

If you have (a) question(s) on these bills, contact the [SWANA FL Legislative Committee Chair, Willie Puz](#), at wpuz@swa.org.

2025 Robert L. Lawrence
Distinguished Service Award: The
“Garbage Doctor”, Marc Rogoff

For nearly five decades, Marc Rogoff has dedicated his career to advancing the waste and resource management profession, and in 2025, that commitment was recognized with SWANA’s highest honor: the Robert L. Lawrence Distinguished Service Award.



Marc serves as a senior consultant at Geosyntec Consultants and continues to work part-time after more than 47 years. He lives and works in Tampa, FL, having moved there in 1981 after beginning his career in solid waste management in Hillsborough County, FL, where he held roles including recovery program administrator and acting solid waste director.

Over the decades that followed, Marc built a career that bridged both public and private sectors, working on everything from collection rate studies and waste composition programs to feasibility studies for new facilities and waste-to-energy projects. His work took him across nearly every U.S. state and more than 40 countries.

Asked what guides his decisionmaking, Marc emphasized the importance of gathering new and historical data while setting timelines to move decisions forward. He encourages professionals to listen more than they speak, understand roles firsthand, and remain transparent. One of the most consistent themes throughout Marc’s career has been a commitment to communication and education. Early on, he pledged to write and publish regularly—a promise that resulted in more than 300 articles and four books. That dedication has helped translate complex technical issues into practical knowledge that benefits practitioners across the industry.

Marc’s advice for those entering or growing within the profession is straightforward and timeless: stay curious, learn how to communicate clearly, and keep learning. Outside of his professional achievements, Marc is known for his sense of humor (including longtime “Garbage Doctor” monikers), his love of great ice cream, and his appreciation for music that boosts his mood.

For more information, visit <https://swana.org/news/blog/swana-post/swana-blog/2026/05/13/the-garbage-doctor---marc-rogoff--2025-swana-award-recipient>.

Waste-to-Energy Project for
Municipality of Anchorage

Geosyntec is currently working on implementation of a flywheel \$600 million waste-to-energy project for the Municipality of Anchorage using assets from the Anchorage, Atlanta, Columbia, and Tampa offices. Olga Stewart from the Anchorage Office is the overall project manager.

This all started with a \$25,000 work assignment for a pre-feasibility study six or so years ago.

Although the project was delayed by the pandemic and a change of Mayors, the project has just received the go ahead from the Anchorage Assembly for a second input of implementation funds (\$9 million). Geosyntec is working with a series of local Anchorage teammates, including Jacobs.

The effort included a multi-month effort to prepare a compelling presentation for the Assembly. Geosyntec’s role is in the solid waste advisory area, as well as waste composition, wasteshed analysis, public relations, conceptual design of the facility, and siting.

In a heartfelt message, Mark Spafford, P.E., Deputy Municipal Manager and Anchorage Hydropower Utility Director, commended Marc Rogoff for his efforts and contributions: “I have lots of loyalty for Geosyntec. My first job out of graduate school was working for Geosyntec in 2002 out of the Boca Raton office. When I started my WTE journey here in Alaska around 2018, I reached out to Marc because I saw an article that he wrote about WTE in a trade magazine which also stated that he worked for



From left to right: Mark Spafford, P.E., Deputy Municipal Manager, Municipality of Anchorage, AK. Marc Rogoff, Senior Consultant at Geosyntec, and Kelli Toth, Director, Solid Waste Services, Municipality of Anchorage, AK. Courtesy of Geosyntec.

Geosyntec. I immediately reached out to Tom Peel and inquired about Marc and the rest is history. The only reason I reached out to Marc was because of my experience with the firm, as well as Geosyntec’s reputation for having excellent technical people and being client service oriented. Marc embodies that. I had to fight internal battles with assembly members to get the sole source approved by that body to have Geosyntec complete the feasibility

study and preliminary engineering report work, which is a testament to how much I value Marc and his expertise. I need him to help me push this project across the finish line, I still have many battles and obstacles to overcome

to make this project a reality both external and internally with my project team and consultants. Marc makes my life easier; there aren’t many people around me that I can say that about. Keep up the good work.”

For more information, visit www.geosyntec.com.

Congratulations
to the
2026 SWANA FL
Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement
Award

David Gregory, Orange
County

Distinguished Service

Shawn Clark, City of
Largo

Rising Star

Monica Arnett, CDM
Smith

Distinguished Service

Seminole County
(International Road-E-O
host)

Distinguished Service

Lee County
(Chapter Road-E-O host)

Scholarships

Bobbie Lauren Chapin,
Florida Southwestern
State College

Alvin Chun, University of
Florida

Talking Trash Newsletter

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Crystal Bruce

Upcoming SWANA FL Events

2027 Winter Conference

February 21-23
Cocoa Beach, FL

2027 Chapter Road-E-O

April 9-10
Gainesville, FL

2027 Summer Conference

July 25-27
Orlando, FL

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