



NEWSLETTER

SPRING / SUMMER 2020

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To all of our members, their families and friends, we hope this finds you all safe and well. During these unprecedented times and challenges, we stand with our membership and hope to provide information and services to help you carry on with your mission while still keeping you and your associates safe and healthy.

Due to the COVID-19 virus the 2020 Professional Summit, scheduled for April 2, was canceled. We hope to be back on schedule with our summits in 2021.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Keep up with the latest ARC news and happenings:

facebook.com/arkansasrecyclingcoalition

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Newsletter Online Version

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

Platinum Sponsors



LOCKHEED MARTIN



The 2020 Student Environmental and Recycling Summit

The 2020 Student Environmental and Recycling Summit was held at the VIRCO Manufacturing Company in Conway, on March 5, 2020. Almost 100 students and teachers were in attendance to hear from speakers representing companies such as Big River Steel, ADEQ, Entergy Arkansas, and eSCO Recycling, telling about their sustainability programs and the AR Department of Education – Division of Career and Technical Education discussing internships, youth apprenticeships, and work-based learning programs.

Thanks
to VIRCO
Manufacturing
for hosting our
summits each
year!

VIRCO.com



VIRCO Manufacturing



Big River Steel

The 2020 Student Environmental and Recycling Summit (continued)



ADEQ



Entergy Arkansas



*Arkansas Department of Career
& Technical Education*



eSCO Processing & Recycling

2020 Conference & Tradeshow

This year's conference promises to be another great one. Serving as our keynote will be Janet K. Swim, Ph.D, Professor of Psychology, Institute for Energy and the Environment Affiliate Researcher, and Sustainability Officer at Pennsylvania State University. Also our very own Arkansas well-known personality, Rex Nelson, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, will be our Wednesday (October 28) breakfast speaker.

Other familiar faces you will see in Eureka Springs will be Chaz Miller and Dylan DeThomas. Some of the well-known companies we will have represented are Brightmark Energy, the Stewardship Institute, City of Austin, TX, USA Rice Association, Entegry, and McKee Foods. More names will be added in the coming weeks.



We will be going back to the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs. Watch for conference updates at www.recycleark.org

Exhibitor and Sponsorship opportunities are available! Call the ARC office – 866-290-1429.

Recycling:
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& **Tradeshow**

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Advancing Sustainable Materials Management

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Conference Happenings:

On Monday (October 26) there will be a golf tournament at the Holiday Island Country Club, a city tram tour, a ghost tour at the Crescent Hotel, the most haunted hotel in America, and a welcome reception at the famous 1905 Basin Park Hotel and at the pool pavilion, Best Western Inn of the Ozarks.

Tuesday (October 27) Welcome; keynote; sessions; awards luncheon and trade show.

Wednesday (October 28) Breakfast speaker; sessions; trade show; ARC annual meeting.

Lodging: Registration is open, call the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks – 479-253-9768. Be sure to request the ARC Conference Block! Please book early, as overflow will be booked at a partner hotel.

ARC Awards Program

The deadline for submitting an awards application is July 31, 2020, so if you want to apply, please do so by the deadline. Also, if you know someone who has an outstanding recycling/sustainability program, please encourage them to submit an application. ARC is looking for the best of the best in the following categories: Individual Recycler of the Year; Community Involvement Award; Corporate Recycler of the Year; Recycling Education Program of the Year; Government Recycler of the Year; and School/College/University Recycler of the Year.

Award Recipients will be honored during the ARC's 30th Annual Conference taking place October 26-28, 2020, Best Western Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Awards Application can be found on the ARC website or click:



www.recycleark.org

New Plastic Market

Brightmark Energy recently announced that it is prioritizing its search for locations for its next advanced plastic recycling plants in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Texas. The company plans to make its final site selection decisions by the third quarter of 2020 and plans to have at least two sites shovel-ready by 2021. The company's unique recycling technology converts post-consumer plastic into naphtha, ultra-low sulfur diesel, and wax at a scale never achieved before. The process is also capable of creating the molecular building blocks for new plastics, thus enabling a circular economy in the plastics industry.

Brightmark expects to make investments of approximately \$500 million to \$1B at each site location, directly creating hundreds of new jobs in each host community selected. Each plant will process hundreds of thousands of tons of

hard to recycle plastic each year. Arkansas is in the feedstock origination area for the new Brightmark plants to be located in Louisiana and Texas. This is an exciting new market opportunity for recycling programs in Arkansas. Please see the following link for complete information:

New Plastic Market Info

Tom Hockin, Director of National Feedstock Origination for Brightmark Energy, will be speaking at ARC's fall conference in Eureka Springs, October 26-28th. Also, speaking in the same session with Tom will be Prapti Muhuri, Manager, Recycling & Recovery, Plastics Division, American Chemistry Council. This should be a great session to learn about new markets for hard to recycle plastics and the new technologies that are driving advanced plastic recycling.

Recycling Programs Adjust to Corona Virus

Submitted: By Brian Pugh, City of Fayetteville

Recycling programs across the country are facing some tough times these days. Outside of the normal resident confusion on what materials to set out or apathy about participating at all, some residents are now being faced with either not having an option to recycle or having to take materials to drop off locations. Resource Recycling recently listed 72 community curbside recycling programs that were suspended (many have since restarted) due to the corona virus. The Recycling Partnership identified approximately 90 recycling programs that were affected. The reasons for the suspensions range from employee shortages to employee exposure and more. The reasons detail how all types of recycling collection systems and processing are being altered.

The virus had been in the news for weeks but the reality of what was happening was intensifying and then a March study in The New England Journal of Medicine found the coronavirus survives on plastic and stainless steel for up to 72 hours and on cardboard for up to 24 hours. Based off that study here In Fayetteville there were real concerns of whether we were going to be exposing our workers to materials that people in the community had contaminated through coughing or handling and had concerns for possible spreading of the virus through touching of recycling bins on the routes.

So, on March 19th the City of Fayetteville made a strategic decision to temporarily suspend the residential and commercial curbside recycling program due to concerns of community spread of the virus. We decided to keep a recycling option open for residents by expanding our two recycling drop off locations and adding an additional 4 to make a total of 6 drop off locations in Fayetteville. We utilized apartment recycling boxes and dumpsters and carts for

the additional temporary locations to collect materials.

Our education program went into overdrive and was busy with press releases, social media posts and making of signs to engage the public letting them know options for recycling still existed. Over all, the response from the public has been very good. Many residents have told us how much they appreciate still having the option to recycle but desperately await the day when curbside service will come back.



Relying on the public to sort materials accurately has been a challenge so the City is taking this opportunity to work on education pieces that explain why recycling needs proper separation of materials to be effective. We are planning a citywide mailout soon to announce the date of the curbside recycling

return but also will include education pieces on proper sorting.

During this pandemic, even though the City suspended the curbside service, that didn't stop us from working on ways to improve our program and educate our residents. I encourage all recycling program managers in Arkansas to take this opportunity to look at their respective programs and consider ways in which this change in our world can positively promote and strengthen recycling programs in the future.

One day this virus will ease, and life will begin to come back to a new sense of normal. Let's hope that our recycling messages can also adapt to encourage proper resident participation and better understanding of how recycling markets are important to our economy and help keep people employed. We can all work to ensure we come out of this situation stronger and better prepared to provide those essential services our residents expect.

EPA Grant Deadline Extended

EPA would like to remind applicants of the deadline changes for EPA's Pollution Prevention and Source Reduction Assistance Grants RFA announcement. Due to the unforeseen circumstances caused by COVID-19, EPA has delayed the deadline for this grant to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise.

The Source Reduction Assistance Grants request for application (RFA) is now due Friday, May 15, 2020. All state and local governments; independent schools districts; state and privately controlled institutions of higher education; non-profit and community organizations; and federally-recognized tribes and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply.

[Click to apply](#)

For any clarifying information, contact Region 6 Pollution Prevention Coordinator, Annette Smith at 214-665-2127.

Jacob Gould Receives Grant



Jacob Gould, Deputy Director of the West River Valley Solid Waste District received a grant for nearly \$35,000 to install a solar system at the City of Clarksville Recycling Center. The grant was issued through an ADEQ E-Waste Competitive Grants Program. Gould orchestrated the project as a joint venture involving West River Valley, City of Clarksville, Scenic Hills Solar, and Clarksville Connected Utilities.

In terms of direct environmental impact, the solar array will reduce the carbon emissions by 416 metric tons during the system's 30-year lifespan 30-years. In addition the solar plant will save the City of Clarksville over \$50,000 of energy costs during these 30 years.

Gould plans to expand his projects throughout e-waste collection centers in his district this year. Gould is a freelance grant writer and this project officially put him over the \$100,000 dollar mark for projects in his hometown of Clarksville and Johnson County over the past 10 years.

Upcoming Webinars



The Upcyclers Network is launching the Rapid Debrief Webinar Series: Recycled Market Development- Trends, Resources, Actions: During and Post Corona (Scroll down to the WEBINARS section of the page to RSVP) Details below:

MAY 13 – Resources for Recovered Materials Manufacturers: Overview of California and National Landscape featuring Manuel Medrano, President, CA Recycling Market Development Zone; Environmental Services Manager, City of Chula Vista

JUNE 2 – Market Trends and Actions: State of Material Supply Chains and Learning’s from South Carolina Recycling Market Program Corona Response featuring Chantal Fryer, Senior Manager, Recycling Market Development at Department of Commerce & Will Sagar, Executive Director with the Southeast Recycling Development Council

JUNE 17 – Upcycling Startups: Maintaining and Furthering Corporate Pilot Partnerships and Funding featuring John Felts, CEO and Co-Founder, Cruz Foam

JULY 8 – Evolving Fiber Markets and Expanding Carton Recycling Access for Municipalities featuring Scott Bryne, Market Sustainability Manager US/Canada, Tetra Pak Inc.

More to come! Sign up for the Upcyclers Network e-newsletter to stay updated.

RSVP for WEBINARS HERE

(Scroll down the page)

Just Published! Closing the Material Loop-How the Public and Private Sector are Creating Value from Waste

Food Waste Reduction & Food Waste Recovery

May 19, 2020: 12:00 - 1:30 (CT)

In this webinar, co-hosted by NERC & NEWOA, presenters from ReFED and the Harvard University Food Law and Policy Clinic will share the latest ideas and information on reducing wasted food and recovering and diverting what can’t be reduced. Topics that will be covered include new tools and information from ReFED and on date labeling of food.

Register Here

SERDC Previously Recorded Webinars

“The Recycling Industry and the Supply Chain During a Pandemic,” is available on line:

[SERDC.org/Webinars](https://www.serdc.org/Webinars)

#KeepLearning with FREE on-demand sessions from WasteExpo's 2019 Conference



Learning is something positive we can all do right now. So you can access the WasteExpo 2019 Conference Program online FOR FREE. Check out the line-up of sessions, which includes everything from a fireside chat with Bill Caesar of WCA Waste and popular Spotlight Sessions, to the Food Recovery Forum and more. Let's all do what we can to keep our brains and bodies moving. Stay well and #keeplearning at...

[waste360.com!](https://waste360.com)

Dates to Remember!

June 5-6, 2020	Northwest AR EcoFest, Fayetteville, Arkansas
June 23-25, 2020	MS/SWANA Conference, Gulfport, Mississippi
July 8-9, 2020	AEEA Expo, DeGray Lake Resort State Park, Arkansas
August 10-12, 2020	WasteExpo, New Orleans, Louisiana
August 10-12, 2020	Resource Recycling Conference, Austin, Texas
August 26-28, 2020	TRC Conference, Gatlinburg, Tennessee
September 1-3, 2020	AR SWANA Conference, Springdale, Arkansas
September 21-23, 2020	MORA Conference, Branson, Missouri
October 7, 2020	OKRA Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 7-9, 2020	AEF Conference, Hot Springs, Arkansas
October 26-28, 2020	ARC Conference & Tradeshow, Eureka Springs, Arkansas



Making a Difference....

Commitment to Corporate Sustainability

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

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

Who We Are

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

Brent Cox
President

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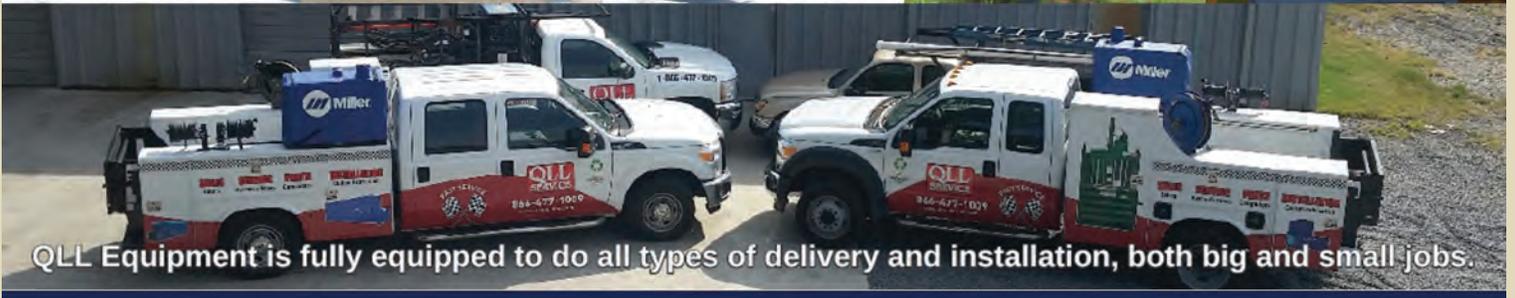
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