



**Virginia Recycling Association:
Annual Conference Agenda
Great Wolf Lodge
October 4-6, 2021**



Monday, Oct 4

9am-3pm: Registration and Exhibitor Set-up

10am: Tour of the Recovery Operations Center located at 520 Atkinson Blvd, Newport News VA 23608. Facility Tour will include processing areas and the receiving areas for trash, brush conversion, composting, recycling, white goods recycling, Household Hazardous Waste and E-cycling, as well as a tour of the retired landfill at Denbigh.

1pm: Tour of Owens Illinois, Recycled Glass Bottle Manufacturer, 150 Industrial Blvd, Toano, VA 23168. Plant tour will include an overview of how glass is made from recycled cullet and other raw materials, which participants will also get to see first-hand. All participants MUST wear face masks and steel/carbon-toed boots or shoes. Jeans or slacks and long-sleeved shirts are highly recommended.

Tuesday, Oct 5

8-9am: Registration

- **8-9am: Breakfast with Exhibitors**

- **9-10:30am: Recycling Reality Check: Regional Recycling Session**
 - Central VA - Kim Hines
 - Shenandoah Valley - Mike Neese
 - NOVA - Erik Grabowski
 - SWVA - Toby Edwards
 - Tidewater - Kristy Rines

- **10:30-11am: Exhibitor Meet and Greet/Coffee Break**
- **11am-12pm Market Updates**
 - Glass Packaging Institute - Scott DeFife
 - McGill Compost - Gary Gittere
- **12-1PM: Lunch and Board Elections**
- **1-2pm: Collegiate Recycling Panel**
 - Virginia Tech - Teresa Sweeney
 - Radford University - Neil Thompson
 - NOVA Community College - Robert Johnson
- **2-2:30pm: Exhibitor Meet and Greet/Coffee Break**
- **2:30-3:15pm: Recycling Outreach and Education**
 - James City County and O/I Glass Program - Kate Sipes and Cassie Cordova
 - SCS Engineers - Brent L. Dieleman
- **3:15-4:00pm: MRF Technologies and Litter Prevent (KVB)**
 - RDS – Joe Benedetto
 - Keep Virginia Beautiful – Tracey Leverty
 - Door prize drawing
- **5-6:30pm: Hide Your Wild Side Exhibitor Reception: Camo attire encouraged**

Wednesday, Oct 6

- **8-9am: Registration**
- **8-9am: Breakfast with Exhibitors**
- **9-10am: DEQ**
 - Single Use Plastics Legislation Overview - Meghann Quinn, DEQ
 - DEQ UPDATE - Prina
- **10-10:30am: Exhibitor Meet and Greet/Coffee Break**
- **10:30-11:15: What do you want from *your* VRA? Townhall meeting**
 - Lead by Executive VRA Board Members --Teresa, Stephanie, and Billy
 - Door prize drawing

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Presenter Bios

- Kim Hynes** Kim Hynes is the Executive Director of the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA), a position she has held for 15 years. The CVWMA is a public service authority that implements solid waste management and recycling programs for thirteen local governments in central Virginia. She has served the organization for over 25 years, previously serving as the agency's deputy executive director and director of administration and finance. She also serves on the Board for Keep Virginia Beautiful, as past Chairman and on the Old Dominion Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) serving as Treasurer. She is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from James Madison University.
- Mike Neese** Mike was born in Woodstock VA moved to Lumberton NC at 13, then traveled a bit after high school and college. He has an Associate's degree in Natural Resource Management from Lord Fairfax Community College, Bachelors in Sustainable Enterprise Management from the University of Phoenix, has completed Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute program in 2012, completed the Climate Academy program through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). He has served as a Director from Winchester for the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District. Mike has started many community gardens in the Winchester area, is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts, St. Andrews gleaning project, and Habitat for Humanity, and is a freemason. He is married to a very supportive wife, Jocelyn, and has 2 wonderful children. In his free time, Mike gardens, hikes, and camps. Mike has received the Governors Environmental Excellence Award for an urban tree/waste wood recycling project; and has earned the Green Government award from VML multiple times. He is the recycling Coordinator for the City of Winchester, and has been employed with the City since 2004.
- Toby Edwards** Toby Edwards is the Executive Director of the Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Management Authority serving Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell Counties. He received a B.S. degree in Geography with a concentration in Environmental Science from Radford University and a M.S. in Education from Virginia Tech. He has been active in the area of solid waste management and recycling for over 21 years and has been a past President of the Virginia Recycling Association. His experience includes developing rural recycling programs and implementation. Toby lives in Abingdon, VA and has two beautiful children who keep him very active with softball, baseball and cheerleading.
- Kristy Rines** Kristi Rines serves as the Recycling Coordinator for the City of Virginia Beach and is the City's only Certified Manager of Zero Waste Principals and Practices. Kristi's diverse background includes waste and recycling programs, commodity markets, public sector marketing, consumer habits, processing of recyclables, compost, and zero waste. In addition to serving as the Recycling Coordinator, Kristi is the Executive Director of Keep Virginia Beach Beautiful, the Public Works Liaison for the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission. She served on the Board for the Virginia Recycling Association and was recently appointed to the Waste Diversion & Recycling Task Force.
- Gary Gittere** Gary heads sales and marketing for McGill Premium Compost Products, drawing from 25+ years of regional and national sales managerial & marketing expertise to expand McGill's 30-year competency. Gary is charged with leading McGill's compost sales & market development team. His focus is on the advancement and presentation of technical training programs for professionals in the Turfgrass, landscaping, agriculture, and environmental industries, including engineers and specification writers tasked with the development and management of programs for storm water and erosion control in the NC, VA, and SC markets. Gary is a board member and past President of the NC Composting Council, a member of the VA Composting Council, board member of the NC Green Industry Council, and member of the US Composting Council's Marketing Development Committee.

- Teresa Sweeney** Teresa Sweeney is the Program Consultant and Engagement Specialist for Virginia Tech's, Campus Planning, Infrastructure and Facilities Division. Over the last year, she has worked with teams in Sustainability and Facilities Operations to lead a strategic, collaborative, and enterprise-wide update to the university's comprehensive waste management plan in sync with the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and ongoing revision efforts. She continues to work with the Communications team to coordinate the production of a number of key resources to support divisional outreach and engagement. Teresa has worked in the solid waste and recycling field for the past 24 years. A graduate of Radford University with a bachelor's degree in communication, she has served in her current role at Virginia Tech for the past 15 months. Prior to that, she worked at Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority as the Education and Training Coordinator for 23 years. Teresa is a member of the Virginia Recycling Association, the Southwest Virginia Solid Waste Management Association and the Carolina Recycling Association.
- Neil Thompson** Neal Thompson is the Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator for Radford University. With more than nineteen years' experience in higher education facilities management, Neal has spent the last five years leading Radford University's recycling and solid waste initiatives. Beyond his role, Neal is a regularly invited guest speaker at on and off campus events as an awareness advocate for both individual and household waste reduction and recycling.
- Robert Johnson** Rob joined NOVA in 2012 as the College's first Environmental Sustainability Officer. He is focused on developing and implementing a Sustainability Strategy for the College, implementing and measuring projects to reduce the College's carbon footprint, and educating future generations about environmental sustainability. He is also responsible for the College's copying and printing capabilities and manages the revenue generating contracts for the College – bookstore, beverage and snack vending, and food services. His previous experience includes analysis and program development for the Navy and service in the U.S. Navy. As a graduate student, he assisted George Mason's Office of Sustainability in completing their first Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan. He has a breadth of experience in project management, data analysis, modeling and simulation, environmental education, and sustainability initiatives. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics from the United States Naval Academy and a Master's of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University.
- Cassie Cordova** Cassie is the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator for James City County. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and earned a master's degree in Global Sustainability from the University of South Florida.
- Brent Dieleman** Brent is a project manager with SCS Engineers in the Reston, VA office with 18 years of experience in the solid waste and recycling industry. At SCS, Brent works with clients in Virginia and around the country to find solutions and opportunities to their waste diversion obstacles and challenges. Brent's most recent work includes helping communities navigate the challenging and ever-changing recycling market, leading solid waste audits and recycling contamination characterization studies, and providing waste diversion technical assistance to municipalities and businesses. Prior to joining SCS Engineers, Brent was a program manager for SWANA – the Solid Waste Association of North America.
- Tracey Leverty** Tracey Leverty is the Environmental Programs Director at Keep Virginia Beautiful where she coordinates and innovates with individuals and groups to tackle the litter problem in Virginia through programs such as Adopt-a-Highway and the new Virginia is for Lovers Not Litter campaign. She is a Virginia Green Travel Board Member, Marketing Chair of James River Advisory Council, RVAgreen 2050 Action Planning Committee member, Virginia EarthDay.org Leader and serves as lead on Virginia Marine Debris Action Plan on the Consumer Debris initiative. Tracey is passionate about building partnerships, cultivating volunteers and working with all communities on initiatives to accomplish cleaner, greener neighborhoods, streams and roadways for all zip codes in VA!

Joe Benedetto

Joe is a third-generation member of the recycling and solid waste industry and has worked in and around recycling facilities his entire life. Joe's earliest work was at his family's Recycling Plant in Chesapeake, VA where he was a general laborer and equipment operator. From there Joe obtained a BSBA in Finance from American University and went on to work for the largest manufacturer and consumer of corrugated containers in the world, Stone Container Corporation. At Stone Container, Joe oversaw managing and marketing of over \$85 million dollars' worth of recycled fiber annually. After Stone Container, Joe accepted a position with Paper Recycling International (PRI) where he became Procurement Manager and provided recycled fiber analysis and procurement strategies for 12 paper mills along the East Coast of the US and Canada. In 1999 Joe decided to return to Hampton Roads and work for his family's recycling company. After a few years as Vice President overseeing the operation and management of 3 facilities, Joe left to join Cellmark, a multibillion-dollar recycling and paper sales company. Joe was responsible for management of their four recycling facilities. In 2005, Joe started RDS

and has expanded the company into both Portsmouth, VA and Roanoke, VA. RDS specializes in MFR operations with an emphasis on Single Stream Recycling. RDS employs the most modern technology in our facilities, and was one of the first facilities to utilize AMP Robots to perform material sorting.

Meghann Quin

Meghann Quinn has managed the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Pollution Prevention for the past 6 years. The Office of Pollution Prevention promotes green practices that go beyond regulatory requirements through programs including the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program, Virginia Green, and the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. The Office is currently working on the implementation of Executive Order 77, Virginia Leading by Example to Reduce Plastic Pollution and Solid Waste. Prior to working with DEQ, she gained experience working with industry and municipalities on compliance and environment management systems. Ms. Quinn has a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Mary Washington. She grew up on Long Island. In her free time you can find Meghann running or chasing her 2 young boys around.

Prina Chadasama

Prina Chudasama is the Litter and Recycling Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Quality in Richmond VA. She has been with DEQ for a little over 6 years. She started her career with DEQ in 2014 as the coordinator for the SARA Title III/EPCRA program which deals with the reporting of hazardous chemicals to the state and local governments. Prina currently handles the SWIA, recycling rate, recycling tax credits, solid waste management plans and litter grant programs. She works closely with local governments and solid waste planning units to provide information and guidance on litter prevention and recycling topics and promote environmental awareness. Prina has a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA.

Sanjay Thirunagari

Sanjay Thirunagari is currently the Waste Planning & Data Reporting Manager in the Land Division for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He is responsible for the management and oversight of the Solid waste planning and data reporting programs. Sanjay currently handles the SWIA, recycling, recycling equipment certification for tax credits, solid waste management plans, SARA Title 3, HW data, and litter grant programs. Having been with the state for the past 30 years, he has worked in solid and hazardous waste permitting, technical and supervisory/management positions within DEQ and predecessor agencies.