



AGENDA — MONDAY, MAY 2

7:30	Registration & breakfast <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>		
8:30	Exhibitor setup <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>		
9:00	Recycling <i>Offsite</i>	Solid Waste <i>Offsite</i>	Hazardous Waste <i>Offsite</i>
	Bicycle Glass Tour Michael Boyd, Bicycle Glass <i>(FULL)</i> Amazon Paint Tour Marty Bergstedt, Amazon Paint <i>(FULL)</i>	Vonco II Waste Campus Tour Aric Olsen, Vonco <i>(FULL)</i> Northern Metals Tour Jake Hansen, Northern Metals <i>(FULL)</i>	Vonco II Waste Campus Tour Aric Olsen, Vonco <i>(FULL)</i> Northern Metals Tour Jake Hansen, Northern Metals <i>(FULL)</i>
10:45	<i>Depart tour facility</i>		
11:15	Recycling <i>Northland Ballroom</i>	<i>Bus departs Marriott at 8:30 AM</i>	
	Recycling Markets from the MRF/seller perspective Moderator: Michelle Palm Sharon Schriever, Olmsted County Paul Wagner, Recycle Minnesota Miriam Holsinger, Eureka Recycling		
12:00	Lunch & Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer & Hennepin 2</i>		
1:00	Joint Session <i>Northland Ballroom</i> Standardization of Sustainability Reporting Becky Richert, UNFI Nick Reishus, Scott County Mary Trenchard, Retired		
2:15	Break & Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>		





AGENDA — MONDAY, MAY 2

2:30	Recycling <i>Northland Ballroom</i>	Solid Waste <i>Minnesota Ballroom</i>	Hazardous Waste <i>Hennepin Ballroom 1</i>
	<p>Beyond the curb: Other materials that get recycled Moderator: Susan Heffron</p> <p>Marty Bergstedt, Amazon Paint</p> <p>Donnie Hopp, PECE Recycling</p> <p>EJ Tso, Ridwell</p>	<p>Emerald Ash Borer / Wood Waste in Minnesota Moderator: Peder Sandhei</p> <p>Mark Abrahamson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Tim Farnan, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</p>	<p>Hazardous Waste Guidance and MPCA/USEPA Regulatory Updates Joshua Burman, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</p>
3:30	<p>Joint Session <i>Northland Ballroom</i></p> <p>The State of the Insurance Market 2022 John Frank & David Lewis, The Mahoney Group</p> <p>Safety issues and cost of risk Jennifer Volkman, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</p>		
4:30	<p>All-Attendee Reception <i>Grand Lobby</i></p>		
6:00	<p>Day one concludes</p>		





AGENDA — TUESDAY, MAY 3

7:00	Registration, Breakfast and Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>			
8:00	Keynote Lecture <i>Northland Ballroom</i> <i>Opening remarks by Lori Nelson, RAM</i> PFAS in Minnesota – What We’ve Learned and Where We’re Headed Virginia Yingling - Senior Hydrogeologist, Environmental Health Division, Minnesota Dept. of Health			
9:00	Break & Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>			
9:30	Joint Session <i>Northland Ballroom</i> Moderator: Jodi Taitt, EcoConsilium What does Environmental Justice have to do with waste? Filsan Ibrahim, Ramsey County & Michelle Garvey, University of Minnesota Erika Pablo, Patty Liu and Mark Monteiro, King County (virtual)			
10:45	Break & Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>			
11:15	Recycling <i>Minnesota Ballroom</i>	Food Waste Diversion <i>Hennepin Ballroom 1</i>	Solid Waste <i>Arbor Lakes</i>	Sustainability <i>Northland Ballroom</i>
	Reducing Residential Waste & Creating an Efficient Self-Service Checkout System for the Public Ali Vandercook, Dakota County Kellie Kish & Claire Pardubsky, City of Minneapolis	Panel: National Overview of Food Waste Diversion Moderator: Becky Richert, UNFI US Food Waste Diversion Updates Frank Franciosi, US Compost Council US FW Diversion Opportunities in the US and MN Bridget Callahan, Northstar Recycling Generators Diversion Obstacles Becky Richert, UNFI	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Moderator: Bruce Rehwaldt, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC Brad Granley, Leachate Management Specialists Henry Croll, Stantec	Creating a Circular Economy for Packaging in Minnesota: How Extended Producer Responsibility Can Help Sydney Harris, Product Stewardship Institute (virtual) Mallory Anderson, Hennepin County
12:30	Lunch & Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer & Hennepin 2</i>			



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





1:30	Recycling <i>Minnesota Ballroom</i>	Food Waste Diversion <i>Hennepin Ballroom 1</i>	Solid Waste <i>Arbor Lakes</i>	Sustainability <i>Northland Ballroom</i>
	<p>Recycling Means Minnesota Jobs! Hear How Companies Process Recycled Material into a New Product Moderator: Wayne Gjerde, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</p> <p>Luke Palen, Spectro Alloys</p> <p>Andrew LeJeune, Glass Art Design</p> <p>Anne Haakenson, Avon Plastics</p>	<p>Panel: Composting Facility Perspectives Moderator: Dan Krivit, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC</p> <p>Overview of today's compost facility challenges Chuck Joswiak, Specialized Environmental Technologies</p> <p>Key messages for the public regarding jumping worms and composting Laura Van Riper, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>Operational Challenges at Composting Facilities in Minnesota Max Milinkovich, Wexford Services</p>	<p>Managing Waste on Specialized Campuses: MSP and LAX Airports Moderator: Cami VanAbel, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC</p> <p>MAC Study Lewis Segl, Metropolitan Airports Commission</p> <p>Zero Waste Planning at Los Angeles World Airports: Successes and Challenges Bob Craggs, Burns & McDonnell</p>	<p>Communicating Sustainability's Complexities Kate Bartelt, HDR</p> <p>Jessica ShROUT (virtual), Circle Three Branding</p> <p>Tim Pratt, City of Brooklyn Park</p> <p>Ryan Buhay (virtual), ReCollect Systems</p>
2:45	Break & Exhibits <i>Hennepin Foyer</i>			





3:15	Recycling <i>Minnesota Ballroom</i>	Food Waste Diversion <i>Hennepin Ballroom 1</i>	Solid Waste <i>Arbor Lakes</i>	Sustainability <i>Northland Ballroom</i>
	<p>Panel Discussion: Recycling at Multi-Unit Residential Properties Moderator: Rob Friend, MN Waste Wise Foundation</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i> Nathan Reinbold, Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management</p> <p>Shannon Conk & Leslie Duling McCollam, Ramsey-Washington Recycling & Energy</p> <p>Elizabeth Walsh & Bonnie Nord, Minnesota Waste Wise</p>	<p>Panel: Compost Market Development Moderator: Chuck Joswiak, Specialized Environmental Technologies</p> <p>Role of Compost in Soil Health Nick Vetsch, Stantec</p> <p>Local Government Soil Management Policies Gregg Thompson, City of Eagan</p> <p>Biochar/Compost use Jim Doten, Minneapolis Health Department</p>	<p>Energy & Waste Policy Kate Bartelt, Minnesota Resource Recovery Association</p> <p>Chris McConn Otter Tail County</p> <p>Steve Vrchota Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management</p>	<p>Reuse trends in the built environment Moderator: Marty Bergstedt, Amazon Paint</p> <p>Melissa Wenzel, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</p> <p>Olivia Cashman, Hennepin County</p> <p>Emily Barker, Reuse Minnesota</p>
4:30	Conference Ends			





CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The 2022 RAM/SWANA Conference is an annual event (after a 2-year covid hiatus) that brings together professionals from all aspects of the solid waste, recycling and waste reduction industry. The 2-day conference features educational sessions and tours in the track topics of Solid Waste, Recycling, Hazardous Waste, Organics and Sustainability.

The conference seeks to inform and educate professionals on these relevant and current topics in order to support the innovation, knowledge, safety awareness and inspiration within these fields. In addition to the traditional instruction, attendees from around the state will have the valuable opportunity to share their knowledge and best practices with one another, improving the professional relationships and expertise of this vital industry.

The RAM/SWANA Conference will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning, with all sessions available live online (with the exception of the tours which will be in-person only).

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Landfill Operator Certification and Training (LOCT) Unit has approved accreditation of the Solid Waste Operators Conference to be delivered on May 2 and 3, 2022:

- Eleven (11) direct credits of Continuing Education training accreditation for in-person attendees
- Nine (9) direct credits of Continuing Education training accreditation for virtual attendees

Attendees may claim up to the credits listed above toward Landfill Operator certification requirements for successfully completing all required sessions.

EVALUATION

An electronic survey will be sent to your email address shortly after the conference. We ask you take a few minutes at that time to share your feedback. The results will help in the planning of future conferences.

CONFERENCE SLIDES

Slides will be available to download or print after the conference at swanmn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lorilee Blais

Environmental Program Coordinator
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

Don Chapdelaine

Community Relations
SKB Environmental

Matthew Evans

Project Manager
Burns McDonnell

Anika Hager

Coordinator
Native Sustainability

Susan Heffron

Recycling Market Development Program
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Hayley Matthews-Jones

Conference Planner
Vanishing Point Events

Lori Nelson

Executive Director
Recycling Association of Minnesota

Pete O'Keefe

Board Member
ReUSE Minnesota and Recycling Association
of Minnesota

Kristin Pierskalla

Senior Planner, Waste Reduction &
Recycling
Hennepin County

Michael Reed, MBA

Division Manager | Recycling & Energy Joint
Leadership
Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health
Environmental Health Division

Rebecca Richert

Corporate Manager – Waste and Recycling
Facilities Management
UNFI

Peder Sandhei

Principal Planner
Sustainable Materials Management Unit
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Courtney Selstad

Operations Manager
Recycling Association of Minnesota

Jodi Taitt

Founder & Principal Consultant
EcoConsilium

Maggie M. Yauk

Public Policy, Planning and Information
Specialist
Anoka County





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

Keynote Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Silver Sponsors



Supporters



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference



Updated 5/2/2022



Exhibitors



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
 May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
 Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





LOGISTICS

Parking

Plenty of free parking is available adjacent to the Marriott Conference Center entrance. If you are staying overnight in the hotel, please use the lot closest to the main hotel entrance. If you are attending only for the day, please use the conference center entrance.

Public Transit

Don't like to drive? Consider using public transit. Marriott Northwest is on the bus line. Plan your route now with Metro Transit: <https://www.metrotransit.org/trip-planner>.

Internet Access

Complimentary wireless internet access is available throughout the meeting space and in guest rooms. Connect to the **marriott_conference** network. Password: **northwest2174**

Restrooms

Restrooms are located throughout the conference center. A gender-neutral restroom is located in the hotel lobby.

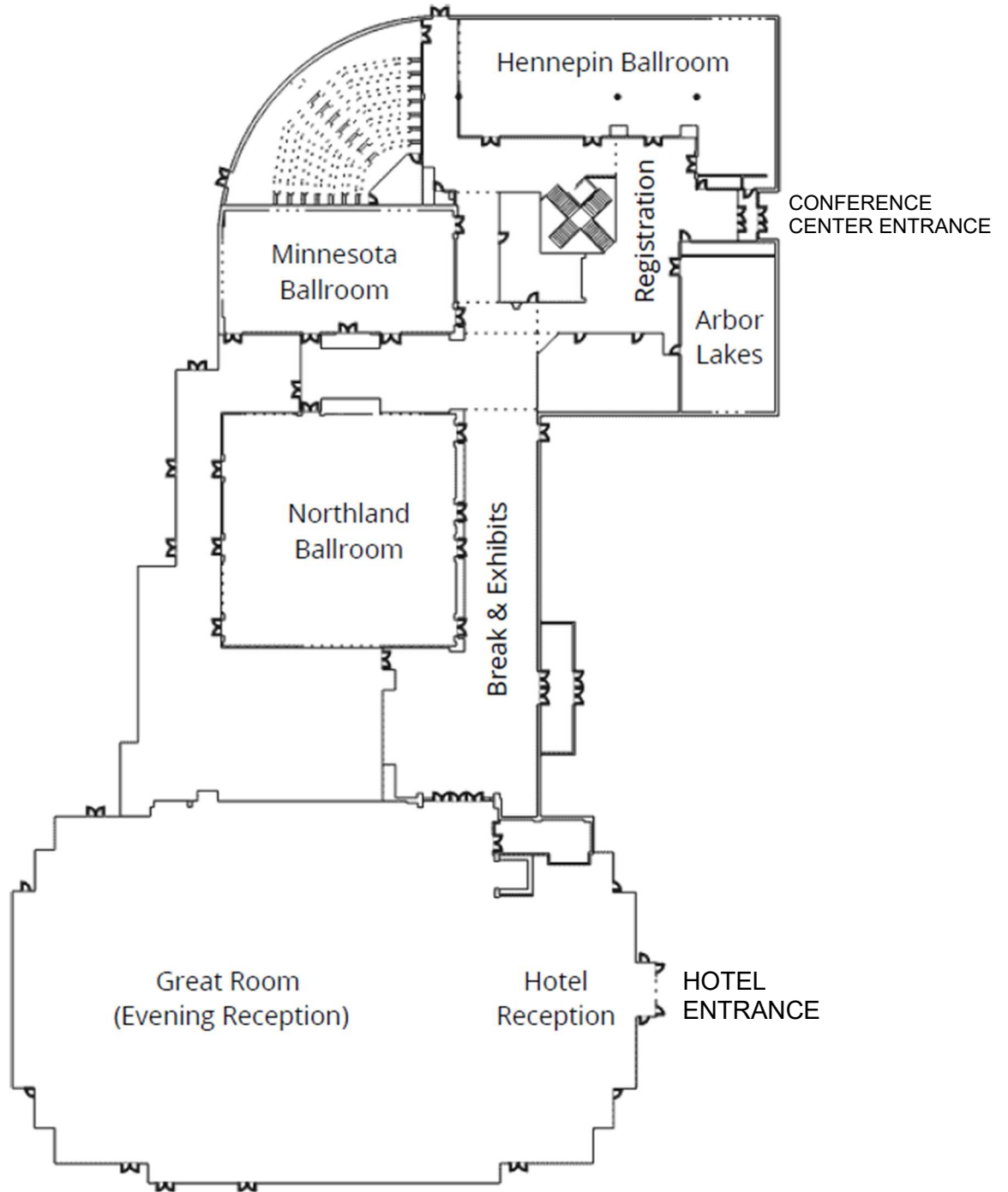
Restaurant

The hotel restaurant is open for dinner every evening from 5-10pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the conference.





CONFERENCE CENTER FLOOR PLAN



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
 May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
 Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference



Updated 5/2/2022



CONNECTING AT THE CONFERENCE

Virtual attendance

You will receive the link to join the conference sessions in advance of the conference. We encourage you to submit questions using the chat feature which will be moderated by an in-room staff person and presented during the Q&A.

Twitter and Instagram

Join the conversation! [#RAMSWANA2022](https://twitter.com/RAMSWANA2022)



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanmn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





MONDAY, APRIL 2 – OFFSITE TOURS

RECYCLING TRACK

Bicycle Glass

9:00 – 10:45

Monday, May 2

7631 Baker St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432 [map](#)

***Attendees with last name beginning A-J meet at Bicycle Glass at 9:00, switch to Amazon Paint at 9:45.**

Amazon Paint

9:00 – 10:45

Monday, May 2

350 73rd Ave NE #3, Fridley, MN 55432 [map](#)

***Attendees with last name beginning K-Z meet at Amazon Paint at 9:00, switch to Bicycle Glass at 9:45**

We encourage tour attendees to car pool. Locations have limited lot parking or free street parking nearby.

Bicycle Glass is an artisan lighting company that creates hand-blown fixtures using recycled glass from Minnesota. The tour will be conducted by founders David Royce and Michael Boyd. Participants will see the glass recycling process at work in an end market as well as learn from these local business owners on how they source and use recycled materials and sustainable practices in their product and throughout their business process.

Attendees will also go down the road to Amazon Paint and tour that facility with business President and RAM Treasurer, Marty Bergstedt. Amazon Paint takes leftover paint, often collected by RAM/SWANA attendees, and uses it to manufacture a new paint product. They also manufacture non-coatings from reusable or spent paints. Since 1992, they have manufactured many million pounds of paint into alternative products. They are part of the national Paint Stewardship program managed by PaintCare which has the goal of reducing the amount of paint sent to landfills and incinerators.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Tour Leaders



Michael Boyd
Co-Owner
Bicycle Glass

Michael Boyd has been working with glass since 1987. At the age of 14 his parents enrolled him in a glassblowing class at the Toledo Museum of Art. Since that time he has worked with and for many private glassblowers throughout the upper Midwest. In 1999 Michael along with his brother started their own studio called Foci and produced fine art vases which were sold in galleries and shows throughout the country. In 2002 Michael transformed part of that business into Foci Minnesota Center For Glass Arts based in Minneapolis. Foci / MCGA was structured to teach classes in glass to all levels and to give glass artists a studio to work out of on a rental basis. Foci / MCGA gained 501c3 non profit status in 2009 and continues to operate today. In 2014 Michael founded a private glass studio with two friends and began to design glass lighting. In 2016 He partnered with David Royce to found Bicycle Glass Co. to make glass lighting from post consumer recycled glass. Today Bicycle Glass Co. employees 25 persons making a variety of handblown glass pendant lights from Post Consumer recycled glass.



Marty Bergstedt
President
Amazon Environmental

Martin Bergstedt obtained a Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota and joined Economics Laboratory (now Ecolab) at their pilot plant in Eagan performing organic synthesis process development studies and plant start-ups. From there he held positions of progressively increasing scope and responsibility at ETD Technology and DuPont Electronics, and then spent ten years in General Manager positions with Aptus Environmental in Lakeville, and USFilter (Veolia) at their Recovery Services facility in Roseville. He then went to U.S. Water Services as Director of Engineering and Project Management, overseeing the design, specification and installation of water treatment systems for 60 new ethanol plants. Since 2012 he has been with Amazon Environmental in Fridley, the nation's largest consumer latex paint recycler and is currently President and responsible for four locations across the mid-west and west.





SOLID WASTE TRACK

HAZARDOUS WASTE TRACK

Vonco II Waste Campus

9:00 – 11:30

Monday, May 2

15301 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308 [map](#)

EMR Northern Metals

9:00 – 11:30

Monday, May 2

12432 Energy Drive, Becker, MN 55308 [map](#)

****Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste tour participants must ride the complimentary bus sponsored by Vonco which departs Marriott Northwest at 8:30 am. All attendees must wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes.***

Attendees will spend the first part of the morning touring the Vonco landfill “waste campus” with Vonco Environmental Manager, Aric Olsen. The tour will include visits to the industrial waste landfill and the construction and demolition landfill. In addition to seeing it in action, attendees will learn about the operational and environmental practices in place at this facility and hear about the various innovations enacted at the site since it opened in 2003. Attendees will then go to the EMR Northern Metals facility in Becker to learn about the management and operations of the metals recycling site. The tour will include seeing innovations in steel shredding and processing technology that is unique in the country for its size and full enclosure.

Tour Leaders



Aric Olsen

Environmental Manager

Vonco

Aric has been Vonco’s Environmental manager since 2014 and brings a science based background to his position by being a Professional Geologist. His responsibilities at Vonco include managing permit compliance and permit modifications, as well as environmental monitoring and reporting. Prior to Vonco, Aric was an environmental consultant working on a wide variety of soil/groundwater investigations related to contamination clean up, mining and landfill siting.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Jake Hansen
Site Manager, EMR Northern Metals

Jake began his career with EMR as a union employee on in 2006 at our Minneapolis location. He has held 13 separate positions at four different sites which include everything from Warehouse (where he fell in love with the industry buying the various non-ferrous commodities and interacting with the customers at the front line), Shredder Operator, Load Inspector to managing MRP operations and so much more prior to becoming the Site Manager in Becker in 2019.

"The opportunities and responsibilities I've been given during my career at EMR have allowed me to work alongside an all-inclusive diverse team of men and women who work with integrity that enjoy the valuable service that we provide to the industry. Along the way I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge.

As with any large company we work hard to overcome adversity, learn to adapt to change and embrace everyday challenges. I find that being a team player, being forward thinking and proactively developing plans to avoid potential problems is one of my favorite parts of the job.

As we continue to navigate the ever changing recycling industry I am very fortunate to be on the forefront of EMR's green field build out in Becker. To be part of the design and decision making process of the state- of- the- art shredding facility has been one of the best learning experiences with EMR. Being the first of its kind anywhere in the world and setting new environmental standards within the industry it has been a challenge with so much excitement at the same time. I take pride in working for EMR because we invest and care about our employees and the environment."





RECYCLING TRACK

Recycling Markets from the MRF/seller perspective

11:15 – 12:00

Monday, May 2

The state of recycling markets has changed drastically since the last in-person conference. In the 2021 webinar series we heard from Chaz Miller about the markets from a national perspective. This session will bring it home with a panel discussion with three MRFs/sellers to discuss current market prices and changes in the incoming recycling stream. The panel has representatives from urban, suburban and greater MN MRFs to ensure a full-state picture.

Moderator



Michelle Palm
Program Manager
MN Waste Wise

Michelle Palm is a Program Manager with Minnesota Waste Wise and works with businesses throughout the metro to encourage waste reduction and the implementation of recycling and organics programs. She also serves on the Women's Environmental Network board of directors. When not digging through recycling, Michelle enjoys gardening, woodworking, and exploring the state while hiking and camping.

Speakers



Miriam Holsinger
Vice President of Operations and Business Intelligence
Eureka Recycling

Miriam is the Vice President of Operations and Business Intelligence at Eureka Recycling, a non-profit social enterprise in Minneapolis working towards their Zero Waste mission through a variety of initiatives, including innovative recycling collection and processing programs. She's worked on recycling and waste reduction issues for over 20 years, the last 16 years at Eureka, where she uses continuous process improvement to oversee the performance of the Materials Recovery Facility. Her work includes selling the sorted recyclables and evaluating opportunities for increased quality, technology, environmental and social impact, and efficiency.

Mike Robinson
Recycle Minnesota



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Sharon Schriever
Regional Programs Manager
Olmsted County

Sharon works for the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department on public education and outreach activities, strategic planning and ordinances. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Southeastern Minnesota Recyclers Exchange (SEMREX) marketing recyclable materials, waste abatement activities, public education and recycling projects. SEMREX has 9 public members and several private members. Sharon has been involved in recycling and garbage management with Olmsted County for over 30 years.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanmn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





JOINT SESSION

Standardization of Sustainability Reporting

1:00 – 2:15
Monday, May 2

Companies, organizations and governments are all making changes toward sustainability, but is everyone speaking the same language? Hear from speakers in the public and private sectors discuss the need for standardization of terms, measurements and reporting in the waste and recycling industry, and their suggestions for how that can be achieved.

Speakers



Rebecca Richert
Corporate Manager for Waste and Recycling
UNFI

Becky is the Corporate Manager for Waste and Recycling at UNFI, a leading grocery supplier that has 60+ distribution centers, 100+ retail locations, and 5 corporate office locations throughout the US and Eastern Canada. Prior to this role, she was in the retail sector as an employee with a national big box chain. Areas within that company included time in the merchandising, transportation, and property development divisions focused on end-of-life programs and solutions.

She has been in this industry for 15+ years and has managed all aspects of waste and recycling programs including research, development, sourcing, training, implementation, and program management. Becky is considered a subject matter expert amongst her colleagues, peers and suppliers. A few career highlights have included presenting at various regional and national conferences, a local news segment highlighting UNFI's plastic film recycling, and receiving the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability award for two years in a row from her employer.



Nick Reishus
Environmentalist II, Recycling and Solid Waste Program
Scott County Environmental Health

Nick coordinates Recycling and Solid Waste Program efforts in Scott County, one of Minnesota's 7 metro counties. With a population of 150,928 in 2020, Scott is the 9th most populous county in the state and was the second fastest growing county between 2010 and 2020 with a 16.2% growth. As a metro county, Scott is required to report waste and recycling data annually via both SCORE and MPCA Data Certification Reports and meet a 75% recycling goal by December 31, 2030. They are also required to develop and implement a Solid Waste Master Plan



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





every 5 years with specific requirements on Restriction on Disposal and metro recycling goals in an effort to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Since finishing college in 2006 Nick has been working in environmental and natural resources fields with the MNDNR, MPCA, and Scott County. He has been in his current position with the County since 2016 where he leads the county's efforts in solid waste facility and hauler licensing, solid waste facility inspections, and SCORE and certification reporting. He also coordinates recycling education and outreach, recycling grant initiatives, and recycling and solid waste planning and enforcement. When not busy with recycling and solid waste tasks, Nick is also the County Noxious Weed Inspector and works in the County's Septic and Household Hazardous Waste Programs.

Before, during, and after college, Nick served 3 years in the U.S. Army and 10 years in the Colorado and MN Army National Guards. He is currently a member of the Belle Plaine Fire Department where he is proud to serve his community and share his passion for recycling and environmental with his fellow firefighters and community members.



Mary Trenchard
Retired

A senior executive professional with over 25 years of leadership experience servicing mid-market and Fortune 500 companies. The last 10 years have been specific to the Solid Waste and Recycling environment. Demonstrated success in business development, strategic planning, execution, financial management achieving strong customer and employee satisfaction across multiple industries, including early stage start-up through established work environments.





RECYCLING TRACK

Beyond the Curb: Other materials that get recycled

2:30 – 3:30

Monday, May 2

We tend to concentrate on materials that are collected at the residential curb, but many more materials get recycled through other methods, and in this session, we will hear from companies that do just that. Learn about some specialty recycling companies that are reducing waste and expanding operations!

Moderator



Susan Heffron

Recycling Market Development Program
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Susan Heffron is a 30-year veteran of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She currently works in Recycling Market Development. Susan helps to create and maintain the demand for recyclable material by working with a number of different stakeholders – businesses, haulers, processors, end markets, universities and local governments. She connects people with resources to overcome barriers to using recycled material. Susan also administers the newly started recycling markets development grant program with funding from the legislature. Susan received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Minnesota. Her first professional job was for the MPCA and she never left! She has worked in Solid Waste, Air Quality, and Environmental Review. Susan is also a 23-year volunteer at the Minnesota Zoo and a hockey mom.

Speakers



Donnie Hopp

Owner and President
P.E.C.E Recycling

My name is Donald (Donnie) Hopp, owner and president of P.E.C.E. Recycling, Inc., located in my hometown of Cosmos MN. My company name stands for Paper, Electronics, Cardboard and Everything else. The Everything else describes my desire to recycle items traditional recycling companies do not take. I grew up on a small dairy farm and was taught the values of honesty, hard work and being trustworthy. My goal for my company is a cleaner sustainable environment for my family and future generations. I have worked in the recycling industry since 2009, first with McLeod County as their recycling manager, and then in the private sector. These experiences made me realize how many products are not recycled and are filling up



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





landfills. This led to my desire to open my own company, and my goal of saving the environment one item at a time.



Marty Bergstedt
President
Amazon Environmental

Martin Bergstedt obtained a Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota and joined Economics Laboratory (now Ecolab) at their pilot plant in Eagan performing organic synthesis process development studies and plant start-ups. From there he held positions of progressively increasing scope and responsibility at ETD Technology and DuPont Electronics, and then spent ten years in General Manager positions with Aptus Environmental in Lakeville, and USFilter (Veolia) at their Recovery Services facility in Roseville. He then went to U.S. Water Services as Director of Engineering and Project Management, overseeing the design, specification and installation of water treatment systems for 60 new ethanol plants. Since 2012 he has been with Amazon Environmental in Fridley, the nation's largest consumer latex paint recycler and is currently President and responsible for four locations across the mid-west and west.



EJ Tso
General Manager | Twin Cities
Ridwell

Waste reduction is not just a professional interest but also a personal passion for E.J. Tso. As General Manager of Ridwell Twin Cities, his goal each day is to help Twin Cities residents waste less by diverting as much as possible from traditional waste streams.

With 20+ years of sales leadership and entrepreneurial experience, E.J. is proud to work with a dedicated team of mission-driven men and women who have collected over 16,000 pounds of batteries, lightbulbs, textiles, and plastic film from Twin Cities homes since Ridwell started operations in early January 2022.

When not helping lead Ridwell Twin Cities, this 17-year resident of Minneapolis can be found exploring one of the many local trails with his family. E.J. is a proud human dad, dog dad, husband, and fitness enthusiast.





SOLID WASTE TRACK

Emerald Ash Borer / Wood Waste in Minnesota

2:30 – 3:30

Monday, May 2

As the invasive species emerald ash borer takes its toll on Minnesota forests, learn the best practices for dealing with the increase in wood waste, while lessening the spread through community education and proper containment.

Moderator



Peder Sandhei

Principal Planner - Sustainable Materials Management Unit
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Peder Sandhei has been working for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in solid waste planning for 16 years. He currently is the lead planner for the Twin Cities Metro Area. He is involved in a number of planning related issues such as the Metro Policy Plan, certificate of need for landfills, waste designation, organized collection, and hauler reporting. Prior to working at the Agency, he was an environmental consultant. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Minnesota - Duluth in Environmental Studies and a Master's Degree in Geography (Remote sensing and GIS) from the University of Kansas.

Speakers



Mark Abrahamson

Plant Protection Division Director, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Mark has worked at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture since 1999 as an entomologist, manager and currently Plant Protection Division Director since 2018. The Plant Protection Division regulates and serves a variety of industries producing plants or plant products as well as protecting natural and agricultural resources from invasive species. A lot of his work as an entomologist has been with emerald ash borer and particular focuses have been detection methods, management impacts on population growth, and overwintering biology.





Tim Farnan

Supervisor Planning and Assistance Unit
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Tim has been at the MPCA for 15 years during which time his work has focused on source reduction, recycling, and composting. He recently accepted a new job with the agency supervising the Planning and Assistance Unit. The unit supports solid waste planning efforts for counties across the state and includes sustainable procurement and the GreenStep Cities programs. Tim also serves on the Minnesota Composting Council's board of directors and holds a degree in urban studies and public policy from Boston University.

Prior to arriving at the MPCA, Tim was a customer service manager at Eureka Recycling. Tim lives in St Paul with his wife and four-year-old daughter and enjoys spending time outdoors, playing tennis, and riding his bike.





HAZARDOUS WASTE TRACK

Hazardous Waste Guidance and MPCA/USEPA Regulatory Updates

2:30 – 3:30
Monday, May 2

Learn the latest regulation updates and areas of concern from the MPCA. This annual update is a must for anyone dealing with the waste of ever-changing list of hazardous substances across Minnesota.

Speakers



Joshua Burman
Hazardous Waste Regulator
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Joshua Burman has been a hazardous waste regulator with the MPCA since 2002, specializing in rules, regulatory interpretation, policy, healthcare, recycled wastes, toxic chemicals, and PCBs.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanmn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





JOINT SESSION

Safety & Liability

3:30 – 4:30
Monday, May 2

Please join us to hear about the challenges of finding the right level of insurance coverage for your facility as well as what market factors are driving pricing from workers comp to vehicle liability to cyber security to PFAS to full facility coverage. Our second speaker will be presenting on a very specific threat to solid waste and recycling facilities – improper management of Lithium batteries. There is an average of one significant facility fire per month across the country attributed to Lithium batteries!

The State of the Insurance Market 2022

Speakers



John Frank
Senior Property and Casualty Advisor
The Mahoney Group

John Frank has been a Property & Casualty Advisor since 2001. Prior to that he was a Large Claims Specialist (1992-2001) and has been an Associate in Claims Designation since 1992. John is licensed in all states and was the Property Practice Leader for International Insurance Broker 2006-2020.



David Lewis
Agency Partner / Property & Casualty Advisor
The Mahoney Group

David Lewis has been a Property & Casualty Advisor since 2004. He has a BS in Business Management from Arizona State University and is Agency Partner / Owner at The Mahoney Group. He is a former member of the Arizona Workers Compensation Appeals Board. David enjoys spending time with his family, playing basketball (against doctors advice), and fly fishing.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Safety issues and cost of risk

Speaker



Jennifer Volkman
Program Administrator
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Jennifer has worked her entire life at the MPCA, first in Solid Waste enforcement, then Hazardous Waste enforcement, and for the past 25 years in Household Hazardous Waste, which straddles both programs. The challenges to HHW Programs, retail, schools, recycling centers to maintain safe and effective battery collection and recycling programs have been considerable. She continues to work with EPA, DOT and waste contractors to troubleshoot end management of batteries, as the regulatory framework continues to evolve. Embedded batteries are our greatest current safety challenge, and their ubiquitous nature has presented considerable cost and management challenges for all collectors.

ALL-ATTENDEE RECEPTION

Join us for a welcome reception!

4:30 – 6:00
Grand Lobby



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





KEYNOTE LECTURE

PFAS in Minnesota – What We’ve Learned and Where We’re Headed

8:00 – 9:00

Tuesday, May 3

PFAS is a hot topic in the waste and recycling industry throughout the county. In this keynote session, Ginny will go over the Minnesota perspective on how the state is dealing with PFAS exposure, testing and regulation. This topic spans solid waste, recycling and the manufacturing industry in general. What is and is not in our control in the regulation and management of these chemicals?

Moderator



Lori Nelson

Executive Director
Recycling Association of Minnesota

Lori brings a diverse background to the Recycling Association of Minnesota. She is a licensed attorney who has over 25 years of experience as an executive leader in the nonprofit sector, most recently as the Executive Director for the Woodbury Community Foundation. Lori has worked extensively with conservation organizations, foundations and philanthropic organizations, business interests, and political advocacy groups. She has served as President of the Richfield Chamber of Commerce, CEO of the Richfield Tourism Promotion Board, Executive Director of Friends of the Minnesota Valley, and as the Heartland Regional Director of the National Parks Conservation Association. Lori also has her own nonprofit consulting business.

Throughout her career, Lori has provided leadership in the areas of fundraising and donor development, strategic planning, marketing and branding, board development, membership growth, program evaluation, implementing best management practices, and ensuring compliance. She has worked in start-up situations as well as working with growing organizations and those in crisis.

Lori has a Juris Doctorate from Hamline University School of Law, a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science (summa cum laude) from St. Cloud State University, and a Mini-MBA from the University of St. Thomas School of Executive Education.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Keynote Speaker



Virginia Yingling

Senior Hydrogeologist, Environmental Health Division
Minnesota Department of Health

Ginny Yingling is a senior hydrogeologist in the Environmental Health Division of the Minnesota Department of Health. She works with a team of Health Risk Assessors to evaluate human exposures to harmful chemicals in drinking water related to man-made contaminated sites. Since 2003, she has been the agency's lead investigator of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (or PFAS).

Ginny holds a B.S. from Penn State, and a M.S. from the University of Wyoming, both in geology. She has over 25 years of experience working on contaminated sites - first as an environmental consultant, then at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and since 2000, at the Department of Health. From 2017-2020, she co-chaired the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council's PFAS Team, which developed an in-depth report on PFAS and a series of online and in-person training modules.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanmn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





JOINT SESSION

What does Environmental Justice have to do with waste?

9:30 – 10:45

Tuesday, May 3

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The environment is the physical and natural world and the indoor and outdoor places where we live, work, play and learn. Environmental justice incorporates the principle of the right of all individuals and communities to be protected from environmental degradation or environmental policies that put them at a disadvantage.

This session will examine the role of environmental justice through the waste management system in Minnesota. We would like to share how environmental justice issues have been neglected in the past and what's being done to fix our past errors at Ramsey County.

Attendees will also hear from Erika Pablo, Patty Liu and Mark Monterio from King County, Washington, where environmental justice work has also been implemented over the past several years. King County gave us a sample of their environmental justice work during the 2021 RAM/SWANA Webinar Series and in this session we will have the opportunity to compare activities happening locally and in another medium-sized national metropolitan area.

Moderator



Jodi Taitt
Founder
EcoConsilium

Jodi Taitt is the founder of EcoConsilium and a TRUE Zero Waste Advisor certified by Green Business Certification, Inc. With a Masters Degree in Economics and over 30 years of industry experience, she uses waste reduction, reuse, recycling and organic waste diversion to help business and government increase efficiencies and decrease costs.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Speakers



Filsan Ibrahim
Environmental Health Specialist
Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health

Filsan Ibrahim is an Environmental Health Specialist at Ramsey County where she works with municipalities to improve recycling programs. She has a passion for environmental justice and hopes to use her resources on the ongoing effort to build a more just world for each and every single one of us, especially BIPOC folks across the globe.



Michelle Garvey, Ph.D.
MN Transform Internship Coordinator & Education Programs Assistant
University of Minnesota

Dr. Michelle Garvey (she/her/hers) is an interdisciplinary educator-activist, specializing in environmental justice (EJ) theory, history, and activism. Incorporating its interconnected fields—climate justice, food justice, reproductive justice, and queer ecology among them—Michelle educates through community-engaged projects that channel student scholarship into the EJ movement. She currently teaches EJ at the University of Minnesota, and serves as an EJ educator and internship coordinator for the Mellon-funded grant initiative Minnesota Transform.



Erika Pablo (virtual)
Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
King County

Erika Pablo (she/her/hers) is the Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager for King County (WA) Department of Natural Resources and Parks – Solid Waste Division (SWD). Erika leads the division-wide Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) work, serves as a member of the senior management team, and leads and convenes the SWD ESJ Committee. She also contributes to the development of policies and strategies, not limited to, workforce equity, budget, capital projects, community engagement, grantmaking, and environmental justice initiatives. Prior to King County, Erika was with the Seattle Office for Civil Rights as a Senior Strategic Advisor with over 6+ years of policy and racial equity experience.





Patty Liu (*virtual*)
Project/Program Manager - Solid Waste Division
King County

Patty Liu (she/her) is a Project/Program Manager for the Solid Waste Division of King County, WA. She leads strategic planning projects, including the Re+ Program which focuses on transforming the county's solid waste system to be recovery- and recycling-based. Prior to her time at King County, she led Eileen Fisher's West Coast clothing recycling and takeback program for 5 years. She holds her MBA in Sustainable Business from Presidio Graduate School.



Mark Monteiro (*virtual*)
Operations Manager
King County Solid Waste Division

Mark started his career with the Solid Waste Division (SWD) in our Operations Section as a supervisor at the transfer stations, responsible for the Factoria, Houghton and Shoreline stations. Mark then moved to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill where he has worked for the last six years in several roles in Accounts Payable, Stores, Facilities Maintenance, Transportation and managing landfill operations crews. This broad cross-training has benefited both Mark and the Division, and positions Mark to hit the ground running as the new Operations Manager.

Mark is an active member of our Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Committee at the Solid Waste Division, Mark is also a member of our Native American affinity group which meets quarterly. He has championed ESJ initiatives such as our "Stop Recycling Racism, It Belongs in the Garbage" campaign and strict enforcement and zero-tolerance of discrimination or harassment in the workplace. He has also partnered with HR on ESJ position "deep dives" aimed at removing hiring barriers such as opening up more entry-level positions and modifying CDL entry requirements.

Before joining SWD, Mark worked for Waste Management in Seattle as a Route Manager, and for United Airlines in multiple cities throughout the country serving in various operations and customer service manager roles. In his spare time Mark enjoys family, camping, golf, music, and running.





RECYCLING TRACK

Reducing Residential Waste & Creating an Efficient Self-Service Checkout System for the Public

11:15 – 12:30
Tuesday, May 3

From process improvements to lifestyle changes, the pandemic pushed us to change our day-to-day behaviors and activities. The City of Minneapolis will share how they took information from a residential COVID-19 waste behavior survey to develop their “love your stuff” campaign encouraging residents to reduce waste and reuse more during the mass purge from residential homes. Dakota County will highlight their new self-service resource checkout system for the public to make event container and education kit reservations contactless, efficient and convenient for everyone. Attend this session to hear about some of the ways the City of Minneapolis and Dakota County have pivoted programs and incorporated these changes for the better.

Speakers



Ali Vandercook
Environmental Specialist
Dakota County

Ali Vandercook is an Environmental Specialist at Dakota County managing both the event and school recycling programs since 2015. Previously, Ali coordinated event recycling at Anoka County and enhanced environmental education programs as a naturalist with Minneapolis Parks & Recreation. She graduated with honors from the University of St. Thomas with a degree in Environmental Studies. When she isn't improving recycling programs, Ali loves spending time outdoors with her two dogs and refereeing volleyball.



Kellie Kish
Recycling Coordinator
City of Minneapolis

Kellie Kish is the Recycling Coordinator for the City of Minneapolis. She's held the position since April 2013. Her primary job duties include residential education on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, organics management. She leads the City's Zero Waste program efforts, assisted in the development of the Green to Go and Bring Your Own Bag ordinances, oversees the City's container rental program, and is responsible for enforcement of the City's multi-unit recycling ordinance.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Kellie also serves on the board of directors of the Minnesota Composting Council and participates in several local, state and national waste, recycling, and composting committees.



Claire Pardubsky
Minnesota GreenCorps Member
City of Minneapolis

Claire Pardubsky is a Minnesota GreenCorps Member serving with Kellie at the City of Minneapolis. Since her term began in September 2021, she has assisted in opening 3 grant-funded organics drop-off sites, offered recycling assistance to more than 25 multiunit properties, and is organizing the City's second annual Garden Tool Swap on May 14. Before GreenCorps, Claire graduated from the University of Minnesota with majors in Psychology and Spanish Studies. When she's not taking action on climate with the city or as a volunteer for MN350, Claire loves climbing and playing board games with friends.





FOOD WASTE DIVERSION TRACK

Panel: National Overview of Food Waste Diversion

11:15 – 12:30

Tuesday, May 3

Moderator



Rebecca Richert

Corporate Manager for Waste and Recycling
UNFI

Becky is the Corporate Manager for Waste and Recycling at UNFI, a leading grocery supplier that has 60+ distribution centers, 100+ retail locations, and 5 corporate office locations throughout the US and Eastern Canada. Prior to this role, she was in the retail sector as an employee with a national big box chain. Areas within that company included time in the merchandising, transportation, and property development divisions focused on end-of-life programs and solutions.

She has been in this industry for 15+ years and has managed all aspects of waste and recycling programs including research, development, sourcing, training, implementation, and program management. Becky is considered a subject matter expert amongst her colleagues, peers and suppliers. A few career highlights have included presenting at various regional and national conferences, a local news segment highlighting UNFI's plastic film recycling, and receiving the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability award for two years in a row from her employer.

Speakers

US Food Waste Diversion Updates

Frank Franciosi

US Compost Council





US FW Diversion Opportunities in the US and MN



Bridget Callahan
National Recycling Director
Northstar Recycling

Bridget Callahan is a National Recycling Director at Northstar Recycling. Northstar Recycling is a national recycling company, founded on the belief that waste has value. Its mission is to help manufacturing, distribution, and other businesses recycle more and landfill less. Bridget has a degree in Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and has had a passion for sustainability her whole life. In her current role, Bridget partners with manufacturing facilities and distribution centers all over the US and Canada to find the best end use for their food and other waste streams.

Generators Diversion Obstacles



Rebecca Richert
Corporate Manager for Waste and Recycling
UNFI

Becky is the Corporate Manager for Waste and Recycling at UNFI, a leading grocery supplier that has 60+ distribution centers, 100+ retail locations, and 5 corporate office locations throughout the US and Eastern Canada. Prior to this role, she was in the retail sector as an employee with a national big box chain. Areas within that company included time in the merchandising, transportation, and property development divisions focused on end-of-life programs and solutions.

She has been in this industry for 15+ years and has managed all aspects of waste and recycling programs including research, development, sourcing, training, implementation, and program management. Becky is considered a subject matter expert amongst her colleagues, peers and suppliers. A few career highlights have included presenting at various regional and national conferences, a local news segment highlighting UNFI's plastic film recycling, and receiving the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability award for two years in a row from her employer.





SOLID WASTE TRACK

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

11:15 – 12:30

Tuesday, May 3

Given the recent media and regulatory attention surrounding PFAS, as described in the morning's keynote, the landfill industry anticipates increased scrutiny regarding PFAS in leachate discharge. This presentation is designed to guide members of the landfill industry on PFAS commonly found in leachate, interpret the results to identify sources, and screen potential treatment options. The discussion includes typical PFAS concentrations in landfill leachate, differences in analytical approaches between sampling schemes, and the impact of weather and climate on PFAS concentrations in landfill leachate.

The removal of PFAS from leachate using existing treatment options is challenging, due to the complex background water chemistry of landfill leachate. Several proven technologies will be reviewed for both benefits and drawbacks, including adsorptive medias, membrane systems, coagulation and settling, and foam fractionation. Some emerging technologies appear to show promise extending options for management of PFAS in landfill leachate. This presentation will provide an overview of a few of these emerging destructive technologies, including electrochemical oxidation, hydrothermal alkaline treatment, and supercritical water oxidation.

Moderator

Bruce Rehwaldt

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC

Speakers



Henry Croll

Water/Wastewater EIT

Stantec

Henry received his bachelors and master's degrees from University Minnesota. He has spent the last several years working for Stantec consulting working on a variety of water and wastewater treatment process designs. Henry is passionate about water, and improving the status quo. Some of his current areas of interest are treatment of contaminants of emergent concern and utilizing machine learning concepts for improved operation of wastewater treatment processes.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Brad Granley
Founder & President
Leachate Management Specialists

Brad Granley is a licensed, professional engineer and the founder and president of Leachate Management Specialists. He has over 25 years of engineering experience and has helped change the way industry looks at managing leachate by helping to develop and implement novel on-site leachate treatment and disposal technologies. His background includes working initially as a remediation engineer on complex soil and groundwater cleanup projects, followed by focusing the last 15 years in solid waste. His project and professional performance includes saving clients millions of dollars, reducing the carbon footprint of facilities, leading multiple National Engineering Excellence award-winning projects, speaking at numerous national and state level technical conferences, and being named as a “Community Changemaker” by the National Waste and Recycling Association for his role in the industry. Brad now lives in sunny Colorado with his wife of 25 years and one of three children still in the house, but he grew up in Duluth, graduated from the U of M, and lived in the Twin Cities for over 20 years.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





SUSTAINABILITY TRACK

Creating a Circular Economy for Packaging in Minnesota: How Extended Producer Responsibility Can Help

11:15 – 12:30

Tuesday, May 3

As momentum for extended producer responsibility (EPR) builds across the nation, experts from the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) and the Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWE) will share how it can play a vital role in realizing a circular economy for packaging in Minnesota. In the U.S., more than 40% of municipal solid waste (over 100 million tons per year) is comprised of packaging and paper products (PPP) — but recycling rates for these materials have been stagnant for over 20 years.

In Minnesota, counties are facing steep challenges in meeting their state-mandated recycling goals. Volatility in global recycling markets, increasing complexity of packaging materials, and economically disruptive forces like the COVID-19 pandemic have placed greater demands on under-resourced recycling systems, leaving communities struggling to keep up with rising waste management costs and an ever-increasing volume of PPP materials. In addition, PPP waste is polluting the environment, including Minnesota rivers, lakes, and streams — and some of it, like microplastics, can cause significant ecological, economic, and human health damage.

The good news is there is a solution: packaging EPR has proven to deliver a vibrant and equitable recycling infrastructure, funded by the companies that put the packaging out in the world. These systems have dramatically increased the recycling rate, decreased contamination, and saved municipalities millions of dollars. In this session, you will learn the key benefits and elements, from financing to governance, of effective EPR for PPP. You'll also hear about the success of existing EPR for PPP programs in other countries — and, more importantly, how PSI and PWE are working together to develop a packaging EPR bill specifically for Minnesota, with input and expertise from all key stakeholders.

Speakers



Mallory Anderson

Policy Specialist
Hennepin County

Mallory Anderson is a policy specialist at Hennepin County in Minnesota. She is the legislative liaison for the Environment and Energy department and identifies priorities to recommend for inclusion in the county's legislative platform. She works with governmental relations staff to monitor and respond to legislative activity of interest to the department as well as the Partnership on Waste and Energy. She is chair of the Solid Waste Administrator Association's



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Product Stewardship committee. Before working as a policy specialist, Mallory supported business waste prevention and recycling work and completed (recycling) SCORE reporting. Mallory started her career at a watershed district doing education and outreach. She holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a master's degree in environmental management and policy from Lund University, Sweden.



Sydney Harris (*virtual*)
Policy & Programs Manager
Product Stewardship Institute

Sydney Harris is a policy and programs manager at the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), where she leads work related to plastics and packaging. She supports U.S. state and local governments in developing, introducing, and passing extended producer responsibility policies for consumer packaging. Sydney's background in marine science and pollution prevention includes microplastics and marine debris research, policy advocacy, and program development, including launching the U.S. EPA's Trash Free Waters program in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. She is also passionate about racial, social, and environmental justice and has held many youth advocacy and education positions.





RECYCLING TRACK

Recycling Means Minnesota Jobs! Hear How Companies Process Recycled Material into a New Product

1:30 – 2:45
Tuesday, May 3

Four Minnesota companies will describe what recyclable material they use, their manufacturing process, their final product, and their customers. Learn how the recycling industry influences private businesses, jobs and the local economy.

Moderator



Wayne Gjerde
Recycling Market Development Coordinator
Environmental Economic Development
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

As the Recycling Market Development Coordinator with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Wayne consults with startup and expanding companies in the areas of finance, new product development, business plan development, sales and marketing. Wayne has also done extensive work in economic analysis linking the environment and economy. Wayne has been a speaker at many local and national recycling events.

Wayne has forty plus years' experience in market development, financial analysis, banking, new business start-ups, sales, marketing, new product development, customer service, consulting, business development, extended producer responsibility and management. He has worked in the private and public sector. Wayne is an current Board member of the National Recycling Coalition.

Wayne earned his B.S. in Business Administration at St. John's University-Collegeville, MN. He also has attended the Minnesota Bankers Commercial Lending School and Robert Morris Associates Commercial Lending School

Speakers



Luke Palen
President and co-owner
Spectro Alloys

Luke Palen is the President and co-owner of Spectro Alloys, an aluminum recycling company located in Rosemount, MN. Spectro's innovative recycling process turns post-consumer and post-industrial recycled aluminum into products you use every day. Apart from



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





used beverage containers, if it is aluminum and recycled in Minnesota, it likely starts its new life at Spectro Alloys. From here, it is shipped to regional die casters and foundries where it is then made into new products for the automotive, power sports, home, medical, turf, and snow maintenance industries. Best of all, recycling at Spectro Alloys provides significant environmental benefits. Spectro’s recycling process uses 95% less energy and releases 95% less CO2 than it takes to produce new aluminum.



Andrew LeJeune
General Manager
Glass Art Design

Andrew is General Manager at M&M Bird Dog Enterprises, a family-owned business of two glass companies: GlassArt Design and Glass & Mirror Outlet. He will be the fourth generation of his family in the construction industry. Before joining the family business Andrew lived in New Orleans managing a branch for an international construction company, APi Group. He received his bachelor’s in finance from University of Denver, as well as an MBA from the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business and a law degree from University of St. Thomas School of Law. Andrew’s passion for combining sustainable practices into business goes back to graduate school, where he served as a member of the Environmental Law Society and as President of the business school’s Net Impact Club. In his free time, he volunteers at his alma mater, serving on the law school alumni board and mentoring law students.



Anne Haakenson (*virtual*)
Vice President and Board Secretary
Avon Plastics

Avon Plastics is a family-owned business, founded in 1966 providing consumers with high quality recycled plastic building materials and lawn & garden products for over 56 years. One of the largest and most experienced plastic and composite recyclers in the US. Our products can be found in stores throughout the continental USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, China, Korea, Israel and Lebanon. We are located in Paynesville, Minnesota and all of our products are made in the USA by American workers using US and Global parts.

As the third generation coming into Avon Plastics, Anne Haakenson has been immersed in many aspects of the business in the last six and a half years. She is currently working on developing processes to help their logistics team become more streamlined and saving costs in this ever-changing market. Anne also serves on the company’s board of directors and is a key member of the leadership team.





FOOD WASTE DIVERSION TRACK

Panel: Composting Facility Perspectives

1:30 – 2:45
Tuesday, May 3

Moderator



Dan Krivit
Environmental Technical Support
Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC

Dan Krivit has specialized in recycling, composting and solid waste management planning for over 43 years working in both government agencies and private companies. As a consultant Dan's has years of experience working with composting facilities and compost market development. In 1992, he produced a one-day seminar for operators of solid waste composting facilities in Minnesota. He prepared information and videos of each of the eight MSW facilities that existed at that time in the state.

Dan currently is a project coordinator out of the Lake Elmo office of Foth Infrastructure & Environment, an engineering and environmental consulting firm based in Green Bay. Within the Public Solid Waste unit, Foth provides expert advice on solid waste operations, regulatory compliance, engineering, and public policy. Foth's services include: solid waste planning, facility design, engineering, community engagement, operations efficiency and sustainability, budget analysis, and many other forms of strategic consulting.

Dan is currently an active member of the Minnesota Composting Council (MNCC). He is assisting the Compost Operators Committee work towards enhanced standardization of compost quality systems in Minnesota. Dan is a member and past president of Recycling Association of Minnesota.

Speakers

Overview of today's compost facility challenges



Chuck Joswiak
Sales & Market Development
Specialized Environmental Technologies

Chuck directs Sales & Market Development while helping oversee site operations at SET, a compost processing company with facilities around the Twin Cities. He has 26+ years in the landscape and horticultural industry and is a member of MNLA. He has worked with contractors, landscape architects, engineers and municipalities designing projects





and utilized hundreds of thousands cubic yards of compost.

Key messages for the public regarding jumping worms and composting



Laura Van Riper

Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Laura Van Riper has been the terrestrial invasive species program coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Program since 2010. Laura works with invasive species policy, management, prevention, and outreach. Key responsibilities include improving invasive species prevention, management, and mapping as well as coordinating and developing invasive species projects and policies with outside organizations. Before working for the DNR, Laura earned a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota. Her research focused on the effects of invasive yellow sweetclover at Badlands National Park, South Dakota. As a postdoctoral researcher at the U of M, Laura studied invasive garlic mustard in Minnesota forests.

Facility operations details of composting food scraps

Max Milinkovich

Owner
MFS Recycling LLC

Max started his environmental work in sales at Waste Management and then had the opportunity to spend time with Oak-leaf Waste Management on the Target Corporation Resource Recovery team. Max has taken ownership in MFS Recycling LLC and a Partner position with Wexford-Services LLC. Under Max's leadership and direction, the companies have turned the MFS Recycling - Compost site in Good Thunder, MN from a closed facility to once again a top receiving and compost producing facility in MN and the Midwest.

The past 2 years since reopening the facility has sold over 20,000 ton of compost/soil amendment and has received over 8000 ton of organics along with other feedstocks. The past year Max has continued in his leadership roles in the Minnesota waste community and nationally while he has gained more knowledge around operations and material sourcing. Max has also started Milinkovich Ag Partners - where the focus is specifically on Ag Related materials, soil health, and manure management. Max continues to serve on the local SWANA Board, the International Compost Awareness Week Committee and he looks forward to continuing that service and pushing the limits of material management as he has done over the past 15 years.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





SOLID WASTE TRACK

Managing Waste on Specialized Campuses: MSP and LAX Airports

1:30 – 2:45

Tuesday, May 3

Places like the MSP airport and the LAX campus are like “cities within cities” and both deal with unique waste streams in addition to the front-end waste generated by the general public. These speakers will discuss their challenges of managing waste in specialized campuses and will talk about what the future of sustainability looks like at these busy institutions.

Moderator

Cami VanAbel

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC

Speakers

Zero Waste Planning at Los Angeles World Airports: Successes and Challenges



Robert Craggs

Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Technical Services Leader
Burns & McDonnell

Robert serves as the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Technical Services Leader for Burns & McDonnell. He has worked in the environmental consulting field for 30 years providing assistance to public and private clients throughout North America in the areas of waste management, recycling, water resources, and renewable energy.

Robert has a Master’s in Environmental Policy and Planning and a J.D. of Law from the University of Iowa. He is an Advisory Board Member for the International Solid Waste Association of North America, Board Member for the Recycling Association of Minnesota, and Chair of the Lower St. Croix Valley Community Foundation. He resides in Lakeland, Minnesota where he currently serves as a City Council member.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





MAC Study



Lewis Segl
Waste Management Specialist
Metropolitan Airports Commission

Lewis is the Waste Management Specialist for the Metropolitan Airports Commission which owns and operates the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and six reliever airports in the Twin Cities. He has worked in the waste management field for 11 years. Starting as a recycling worker for the University of St. Thomas as a student job. He then worked at Dakota Valley Recycling and then Anoka County's Recycling Program before his current role that he has been in for over 3 years.

Lewis graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a degree in Environmental Studies in 2012. He started his environmental work in the forestry field working with Emerald Ash Borer mitigation programs.





SUSTAINABILITY TRACK

Communicating Sustainability's Complexities

1:30 – 2:45
Tuesday, May 3

Sustainability. Zero Waste. Circular Economy. Do you know when to use which term? What are the defined metrics being used to measure progress? It is confusing. The national media is using these terms interchangeably. There are debates within the solid waste industry on what really is zero waste. Let us help bring some clarity to conversation.

Learn from the panel as we outline definitions, how these concepts overlap and intersection. Hear how our clients and constituents are working to achieve sustainability, implementing zero waste programs, and building a circular economy. This presentation will give you not only definitions but talking points, examples of policies and programs being implemented, and an understanding of certification and training opportunities. The presentation will also include an interactive discussion on how these concepts are being used at your facility/agency and provide an opportunity to ask your questions.

Speakers



Kate Bartelt
Senior Waste / Environmental Project Manager
HDR

As a Senior Waste / Environmental Project Manager for HDR, Kate Bartelt's experience includes strategic communications, public policy, and project management. Kate specializes in environmental, sociopolitical, and financial expertise to develop, plan, and implement integrated waste management systems. She also brings expertise in communicating complex engineering and scientific findings with all audiences – from staff to elected officials – to find unique solutions and ensure understanding. She designs and facilitates strategic communications and community engagement processes. Her specialty is designing programs to ensure diverse stakeholder voices are heard. Kate holds degrees in Environmental Science and Science, Technology, and Environmental Public Policy. She is a board member for the Iowa Recycling Association and the 2022 Co-Chair for the Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Management Conference.





Jessica Shroul (*virtual*)
Owner
Circle Three Branding

Jessica Shroul is the owner of Circle Three Branding – a marketing agency dedicated to the waste and recycling industry. Her passion grew from a frustration that no outside agency seemed to understand the needs of the waste world – and so it became a mission to provide quality marketing services from someone who understands what you are talking about. Jessica’s work in marketing and brand development have consistently won first-place awards at the national level since 2018. She also writes on marketing strategy for the industry and her articles can be found in Waste Advantage Magazine.



Tim Pratt
Recycling Manager
City of Brooklyn Park

Tim Pratt manages the third-largest municipal recycling program in Minnesota, encompassing Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, and New Hope. Previously, Tim was the Recycling Coordinator at the City of Roseville and a television news producer before that. He has won 8 awards from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators and a regional Emmy for his video, “Boxes, Bottles and Banana Peels: A Guide to School Recycling.”



Ryan Buhay (*virtual*)
Account Executive
ReCollect Systems

Ryan Buhay is an Account Executive at ReCollect Systems, Inc., a Routeware company. Ryan’s work promotes the use of digital communications technology to help municipalities and waste haulers engage with customers to drive behavior change and participation in waste diversion programs. Ryan was awarded the 2018 Waste360 40 Under 40 Award.





RECYCLING TRACK

Panel: Recycling at Multi-Unit Residential Properties

3:15 – 4:30

Tuesday, May 3

Moderated by Minnesota Waste Wise, this session will present an overview of efforts to support multi-unit residential properties to recycle better and reduce waste throughout the Twin Cities metro and Greater Minnesota. Recycling challenges at multiunit properties are magnified by shared communal recycling and trash dumpsters and confusion surrounding proper waste disposal. Waste Wise creates bespoke solutions for recycling challenges at multiunit residential properties, including the distribution of free recycling resources from in-unit recycling containers to informational recycling handouts. Additionally, Waste Wise together with governmental partners facilitate county grant programs which address monetary barriers to recycling improvements. This session will hear from some of those grant funded projects that show promising results.

Moderator



Rob Friend

Executive Director
Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation

Rob Friend is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation. Rob oversees the Energy Smart and Waste Wise programs. He has more than 19 years of experience in the commercial composting and recycling industry working in sales and safety before focusing on organics recycling development. Rob has worked with waste haulers, generators and public entities to increase organics recycling collection and processing through presentations, tours and creating of educational material.

Rob graduated with a B.S. in Business Management from Mankato State University.

Speakers



Shannon Conk

Community Engagement Coordinator
Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy

Shannon Conk is the community engagement coordinator for Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy. She works on a number of community-based waste reduction programs including the Apartment Recycling Specialist program.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Leslie Duling McCollam
Ramsey-Washington Recycling & Energy

Leslie Duling McCollam is a program coordinator for Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy, focusing on upstream waste interventions. Her focus areas include bulky waste solutions, food waste prevention, and business pollution prevention. Today she will be presenting on mattress recycling pilot programs for multi-unit buildings.



Bonnie Nord
Senior Sustainability Specialist
Minnesota Waste Wise

Bonnie Nord is a Senior Sustainability Specialist for the non-profit, Waste Wise. She works with multi-unit residential properties throughout Ramsey and Washington Counties to implement and improve recycling programs through education, recycling resources, and county grant funding.



Nathan Reinbold
Environmental Coordinator
Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management

Nathan is the Environmental Coordinator for Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management – a 7 county Waste-to-Energy and Materials Recovery system. He coordinates waste reduction/reuse, recycling, household hazardous waste, industrial solid waste programs, organics management, events recycling, business recycling grants, facility planning, ordinances, waste designation, hauler engagement, and community outreach. Reinbold earned his degree in Environmental Studies/Geography from the University of MN – Duluth. Nathan has 20 years' experience working for tribal and county environmental programs.



Elizabeth Walsh
Senior Sustainability Specialist
Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation

Elizabeth Walsh is a Senior Sustainability Specialist at the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation. She works throughout Minnesota in Ramsey, Washington, Pope, and Douglas Counties to facilitate waste reduction at businesses and multi-unit residential properties. Elizabeth works closely with property managers and business owners to improve recycling programs by providing technical assistance, custom recommendations, recycling trainings, and grant assistance.





FOOD WASTE DIVERSION TRACK

Panel: Compost Market Development

3:15 – 4:30

Tuesday, May 3

The primary objective of this session is to elevate the discussion about market development for food scraps derived compost (FSDC). Composting food scraps is particularly challenging compared to other feedstocks because of the higher likelihood of inert physical contaminants (glass and plastic), potential chemical or biological contaminants (PFAS, metals, and pathogens), and the associated costs for additional inspection, screening, testing, and permitting needed to address these concerns. Increasing consumer acceptance of FSDC is impeded by a history of low-quality composts in the market, a lack of consistency in compost vendor definitions of what makes a quality compost, and traditional construction and agricultural methodologies which have not previously included compost as a major component.

To ensure the continued success of food scraps composters, viable end markets are needed for the increasing volumes of their finished product. Compost amendment of soils following construction projects has numerous benefits for storm water management which local governments can leverage either through project design mandates or incentives. This roundtable discussion will explore compost use requirements and incentives currently in place at local government units, as well as the language and specifications needed to properly define quality finished compost and the quality assurance measures needed to ensure that compost product is received as specified.

Moderator



Chuck Joswiak

Sales & Market Development
Specialized Environmental Technologies

Chuck directs Sales & Market Development while helping oversee site operations at SET, a compost processing company with facilities around the Twin Cities. He has 26+ years in the landscape and horticultural industry and is a member of MNLA. He has worked with contractors, landscape architects, engineers and municipalities designing projects and utilized hundreds of thousands cubic yards of compost.



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





Speakers

Role of Compost in Soil Health



Nick Vetsch
Engineer
Stantec

Nick Vetsch is a Professional Engineer in Minnesota and TRUE Advisor who works in solid waste and stormwater to find the most environmentally conscious and economically efficient uses for waste materials, nutrients and organic matter, and water resources. Compost market development and utilization of compost in stormwater, soil restoration, and agricultural projects are a focus for Nick professionally and through membership in the Minnesota Composting Council and U.S. Composting Council.

Local Government Soil Management Policies



Gregg Thompson
Watershed Specialist
City of Eagan

Gregg Thompson is a Watershed Specialist with the City of Eagan, and a 1994 graduate of South Dakota State University. He provides technical support to reduce stormwater runoff impacts on water resources, through land projects and watershed stewardship activities. Originally from a farm in South Dakota, where he began his fascination with soil, vegetation, and water, his background is in landscape architecture with over 25 years of experience working in residential, commercial and public-land projects.

Biochar/Compost use



Jim Doten
Professional Geologist
Minneapolis Health Department

Jim is a licensed Professional Geologist with 36 years of experience in the environmental field. In addition to his undergraduate degree in Geology, Jim has a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management. He has over 20 years of consulting experience and has been at the City of Minneapolis Health Department for the past 12 years. Jim spent a year in southern Afghanistan with the Army National Guard as a Hydrologist on an Agri-Business Development Team. It was during this time that he first looked at biochar to improve soil health in the region. Jim has continued his biochar work with the City of Minneapolis.





SOLID WASTE TRACK

Energy & Waste Policy

3:15 – 4:30

Tuesday, May 3

MRRA will host a panel to discuss the role of waste to energy within an integrated solid waste management system and how waste to energy drives higher diversion rates.

Moderator



Kate Bartelt

Senior Waste / Environmental Project Manager
HDR

As a Senior Waste / Environmental Project Manager for HDR, Kate Bartelt's experience includes strategic communications, public policy, and project management. Kate specializes in environmental, sociopolitical, and financial expertise to develop, plan, and implement integrated waste management systems. She also brings expertise in communicating complex engineering and scientific findings with all audiences – from staff to elected officials – to find unique solutions and ensure understanding. She designs and facilitates strategic communications and community engagement processes. Her specialty is designing programs to ensure diverse stakeholder voices are heard. Kate holds degrees in Environmental Science and Science, Technology, and Environmental Public Policy. She is a board member for the Iowa Recycling Association and the 2022 Co-Chair for the Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Management Conference.

Speakers

Chris McConn

Otter Tail County

Steve Vrchota

Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management





SUSTAINABILITY TRACK

Reuse trends in the built environment

3:15 – 4:30

Tuesday, May 3

This session will dig into how deconstruction and building material salvage is becoming the new normal compared to the massive amounts of construction and demolition (C&D) waste generation from the past. Learn from local and state government building material management change agents who will share their perspectives and find out what incentives and support exists around the state. The purpose of this session is to introduce real-life solutions to reduce C&D waste on projects that involve renovation or demolition, offer resources for connecting with local salvage organizations, and highlight the importance of incorporating used building materials back into project designs.

Moderator



Marty Bergstedt

President
Amazon Environmental

Martin Bergstedt obtained a Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota and joined Economics Laboratory (now Ecolab) at their pilot plant in Eagan performing organic synthesis process development studies and plant start-ups. From there he held positions of progressively increasing scope and responsibility at ETD Technology and DuPont Electronics, and then spent ten years in General Manager positions with Aptus Environmental in Lakeville, and USFilter (Veolia) at their Recovery Services facility in Roseville. He then went to U.S. Water Services as Director of Engineering and Project Management, overseeing the design, specification and installation of water treatment systems for 60 new ethanol plants. Since 2012 he has been with Amazon Environmental in Fridley, the nation's largest consumer latex paint recycler and is currently President and responsible for four locations across the mid-west and west.

Speakers



Melissa Wenzel

Built Environment Sustainability Administrator
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Melissa Wenzel has worked for the MN Pollution Control Agency for nearly 2 decades, and currently works for the agency within the Sustainable Materials Management program. She is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Built Environment Sustainability Administrator, and her current focus is on creating system-wide change within the



25th Annual RAM/SWANA Conference & Show
May 2 & 3, 2022 | Minneapolis Marriott Northwest
Registration: swanamn.org/2022-ramswana-conference





building material management system. With key stakeholders across the state, Melissa is working to prevent C&D materials going to landfills by encouraging preservation, reuse, repair, and recycling of building materials. Previously, she was the state's industrial stormwater program coordinator. Over the years, she coordinates project-specific sustainability efforts within the agency and as a volunteer, within her community. She's a year-round cyclist, a community leader through her work on past and present city and county boards. She designs and installs native gardens and mentors community members on how to be an effective sustainability advocate. She lives by her work motto: "human being first, government employee second."



Olivia Cashman
Environmental Protection Specialist
Hennepin County

Olivia Cashman is an Environmental Protection Specialist with Hennepin County's Environment and Energy Department where she works to promote reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste and ensure proper disposal of hazardous building materials. Olivia coordinates the county's recently developed deconstruction grant and pre-demolition inspection programs. Olivia has a Bachelor of Science in environmental science from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and has prior work experience in environmental, health, and safety in manufacturing industries.



Emily Barker
Executive Director
Reuse Minnesota

Emily Barker (she/her) joined Reuse Minnesota as Executive Director in August 2021. Previously, she worked in reuse, waste prevention, multifamily and commercial recycling, and composting for the City of St. Louis Park and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Emily has a B.S. in biology from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She enjoys spending time with her husband and their son, biking, gardening, and traveling to her home state of Montana. Emily is also a board member and volunteer for Old School thrift shop in Minneapolis.

