



## 2025 Virtual Spring Summit Schedule of Events

Tuesday, March 18th	
Time	Function
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> Carmen Bruno, University of Florida, Chair-RFT Joe England, City of Orlando, Conference Chair Connie Lea, Brevard County</p>
9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Session 1 –</b> <b>From Concept to Click: The Development of Pinellas County Solid Waste's Virtual Solid Waste Disposal Complex Tour (Virtual Tour)</b></p> <p><b>Session Summary:</b> In this session, we will provide an overview of the development process behind Pinellas County Solid Waste's (PCSW) virtual tour of the Solid Waste Disposal Complex (SWDC) and explore the technical capabilities this innovative tool can offer your facility. We'll discuss interactive features, such as 360-degree views, multimedia hotspots, and VR compatibility, that make the virtual tour an engaging educational resource. Additionally, we will preview the tour, demonstrating how it allows users to explore the SWDC at their own pace while supporting PCSW's sustainability goals. Attendees will learn how a virtual tour can expand outreach, increase engagement, and enhance public education.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Lemay, Pinellas County</li> <li>• Jay Salois, VRtical Media</li> </ul>
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p><b>Session 2 –</b> <b>Lithium Batteries: Addressing Critical Safety Concerns and Proper Recovery Practices</b></p> <p><b>Session Summary:</b> Join us as we address the critical safety concerns of lithium-ion batteries within various waste streams and the critical safety threats they pose to haulers and recovery facilities. Steinert US introduces efficient detection and removal technologies for effective mitigation of potential battery fires as well as enabling compliance with extended producer responsibility (EPR). We will take a closer look at Indian River County's (IRC) efforts to encourage residents with a viable option for the collection of vape pens while eliminating contamination and increasing awareness of their dangers in the waste and recycling stream. IRC has partnered with GAIACA Waste Revitalization, a sustainability provider who specifically handles hazardous materials, to launch a new Vape Pen Collection program.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sue Flak, Indian River County – "Play it Safe if you Vape"</li> <li>• Edel Rodriguez, Steinert - Lithium Battery Detection and Removal from Waste Streams</li> </ul>

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<p><b>Session 3 –</b></p> <p><b>Advancing Materials Circularity in the Florida Curbside Stream</b></p> <p><b>Session Summary:</b> Glass, textiles, and food waste often are viewed as challenging materials to recycling since they require more strategic collection programs. Through the Hinkley Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management join us to learn more about research focusing on the full lifecycle benefits of strategic collection and management of these three material streams.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Malak Anshassi, Florida Polytech University</li> </ul>
11:45 a.m. – Noon	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>Carmen Bruno, University of Florida, Chair-RFT          Joe England, City of Orlando, Conference Chair          Connie Lea, Brevard County</p>
NOON	<b>Adjourn</b>

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