





The Shores Resort and Spa - Daytona Beach Shores, FL
June 22-24, 2026

Monday, June 22nd

Pre-Conference activities, Keynote, and General Session

Schedule of Events – Day 1

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 am	5:00 pm	Registration Open	Registration
8:00 am	Noon	Exhibitor Set-Up	Bill France
8:00 am	Noon	FDEP County Recycling Coordinator Education Training <i>Session summary:</i> Join FDEP’s Waste Reduction & Recycling team for an interactive training and discussion on completing the Annual Solid Waste Management Report. The team, together with County Recycling Coordinators, will discuss strategies that can be used for gathering and organizing the data needed to calculate the county recycling rate. Also, helpful hints and tips will be provided on how to find additional recycled tons in your county that are not provided by FDEP. The training will be held prior to Recycle Florida Today’s Annual Conference and Exhibition. *In-Person ONLY event.	TBD
9:00 am	10:30 am	RFT Board Meeting	Surf Board Room
11:00 am	Noon	Pre-Conference Member Meet & Greet and Open Art Studio - Educational Networking Event <i>Session summary:</i> Join this interactive networking session to meet new and tenured members in the organization as well as share your top marketing collateral, resources, and contacts. Open Art Studio Mural Ever wanted to draw on a mural, but never had the chance? Join a “how to” kick-off and brief introduction to using some basic strokes to keep you relaxed and have the option to draw during the conference. Miriam Zimms, a Teaching Artist, will demonstrate art techniques that anyone can perform throughout the event. Or just grab a pen and add your own creative strokes to express yourself or just sign your name or favorite reduction or recycling statement on the Mural. The Studio will be in the preconference area and available until 3:45 pm, Tuesday, June 23 rd . Hosted by Miriam Zimms, Kessler Consulting, Inc. Consultant, and teaching artist.	River Ballroom
Noon	1:00 pm	Lunch On Your Own	--

1:00 pm	1:45 pm	Opening Plenary and Welcome <i>Session summary:</i> Opening welcome plenary session and introduction of our keynote address. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Lamontagne, Lee County SWD, RFT Chair • Joe England, Seminole County, Education Planning Committee Chair • Connie Lea, Brevard County, Education Planning Committee Vice Chair 	Richard Petty
1:45 pm	2:00 pm	Session transition	--
2:00 pm	3:30 pm	Opening Keynote Panel – When Sparks Fly: Industry Experts Tackle Battery Recycling and Disposal Safety <i>Session Summary:</i> Explore real-world challenges in lithium-ion battery recycling and disposal, including fire hazards and safety risks. Experts share strategies, lessons learned, and best practices to protect workers and facilities. Engage in a discussion on practical solutions shaping the industry today. <p>Moderator and Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakeel Balroop, Consultant • Mike Fernandez, VP Post Collections, Waste Pro • Sean Brewer, Title, Coastal Waste & Recycling • Mike DeClerk, Title, Waste Management 	Richard Petty  <i>Session sponsor</i>
3:30 pm	4:00 pm	Afternoon Networking Break with Exhibitors	Bill France
4:00 pm	5:00 pm	Session #1 – Rethink Waste, Reimagine Recycling, Towards the Path to a Greener Future <i>Session summary:</i> Hear how one program transformed youth and students into "environmental ambassadors" through proven, award-winning frameworks that bridge the gap between classroom education and measurable operational success, how another program has evolved into a model of circular economy innovation, transforming donated glass bottles into usable glass sand that reduces landfill dependence while generating environmental and economic value, and how an organization is helping to revolutionize how municipalities, universities, and large public and private spaces manage waste increasing recycling and composting efforts. <p>Moderator and Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Bruno, University of Florida Moderator • Valentina Rodriguez, St. Lucie County Solid Waste - <i>Recycle Rangers - Empowering Youth to Drive Community-Wide Recycling Change</i> • Paul Conover, Osceola County - Office of Sustainability - Responsible Recycling Osceola - <i>Working Towards a Greener Future and Crushing it!</i> • Jordan Sherman, Bigbelly - <i>A New Way to View Waste, Recycling and Composting</i> 	Richard Petty  <i>Session sponsor</i>
5:30 pm	7:00 pm	Evening Networking Social with Exhibitors	Bill France

Tuesday, June 23rd

General Sessions, Exhibitor and Sponsor Showcase, and Networking

Schedule of Events – Day 2

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 am	3:00 pm	Registration Open	Registration
8:00 am	3:00 pm	Committee Meetings Flow	Coastal Room
7:00 am	8:00 am	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors	Bill France
8:00 am	9:00 am	<p>Session #2 – Building Florida’s Future: Scaling Infrastructure, Salvage, and Circular Markets</p> <p>Session summary: This session explores the intersection of massive infrastructure investment and cutting-edge technology, highlighting WM’s \$90 million AI-powered facility and its role in revolutionizing material recovery across Florida. Attendees will dive into the logistical world of large-scale industrial salvage and infrastructure decommissioning, learning how to transform reclaimed materials into innovative, sustainable building forms. The session will investigate a strategic roadmap for EPR readiness, detailing how advanced chemical recycling and plastic credit markets can diversify revenue and position the state as a leader in the circular economy.</p> <p>Moderator and Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gene Jones, Southern Waste Information eXchange, Moderator • Amy Boyson, WM - <i>Recycling Infrastructure and Investments in Florida</i> • Elena Michel, RLF: Architecture, Engineering, Interiors - <i>A Bigger Dig: Commercial, Industrial, & Infrastructural Salvage for New Building</i> • Ken Jefferson, Corsair - <i>Turning Plastic Waste into Economic Infrastructure: EPR, Advanced Recycling, and Market-Based Solutions for Florida</i> 	Richard Petty
9:00 am	9:10 am	Session Transition	
9:10 am	10:10 am	<p>Session #3 – Operationalizing Circularity: Navigating Vape, Battery, and Foam Recycling Innovations</p> <p>Session summary: This session provides a technical operational playbook for managing two of the most challenging waste streams—vapes, batteries, and foam—by prioritizing safety, rigorous ESG reporting, and specialized recovery infrastructure over traditional PR-heavy campaigns.</p> <p>Moderator and Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley Samec, Alachua County, FL, Moderator • Sue Flak, Indian River County, FL – <i>Let’s Keep Batteries Out of Bins: How IRC Implemented a Lithium-Ion Collection Program</i> • Kristen Bujold, Cirba Solutions • Louis Troiano, Foam Cycle LLC - <i>Foam Packaging Recycling</i> 	Richard Petty
10:10 am	10:15 am	Transition to Morning Networking Session with Exhibitor	-

10:15 am	11:15 am	Session #4 – Exhibitors Showcase and Interactive Networking <i>Session summary:</i> Join us for an exciting interactive networking session where you will hear from every exhibitor to learn more about the products and services our exhibitors and sponsors offer.	Bill France
11:15 am	11:20 am	Session Transition	--
11:20 am	12:15 pm	Annual Business Meeting and Awards <i>Session summary:</i> Hear news from the association, announcement of the incoming board of directors, sponsors showcase and appreciation, recognition of Foundation grant recipients, and presentation of the 2026 RFT Environmental Sustainability award winners.	Richard Petty
12:15 pm	1:30 pm	Networking Luncheon	River Ballroom
1:30 pm	1:40pm	Session Transition from Lunch	
1:40 pm	2:40 pm	Session #5 – Tag, You're It! An Update on Orange County's Recycling Quality Improvement Program <i>Session summary:</i> Orange County's Recycling Quality Improvement Program (RQIP) provides direct feedback to residents about their recycling setouts. Since 2019, all households have received at least one round of feedback and recycling load quality has improved significantly. This presentation will provide an update on Stage 4 of the program, including targeted behavior change strategies, day-to-day operations, and future plans. Moderator and Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alanna Carinio, Alachua County, FL, Moderator Cynthia Mormille, MSW Consultants Jessica Muth, Orange County, FL Dr. Nick Chen, University of Central Florida 	Richard Petty
2:40 pm	2:45pm	Session Transition from Lunch	
2:45 pm	3:45 pm	Session #6 – The Next Evolution of Recycling: Transforming Waste into Resources <i>Session summary:</i> This session explores how advancements in sorting technologies, including automated municipal solid waste (MSW) processing, can change the trajectory of recycling rates by capturing significant volumes of material that would otherwise be lost, the transition from traditional recycling to high-tech resource recovery, highlighting a RMPF Fiber Line Upgrade Project, and a focus on sustainable waste management solutions through alternative fuels and raw materials co-processing in cement kilns. Moderator and Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dayna Williams, Waste Pro, Moderator Jon Gertsmeier, AMP - <i>From Mixed Waste to New Materials: Recycling's Next Evolution</i> Michael Jones, RRT Design & Construction and Pete Duddie, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, FL - <i>The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County RMPF Fiber Line Upgrade Project</i> 	Richard Petty

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodrigo Beisario, Titan America - <i>Sustainable Solutions for Landfill Diversion and Resource Recovery: Giving Value to Waste in a Heavy Industrial Environment</i> 	
3:45 pm	5:00 pm	Beach Clean-Up and Networking Event	Beachside
3:45 pm	5:00 pm	Independent Networking Session - Take an opportunity to enjoy a personalized meet and greet session with attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors at your leisure.	--
6:00 pm	9:00 pm	Evening Dinner Networking Social – Welcome to the “Wild, Wild, West”. Use the 3 Rs to reduce, reuse, and recycle your favorite rodeo wear and come dressed for a routin’ scootin’ good time. This event features a full dinner, DJ, and networking.	TBD

Wednesday, June 24th

General Sessions, Networking, and Closing

Schedule of Events – Day 3

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 am	Noon	Registration Open	Registration
8:00 am	9:00 am	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors	Bill France
9:00 am	10:30 am	<p>Session #7 – Food Waste Composting in Florida</p> <p>Session summary: Find out about the growth of food waste composting in Florida from the FLCC Board, as well as the latest from FORCE and FDEP.</p> <p>Moderator and Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gary Bilbro, Ecosafe Zero Waste, Moderator Charlie Pioli, O-Town Compost Xavier DeRoos, Renuable Michelle Owen, Circular Services Levin Gaston, Gaston’s Tree Debris Recycling Lauren O’Connor, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (invited) Miriam Zimms, FORCE 	Richard Petty
10:30 am	10:35 am	Session Transition	-
10:35 am	Noon	<p>Session #8 – Florida Legislative, State, and Federal Updates</p> <p>Session summary: Hear legal, regulatory, and litigation updates, what happened during Florida’s 2026 legislative session, and policy updates from FDEP and EPA Region VI.</p> <p>Moderator and Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connie Lea, Brevard County, FL, Moderator Ralph Demeo, Adams & Reese – <i>Solid Waste & Recycling Legal, Regulatory, and Litigation Issues</i> Karen Moore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (invited) 	Richard Petty

- Alyssa Kuhn, EPA Region IV (invited)
- Willie Puz, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, FL and the Recycle Florida Today, Inc. Legislative Committee

Session Transition

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Noon 12:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Richard Petty

Session summary: Conference closing remarks.

Noon --

Adjourn

Safe Travels!

Thank you to our RFT Annual Sponsors.

