

# 2021 MWMA Fall Summit AGENDA

October 11 – 13, 2021  
The Westin Austin @ The Domain (TX)

(as of October 5, 2021)



## MONDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 12:30pm

**The Urban Summit (PUBLIC SECTOR MEMBERS ONLY).** Join your colleagues from across the country for this closed-door session featuring candid dialogue on topics important to your success. Find out how other cities are dealing with problems that you face every day & share what works in your community.

RICHARD MCHALE (President, MWMA)  
Deputy Director  
**Austin Resource Recovery**

12:30pm – 1:30pm

### Opening Luncheon

THE HONORABLE STEVE ADLER  
Mayor  
**City of Austin, Texas**

**Innovation and New Technology for Waste to Energy.** East Baton Rouge Parish, in Louisiana, sought to extend the life of their North landfill, which will reach capacity in less than 17 years. In this session, you'll hear how their search led them to the Thermolytic Cracking Process - INTEC TCP®, a patented, scalable, non-incineration, thermal conversion technology which will extend the life of their landfill by 60 years, utilizing municipal solid waste (MSW) and special waste such as medical waste, and scrap tires. You'll also learn how the INTEC TCP® waste to energy process will not merely extend the life of the landfill, but further, help achieve their desired sustainability goals.

RICHARD SPEER, PE  
Director, Department of Environmental Services  
**City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge, LA**

SAM SAMAHA  
Founder & CEO  
**Samaha Group**

LISA SALDIVAR  
Chief Strategy Officer  
**Samaha Group**

1:30pm – 2:45pm

**Best Practices, New Strategies for...Employee Recruitment & Retention.** The news headlines say it all (a recent one from Bloomberg CityLab: "Desperate U.S. Cities Pitch Wall Street-Style Sign-On Bonuses.") In this environment, where there's increasing competition for scarce resources – human resources, that is –

what strategies can municipalities employ to attract employees for open positions in the MSW field – drivers and technicians specifically? In this session we'll hear from experts in the field who are tapping typically overlooked constituencies and employing bold, creative new recruitment and retention strategies.

TAMARA ATKINSON  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Workforce Solutions Capital Area**

JESSE DUARTE  
Interim Assistant Public Works Director  
**City of Phoenix, AZ**

2:45pm – 4:15pm

**Reuse & Repair – Federal, State & Local Policies & Programs.** EPA's sustainable materials management hierarchy places source reduction and reuse at the top of the pyramid, and reuse and repair play a critical role in conserving precious resources. Recent experience with supply chain disruptions in the wake of the global pandemic demonstrate the value of repair and reuse, and an infrastructure to support it. In this webinar we'll look at recent legislative proposals, and discuss innovative programs and initiatives, to promote to promote reuse and repair.

BRIEANNE BERRY, Ph.D.  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
**University of Maine**

&

CYNTHIA ISENHOUR, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Anthropology & Climate Change  
**University of Maine**

KEITH A. KOSKI  
Manager, Building Materials Reuse Warehouse  
**City of Houston, TX**

MADDIE MORGAN  
Conservation Program Coordinator, Circular Economy Program  
**Austin Resource Recovery**

PETER MUI  
Founder  
**Fixit Clinic**

5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Opening Reception sponsored by Republic Services**

7:00pm – 8:30pm

**MWMA @ The Movies: *Trash Dance***

Join us for a screening of this acclaimed and entertaining film. Choreographer Allison Orr finds beauty and grace in garbage trucks, and in the unseen men and women who pick up our trash. Filmmaker Andrew Garrison follows Orr as she rides along with City of Austin sanitation workers on their daily routes to

observe and later convince them to perform a most unlikely spectacle. On an abandoned airport runway, two dozen trash collectors and their trucks deliver — for one night only — a stunningly beautiful and moving performance, in front of an audience of thousands.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 10:00am

**State of The Industry: The Mile-High View.** The solid waste and recycling industry faces unprecedented challenges from multiple, dynamic issues; this session will address some of the most important issues facing municipalities today and into the future, as well as potential solutions for these issues, and identify key areas of concern. Key topics to be discussed will include framing a path forward for municipalities with zero waste or high recycling goals; emerging challenges with contracting for services; and what to expect from the next generation of customers and rate payers.

SCOTT PASTERNAK

Associate & Manager, Solid Waste & Resource Recovery Practice  
**Burns & McDonnell**

MEGAN DAUM

Vice President for Sustainability  
**American Beverage Association**

10:00am – 11:15am

**State of the Recycling Markets – Resilient! as Domestic Demand Grows.** The recycling industry was forced to pivot when China changed its recycling policies. Our focus shifted quickly to quality materials, end market demand, and the need for investments in technology and infrastructure. This session will address the resiliency of the growing recycling markets, what's driving long-term demand, the positive impact of infrastructure investments, and what all this means for municipalities environmentally and economically. With a panel format, we'll hear how recycling market customers are addressing the growing demand for materials, and discuss ways we can work together to re-engage communities to encourage greater recycling participation and volume to meet the growing demand for recyclable commodities.

BRENT BELL

Vice President, Recycling  
**Waste Management**

SCOTT SAUNDERS

General Manager, Recycling Division  
**KW Plastics**

CURT BUCEY

Executive VP and CCO  
**Strategic Materials**

11:15am – 12:30pm

**State of Recycling: Combatting Contamination at the MRF Level & Implementing New Technologies.** This session will focus on the next step in the (re)cycle(ing): the materials recovery facility, or MRF. MRF operators have taken advantage of the latest technology advancements to clean up, so to speak, the

materials recovery process. In this session we'll hear about two partnerships – between cities and their MRF/providers – that have resulted in not only a cleaner stream of commodities but cost-savings in the process.

JILL HOLBERT  
Associate Director, Solid Waste Management  
**City of Albuquerque, NM**

SARAH MASON  
Recycling Division Manager  
**City of Houston, TX**

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ-PINERO  
Director of Engineering  
**FCC Environmental Services**

DAVE YANKE  
President  
**NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC**

12:30pm – 1:30pm

**Luncheon sponsored by Waste Management**

SUSAN MOULTON  
Sr. Director, Public Sector Solutions  
**Waste Management**

1:30pm – 2:30pm

**Improving the Packaging Lifecycle through Policy Solutions.** “Extended Producer Responsibility” is increasingly a central focus in policy conversations centering on the U.S. recycling system. But what does this concept mean for producers, cities and MRFs? How can it be implemented across the value chain? In this panel, producers, retailers, and organizations focused on building a circular economy will discuss key conditions that can make EPR or other policy solutions successful for all involved – including municipal operators.

CHRIS ADAMO  
Vice President Federal and Industry Affairs  
Danone North America

KANIKA GREENLEE (Moderator)  
Executive Director, **Keep Atlanta Beautiful Commission &**  
Environmental Programs Director, **Atlanta Department of Public Works**

SARAH KAYLOR  
Vice President of Corporate Engagement  
The Recycling Partnership

CHARLIE SCHWARZE  
Director – Sustainability, Packaging & Product Stewardship  
Keurig Dr Pepper

2:30pm – 3:30pm

**Innovation and Advancement through Partnership.** The eyes of the US are on climate change and infrastructure solutions. In an ever-evolving waste stream, advancements in the recycling industry, coupled with robust partnerships in recycling and recovery, can drive opportunities and end markets. In this session presenters will share success stories of public-private partnerships that help meet Zero Waste and sustainability goals; discuss opportunities for collaboration throughout the recycling value chain to create more inclusive and higher-quality recyclables, with a focus on education and infrastructure; and share models for innovative alternative collection, processing, and funding commercial pilot projects.

SCOTT DEFIFE  
President  
**Glass Packaging Institute**

ASHLEY ELZINGA  
Director of Sustainability and Outreach  
**Foodservice Packaging Institute**

JORDAN FENGEL  
Sustainability Manager, U.S. & Canada  
**Tetra Pak (representing The Carton Council)**

STEVE MONTLE (MODERATOR)  
Consultant  
**Resource Recycling Systems**

3:30pm – 5:00pm

**Executive Committee Meeting (CLOSED SESSION)**

5:30pm – 8:30pm

**Lone Star Riverboat Cruise.** Experience the exhilaration of the outdoors, Austin's ever changing city skyline, and the, and the spectacular sunset emergence of the estimated 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats live under Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge: the largest urban colony in North America! Dinner will be served and transportation from the hotel will be provided.

*Buses will begin boarding at 5:00pm and will depart from the hotel beginning at 5:15pm.*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 10:00am

**Homeless Encampments – Emerging Issues.** The challenge of homeless is one of poverty, public health, public safety – and of waste management as well. All our communities must find thoughtful – and effective – ways to deal with the multiplicity of challenges presented by homeless encampments. In this session, we'll discuss how COVID-19 and related issues – such as a rise in eviction rates nationwide, and the ongoing staffing issues in the MSW sector, have exacerbated municipalities' ability to address homeless encampments in their communities, and ideally, brainstorm ways to address these challenges.

HARRY HAYES  
Managing Director  
**Better Days Management LLC**

10:00am – 11:00am

**Emerging Trends.** The “COVID era” has seen heightened worker shortages, and not only an increase in the volume of curbside recyclables, but significant changes its composition as well. In this session you’ll hear about the current situation in each of these areas, and about near- and long-term prospects and trends as well.

PEYTON COX  
Vice President, Sales  
**Wastequip**

JOAQUIN MARIEL  
Chief Operating Officer  
**Balcones Resources**

11:00am – 11:30am

**Closing Session.**

12:00pm – 3:00pm

**Balcones Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Tour.** Transportation will be provided to and from the hotel. All visitors to the MRF must wear closed-toe shoes. Each visitor will be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) that they must wear for the duration of the tour, including hard hat, reflective vest, eye protection, and face mask (bandanas or “gators” will not be permitted).