

Update From the National Recycling Association

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<https://nrcrecycles.org>

“Save the Date” for the Second NRC Regional Market Development Symposium, which will take place on July 31, 2018 at the Crown Plaza Atlanta SW in Peachtree City, GA. This symposium is being held in cooperation with the Georgia Recycling Coalition (an NRC affiliate). Marjorie Griek, NRC Executive Director, Sarah DeSouza, NRC Executive Assistant and the members of the NRC Market Council are developing the agenda for the July 31st symposium. This second symposium will take a different approach than the April 4th Regional Market Development Symposium in Portland, OR. The markets in the Southeast for most materials are relatively strong (albeit at lower prices). The NRC Markets Council would like to focus this workshop on generating quality supply of materials which will further satisfy the needs of the end markets in this part of the country.

The First NRC Regional Market Development Symposium, held in conjunction with the Association of Oregon Recyclers (an NRC Affiliate) in Portland, OR on April 4, 2018, assembled 144 attendees from 12 states (4 states in the Northwestern US). More importantly, it hopefully served as the catalyst for the start of discussion about possible solutions to the market difficulties in the region.

The Third NRC Regional Market Development Symposium is scheduled to take place in the Chicago area during the month of September. Marjorie and Sarah are working with Kris Kaar, President of the Illinois Recycling Association (an NRC Affiliate) on finding a venue for the September event.

As you may know, the NRC and a large group of recycling industry trade associations are attempting to work together to find solutions to help alleviate some of the issues facing our industry. This effort is being orchestrated by Robin Wiener, President the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) who also serves on the NRC Board of Directors. An announcement of this industry effort will be forth coming. An issue related to the Basel Convention was brought to the attention of this industry group by members of the ISRI staff. Please find the documents related to this Basel Convention issue attached for your review. Here is a snippet of the text from ISRI about this issue:

“In that matter related to the Basel Convention that we just learned about from the State Department’s Basel Convention focal point. In the attached, the Government of Norway is proposing that plastic waste and scrap be moved from Annex IX [*wastes not covered in the Convention*] to Annex II [*Categories of Wastes Requiring Special Consideration or “other wastes”*], thereby placing plastics within the scope of the Basel Convention. Norway’s intent is to help deal with the marine litter crisis with this proposal, but the implications of this would be huge for recyclers. It means administrative burdens for exporters, but most of all for U.S. exporters, a severe restriction on export markets given that the United States is not a party to the Basel Convention.”

While Norway’s intention is to reduce the amount of plastic in our oceans, the actual outcome of their actions may be to increase the amount of plastics improperly disposed of since it will place administrative burdens on plastic exports. These burdens could make plastic recycling more difficult throughout the world which could exasperate the already overburdened plastic recycling system, thereby causing more plastic pollution in our oceans. (This is a Dave Keeling opinion is does not reflect the views of the NRC or the Steel Recycling Institute.)

Here is a link to an article that discusses the fact that a majority of the plastic in the world’s oceans are coming from countries in Asia, due to their lack of refuse and recycling collection systems:

https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/view/articles/2018-06-25/how-to-solve-the-plastic-crisis?_twitter_impression=true

On June 28, 2018, Robin Wiener was the presenter for the NRC Market Development Quarterly Webinar series. She provided an update on the various initiatives implemented by the Chinese Government and their implication for our domestic recycling markets. You can find a recording of this webinar and other archived NRC/PRMC webinars on the NRC website: <https://nrcrecycles.org/learn-3/archived-webinars/>. The next NRC Market Development Quarterly Webinar is scheduled to take place in September. I will forward the link and call in information when it is published.

The NRC Market Development Quarterly Webinar/Conference Call series is open to everyone in the recycling industry to participate. You do not have to be an NRC member or affiliate member to join in on these discussions.

One of the issues that Robin discussed during her comments was the pronouncement that the China intends to ban all recycled “waste” imports by 2020. You can find Robin’s comments in the archived webinar at the link above. Below is a link to an article related to that pronouncement:

<https://www.mrw.co.uk/latest/indications-emerge-of-a-complete-ban-on-china-waste-imports-by-2020/10032579.article>

The July Webinar in the NRC/PRMC Sustainable Materials Management Webinar series will be on Thermostat Recycling and will feature Danielle Meyers, Operations and Compliance Manager of the Thermostat Recycling Corporation. This webinar will take place on July 17, 2018 at 1:30PM EDT. **“Live” participation in the NRC/RMC Sustainable Material Management Series is only open to and free of charge for NRC direct and affiliate members.** Others can view these webinars when there are archived on the NRC website at this same link: <https://nrcrecycles.org/learn-3/archived-webinars/>

The NRC is once again collaborating with the Resource Recycling Conference to provide three dedicated sessions at their conference in St. Louis, MO. The Resource Recycling Conference is scheduled to take place on October 22-24, 2018 at the Hyatt at the Arch in St. Louis, MO. The NRC is also working with the Missouri Recycling Association on the planning of a joint fundraiser on the Monday night of the conference. The NRC will hold its annual members meeting & board candidate forum and present its annual awards during the St. Louis conference. Registration and hotel reservations for the Resource Recycling Conference are now open at <http://rrconference.com/>

Thank you for everything that you do for recycling in your state and in this great country of ours.