

PROGRAM PARTNERS**MORNING PROGRAM**

CircularSTL + NRC
Morning program partner

**AFTERNOON PROGRAM**

MidAmerica Clean
Future Alliance



**MIDAMERICA
CLEAN FUTURE**

SEPTEMBER 28**Morning Program****8:45-9:00 AM****Welcome & Opening**

NRC Board President and SWANA Acting CEO kick off the Forum.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Teresa Bradley & Carolyn Muller, SWANA Acting CEO

9:00-9:30 AM**Keynote**

The "What Do I Do with This?" series explores the lifecycle of everyday items and their environmental impact.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Brooke Butler; Senior Managing Producer; Nine PBS — What Do I Do with This?

9:30-10:05 AM**Circularity in St. Louis**

Learn from local experts who are taking the lead on circularity initiatives in the St. Louis region.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Dr. Jess Watson (earthday365), Lynne Scott (Principia HS), Bailey Bruland, Caran Hanks (MACFA); Moderator: Magdalen Sparrow

10:10-10:20 AM**Bio Break****10:20-10:30 AM****Passback Lightning Talk**

Learn how one local St. Louis nonprofit is creating a circular economy for sports gear so every kid can play.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Magdalen Sparrow with Passback

10:30-10:50 AM**STL Regional Circularity Spotlight**

Learn how Washington University in St. Louis is paving the way toward a campus-wide Circularity Hub.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Cassie Hage; Assistant Director of Sustainability; Washington University

**SEPTEMBER 28****Program Continued****10:50-11:35 AM****Circularity in Academia**

Students from around the globe present waste issues in their home communities, such as India and Bangladesh, followed by a panel discussion with professors who lead sustainability classes and initiatives at two universities.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Webster University Students; Katy Mike (Webster University); Betsy Ruckman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); Moderator: Delaney Demro

11:35-11:55 AM**Keynote**

Theatre production can produce a lot of waste! Come learn how the Riverside Theatre Project has pledged to reduce its waste over 60% and how they make reuse part of their culture.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Christina Rios with Riverside Theatre Project

12:00-1:30 PM**Networking Lunch**

NRC is hosting a networking lunch for \$50 per person. Attendees are included.

FOCUS: Cross-sector networking encouraged

1:30-1:35 PM**Afternoon Welcome**

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Teresa Bradley & Jennifer Wendt

1:35-2:20 PM**Featured EPR Perspective**

Heidi Sanborn discussing EPR in general, not specific to packaging.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Heidi Sanborn

MIDAMERICA CLEAN FUTURE ALLIANCE SESSIONS

Sessions below led by MidAmerica Clean Future Alliance

2:20-3:30 PM**Local Levers for Change — Panel + Breakouts + Report-out**

A paneled discussion followed by facilitated breakouts with local officials, MRF operators, haulers, ordinance/contract specialists, and policy experts focused on identifying operational, contractual, and ordinance-based actions that communities can take independently of state or federal policy.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: See detailed session on Page 3

FOCUS: Discussion of local actions that can be taken to reduce plastic pollution

MIDAMERICA CLEAN FUTURE ALLIANCE

Local Levers for Change**Component 1: Panel Discussion (40 min) • 2:20-3:00 PM**

A paneled discussion followed by a breakout session of facilitated discussion with local officials, MRF operators, haulers, local ordinance, contract specialists, and policy experts focused on identifying operational, contractual, and ordinance-based actions that communities can take independently of state or federal policy.

SPEAKER / LEAD**FOCUS**

Jennifer Wendt, MACFA	Introduction and Moderator
Jenna Jambeck, University of Georgia Distinguished Professor in Environmental Engineering, Founder of the Circularity Informatics Lab	Broad data-supported local government obstacles and successes with solid waste management
Todd Rullo, Thornton, CO, Deputy Infrastructure Director	Local government solid waste perspective, Colorado EPR practitioner
Bryce Stalcup, Executive Director at Waste Commission of Scott County	Local government solid waste perspective, integrated waste management system
Bob Gallagher, Mayor, Bettendorf, IA and Melisa Logan, Mayor, Blytheville, AR	Local leader perspective
Cody Marshall, Chief Programs Officer, The Recycling Partnership	Model ordinances and contracts

3:00-3:20 PM • COMPONENT 2: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Three facilitated working groups

Recycling Reporting Requirements**LEAD: Todd Rullo**

FOCUS: What reporting is required now? What needs to be reported for EPR readiness (and better tracking of services)?

Model Solid Waste (Recycling) Contracts**LEAD: Cody Marshall**

FOCUS: What should be included in a contract for recycling services that best benefits local government?

Model Circularity Policy / Practices / Ordinances**LEAD: Jennifer Wendt, MACFA**

FOCUS: What policies/procedures can be taken at the local level to improve recovery and reduce solid waste costs?

LOCAL LEVERS FOR CHANGE**Component 3: Breakout Sessions — Report Out****3:20-3:30 PM****3:20-3:30 PM****Local Levers for Change Component 3: Breakout Sessions — Report Out (10 min)**

Overview of outcomes of breakout groups.

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Jennifer Wendt

FOCUS: Discuss potential solutions

3:30-5:00 PM • EDUCATION SESSION

Packaging Policy EPR (and touch on DRS)

Education Session

A clear, accessible overview of EPR (and DRS) and how these policies shift costs upstream, stabilize markets, and strengthen local recycling systems.

SPEAKERS: Jeff Bezzo, SC Johnson; Mayor Gallagher, City of Bettendorf, IA; Todd Rullo, Thornton, CO; Cody Marshall, TRP

FOCUS: Overview of EPR/DRS; impacts on cities and brands

3:30-3:35 PM**Education Session: Packaging Policy EPR (and touch on DRS) — Overview**

Overview of Session

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Jennifer Wendt, MACFA

FOCUS: Overview of EPR/DRS; impacts on cities and brands

3:35-3:45 PM**What EPR Means to Local Government**

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Bob Gallagher, Mayor, Bettendorf, IA

FOCUS: Background of MRPI and representation at national and global discussions; how EPR is an economic benefit to local government.

3:45-3:55 PM**How Does It Look During Implementation?**

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Todd Rullo, Thornton, CO, Deputy Infrastructure Director

FOCUS: Discuss how the process is going in Colorado



EDUCATION SESSION — CONTINUED

Packaging Policy EPR (and touch on DRS)

3:55-4:05 PM

How Do the Various State EPR Policies Differ?

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Cody Marshall, Chief Programs Officer, The Recycling Partnership
FOCUS: Comparison of EPR policies

4:05-4:15 PM

What a Federal EPR Policy Could Look Like and What That Means to Local, State, Federal Entities?

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Jeff Bezzo, Executive Director — Plastic & Packaging Sustainability, SC Johnson
FOCUS: Overview of federal EPR; why it's beneficial economically to all stakeholders

4:40-5:00 PM

Open Q&A and Participant Discussion

SPEAKERS / LEAD: Jennifer Wendt, MACFA
FOCUS: Input from participants, answer questions, open dialogue

5:00-7:00 PM • NETWORKING RECEPTION

Drinks & Appetizers

Networking Reception

HOSTED BY: MidAmerica Clean Future Alliance

FOCUS: Relationship-building; informal discussions

TOGETHER, WE ARE RECYCLING.

Program subject to change. Speaker assignments remain subject to confirmation.