

# MATERIAL MATTERS



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **34th Annual Conference and Trade Show - Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls, September 18-20, 2024**
- **Spring 2025 - Manager of Land Operations Certification Course, Pierre, SD**
- **Fall 2025 - SDSWMA Annual Conference and Trade Show, Pierre, SD**
- **Plans for single day classes and workgroups are underway ideas include scale house operations, PFAs preparation, GPS tagging and tracking systems and composting.**



This newsletter will cover some history of trash and recycling in SD stored in the archives of the South Dakota Solid Waste Management Assoc. That thought will carry forward into the annual conference with perspectives provided by long time members of SDSWMA.

## **From your SDSWMA President.....**

As we welcome the warmer months of spring and summer, I want to say thanks to everyone for a great year and successful Spring Conference. Big shout out to all the vendors, sponsors and attendees in Deadwood. And thanks to Ryan and Jay for the tours!

Not to sound too cliché here, but it really is all about the members, which is what keeps this machine chugging. The collaboration and engagement of the membership is ultimately what is responsible for all our achievements and what defines our organization.

Spring and summer are seasons of growth and renewal, and they offer us a unique opportunity to build on our successes and explore new horizons. We have an exciting lineup of events, workshops, and conferences planned, designed to inspire, educate, and connect our members. These gatherings will not only provide valuable learning experiences but also foster a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose. Hopefully everyone was able to take advantage of the restricted use site training workshops.

I also wanted to say a huge thank you to Carolyn for stepping into the Executive Director position and helping guide us through this year. She really is the brains behind the operation and makes all of our jobs easier!

I encourage all members to engage with your peers, share your insights, and spread the word on our organization to help us grow. Thank you for your support and dedication. I have been honored to serve this past year and look forward to seeing the incredible achievements that lie ahead.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer!

Jason Hinds, President, SDSWMA



## **2024 Fall Conference - 34th Annual SDSWMA Conference and Trade Show, Sioux Falls Ramkota September 18-20, 2024**

**~Purpose Driven~**

A wide range of topics and guest speakers are in store! These sessions will highlight technology, the value of waste diversion, and strong industry leadership. We will mix in a little history and wisdom from our long time members and leaders. We will be exploring cutting-edge technology used by a local hauler, landfills, and a local recycler. Waste diversion topics will include compost, metal, single stream, wood and electronics. End users from a paper mill and glass processor will join us to speak on the end use, impact, and value in our Midwest economy helping us reimagine waste as a valuable resource. Updates from DANR, a session with The South Dakota Trucking Association and industry consultants are rounding out this conference with updates and regional projects.

Plans are finalized for the 2024 Annual Conference September 18-20 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Sioux Falls. SDSWMA is excited to have you join our fun group of industry professionals as we learn together and celebrate our solid waste industry.

We have a full morning of tours including the Sioux Falls Regional Landfill with new technology and site improvements, Millennium Recycling's Material Recovery Facility with new technology investments, and ViaFlex's Facility showcasing their production and deliverables to industry facilities.

A wide range of topics and guest speakers are in store! These sessions will highlight technology, the value of waste diversion, and strong industry leadership. We will mix in a little history and wisdom from our long time members and leaders. We will be exploring cutting-edge technology used by a local hauler, landfills, and a local recycler. Waste diversion topics will include compost, metal, single stream, wood, and electronics. End users from a paper mill and glass processor will join us to speak on the end use, impact, and value in our Midwest economy helping us reimagine waste as a valuable resource. Updates from DANR, a session with The South Dakota Trucking Association and industry consultants are rounding out this conference with updates and regional projects.

We are excited to offer a large parking area right outside the SDSWMA's Conference lobby available to provide a stage to our vendors, their services, and equipment. We encourage all vendors to consider what they can demonstrate and products available to show our attendees!

We will have something for everyone in our dynamic community of solid waste management professionals through fresh perspectives, creative approaches, and actional solutions that tackle the pressing issues within our field.

We look forward to seeing you in Sioux Falls this September!

Registration now by clicking here [www.sdswwa.org](http://www.sdswwa.org). An agenda-registration information sheet, vendor/sponsor packet and map of outdoor vendor space are available on the website for download.

If you have any questions or need assistance registering, please contact our office at 605-216-3256 or [sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com).

## 2024 Restricted Use & Solid Waste Operator's Workshop

SDSWMA hosted three more single day Restricted Use/Rubble Site Course in June of 2024. Staff from South Dakota Department of Ag and Natural Resources (SDDANR) taught the courses. Course locations were Madison, Aberdeen and Sturgis. The locations were selected so attendees could easily drive in and out in one day. Lunch was served as part of each course which allowed for networking time among operators.

The courses were well attended and much information was provided. In total, forty five facility operators and five DANR staff attended. It was a great time for all to become more familiar with how and why their facilities were permitted back in the early 1990s as the small town dumps were closing. They also learned about facility permitting, design, authorized wastes, daily operations, recordkeeping and closure. DANR staff used pictures from inspections to show examples of operational issues and unauthorized wastes. Overall, most attendees seem to value the information provided! A few noted that it would have been nice to have their own permits available during the discussion.



## SD DANR Pesticide Container Recycling Collection

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has released its pesticide container recycling collection schedule for 2024. It begins July 8, 2024. Check the SDDANR website for the schedule.

Pesticide containers acceptable for recycling must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be triple-rinsed or equivalent;
2. Consist of high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic of 2 1/2 gallons capacity or less;
3. Contain no visible pesticide residue inside or outside of the container; however, if the container held crop oil, a nutritional spray, an adjuvant or surfactant, or a Bacillus thuringiensis product as the sole active ingredient, the presence of residue will not disqualify it for acceptance;
4. Contain no more than 0.5 fluid ounces of clear water; and
5. When possible, be delivered with labels on the container.

For more information about pesticide container recycling, contact the SD Department of Ag, Agriculture Services at 605-773-3153.



## **SOUTH DAKOTA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

The South Dakota Solid Waste Management Association (SDSWMA) was formally incorporated on September 18, 1991, during the first annual solid waste and recycling conference sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Water Pollution Control Association with support from the US EPA Region VII. Prior to the incorporation, individuals from hauling, landfill and recycling businesses statewide had met for six months to develop a proposed organizational structure and mission statement. One of the primary goals adopted was to emphasize training and education. That goal continues to drive the association. SDSWMA sponsors two conferences annually, sponsors and co-sponsors a variety of training workshops and symposiums, publishes a newsletter semi-annually, and tracks legislation for members. A few examples of training workshops hosted since incorporation, include garbage hauler safety courses, restricted use/rubble site operations, waste screening and blood borne pathogen classes, waste tire symposiums, Manager of Landfill Operations certification classes, load inspection classes, tribal integrated solid waste planning, and a tip fee workshop.

### **Mission Statement**

The SDSWMA promotes environmentally sound solid waste and recycling management practices by:

- Providing training and seminars on solid waste and recycling issues (CEUs & PDHs available for certifications and licenses);
- Supporting information exchange for recyclers, haulers, and waste managers throughout South Dakota and the region by newsletter, information packets, fact sheets, a website and workshops;
- Supporting practical and basic research in solid waste and recycling management; and
- Assisting all levels of policy makers within the state of South Dakota (including testimony of technical information).

### **Newsletter**

SDSWMA produces a semi-annual newsletter, "Material Matters". The newsletter provides advertising opportunities, information on the status of recycling throughout the state, regulatory updates, a calendar of events, status of meetings, and information of general interest pertaining to solid waste and recycling in South Dakota. All state legislators are included in our newsletter mailings.

### **Meetings and Seminars**

SDSWMA hosts two conferences each year and organizes special workshops as requested. The spring conference is held during late March or early April. The conference provides training to landfill operators, recycling facilities, restricted use site operators and garbage haulers on a rotating basis. The annual conference is held in September. It is organized like a trade show and focuses on all three branches of solid waste (recycling, landfilling and hauling) encouraging networking within the industry and regulatory updates.

### **Historical Background**

The incorporators of SDSWMA were: Terry Keller, Steve Pirner and Clark Haberman. The first year's board of directors and officers included: Kelsey Alexander of the Paper Chase in Custer, Allan Arens of Arens Sanitation in Yankton, Morris Forsting of the Sioux Falls Public Health Department, A.A Ray Hartman of the Pierre City Commission, William Huebner of Ace Steel and Recycling in Rapid City, Larry Mitzel of the Brown County Highway and Landfill Department in Aberdeen, Dorothy Neuhaus of the Clay County Recycling Center in Vermillion, Clark Sowers of Sowers Sanitation in Belle Fourche, and Bill Stoddard an Alderman from Parker. Bob McGrath of the Brookings Public Health Department was the President, Jerry Wright of the Rapid City Solid Waste Operations was the President-Elect, Joyce Ferris of Midwest Recycling in Huron was the Vice-President, and Mike Erickson of Dependable Sanitation in Aberdeen was the Secretary-

Treasurer. The Executive Director position was contracted to Wasteline, Inc. (Deborah Barton, project manager) out of Rapid City.

The first governing board met every two months. The November and January meetings were generally in Pierre. April and September meetings were held in conjunction with the spring and annual conferences.

In January of 1994, the governing board adopted the formal logo of the association. It reflects the diverse nature of the state with its pristine environment. The recycling arrows surrounding the state are also representative of the integrated nature of the solid waste and recycling industry in South Dakota and the branch structure of the association for collection, disposal and recycling. The association's name often surrounds the logo.

---

## Garbage Evolution in the State of South Dakota

*The following was presented by Terry Keller, SDDENR, during the first annual Recycling Conference April 9-10, 1997, Pierre, SD*

### CENTURIES AGO

Centuries ago native Americans camped by rivers and used them for waste disposal. This worked OK because all their waste was biodegradable and relatively harmless. The biggest problem was that the waste attracted wild animals at times. American settlers did the same. Their waste was also organic and of not much volume. Later Americans piled up garbage on land outside of town or, even later, in old gravel pits, anywhere out of sight. This practice was not so bad as long as the vermin were controlled. Killing rats and other unwanted creatures was a continuous chore. Although sometimes it was fun to shoot rats at the old town dump on Saturday morning.

### PROGRESS

Then man began to: develop many chemicals and biological items which presented contamination problems for drinking water and disease vectors through rats and other vermin. Our dumps became the final resting place for insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers, solvents, medical wastes and many other toxics. The quantities of solid waste began to increase substantially. We were developing petroleum-based products, adds, and many other chemical pollutants. Many of these materials cannot be taken care of by Mother Nature alone, since she can only assimilate a certain amount of organic materials without help, and very little chemical base without a great deal of help.

Between the 1940's and 1970's billions of tons of untreated and, perhaps untreatable, material was disposed of in our nation's dumps. It wasn't until the mid 1980's that any concentrated effort was made to engineer environmentally sound solid waste facilities. The reason for this is that thousands of water and waste water treatment plants had to be built during the period from 1970 to 1986. Once these were completed, the construction of landfills, meeting new environmental standards, followed from 1986 to the present.

In South Dakota, the larger cities ran relatively good landfills, but the majority of small town dumps were operated with almost no controls. No one supervised them, they were not fenced, they had no locked gates, no run-on/run-off controls, no groundwater monitoring wells and no records. When they seemed to be getting too full, the residents simply burned everything in the dump, no matter what the material. Toxics were released into the atmosphere, unknown to the local citizens or government.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

## REGIONALIZATION

Over 130 landfills and dumps existing prior to 1990 were reduced to the 18 regional landfills currently operated by cities, counties, solid waste districts and tribes. These regional landfills are permitted to accept all materials which are not banned. *Restricted Use* facilities replaced some of the old dumps in smaller towns and are permitted to accept wastes with less risk of contamination for disposal and to store appliances and tires onsite until recycled. *Rubble sites* can accept construction and demolition material and disaster debris. *Petroleum Contaminated Soil Treatment Sites* treat soil contaminated by oil spills or underground tanks. *Transfer stations* are facilities permitted to consolidate solid waste from several towns and transport it to a landfill. *Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's)* are facilities that receive garbage, either mixed or semi-sorted. The recyclables are removed and processed for shipment to markets and the remaining solid waste is land-filled or composted. *Recycling Facilities* don't accept nonrecyclables, so they require no permit.

## COSTS, BANS, GOALS

Designing, constructing and operating properly regulated landfills, and transporting solid waste long distances to these regional facilities increased the cost of burying solid waste substantially. Additionally, in 1992, the Second Century Environmental Protection Act was passed by the South Dakota Legislature. This law included sections that banned the disposal of lead-acid batteries, used motor oil, yard waste, large household appliances, paper, cardboard, steel, aluminum, plastic and glass containers. It also established waste reduction goals of 25% by the year 1996 and 50% by the year 2001. Currently, the state has almost reached 39% waste reduction.

## GRANTS

So now we had higher landfilling costs, landfill bans, and waste reduction goals. Clearly, landfilling alternatives were needed to counter the costs and bans, as well as, meet the goals. Fortunately, the new law provided a solid waste and recycling grant program to fund such alternatives. The grant program is funded with \$1/ton surcharge for each ton of garbage landfilled and a \$0.25/tire for all non-agricultural vehicles registered. Both of these fees are annually assessed.

These fees provide over \$1 million per year to the grant program. They have contributed greatly toward the development of an environmentally sound solid waste industry and have pieced together the infrastructure necessary to achieve a very high growth recycling industry. Since 1992, \$2.6 million in grants have been awarded to construct \$7.2 million worth of solid waste facilities and close many old dumps properly. Another \$2.1 million was awarded to leverage \$8.4 million in recycling projects. This \$4.7 million in grants was awarded to support a total of \$15.6 million in solid waste and recycling projects.

## RESULTS

This infusion of funding into the solid waste infrastructure is a major reason this state has achieved 38.8% waste reduction to date. We should remember that the volume of waste disposed of in 1992 was 842,000 tons. The volume in 1996 was 535,000 tons. As you can see, landfilling 307,000 fewer tons puts us ahead of schedule in reaching our 50% goal by 2001.

## SOUTH DAKOTA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (SDSWMA)

In September 1991, the Solid Waste Management Association was born. This statewide nonprofit organization was developed to be the solid waste library of expertise and information for the state. It is comprised of

**Congrats****2024****Scholarship****Winners:****Scott Pottorff**

Industrial Hygiene  
USD  
\$3000

**Jadlyn Fenderson**

Nursing  
USD-SF  
\$3000

**Kaylynn Johnson**

Computer Pgmng  
SE Tech  
\$2500

**Alania Bechen**

Biology/Business  
Northwestern, IA  
\$500

cities, counties, landfill owners and operators, haulers and recyclers (both public and private), non-profit organizations, and private citizens. It has 200 to 250 members and is a full-time completely operational organization.

If anyone remembers anything from this event, let it be that this organization is the Bible of South Dakota solid waste. For answers to your solid waste and recycling questions, information for your studies and reports, and fine tuning of policies and legislative issues that affect the whole industry, this is the organization to contact first. There are others in the region, but none representing each and every portion of the total industry.

---

## **Submit Your SDSWMA Annual Award Nominations NOW!**

South Dakota Solid Waste Management Association has four awards available for outstanding achievement in the South Dakota solid waste industry. These awards will be presented September 19, 2024, during the annual awards banquet at the Best Western Ramkota, Sioux Falls.

The four awards are described below. Submit nominations separately for each award. Nominations must include the name of the award, name of nominee and a quarter page write-up explaining why this nominee deserves this award.

***Career Achievement Award***

This award is given to a person, industry, business, or community who has promoted environmentally sound solid waste management practices throughout their careers. This may be through promoting recycling, practicing waste prevention, waste reduction, improving waste handling methods, designing waste handling facilities, providing equipment and services, or any other work they have done that directly and indirectly affects the solid waste industry.

***Innovation Award***

This award goes to a person, industry, business, or community who has, through work practices, equipment and materials supply, engineering design, waste handling, facility design, or other means, demonstrated new and improved ways of achieving environmentally sound solid waste management practices.

***Local Champion Award***

The local champion has gone above and beyond, within the solid waste industry, to supply exemplary economical, environmentally sound services to customers.

***Pinch of Seagull Sh...Award***

This award goes to someone who has suffered from “shit happening” in the last year. At some point in our careers, everyone experiences a situation that they have no control over. This is a therapeutic award given to help “get over it and move on”.

Please submit your nominations no later than August 23, 2024, so the committee can finalize the selections and plaques can be prepared. Submit nominations by email to [sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com) with **Award Nomination** in the subject line. More info can be found here: <https://sdswwa.org/about-us/annual-awards/>

## 2024 SDSWMA Scholarship Program Changes

The SDSWMA Scholarship Program will be changing this fall in an effort to help meet our industry's workforce needs in South Dakota. The program will shift from all degrees to a focus on students desiring to become skilled laborers with degrees such as a CDL, Diesel Technology, Equipment Operators, Environmental Technicians, Millwrights, Computer/GPS Technicians, etc.

More details on these changes will be posted here and sent out to all high school counselors and Vo-Tech/College financial aid programs in South Dakota, early October 2024. The deadline for application submissions will remain January 15 of each year. The application for a 2025 Vo-Tech scholarship is available by [clicking here](#). Questions and answers about the 2025 scholarship program can be found by [clicking here](#).

The CDL aspect of this program will be a benefit to SDSWMA members only. CDL applicants will require a member sponsor to be considered.

---

### *Advertise now in the "Material Matters Newsflash"*

<b>Prices:</b>	Business Card - \$100/year
	1/4 page - \$200.00/year
	1/2 page - \$300.00/year
	1 full page - \$450.00/year

Electronic ads are required and can be emailed to [sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com). Pdf format is preferred. Your advertisement will be published in the next two newsletters following receipt of payment.

Submit check payment to:

**Newsletter Advertising  
SDSWMA  
1616 Melody Lane  
Aberdeen, SD 57401**

**Questions:** Carolyn Trautman, Interim Executive Director, SDSWMA  
Email: [sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com) or Cell: (605) 216-3256

"Material Matters" is prepared by the staff and members of SDSWMA. The "Material Matters" is published on a semi-annual basis. Subscriptions are free to members.



## The Recycling Partnership State of Recycling Report -- Published 1-9-2023

Read the whole report here: <https://recyclingpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Recycling-Partnership-State-of-Recycling-Report-1.9.23.pdf>

### Here is the brief on why they wrote this report:

There are massive environmental and economic benefits that come from recycling. However, the gaps in our U.S. residential<sup>1</sup> recycling system prevent us from achieving all of those benefits. In this report, we examine the current state of residential recycling and identify the gaps that need to be filled.

We look at five key requirements of an effective recycling system and contrast the current state with our vision for a thriving one. The five requirements of an effective recycling system in the U.S. are:

- Packaging Recyclability
- Recycling Access
- Recycling Engagement
- Processing and Sortation
- End Markets

Part 1 of the report provides new data, analysis, and perspectives on where we are today, where the weak spots are, and where investment and action will have the biggest impact. Part 2 explores three strategies to fill the gaps between current levels and those required in an optimal system.

We're providing an actionable roadmap for policymakers, private industry, community recycling programs, and everyone who believes in recycling as a strategy to reduce waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and provide raw materials for new products.

### **Retirement Plan Investment Tip** (from 2010 SDSWMA Newsletter)

If you had purchased \$1000.00 of AIG stock one year ago, it would now be worth \$56.91.

With Washington Mutual, you would have \$4.58 left of the original \$1000.

With 'Fannie Mae' (FNM), you would have \$11.34 left.

If you had purchased \$1000.00 of Lehman Bros one year ago it would now be almost worthless; less than \$0.86.

But, if you had purchased \$1000.00 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling refund you would have \$214.00.

Based on the above, the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle. This is called the 401-Keg Plan.

### **Just one more reason to recycle!!!**

Thank you to Mike Scott at the Brown County Landfill for this investment tip.