

The SWANA Applied Research Foundation—Your Research Partner



Did you know:

- Even with today's source separation recycling programs, about two-thirds of ferrous and non-ferrous metals produced by residents can still end up in the trash?
- To compost food waste, a bulking agent (typically shredded branches) is needed at a weight ratio of two-thirds food waste to one-third bulking agent?
- Alternative Cover Systems have now been permitted as final cover for landfills in 10 states?

Since its founding in 2001, the SWANA Applied Research Foundation (ARF) has published more than 40 reports that have addressed important and timely research topics such as the impacts of food waste diversion programs on MSW systems, innovations in waste-to-energy ash management, and alternative closures and regulatory post-closure care.

In some instances, the findings of the ARF's research have created controversy. For example, a 2004 ARF publication about electronic wastes concluded:

"As is evident from its organizational goals and policies, SWANA endorses and actively promotes the implementation of economically and environmentally sound waste reduction and recycling programs for products containing heavy metals. However, as evidenced in this report, modern MSW landfills can provide an effective "safety net," as well as an environmentally sound means of disposal, for those products containing heavy metals that are not diverted through waste reduction and recycling programs."

Three important characteristics characterize the ARF's research program: timeliness, relevance and independence.

The ARF's research is timely because the research topics are developed, submitted and voted on by the Foundation's members every year. The research is relevant for the same reason—namely that it addresses topics submitted and defined by active solid waste managers. Finally, it is independent. As it does not receive funding from outside organizations, the Foundation is free to draw conclusions and report findings based on sound science and unbiased investigations.

According to Ellen Price of the City of Charlotte's Solid Waste Services, "The ARF provides an opportunity to have solid waste professionals conduct research on topics of interest or

hot topics in one's jurisdiction without the visibility, procurement process and greater expense of hiring a consultant. The research results may be taken more seriously by elected officials than those of a paid consultant."

SWANA wishes to thank and recognize the contributions of the 39 organizations and their representatives that comprise the ARF's members and support its research financially and professionally. A debt of gratitude is owed to them by the SWANA membership as well as the solid waste industry.

For more information on SWANA's Applied Research Foundation, visit swana.org/research or contact Jeremy O'Brien at jobrien@swana.org.

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SWANA Applied Research Foundation – Fiscal Year 2018 Subscribers		
Jurisdiction	Representative	Title
FY2018 Disposal Group		
Charleston County, SC	Robert Lawing, PE	Solid Waste Engineer
Chester County Solid Waste Authority (PA)	Robert Watts	Executive Director
Delaware County Solid Waste Authority (PA)	Joseph Vasturia, PE	Chief Executive Officer
Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DE)	Jason Munyon, P.E., BCEE	Manager of Engineering
City of Denton, TX	Scott Lebsack	Dev. and Admin. Manager
Illinois SWANA Chapter	Steven Schilling, P.E.	President SWANA Land of Lincoln Chapter
Iowa SWANA Chapter	Mike Classen	Solid Waste Engineer (HDR)
King County, WA	Laura Belt	Special Projects Manager
Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (PA)	Erin Saylor	Business Development Manager
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (CA)	Frank Caponi	Division Engineer
Mecklenburg County, NC	Jeff Smithberger	Solid Waste Director
Metro Waste Authority (IA)	Michael McCoy	Executive Director
New Jersey SWANA Chapter	Gary Conover	ACUA Solid Waste Director
New River Resource Authority (VA)	Joe Levine, PE	Executive Director
New River Solid Waste Association (FL)	Darrel O'Neal	Executive Director
North Carolina SWANA Chapter	Joe Readling, PE	Vice President - HDR Engineering, Inc.
Prince William County, VA	Tom Smith	Solid Waste Division Chief
San Joaquin County, CA	Jim Stone	Deputy Director of Public Works/Operations
SCS Engineers	Robert Gardner, PE, BCEE	Senior Vice President
Smith Gardner Inc.	Mike Brinchek, PE	Senior Project Manager