Greg McCarron Vice President/ Project Director, *SCS Engineers*

Greg McCarron, PE is the expert on Organics Management at SCS. Greg supports businesses and municipalities across the U.S. taking steps to address climate change, which many consider the most important challenge facing our planet. One popular option is reducing greenhouse gas and their environmental impacts by diverting organics from landfills, thus reducing methane production. The tactic also diverts much-needed food to food banks in some programs.

Greg's 35 years of experience include operations, project management, design, economic analysis, and technology assessment for sustainable composting operations.

Among his innovative projects, there are award winners for demonstrating that composting can exist in urban areas, conveniently coexisting with buildings and people, even tucked under a bridge in New York City.

He created an Aerated Static Pile (ASP) composting pilot program so municipalities and businesses could evaluate their organic waste streams to determine whether composting is a viable solution. He leads the design of hybrid approaches that combine ASP with other technologies, such as open windrows. These can achieve process control while maintaining cost efficiencies.

"The advancements mentioned above help support sustainable composting and organics management because they account for changes that may occur over the life of the systems, such as waste characteristics and their relation to the end-product demand." – GREG McCARRON

Darrell Smith, Ph.D

President and CEO, *National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA)*

Darrell Smith, Ph.D., has transformed the advocacy work and financial performance of the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) since his hiring in 2017. Under his leadership, the organization has achieved hundreds of legislative and regulatory victories. He has brought the Association into the black after years of deficit spending, and he has increased revenues and reduced expenses all while building up the organization's reserves to a record level.

While emphasizing the organization's advocacy efforts, he hired world-class advocacy professionals who now make up 80% of the staff as compared to a low of 20% in previous years. His efforts are paying off, and the organization has received national and international awards, including the prestigious American Society of Association Executives Summit Award for Advocacy (awarded to only one association each year) for work done during the COVID crisis. Darrell's innovative approach includes mission focus, elimination of distractions, and a major communication campaign on behalf of the industry. He has proven himself to be a tireless, results-oriented advocate for the waste and recycling industry.

Carter Schultz Robotics Software Manager, *AMP Robotics*

Before joining AMP nearly four years ago, Carter was a robotics engineer at Neya Systems and a launch automation engineer at SpaceX.

He was instrumental in AMP's transition to a new robot manufacturer for its Cortex product. When faced with a difficult timeline, he accelerated development with scrappy shortcuts.

By intuiting which parts of the system were most integral to success and focusing resources there, he hit the critical timeline—championing a technological sprint to complete the integration in less than eight weeks. The transition enabled an array of new innovations and performance improvements, from the development of a dual-robot system and other advancements in gripper technology that vastly increased the number of picks per minute its systems could achieve.

Carter led the software development of the world's fastest and most accurate robotic recycling sorter, at 80-120 picks per minute—up to three times faster than human sorters. He built from scratch an operating system tailored to recycling, leveraging the new approaches and opportunities enabled by AI.

"The ability to put AI-driven cameras everywhere in a facility is unlocking optimization capabilities previously unknown in recycling. Facilities that dynamically adapt their sortation methods in response to changes in the material stream will take the 'art' out of facility operations and usher in better, more reliable performance." – CARTER SCHULTZ

Suzanne Sturgeon Health and Safety (H&S) Program Manager, *SCS Engineers*

Suzanne Sturgeon works in the field and is responsible for developing and implementing safety programs, policies, procedures, and regulations at SCS. She also manages H&S training for field staff, developing and conducting cultural-based training within SCS to promote understanding and participation at all levels while encouraging a behavior-based philosophy essential to eliminating unsafe practices and conditions.

Suzanne continually evolves her programs and participates in speaking opportunities to share successful strategies throughout North America at SWANA events and others. Her focus has been proactively identifying hazardous landfill and landfill gas situations and presenting unique solutions she has developed. As the number of MRFs and transfer stations is expected to increase, those have become safety focus areas.

The industry is seeing a reduction in workplace fatalities based on the most recent U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, but there is more work to do.

As the SWANA National Safety Committee Chair, Suzanne is working to keep fatalities and injuries on the downward trend. Her innovative training and ability to communicate saves lives.

"Solid waste is a dangerous industry, and we collectively work to bring awareness to those most vulnerable to injury or worse. As an industry, we have the tools and more on-demand training to help reach more workers before problems occur to continue making our industry safer." — SUZANNE STURGEON