

# Speaker Bios



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**MARCH 30-31**

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## SPEAKER BIOS



**Jules Bailey** is the Chief Stewardship Officer for [Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative \(OBRC\)](#). As CSO, Jules is responsible for charting the future of Bottle Bill implementation and ensuring the deposit and redemption system remains convenient, relevant, and effective for Oregonians. He also oversees the BottleDrop Refill program for refillable bottles.



**Elizabeth Balkan** is the Director of Reloop North America, [Reloop Platform](#). Elizabeth brings over a decade of strategy and public policy experience. She served as Director of Food Waste at the Natural Resources Defence Council, growing the Food Matters Cities Initiative to include over 40 cities nationwide. Previously, Elizabeth worked in New York City government, both at the Department of Sanitation and in the Mayor's Office; and, as a consultant, with international NGOs and private sector stakeholders.



**Pierre Benabidès** is a Senior Consultant for [Lichens Recyclability](#). Pierre is a specialist in research and analysis of new end-markets and capacity development for recycling infrastructure. Previously he worked as a material specialist and in end-market development for recyclables at Eco Entreprises Quebec, the PRO for PPP in Quebec, Canada.

**Tobias Bielenstein** is the Director of Public Affairs, Sustainability & Communications for the Cooperative of the German Mineral Water Companies (GDB), which runs Europe's biggest refillable bottles system with more than one billion bottles and more than 100 million cases. Tobias is also COO of the [Working Group Refillables \(Arbeitskreis Mehrweg\)](#), an organization managing the European



Refillable Logo and serving as a think tank & information point about refillables for companies, start-ups, authorities and scientists.



**Alasdair Carmichael** is the Program Director for **NAPCOR**. Since joining NAPCOR in 2018, he has worked with the reclaimer section of the industry and its applications into fibers, containers and other end uses. Alasdair has over 40 years' experience in the Synthetic Fibers industry – mainly in Polyester. He has lived in Europe, Asia and the US and been involved in the fibers industry in all the major markets of the world.



**Carla Castagnero** is the founder of **AgRecycle**, Pennsylvania's longest operating composting company. AgRecycle is based in Pittsburgh and has been processing food scraps since 1998 and certified compostable products since 2004. Carla has degrees from Columbia and Duquesne Universities.



**Marie Clarke** is the Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs for the **Mattress Recycling Council (MRC)** and Vice President of Policy & Government Affairs for the **International Sleep Products Association (ISPA)**. Prior to joining ISPA and MRC, Marie worked as Counsel in the Government Affairs Division of the American Coatings Association (ACA). While at ACA Marie worked on sustainability and international issues as well as serving as an advocate for the paint stewardship program, PaintCare. Marie graduated from Villanova University with a degree in Political Science before earning a law degree with a focus on

environmental law from the Widener University Delaware Law School.



**Sara-Emmanuelle Dubois** is the President & Founder of **NovAxia Inc.** Sara-Emmanuelle has more than 12 years of experience in the waste management industry. She worked five years as a recycling plant manager and director of engineering for a comprehensive waste management company in Quebec, Gaudreau Environnement. She specialized in recycling process optimization, and in research and development projects involving equipment design. Since 2013, she has worked with diverse industry leaders, from governmental and municipal organizations, to MRF

operators, recyclers, and technology manufacturers. She benefits from a large network of MRFs and recycling plants spread across Canada and the United States.



**Scott Farling** is the VP of Business Development and Research for **Titus MRF Services**, a leading systems integrator for the Waste & Recycling Industry and developer of Secondary Material Recovery Facilities. After more than a decade working in the specialty chemicals industry, Scott shifted careers to follow his passion and focus on recycling and recovering value from complex waste streams with MBA Polymers, Inc. and Agilyx Corporation. In addition to his work with Titus, he co-founded the Ocean Plastics Recovery Project and is working to clean up our oceans and coastlines and find end-of-life recycling and recovery solutions for ocean

plastics. Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Environmental Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.



**Dan Felton** is the Executive Director of **AMERIPEN (American Institute for Packaging and the Environment)**. Dan is a well-known leader in the government affairs arena for nearly 20 years. He has worked within the bottled water, credit card, healthcare and information management industries. He is particularly passionate about environmental, sustainability and packaging issues and has lobbied extensively in those areas at the state and federal levels. Dan leads Ameripen's efforts to develop and advocate positions for the U.S. packaging industry on issues related to packaging and the environment, using sound science and a philosophy of

material neutrality. A graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, Dan has lived in the Washington, DC area for nearly 30 years.



**Nora Goldstein** is Editor/Publisher of BioCycle CONNECT® and **BioCycle.net**, the Organics Recycling Authority. She is also Director of **BioCycle Associates**. Nora has authored numerous articles on all facets of zero waste, food recovery and recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion, as well as organized many conferences on these topics. She received the US Composting Council's Hi Kellogg Award for Outstanding Service to the Composting Industry, and the American Biogas Council's Biogas Visionary Award.



**Peter Hargreave** is the President of **Policy Integrity Inc.** Peter has more than 14 years of experience in providing strategic advice in the development, implementation, and oversight of public policy. Over his professional career, he has developed a strong network of relationships with regulators, public and private organizations, and other key stakeholders involved in environmental issues across Canada, the United States, and abroad. Prior to starting his company, Peter spent six years with the Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) as the acting CEO and Director of Policy and Strategy where he helped lead the sector

in developing policy around a more circular economy. His work continues to influence and shape business and policy decisions in the province.



recycled plastic feedstreams.

**Kim Holmes** is the Owner & Principal Consultant of [4R Sustainability](#), a consulting firm dedicated to working with industry to advance recycling and sustainability goals. Kim works with clients to demonstrate innovative recovery solutions, develop sustainable communications and business development strategies, and serves as a technical expert. Prior to relaunching her firm, Kim was the vice president of sustainability for the Plastics Industry Association, where she developed new models for testing end market development and collection methods for a wide range of



**Laura Honis** is the Connecticut and Rhode Island Programs Manager for [PaintCare](#). Laura has been working in the environmental field for 20 years.



**John Hurd** is the Vermont and Maine Program Manager for [PaintCare](#). John has been working in municipal recycling, waste reduction, and hazardous waste in Vermont for 20 years.



LEED Green Associate and a TRUE Zero Waste Advisor.

**Olga Kachook** is a Senior Manager at [Sustainable Packaging Coalition](#) whose work focuses on compostable packaging, bioplastics, and reusable packaging. She leads the Essentials of Sustainable Packaging education program and the Compostable Packaging Collaborative. Prior to joining GreenBlue, she led corporate sustainability and waste initiatives at World Centric, Etsy, Cascade Designs, and Cascadia Consulting. Olga has a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Washington. She is certified as a



**Jason Linnell**, Executive Director, [National Center for Electronics Recycling \(NCER\)](#) where he leads activities such as research on electronics recycling data and policy, as well as management of the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC). Under Jason's direction, the NCER manages and oversees the statewide networks of collectors and recyclers for the Oregon State Contractor Program and Vermont State Standard Plan and administers the Illinois Manufacturer Clearinghouse.



**Caren McNamara** is the Founder and CEO of **Conscious Container**, a California Benefit Corporation that has brought a refillable glass bottle marketplace back into the US economy and infrastructure. After over 20 years as a successful project and change management consultant Caren was inspired by the circular economy solutions refillables presented. As a boot-strapping start-up she set proof-of-concept collection pilots which proved the demand and desire for this refillable glass bottle marketplace. Caren worked strategically with key stakeholders, policymakers, beverage and glass manufactures and now investors to scale this “benefit for all” sustainable refillable business model.



**Heidi Sanborn** is the Executive Director of the **National Stewardship Action Council**, a 501(c)4 non-profit organization formed in 2015 to advocate for a circular economy in the United States. Heidi has been a leader in the solid waste industry for over 30 years, focused on source reduction and cost-effective projects that support a circular economy. Heidi speaks throughout the world and has won many awards and appointments including currently serving as Chair of the California Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling and as a member of the Advisory Board for the Solid Waste Association of North America representing “Materials Recovery”.