



# SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY RECYCLE



## Happy Holidays from the SWDA!



As the crisp winter air settles in and the holiday season begins to sparkle, we have some exciting updates to share with you. In this festive issue, we'll cover:

- MRF Construction Update
- Baler Install
- Educational Facility Update
- Christmas Tree Recycling
- Tips for an Eco-Friendly Christmas

We are excited to report our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is nearly complete! While the installation of the Green Machine line still underway, the Marathon baler has been installed, and line testing is scheduled for mid-December to ensure all equipment is operating smoothly.

We have had the honor of working with Banks Compton, a local Baldwin County artist, on a mural for the water tank beside the MRF. It shows the story of trash and recycling - from the curb, to Magnolia Landfill or the MRF.

In mid-November, Whirlwind Creative began installing exhibits for the Baldwin County Waste and Recycling Adventure Center and are expected to be complete by the New Year!

As the holidays come and go make sure that you recycle your Christmas Trees! To learn more about Christmas Tree Recycling in Baldwin County, please visit our website

[baldwincountyswda.org/recycling/recycle-event](http://baldwincountyswda.org/recycling/recycle-event)

While looking for presents for family and friends or planning celebrations, take a look at our tips for an Eco-friendly Christmas for ideas on some last minute presents or way to reuse items that you may already have.

We are excited to announce that the SWDA has been in contact with Elberta Elementary to start a school recycling program. The program aims to teach the importance of sustainability while also helping to create a cleaner, greener school environment.



### In This Newsletter Issue:

#### MRF Construction Update

**Marathon Baler**  
Recycling Machinery Install

#### Water Tank Mural

**Waste and Recycling Adventure Center**  
Exhibit Installation

#### Christmas Tree Recycling

**Tips for an Eco-Friendly Christmas**

**Sustainability Shout Out**  
Elberta Elementary

#### Community Events

- The Recycling Partnership Summit "The PIVOT" Scale to Impact
- Resource Recycling Conference
- Knauf Fiberglass Insulation Tour
- Annual Multi-Chamber event
- Central Baldwin Chamber's Business After Hours



## MRF Construction Update

Construction of our new facility is on track to be completed after the first of the year. The MRF section is finished, and machinery installation is underway. By January, all equipment will be in place, and we'll begin training and fine-tuning the system to ensure optimal performance. Once the machinery is operational we will begin taking small amounts of materials from municipalities. We're excited to see the facility fully operational and the positive impact it will have on our recycling efforts.

LOOK FOR THE GRAND OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT- 1ST QUARTER 2025!



## Baler Install Underway

Marathon was on-site to begin the installation of the baler, a critical piece of equipment in our recycling operations. The baler plays an essential role in our process by compressing the processed and separated materials into compact bales. These bales are then prepared for transportation and sale to recycling end markets, where they will be reused in the manufacturing of new products. This new installation will not only improve the efficiency of our operations, but also increase our capacity to handle larger volumes of recyclable materials, helping us better meet the demands of our recycling partners. We are excited about the positive impact this investment will have on our sustainability goals and look forward to its completion!

## Water Tank Mural



SWDA wants to recognize Banks Compton for his incredible work on a water tank mural for the MRF.

The mural shows the journey of waste and recycling - from your home, to the Landfill, and the MRF. It also shows our new landfill gas to energy plant, the constructed wetlands, and the Waste and Recycling Adventure Center.

## Waste and Recycling Adventure Center

In mid-November, Whirlwind Creative and their talented team began the installation of exhibits for the highly anticipated Waste and Recycling Adventure Center. This marks a significant step forward in bringing the vision of the center to life.

The installation process has been progressing smoothly, with the team making great strides in setting up the interactive displays and educational exhibits. These exhibits are designed to engage visitors of all ages, and provide a deeper understanding of recycling, waste management, and sustainability. From hands-on activities to informative panels, the center will offer a fun and educational experience that highlights the importance of responsible waste practices.

Thanks to the hard work of Whirlwind Creative, the project is on schedule and is expected to be completed by the new year. We are excited to see the final result and look forward to welcoming visitors to explore the center, learn more about the recycling process, and become inspired to take action towards a more sustainable future!

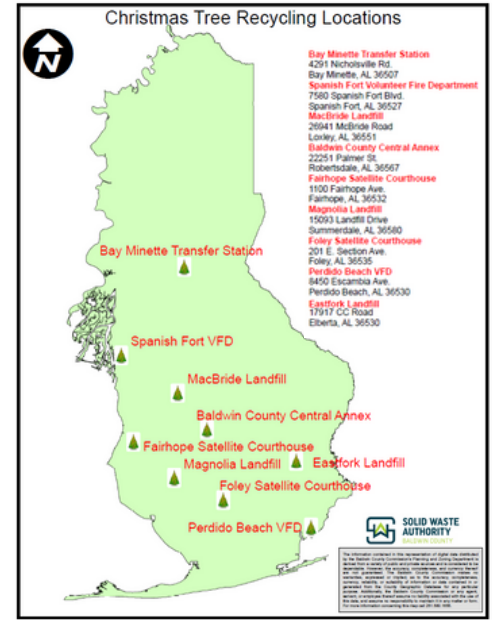


## Christmas Tree Recycling

As the holidays come and go make sure to dispose of your live Christmas Trees properly.

Before disposal please make sure that all ornaments, garland, tinsel, and lights have been removed. Please do not recycle Christmas Trees that have been flocked (snow covered). Our Christmas tree recycling locations will be open from December 26th to January 16th and all the locations are marked on the map to the right.

For more information please go to [baldwincountyswda.org/recycling/recycle-event](http://baldwincountyswda.org/recycling/recycle-event)



### Tips for an Eco-Friendly Christmas

As Christmas and New Year approach, here are some eco-friendly tips:

- **Eco Gift Wrapping:** Use reusable gift bags, scarves, or recycled paper like old newspapers. You can also get creative with stickers or drawings to make them festive.
- **Sustainable Decorations:** Make paper snowflakes or ornaments from old cardboard or wine corks for a creative touch.
- **Sustainable Gift Ideas:** Repurpose materials like glass jars for candles or create jewelry from paper.
- **Zero Waste Gift Ideas:** Give experiences like concerts or weekend trips, digital subscriptions, or homemade coupons for services like babysitting or dog walking.
- **Christmas Tree Disposal:** Recycle your tree by finding local drop-off points, or using the branches to make wreaths and the trunk for ornaments.

Stay festive while being eco-friendly this holiday season!

### Sustainability Shout-Out

#### Elberta Elementary

The SWDA would like to recognize Elberta Elementary for their outstanding efforts in starting a school recycling program. We recently learned that a dedicated staff member had been personally transporting the school's recyclables to the local drop-off, sparking further interest in sustainability at the school. After connecting with the school, we discovered that a group of passionate students had formed a recycling club and are eager to educate their peers on the importance of recycling.

It's inspiring to see the younger generation taking initiative to care for the earth and spread the message of sustainability. The SWDA is excited to be working with Elberta Elementary to teach 6th-grade students about recycling and meet with the Principal and the recycling club to explore their ideas for launching a full recycling program within the school. We look forward to supporting their efforts and helping to create a more sustainable future for all!



## SWDA Community Engagement

### The Recycling Partnership Summit "The PIVOT" Scale to Impact

Terri Graham, CEO, and Susan Kilby-Aaron, Director of Recycling Services, were present and actively participated in this incredible event! Terri gave a detailed interview about Baldwin County and shared her journey in the waste and recycling industry. She also took part in a panel discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities of recycling in rural areas. Additionally, they had the chance to tour the Ripple Glass plant and meet "BIRDIE," the Recycling Partnership mascot!

### Resource Recycling Conference

Terri Graham, CEO, and Susan Kilby-Aaron, Director of Recycling Services, participated in the Resource Recycling Conference in Louisville, KY. The event focused on fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and advancing the future of sustainability and materials recovery.

"Recycling is not just an obligation, its an opportunity to make a difference." - Justin Trudeau

## SWDA Community Engagement

### Knauf Fiberglass Insulation Tour

Terri Graham, CEO, and Susan Kilby-Aaron, Director of Recycling Services, visited the Knauf Fiberglass Insulation Plant in Lanett, AL, for an in-depth tour focused on glass recycling practices and to explore new opportunities for sustainable materials management.

### Chamber Events



The Recycling Team was invited to the Central Baldwin Chamber's Business After Hours event to showcase the new MRF and recycling initiatives. Jennifer Doan presented facility renderings and provided an overview of sustainability efforts in Baldwin County.

### Elberta Sausage Festival

Susan Kilby-Aaron, Amy Galemore, and Jonathan Bryars joined the Elberta Sausage Festival to engage with the community, network, and raise awareness about the importance of recycling. Be sure to mark your calendars for the next festival on March 29, 2025, where you'll find SWDA recycling carts, our tent, and some great swag! A huge congratulations to Amy Galemore for taking 1st place in the 5k run & working one of the tents! A big thank you to Jonathan Bryars for keeping the young volunteers in order, ensuring proper trash disposal, and assisting with cooking during the down time. Your dedication and teamwork made all the difference!

### Contact Us!

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### Thanks for Reading!

This is a bi-monthly publication so be on the lookout for the next edition in January 2025!

If you would like to be added to the newsletter list please email Jennifer Doan at Jennifer.Doan@baldwincountyswda.org

For more waste and recycling information please visit: [baldwincountyswda.org](http://baldwincountyswda.org)