

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

**TOP NEWS****WHO ARE WE**>>> **SWANA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NY CHAPTER**

The SWANA YP Group provides a structured bridge from an entry-level to a mid-career leader in the resource management industry. The group aims to develop a pool of well-rounded leaders for the future of our industry and provide a platform to elevate new ideas and initiatives from the youngest members of the industry. [MORE ABOUT SWANA YP HERE.](#)

CLICK HERE <<<

[Casella - Environmental Analyst](#)

[Casella - Landfill Gas Manager](#)

[Barton & Loguidice - Environmental Project Manager](#)

[Guidehouse - Corporate Sustainability Consultant](#)

[ENGIE - Sustainability Waste Advisor](#)

**JOB
OPPORTUNITIES**

UPCOMING EVENTS

➤➤➤ EARLY REGISTRATION FOR FEDERATION OF NY SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE WITH TRADE SHOW 2026, MAY 16-20

Early registration is open till April 15th for this year's NY Annual Solid Waste and Recycling Conference in Bolton Landing, New York. The 2026 program will put a spotlight on expansion of the circular economy and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies, regulation updates for organics and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), advancements in AI-powered sorting and data analytics, automation for efficiency, and the need to improve recycling rates through better infrastructure and reduced contamination.

For more information about topics and conference visit conference.nyfederation.org.

Sunday, May 17	Monday, May 18	Tuesday, May 19	Wednesday, May 20
<p>Early Registration Ends & The Sagamore Room Block Cutoff</p> <p>April 15, 2026</p>	<p>7:30 a.m. Registration & Breakfast Trade Show (<i>all day, closed 12:30 – 2 p.m. for lunch</i>)</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. Networking Jog 7:30 a.m. Registration & Breakfast Trade Show (until 11 a.m.)</p>	<p>7:30 a.m. Registration & Regional Roundtable (coffee and doughnuts)</p>
	<p>8:30 a.m. General Session Plenary: Visionaries of Waste: AI Leaders on What Comes Next</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Breakouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Energy Recycling Markets The Gas-terclass Cart Solutions Water Management 	<p>8:00 a.m. NYSDEC Forecast for New Regulations</p>
	<p>10:45 a.m. Breakouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI in Action Organics Diversion Waste-to-Energy Measuring What Matters Water Management 	<p>10:45 a.m. Breakouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Data Usage Strategies RNG / Emissions Studies Biosolids Community Waste Reduction Operational Upgrades 	<p>9:15 a.m. Breakouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management Innovations LFG Technologies Emerging PFAS Technologies Organics Management Programs NY Legislative & Policy Changes
	<p>12:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set-up</p>	<p>12:30 p.m. Lunch</p>	<p>12:30 p.m. Lunch</p>
<p>Afternoon Board Meetings</p> <p>2:00 p.m. NY Federation</p> <p>3:00 p.m. NYSAR3 NYSASWM SWANA (<i>NYS Chapter</i>)</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. • SWANA, NYS Annual Meeting</p> <p>2:30 p.m. Breakouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery Fire Prevention GHG Reporting PFAS Detection & Treatment Plastics Technologies Waste Policies and Planning 	<p>1:00 p.m. Networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adirondack Hike Golf Boat Tour Kayaking Culinary Pickleball Fishing Tennis Horseback Riding <p>3:00 p.m. LaLonde Institute • Messaging that Moves People</p>	<p>12:15 p.m. Safe Journey!</p> <p>For information registration and room reservatyions, visit nyfederation.org</p>
<p>3:00 p.m. Check-In & Refreshments</p>	<p>4:15 p.m. • Exhibitors Reception • EP / YEP Reception</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. • Hors d'oeuvres Reception</p>	<p>SWANA New York Chapter</p> <p>NYSAR</p> <p>SWANA New York Chapter</p> <p>NYFEDERATION The Solid Waste Association for the United States</p>
<p>6:30 p.m. BBQ Buffet with Exhibitors</p> <p>9:15 p.m. Fireworks Over Lake George</p>	<p>8:30 p.m. • S'mores • Karaoke, Dancing & Chocolate • Cigars</p>	<p>8:15 p.m. • Casino Night</p> <p>10:00 p.m. • Sundae Bar</p>	

UPCOMING EVENTS

➤➤➤ SWANA NY CHAPTER SAFETY TRAININGS

Safety is of paramount importance in the Solid Waste and Recycling industry. Safety of not only the waste and recycling workers but also all those that they come into contact with.

The SWANA New York Chapter is currently working on a safety outreach event. This event will happen at a variety of locations across the state and will focus on continuing to promote a positive safety culture. We plan to directly engage with waste workers, providing them with safety information, resources, and the opportunity to take the SWANA Safety Pledge.

For updates about the trainings, follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

FOR MORE UPDATES

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HAVE A JOB OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE?

Email us to feature it in our newsletter-
swananychapter@gmail.com

We are actively looking for volunteers to join our passionate young professionals team and serve the community. Please fill out this [google form](#) with your interest

Open positions:

1.Engagement chair

➤➤➤ SWEET MODEL TRAINING WORKSHOP (FREE REGISTRATION)

As a goal of continued learning and training our young professionals, SWANA NY YP invites you a three hour training workshop on Solid Waste Emissions Estimate Tool (SWEET) where you will learn about:

1. WHAT IS SWEET
2. HOW TO USE IT FOR SOLID WASTE PLANNING AND EMISSION ESTIMATION
3. CASE STUDIES USING SWEET

To join this FREE training, register [here](#). The workshop will be held on April 2026, 12:30 pm IST. Find more updates about the training and other details on [LinkedIn](#).

YP SPOTLIGHT

Meet our YP *“Hi, this is Maeen, a PhD candidate in the Department of Technology and Society at Stony Brook University, New York, US. My education and profession has been an interdisciplinary one where I transitioned from being a Textile Engineer to a sustainability researcher. I like to call myself as an expert in Textile Solid Waste management and the sustainability of textile-apparel value chain. In my PhD I gathered hands-on experience of MSW and recyclables sorting and waste characterization under a NYSDEC project. My PhD dissertation is on developing a multivariate methodology for measuring and comparing waste systems for better policy decisions. After graduation I am open to work in academia or research centers advancing research in solid waste, broadly in environmental sustainability. I am a SWANA student member and YP since 2022 and greatly appreciate their work in outreach, collaboration, networking and training.”*

If you were a piece of trash, what would you be? *“I think, I would want to be a PET bottle because these are the recyclables most people tend to separate from garbage. Who wants to be submerged into a pile of trash? However, recycling PET bottles is often contemplated as sustainable practices particularly in the textiles industry by using recycled PET content in polyester clothings, which is basically a greenwashing technique. I would like to work researching and advocating material-to-material recycling to advance true circular economy.”*



Maeen Md. Khairul Akter

Department of Technology and Society,
Stony Brook University, New York

Rcon 2025 Experience

NY SWANA YP Reflects on Practical Learning and Industry Innovation

By Beaziel Ombajen, Staff Engineer at SCS Engineers (Suffern, NY)

I had the opportunity to attend the SWANA RCON Conference as the recipient of the NY Chapter Young Professional Travel Sponsorship, and I am sincerely grateful for the support and encouragement provided by the Chapter. Attending RCON was an engaging and meaningful experience that allowed me to step back from my day-to-day work and gain a broader perspective on current challenges and innovations within the solid waste industry.

Professional Learning

One session that made a strong impression on me focused on how the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill is proactively managing long-term settlement in a proactive and intentional way. Rather than repeatedly reworking waste or accepting lost airspace, the landfill developed a Settlement Accommodation Plan that allows for controlled placement of waste above permitted grades, with the expectation that natural settlement will bring the waste back to approved elevations over time. What stood out was that Franklin County became the first landfill in Ohio to receive regulatory approval for this approach, highlighting how early coordination with regulators, strong technical analysis, and ongoing monitoring can support innovative solutions that improve long-term performance.

I also attended a general session centered on innovation and technology in waste management, which explored the use of tools such as drones and robotic units for methane monitoring. It was interesting to see how these technologies are being used to enhance efficiency and safety, while supporting existing monitoring practices rather than replacing them. Additional sessions related to landfill gas operations emphasized the importance of using data proactively by evaluating trends over time instead of reacting to individual data points. These discussions were closely aligned with my day-to-day work and reinforced the value of data-driven decision-making.

Beyond technical learning, one of the most meaningful parts of RCON was the opportunity to connect with operators, engineers, and other professionals across the industry.

Why Attend RCON

Before attending RCON, I viewed the conference opportunities to gain technical knowledge, but this experience broadened that perspective. Hearing open, thoughtful discussions from industry leaders and peers highlighted the value of engaging in conversations beyond our immediate roles and comfort zones. RCON reinforced how important it is to stay curious, ask questions, and seek out opportunities to learn from others across the industry. I am grateful to the NY Chapter for supporting my attendance and encouraging young professionals to participate in experiences like this, and I look forward to staying involved with SWANA as I continue to grow professionally.

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OUR NEXT ARTICLE?**

Email your articles about a site you visited or other great work you are doing at your current site to us at swananychapter@gmail.com

Does Zero Waste Goals Translate to Reality?

Results May Not Be What You Think

By Dr. Ashpreet Kaur, University of Florida (PhD), and Panjab University, Chandigarh (Current)

I met Dr. Mary Alice Haddad, Professor of Government, East Asian Studies, and Environmental Studies, Wesleyan University, after reading her insightful article on *“why cities adopt ambitious climate targets”*, which profoundly influenced my thinking about urban sustainability and governance. That conversation sparked deeper discussions about how policy commitments translate into real outcomes, leading us to work together on this study for nearly 1.5 years. The idea itself grew out of my dissertation research on zero waste success in higher education institutions, where I first began wondering about factors that the waste reduction outcomes on the ground.

Our paper, “Do zero waste pledges and goals increase municipal waste diversion rates?”, published in *Cities*, examines whether municipalities that formally adopt Zero Waste pledges and goals actually achieve higher waste diversion rates compared to those that don’t. This question matters because waste diversion, the proportion of waste kept out of landfills and incinerators through recycling, reuse, and composting, is a core metric for measuring progress toward sustainable, low-carbon cities.

Key Findings

- Using data from multiple U.S. cities and comparing those with publicly adopted zero waste goals to those without, the study finds no consistent evidence that cities with zero waste goals have significantly higher diversion rates than cities without them. In other words, having a zero waste pledge on paper does not necessarily translate into measurable improvements in waste diversion performance.
- This outcome holds even when accounting for broader climate networks, for example, cities that are part of international climate alliances or formally report climate action plans do not show better diversion outcomes strictly because of their zero waste commitments.
- Surprisingly, we found that cities which are next to oceans or water bodies, had better waste diversion. This is a food for thought for future research direction.

Why is the Study Important

Waste diversion rates are widely used by planners and policymakers as a key indicator of environmental performance and progress toward sustainability goals. If formal pledges and stated aspirations are not linked with actual improvements in diversion, then simply committing to a goal is insufficient. These findings suggest that strategy, implementation, resourcing, monitoring, and enforcement matter more than goal statements alone, and that cities may need stronger policies, better metrics, and more robust implementation frameworks to turn zero waste ambitions into results that reduce landfill reliance and associated GHG emissions.

“Having a formal goal is only a first step, what counts is whether cities build the systems and practices that make diversion happen.”

The full study can be accessed here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275125010601?via=ihub>

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