



Circular Mid-South Summit

Presented by:

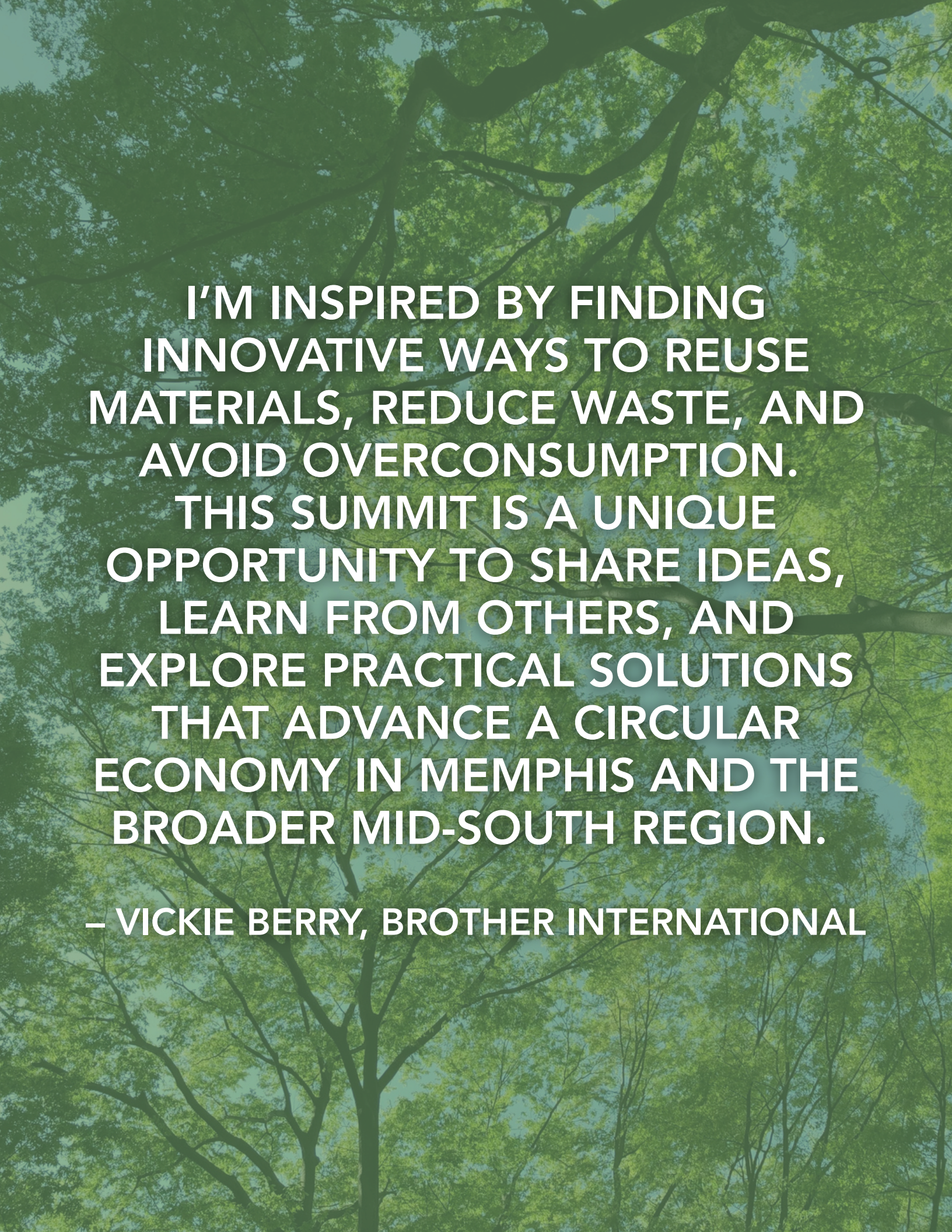




Circular Mid-South Summit

The Circular Mid-South Summit is a landmark gathering designed to bring together businesses, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers to facilitate actionable pathways for a circular economy that creates jobs, spurs innovation, and supports environmental equity throughout our region.

Together, we'll explore how circular systems can fuel long-term economic resilience and generate opportunity across industries. Thank you for joining us for a full day of inspiration, practical insights, and regional collaboration that will shape the future of the Mid-South.



**I'M INSPIRED BY FINDING
INNOVATIVE WAYS TO REUSE
MATERIALS, REDUCE WASTE, AND
AVOID OVERCONSUMPTION.
THIS SUMMIT IS A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS,
LEARN FROM OTHERS, AND
EXPLORE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
THAT ADVANCE A CIRCULAR
ECONOMY IN MEMPHIS AND THE
BROADER MID-SOUTH REGION.**

– VICKIE BERRY, BROTHER INTERNATIONAL

AGENDA

October 21, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FedEx Event Center

8:30 AM Opening Remarks, Breakfast, & Networking

**9:00 AM -
12:45 PM** **Morning Sessions:**

- Why Circular, Why Now: Investing in Sustainable Futures for Memphis
- Closing the Loop on Food Waste: Recovery, Rescue, and Circular Solutions
- Data to Action: Insights from the Memphis Waste Study & Regional Solid Waste Plan
- Rebuilding with Purpose: Unlocking Value in Construction & Demolition Recycling

12:45 PM Lunch Break & Networking

**1:35 PM -
4:15 PM** **Afternoon Sessions:**

- Recycling in the Mid-South: Building the Infrastructure for What's Next
- Extending the Life of Electronics: Reuse, Remanufacturing & Refurbishment
- Strengthening Regional Supply Chains Through Circular Innovation

4:15 PM Closing Remarks

SESSIONS



WHY CIRCULAR, WHY NOW: INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR MEMPHIS

The Kresge Foundation will open the Summit with a powerful look at how local investments in sustainability and circular practices connect to their American Cities Initiative. This session will highlight how circular economy strategies can advance equity, resilience, and economic opportunity in Memphis, setting the stage for a day of collaboration and action.

Participants:

- Tosha Tabron – Director of Originations, Kresge Foundation
- Roshun Austin – President and CEO, The Works, Inc.
- Mike Larrivee – Director of Regenerative Initiatives, The Works, Inc. & Co-Owner, The Compost Fairy, LLC



CLOSING THE LOOP ON FOOD WASTE: RECOVERY, RESCUE, AND CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS

Food waste is both an environmental challenge and an untapped resource. This session explores innovative approaches to rescuing surplus food, expanding recovery infrastructure, and designing circular systems that reduce waste while strengthening local food security. Learn how businesses, nonprofits, and policymakers are collaborating to divert edible food to people, transform organics into valuable resources, and build a more resilient regional food system.

Facilitator:

- Kristen Privette – Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Participants:

- Leann Edwards – Director, Project Green Fork
- Mike Larivee – Director of Regenerative Initiatives, The Works, Inc. & Co-Owner, The Compost Fairy, LLC
- Alexander Marshall – Operational Excellence Manager, JM Smucker
- George Brown – Head of Communications & Public Affairs, The Kroger Co.



DATA TO ACTION: INSIGHTS FROM THE MEMPHIS WASTE STUDY & REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PLAN

Grounded in local data, this session will highlight key findings from the Memphis-Shelby County Waste Characterization Study and the Regional Solid Waste Plan, presented by HDR and the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability and Resilience. Participants will gain a clear picture of priority waste streams, recommended strategies, and actionable opportunities to reduce waste, recover resources, and guide the region toward a more circular future.

Participants:

- Kim Cherry – CEO, Cherry & Co. Public Relations
- Leigh Huffman Moyer – Administrator, Office of Sustainability and Resilience, Memphis & Shelby County Division of Planning & Development
- Philip Davis – Solid Waste Director, City of Memphis Solid Waste Division



REBUILDING WITH PURPOSE: UNLOCKING VALUE IN CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION RECYCLING

Construction and demolition waste accounts for one of the largest and fastest-growing waste streams in our region. This session explores how reclaiming, reusing, and recycling building materials can reduce landfill impact, cut costs, and fuel new market opportunities. Learn from innovators and industry leaders who are turning debris into resources, advancing sustainable building practices, and laying the foundation for a more circular Mid-South economy.

Participants:

- Lincoln Young – President, Rockwood Recycling



RECYCLING IN THE MID-SOUTH: BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WHAT'S NEXT

This session will take a close look at the current state of recycling infrastructure in the Mid-South – what's working, where the gaps are, and the opportunities ahead. Industry leaders and policymakers will share insights on strengthening collection systems, expanding processing capacity, and developing end markets to ensure that more materials are recovered and put back into productive use.

Facilitator:

- Bridget Croke – Managing Director & Strategic Partnerships Co-Head, Closed Loop Partners

Participants:

- Madeleine Edwards – Founder, Get Green Recycling
- Andy Kizee – Business Hub Director, Binghampton Development Corporation
- Lewis Newman – Director of Sales, HD Pallet Company
- Jason West – General Manager, Republic Services



EXTENDING THE LIFE OF ELECTRONICS: REUSE, REMANUFACTURING & REFURBISHMENT

The electronics sector is at the forefront of circular innovation, with growing opportunities to extend product life and reduce e-waste. This session will explore how companies like Brother and ER2 are leading the way in reuse, remanufacturing, and refurbishment—strategies that keep valuable materials in circulation, reduce environmental impact, and create economic opportunity. Participants will learn about scalable models, industry partnerships, and the role of technology in building more sustainable and resilient electronics supply chains.

Participants:

- Vickie Berry – Senior Manager, Sustainability & Environmental Management, Brother International
- Rocky Jackson – Vice President of Partner Solutions, Electronic Responsible Recyclers (ER2)



STRENGTHENING REGIONAL SUPPLY CHAINS THROUGH CIRCULAR INNOVATION

Hosted by the Pyxera Global's Circular Supply Chain Coalition, this session will explore how circular practices can transform supply chains in the Southeast. Attendees will hear an overview of the Coalition and its accelerator, gain insights from a local case study, and join a panel discussion featuring voices from logistics, repair and remanufacturing, and private sector leaders. The conversation will highlight models such as hub-and-spoke systems, opportunities to secure domestic feedstock, and the role of collaboration in building resilient, circular supply chains.

Participants:

- Anita Schwartz – Strategic Advisor, Pyxera Global
- Brandon Tidwell – Principal, FedEx Global Citizenship
- Rob Coleman – Senior Director for Innovation Partnerships, Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development (ORIED), University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK)





**IN 2022, THE WORLD
GENERATED 62 MILLION METRIC
TONS OF E-WASTE, BUT ONLY
22.3% OF IT WAS DOCUMENTED
AS FORMALLY COLLECTED
AND RECYCLED.**

**THIS RATE IS PROJECTED TO
DROP TO 20% BY 2030, WHILE
E-WASTE GENERATION IS
EXPECTED TO INCREASE
SIGNIFICANTLY, CREATING
A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN
PRODUCTION AND PROPER
MANAGEMENT.**

(GLOBAL E-WASTE MONITOR 2024 REPORT)

SPEAKERS



ROSHUN AUSTIN

President & CEO

The Works, Inc.

[LinkedIn](#)

Roshun Austin is the President and CEO of The Works, Inc., a 32-year-old community development corporation in Memphis. Under her leadership, The Works has developed affordable housing, operated a mortgage loan fund, and expanded access to fresh food through a farmer's market, green grocer, mobile grocery, and nutrition education programs. Current development projects include the \$84 million adaptive reuse of a 270,000-square-foot former high school into Northside Square, a mixed-use hub with 42 affordable units; a 30-unit open plan subdivision; and 79 units of senior housing.



VICKIE BERRY

Sustainability & Environmental Management

Senior Manager, Brother International Corporation

[LinkedIn](#)

Vickie is Senior Manager of Environmental Management and Sustainability for Brother Americas, managing all aspects of the company's EHS and sustainability programs. With over 25 years at Brother and a decade of EHS experience, she leads strategies supporting the Brother Group Environmental Vision and Action Plan. Her role includes setting objectives, driving initiatives, and monitoring performance across the Americas to ensure compliance, risk management, and progress toward sustainability goals.



GEORGE BROWN

Head of Communications & Public Affairs

The Kroger Co.

[LinkedIn](#)

George has worked for Kroger for four years, previously he worked for WMC TV and WREG TV as a news anchor and reporter.



KIM CHERRY

CEO,

Cherry & Company Public Relations

[LinkedIn](#)

Kim Cherry is a native Memphian and public relations executive who provides strategic consulting on media relations, crisis communications and community engagement to businesses of all types. She is also the manager of community engagement for the Shelby County Government's Solid Waste Management Plan



ROB COLEMAN

Senior Director for Innovation Partnerships,

ORIED, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

[LinkedIn](#)

Rob Coleman is the Senior Director for Innovation Partnerships within the Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development (ORIED) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). In this role, he is responsible for developing industry and academic partnerships that support research and innovation development, as well as commercialization opportunities. Rob joined UTK to create new capabilities and launch impactful programs across the university. He also serves as Executive Director for the GAME Change Alliance, a regional consortium of industry partnerships focused on circular economy innovation. With more than 25 years of combined leadership experience, Rob is leading the way to enable technology commercialization within the University of Tennessee and across the region.



BRIDGET CROKE

Managing Director & Strategic Partnerships Co-Head,

Closed Loop Partners

[LinkedIn](#)

Bridget is Managing Director and Head of Strategic Partnerships at Closed Loop Partners, an investment firm dedicated to building a circular economy. She leads external affairs, including investor partnerships, industry partnerships, partner communications and special projects for the firm.



PHILIP DAVIS

Solid Waste Director,
City of Memphis Solid Waste Division
[LinkedIn](#)

Philip Davis is the Solid Waste Director for the City of Memphis, where he has led solid waste operations for over 14 years. A licensed Professional Geologist with a master's in geology from the University of Memphis, Philip brings a strong scientific foundation to sustainable waste management. He serves as Chairman of the Shelby County Municipal Solid Waste Planning Region, sits on the Board of the Tennessee Composting Council, and represents West Tennessee as Public Director for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). Previously, Philip was Deputy Director of the Tennessee Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, giving him deep insight into both regulatory and operational aspects of the industry.



LEANN EDWARDS
Director, Project Green Fork
Clean Memphis
[LinkedIn](#)

Leann Edwards is Director of Project Green Fork, a program of Clean Memphis focused on building a more sustainable, less wasteful food system. With 20 years of professional culinary experience, she leads initiatives to reduce food waste across Memphis through restaurant partnerships, food rescue, and zero-waste events. Leann also works closely with Memphis-Shelby County Schools on waste reduction initiatives that address both environmental impact and food insecurity. Her work bridges education and community action to create scalable food waste solutions.



MADELEINE EDWARDS
Founder + Owner,
Get Green Recycleworks
[LinkedIn](#)

Madeleine started Get Green Recycling in 2008 after reading about Project Green Fork (PGF) and their mission to make local restaurants more sustainable. With the help and encouragement of PGF founder, Margot McNeely, Madeleine made a plan, hooked up a trailer to her SUV, and got to work picking up recycling from Tsunami and other early certified restaurants. She was soon covering most of midtown, downtown and the near east for all kinds of clients in Memphis, filling a crucial niche that wasn't being served by larger waste companies or the city.



ROCKY JACKSON

Vice President of Partner Solutions,
Electronic Responsible Recyclers (ER2)
[LinkedIn](#)

Rocky's expertise in problem solving, leadership, and connecting with others have allowed him to excel in his current role as Director and VP of Partner Solutions at ER2 Memphis. As a company that strives daily to live out its core values of humility, servanthood, and constant improvement, ER2 Memphis was named #26 on Fortune's 100 Fastest- Growing Inner City Business list. The Memphis location was also selected by the ICIC for the Chevron Community Impact Award. While the company aims to be the best in the world at extracting the most value from everything they receive, Rocky Jackson has adopted that same mantra in respect to his life's journey.



ANDY KIZEE

Director,
BDC Business Hub
[LinkedIn](#)

Andy Kizze holds degrees in mechanical and civil engineering and is passionate about missional employment and its potential to redeem people and places. Andy has been leading the Binghamton Development Corporation Business Hub since 2019, a warehouse based on-the-job training program providing low barrier to entry employment opportunities for a range of skill levels while teaching both soft and hard skills through full-time paid employment. The program currently employs 14 trainees who work in various and recycling and logistics service lines operated by the organization.



MIKE LARRIVEE

Director of Regenerative Initiatives, The Works, Inc.
Co-Owner, The Compost Fairy, LLC
[LinkedIn](#)

Mike Larrivee is a Licensed Professional Geologist and serves as Director of Regenerative Initiatives for The Works, Inc. and Managing Director of Memphis Urban Wood. He is the Founder and President of The Compost Fairy and previously worked as National Operations Lead for Atlas Organics Composting and Hauling Operations. In 2019, Mike co-founded the Tennessee chapter of the U.S. Composting Council, where he also served as vice president. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Mike earned a Master of Science from the University of Memphis Earth Science Department and is a William J. Fulbright Scholarship Award recipient. Beyond his professional work, Mike has a love for bees, trees, motorcycles, rock 'n' roll, and his beloved Daisy Dog.



ALEXANDER MARSHALL

Operational Excellence Manager,

JM Smucker

[LinkedIn](#)

With over 38 years of experience in food manufacturing, Alex has held leadership roles in operations and logistics, as well as in safety and quality compliance. This career has spanned four uniquely different production locations across three different states.



LEIGH HUFFMAN MOYER

Administrator, Office of Sustainability and Resilience,
Memphis & Shelby County Division of Planning &
Development

[LinkedIn](#)

Leigh is an experienced planner with a background in sustainable development, urban planning, and policy. In her current role, Leigh implements and monitors progress toward the goals in the Mid-South Regional Resilience Master Plan and the Memphis Area Climate Action Plan. She fosters relationships among all organizations working to make a more sustainable and resilient Mid-South region. Leigh's passion for environmental planning led her to serve as a Local Pathways Fellow for the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, where she wrote a proposal to tackle Brevard's municipal solid waste collection focusing on a model for behavior change.



LEWIS NEWMAN

Director of Sales,

HD Pallet Company

[LinkedIn](#)

HD Pallet Company is a Memphis-based wooden pallet manufacturer and recycler. With a strong foundation in operations and now as a sales leader, Lewis understands the importance of solutions that drive both operational efficiency and environmental stewardship. To advance these goals, he collaborated with data engineers to develop a sustainability database and visualization tool that established internal KPIs and cost models for strategic sourcing. He now leverages this data to help customers achieve their own ESG initiatives. A proud Eagle Scout, Lewis brings a lifelong commitment to leadership, community service, and environmental responsibility to his work.



KRISTEN PRIVETTE

Public Education and Outreach Coordinator,
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
[LinkedIn](#)

As the Public Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Office of Sustainable Practices at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Kristen Privette leads efforts to raise awareness and drive action around sustainability. Her primary focus is coordinating the Get Food Smart Tennessee program, where she develops educational resources, provides technical assistance, and organizes initiatives to help residents, businesses, and organizations reduce food waste.



ANITA SCHWARTZ

Strategic Advisor,
Pyxera Global
[LinkedIn](#)

Anita is a founding member of the Circular Supply Chain Coalition, where she is building capacity for North American critical minerals reuse and recycling. She also lends her expertise to non-government organizations transitioning to durable and reusable packaging in the consumer goods industry. This work extends to standards development for packaging reuse, which builds on her decade plus tenure at WM Inc. and WSP as Vice President of Circular Economy solutions, where she led innovative programs for solid waste, recycling, reverse logistics, and bio-based materials.



TOSHA TABRON

Director of Originations,
The Kresge Foundation
[LinkedIn](#)

Tosha is Director of Originations at The Kresge Foundation, where she leads a team of lenders focused on Memphis and five programmatic areas: Arts, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services. With a background in community development finance, she has championed equitable redevelopment, minority-owned business support, and philanthropic investment through roles at Invest Detroit, JPMorgan Chase, and Bank of America.



BRANDON TIDWELL

Principal, FedEx Global Citizenship

FedEx

[LinkedIn](#)

With over 25 years of experience in sustainability and corporate giving, Brandon has helped develop impactful community programs and partnerships that span the globe. As a Principal of FedEx Citizenship, he is responsible for the company's philanthropic investments that advance climate solutions, including the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture. Before FedEx, Brandon managed sustainability initiatives at Darden Restaurants, Blue Shield of California, and Sea World. Efforts included solar arrays, ocean health, animal welfare, energy and water efficiency, and landfill diversion efforts within diverse industries.



JASON WEST

General Manager,

Republic Services

[LinkedIn](#)

Jason West holds an Associate's Degree in Military Science from Marion Military Institute, a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Thomas Edison State University, and an MBA from Purdue University. He brings over five years of experience as a General Manager in the environmental solutions and sustainability sector. Prior to joining Republic Services, Jason spent eight years at PepsiCo, where he held various leadership roles in Supply Chain and Industrial Maintenance. Additionally, he served a total of 13 years in the Army National Guard, specializing as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Officer, as well as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer.



LINCOLN YOUNG

President,

Rockwood Sustainable Solutions

[LinkedIn](#)

Lincoln Young is President of Rockwood Sustainable Solutions, a company he founded in 2014 to tackle hard-to-manage construction material recycling. What began as a shingle recycling initiative in partnership with TDOT and TDEC has grown into a leading regional effort diverting wood, drywall, concrete, and tires from landfills – recycling more than 120,000 tons of materials in 2024 alone. Lincoln advises some of the nation's largest tech companies on sustainability strategies and serves on the boards of the Tennessee Recycling Coalition and the Construction and Demolition Recycling Association.



Thank you to our sponsors!

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Partners for Environmental Progress

ABOUT CLEAN MEMPHIS

Clean Memphis is a nonprofit driving environmental sustainability through hands-on education, waste reduction initiatives, and collaborative partnerships that transform waste into resources. Since 2008, the organization has worked to inspire youth, engage leadership, and empower neighborhoods to adopt green practices. From zero-waste solutions to school programs and neighborhood projects, the efforts of Clean Memphis are paving the way for a thriving circular economy in Memphis.



MISSION

Educating youth,
engaging leadership,
and empowering
communities to sustain a
cleaner Memphis.

VISION

Engaged
communities.
Sustainable city.
A better Memphis.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CLEAN MEMPHIS](#)



CLEAN MEMPHIS CREATED THE
CIRCULAR ECONOMY TASK FORCE
TO LEAD COORDINATED EFFORTS
IN MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY
TOWARD REDUCING WASTE AND
UNLOCKING ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY THROUGH
CIRCULAR PRACTICES.

SINCE LAUNCHING, THE TASK
FORCE HAS EXPANDED
MEMBERSHIP TO OVER 35
STAKEHOLDERS FROM
GOVERNMENT TO BUSINESS TO
NONPROFIT AND DEVELOPED AN
INDUSTRY DIRECTORY TO BETTER
CONNECT LOCAL BUSINESSES
WITH RECYCLING, REUSE, AND
MATERIAL RECOVERY SERVICES.

— NEFERTITI ORRIN, CLEAN MEMPHIS
PRESIDENT & CEO



Circular Mid-South Summit

Thank You for Joining Us

Your presence at the Circular Mid-South Summit helps drive the conversation forward and strengthen our region's leadership in building a more resilient, innovative, and equitable economy.

We want to hear from you!

Let's keep this conversation going. Click the link above to get involved with advancing circularity in the Mid-South.

Thank you to our partners, sponsors, speakers, and attendees for making this inaugural event possible. We look forward to continuing to build a stronger, cleaner, and more circular Mid-South – together.