



26
INVESTMENT
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ASSOCIATION®
**Conference
& Trade Show**

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2026 **ATTENDEE GUIDE**



Dedicated to Those Who Buy,
Sell and Manage Surplus Assets



JOIN US SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2026 | GLENDALE, AZ.

Dedicated to those who buy, sell and manage surplus assets

Investment Recovery (IR) is on a fast track to the future. And that future has already arrived. What was once the monetization of idle assets has expanded into sustainability strategy, fast-changing regulatory compliance and the circular economy.

But who has the knowledge and know-how to bring all these factors together for bottom line results? You. And where can you get the one-of-a-kind education that can keep you and your organization ahead of the curve? The 2026 Investment Recovery Association Conference & Trade Show is where game-changing knowledge, networking, and market-ready solutions shake hands with your future.



7:00 - 8:00 am

Start the day with Breakfast & Networking

8:30 - 9:30 am

Economy 2026



Sean Ewen, PhD, Research Economist, L. William Seidman Research at the W.P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University.

The 2026 economic environment presents a mix of stabilization and uncertainty, with shifting interest rates and lingering market volatility. This session will highlight key trends and what we may expect to experience in 2027 and beyond.

9:35 - 10:15 am

Steel and Aluminum Scrap Markets—Navigating 232



Zach Schumacher, Global Editor, Argus Scrap Markets

US primary and secondary steel and aluminum markets have risen noticeably through 2026, elevating manufacturing costs in turn. Consumption rates remain disjointed depending on end-market exposure, leaving supply chain volatility as the main driver of prices. In turn with doubled Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum, suppliers of the two targeted controlling raw material and scrap costs to widen margins.

10:30 - 11:00 am

2026 Investment Recovery Performance Benchmark Report



Geoff Zwemke, Director, Center for Advanced Purchasing Studies

See it here first, the PowerBI Investment Recovery Association dashboard showing your IR benchmarks in real time. Geoff will also share key findings from the recent benchmark study.

11:00 - 11:45 am

IRA Annual Business Meeting

Hear a state of the association report from the board and committee chairs. In addition, there will be an election of new directors and a chance to welcome our newest Certified Manager of Investment Recovery (CMIR) individuals.

11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Lunch and Networking

Everyone attending the conference attends lunch to network and share tips and ideas they picked up from the morning sessions!



Register today:

www.invrecovery.org/2026-show

1:30 - 2:00 pm

From Idle to Value: How AI Is Transforming the Reverse Logistics Journey



Taha Zinifi, Chief Product Officer, Amplio

AI is reshaping the surplus and obsolete equipment market — lowering

the cost and complexity of moving idle assets back into productive use. This session offers a brief overview of recent AI developments, followed by a practical look at how the technology is changing key stages of the investment recovery process: asset identification, pricing and appraisal, buyer matching, and post-sale logistics. We'll draw on real examples to illustrate both the promise and the limits of today's AI tools.

2:15 - 3:00 pm

From Back Office to Boardroom: The IR Moonshot



Ilia Gogichaishvili, Dynaprice

Investment Recovery has always been one of the most

data-rich functions in asset-intensive organizations, but one of the least equipped to act on it. Drawing on a career on Wall Street, the keynote demonstrates what becomes possible when you apply the most advanced AI capabilities to the full IR lifecycle, transforming IR from a reactive back-office function into a strategic driver of smarter decisions across

the business. Walk away with a concrete picture of your IR command center, and a first step you can take starting Monday.

3:00 - 3:30 pm

Rapid Fire!

Back by popular demand! Hear from several exhibitors in their areas of expertise as they share tips and proven tactics in selecting and working with a vendor.

3:30 - 5:30 pm

Trade Show

Meet face-to-face with industry vendors who have market-ready solutions for every IR pro. It's the perfect place to make new connections (and renew old.) Enjoy snacks and drink in a relaxing atmosphere, and maybe even win a prize!

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Join us for a night out at Dave & Buster's where you get to be a kid again! Unlimited Video Game Play, a Power Card with 75 chips to play other games, delicious Mexican buffet with hosted bar for 2 hours with a private room to watch Monday Night Football and reserved billiards area that includes 3 billiards tables for three hours!

Dave & Buster's is a short (4-minute) walk right

Join us to give a big thanks to the reception sponsors:



7:30 - 8:30 am

Start the day with Breakfast & Networking

8:30 - 9:15 am

The Refactory: A Microfactory Model for Local Plastics Recovery & Remanufacturing

Beth Forsburg, SVP, Chief Sustainability Officer Goodwill of Central and Northern AZ, Goodwill Industries of the Monocacy Valley and Goodwill of the San Francisco Bay

Alicia Marseille, Rob & Melani Walton Sustainability Solution Service

With progressing EPR legislation and advancement of circular solutions, new models are emerging to rethink how materials are recovered, remanufactured and reintegrated into local economics. "Refactory," is a first of its kind approach to reimagining plastics recovery through decentralized, local implementation. Learn from our speakers how this model was built across cross-sector collaboration and partnerships to reshape material recovery systems.

9:20 - 10:00 am

Numbers That Matter: Making Investment Recovery Impossible to Ignore

Kris Waters, CMIR, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability at PetSmart

Learn how to turn investment recovery into a powerful story that resonates with executive leadership. Kris will share with you how to translate your

activity into meaningful metrics your leadership wants to hear, highlighting cost savings, revenue generation, and environmental impact, to position your program as a strategic driver of value.

10:20 - 11:15 am

Digital Marketplaces for Smarter Asset Recovery

PANEL:

Sean Miles, Co-founder and CEO, Recycle Global Exchange

Taylor Assaly, Founder and CEO, IronHub

Jack Jia, Circular Cloud Sourcing and Operations, Microsoft

Jason Smith, Head of Services Partnerships, Global System for Mobile Communications Association, GSMA

MODERATOR:

Peter C. Evans, PhD, Managing Partner, All Things Circular and Chief Economist of the Global Reverse Logistics Association

Digital platforms are changing the way investment recovery works, creating new ways to get the most value from surplus, idle, and end-of-life assets. At their core, these platforms make efficient marketplaces that connect buyers and sellers in markets that are often fragmented and hard to navigate. By bringing together supply and demand, they lower search costs, speed up transactions, and give access to a global pool of qualified buyers and sellers - which leads to better prices and more liquidity. In addition to making things more efficient, platforms help build trust, which is crucial in secondary markets. They do this by vetting users,

providing transparent pricing, using standardized documents, and having compliance checks in place, all of which reduce risk and uncertainty for everyone involved. This creates a more reliable and transparent environment for transactions, with better access to data. Attendees will learn how to use platforms to improve their recovery strategies, reduce risk, and get more value in the long run.

11:30 - 1:30 pm

Trade Show with Lunch

1:30 – 2:00 pm

HazMat Basics for Confident Compliance

Jennifer Spalding, *Manager, Environmental Compliance & Strategy, Ameren*

This session will provide a high-level overview of hazardous materials and waste disposal compliance, focusing on practical tips to help individuals understand the applicable regulatory requirements. Attendees will learn about resources that can help to navigate complex regulations and clarify what they need to know to stay compliant. The discussion will also highlight common knowledge gaps—such as when everyday items qualify as hazardous waste—so participants can avoid costly mistakes and ensure proper handling.

To register, go to: invrecovery.org/2026-show

2:05 – 2:35 pm

Contracts

Ron Stallworth, *Warner Norcross & Judd, Investment Recovery Association’s legal counsel*

Ron will present a high-level overview refresher of key terms, laws, etc. IR professionals should make sure they understand when it comes to contracts and accountability.

2:40 – 3:30 pm

IR Use Cases using AI

Sean Byro, *CMIR, Freeport Moran*,
Jeff Shaver, *Salt River Project*
Dave Miller, *Group 365*

Learn how members are using AI to help with their workload. Also see the IR Tool being developed by the Investment Recovery Association and Group 365 to help ease onboarding and learning of the IR function.

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Gather, Connect, Engage



Don’t miss this opportunity to build meaningful connections beyond the sessions. This end-of-day gathering is where the real

conversations happen, ideas spark, insights deepen, and relationships that drive your work forward begin. Step into a relaxed, engaging atmosphere designed to help you connect with peers, share perspectives, and keep the momentum going.

Wednesday we welcome the *Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance (SSCA)* in the morning. The SSCA is an organization of utilities and suppliers working together to advance sustainable practices in utility supply chain and supplier networks. Their annual conference will begin at the same hotel at Noon and lasting through Thursday afternoon. A separate registration fee is required to participate in their conference after 11:00 am Wednesday. See their website for registration details. <https://www.thessca.org/ssca-conference>. *(Non-members are welcome to attend the SSCA, just not exhibit)*

7:30 – 9:00 am

Rise & Connect: Networking Breakfast with SSCA

Join us Wednesday morning to expand networking and fuel up over a relaxed breakfast and networking. This is your chance to continue conversations, strengthen and make new connections, and exchange insights with industry peers over coffee and breakfast. Don’t miss this opportunity to make the most of your conference experience—because some of the best takeaways happen over breakfast!

9:00 – 9:15 am

Welcome from IRA President and SSCA Executive Director

9:15 – 9:45 am

Reuse/Redeploy— #1 in IR Sequence

Bernie Sullivan, *Utility Pole Solutions*

This session explores how the #1 R in Investment Recovery, Reuse/Redeploy goes beyond traditional recycling to unlock greater value for utilities and

asset recovery teams. Learn how reuse reduces waste, accelerates redeployment, especially in critical or emergency situation, and supports sustainability goals by avoiding unnecessary carbon costs. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of how these practices drive both operational efficiency and environmental impact, turning recovery efforts into a strategic advantage.

9:45 – 10:00 am

Break

10:00 – 11:00 am

Best Practice Sharing

Jeff Shaver, *Salt River Project and others TBD*

Learn from your peers during this practice sharing their latest successes. Jeff Shaver, Salt River Project will share the latest information and results on the Salt River Project/Arizona State University effort on turning Cable jacketing into flash jacketing. Other successful practices will be added.

**Topics and speakers are subject to change. Please check www.invrecovery.org for the latest schedule.*

REGISTER



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Or visit invrecovery.org/2026-show

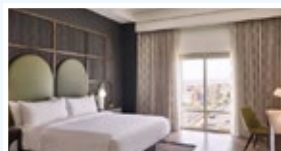
QUESTIONS?

Please call (816) 412-6140

or email:

Jane Male, Executive Director,
admin@invrecovery.org

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[Click here](#) to make your hotel reservation, or call (888) 236-2427 and state you are with the Investment Recovery Association to receive our special rate.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are not a registered attendee of the Investment Recovery Association Conference and Trade Show you will not receive this discounted rate.

To register for the show, visit www.invrecovery.org/2026-show.

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 Companion Pass: \$350

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SATURDAY, 9/26

8:00 - 3:00 pm BOARD MEETING

3:30 - 4:30 pm **CMIR STUDY GROUP**

A Q&A session to help individuals prepare for the Sunday morning exam.

SUNDAY, 9/27

8:00 - 11:00 am BOARD MEETING



9:30 - 12:00 pm **EXAM**  **CERTIFIED MANAGER OF INVESTMENT RECOVERY**

For more information about CMIR visit:
invrecovery.org/knowledge-center/cmirt

NOON REGISTRATION OPENS

1:00 - 3:00 pm COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3:30 - 4:30 pm BOARD MEETING
 W/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

5:00 - 6:00 pm NETWORKING AT THE
 DESERT SAGE BAR

MONDAY, 9/28

6:30 am REGISTRATION OPENS

7:00 - 8:00 am BREAKFAST & NETWORKING
(All Attendees)

8:30 - 9:30 am ECONOMY 2026
Sean Ewen, PhD

9:35 - 10:15 am STEEL & ALUMINUM SCRAP
 MARKETS—NAVIGATING 232
Zach Schumacher

10:30 - 11:00 am 2026 INVESTMENT
 RECOVERY PERFORMANCE
 BENCHMARK REPORT
Geoff Zwemke

11:00 - 11:45 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

11:45 - 1:30 pm LUNCH/NETWORKING

1:30 - 2:00 pm FROM IDLE TO VALUE: HOW
 AI IS TRANSFORMING THE
 REVERSE LOGISTICS JOURNEY
Iliia Gogichaishvili

2:15 - 3:00 pm FROM BACK OFFICE TO
 BOARDROOM: THE IR
 MOONSHOT
Luke Crihfield

3:00 - 3:30 pm RAPID FIRE!

3:30 - 5:30 pm **TRADE SHOW & NETWORKING**
*Snacks, drinks and chance to
 win fun prizes*

6:00 - 9:00 pm WELCOME EVENT AT
 DAVE & BUSTERS

TUESDAY, 9/29

7:30 - 8:30 am BREAKFAST & NETWORKING
(All Attendees)

8:30 - 9:15 am A BLUEPRINT FOR CIRCULAR
 PLASTICS: LESSONS FROM
 PHOENIX'S MICROFACTORY
*Beth Forsburg, Alicia Marseille,
 Rob & Melani Walton*

9:20 - 10:00 am NUMBERS THAT MATTER:
 MAKING INVESTMENT RECOVERY
 IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE
Kris Waters, CMIR

10:20 - 11:15 am DIGITAL MARKETPLACES FOR
 SMARTER ASSET RECOVERY
*Panel: Sean Miles, Taylor Assaly,
 Jack Jia, Jason Smith;
 Moderator: Peter C. Evans*

11:30 - 1:30 pm **TRADE SHOW**
Lunch and chance to win fun prizes

1:30 - 2:00 pm HAZMAT BASICS FOR
 CONFIDENT COMPLIANCE
Jennifer Spalding

2:05 - 2:35 pm CONTRACTS
Ron Stallworth

2:40 - 3:30 pm IR USE CASES USING AI
*Sean Byro, CMIR, Jeff Shaver,
 Dave Miller*

3:30 - 4:30 pm GATHER, CONNECT, ENGAGE
Open bar, appetizers

WEDNESDAY, 9/30



7:30 - 9:00 am RISE & CONNECT:
 NETWORKING BREAKFAST
(All Attendees)

9:00 - 9:15 am WELCOME FROM IRA
 PRESIDENT AND SSCA
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9:15 - 9:45 am REUSE/REDEPLOY:
 #1 IN IR SEQUENCE
Bernie Sullivan

10:00 - 11:00 am BEST PRACTICE SHARING
Jeff Shaver, and others TBD



REGISTER HERE

www.invrecovery.org/2026-show

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www.invrecovery.org for the latest schedule