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LEADERSHIP.

GLOBAL COLD CHAIN ALLIANCE

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



GLOBAL COLD CHAIN  
ALLIANCE®



GLOBAL  
COLD CHAIN  
FOUNDATION



# Global Cold Chain Alliance Leadership Reflects on an Outstanding and Productive Year

It is my privilege and honor to share with you the Global Cold Chain Alliance's Annual Report—an overview of a year marked by growth, resilience, and remarkable collaboration across our global community. As the organization representing the world's temperature-controlled supply chain, GCCA stands at the center of an industry that touches lives every day.

Two simple words come to mind as I think about you, our leaders, members, and cold chain stakeholders: thank you. Thank you for your commitment, thank you for your energy, thank you for your integrity, and thank you for setting a high bar of excellence in the temperature-controlled industry. We have many achievements and highlights to celebrate in 2025 including increased advocacy efforts, a growing education program, and a new strategic direction coming in 2026 that will move our association into our next phase of growth and support for the industry.

As we look ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us. Innovations in refrigeration, automation, energy management, and talent development are accelerating. Global demand for cold chain capacity continues to grow. And GCCA is well-positioned to guide the industry through these changes, ensuring that our members thrive and that the cold chain continues to serve communities everywhere.

I am proud to serve as your leader as we continue to evolve as an industry and an association. As we look to our future, let's pause to look back and celebrate our success and accomplishments in 2025.

**Sara Stickler**  
President and CEO, GCCA

## From Your 2025 Board Leadership

What a year for your global association! As your 2025 board leadership, we are excited to reminisce on this year's accomplishments and on the core values of the Global Cold Chain Alliance: bringing our members and industry stakeholders the practical tools, technical expertise, and trusted resources that support operational excellence.

Participation in GCCA events and training programs reached unprecedented levels, our advocacy efforts made real global impact, and we convened more meetings than ever across multiple regions — reinforcing why bringing the world of cold chain together remains

our most important mission. In an ever-changing world, the impact of GCCA has never been more important — and none of our 2025 progress would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our members, volunteers, board leaders, and staff. Your expertise and passion fuel this Alliance and strengthen the global cold chain every day. Thank you for your continued engagement, your time and talent, your trust, and your commitment to a safer, more efficient, and more resilient world.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a better temperature-controlled supply chain — for today, and for generations to come.



**TIM LUDWIG**  
Chairman  
GCCA Warehouse



**RICHARD PATENAUDE**  
Chairman  
GCCA Transportation



**KEN WHAH**  
Chairman  
Global Cold Chain Foundation



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## We Are the Cold Chain

Leading, Learning, and Connecting Across the Globe. Safeguarding the World's Most Essential Products. GCCA represents 876 members and approximately 1,500 facilities across more than 96 countries... **more than 8B ft<sup>3</sup> of cold storage capacity.**

The cold chain is the temperature-controlled supply chain that protects perishable foods, and other critical goods as they move from producers to consumers across the globe. GCCA members include refrigerated warehouse owners and operators, transportation providers, logistics professionals, equipment manufacturers, technology suppliers, and others who work diligently to ensure that safe, high-quality products reach people everywhere.

At the Global Cold Chain Alliance, our mission is to **strengthen and elevate this essential network** — through advocacy, education, innovation, and connecting a worldwide community of members dedicated to cold chain excellence. This year's accomplishments reflect an industry that is not only growing, but transforming, with GCCA at its center.

**We are the Cold Chain.**



# Advocating for the Present... and the Future

With data-driven analysis and unified member support, GCCA is a global voice working for policy and regulatory decisions that protect business continuity and product safety.

## GCCA Advocacy in 2026

At the 2025 GCCA Convention, cold chain professionals heard from the global advocacy team about strengthening the organization's voice where industry-shaping decisions are made. Building on a strong foundation, the Alliance is expanding its reach to ensure policymakers understand the cold chain's essential role in food security, trade, and economic resilience.

For more than two decades, GCCA has earned a reputation as a credible, trusted partner to governments. That reputation was built in the United States through sustained engagement with federal agencies and leaders on Capitol Hill. In recent years, GCCA has expanded its advocacy presence in Canada, Brazil, and Europe. The focus now is clear: strengthen relationships, elevate the industry, and extend our global impact.



## Strengthening Our Advocacy Platform



To support this next phase of growth, GCCA has strengthened its advocacy capabilities across key markets. In the U.S., GCCA has retained **Torrey Advisory Group (TAG)** to support its work in Washington, D.C.

TAG brings more than 20 years of experience in food and agriculture policy, helping position GCCA as a constructive, solutions-focused voice during a period of significant policy change.



In Canada, GCCA works with **TACTIX**, supporting engagement in Ottawa and across the provinces, with additional coordination through the

firm's Brussels office. This expanded platform allows GCCA to operate effectively across jurisdictions, align messaging, and respond quickly to emerging regulatory challenges.

## A Clear Global Agenda

In 2025, the GCCA Board adopted a **Legislative and Regulatory Priorities Framework** built around three core pillars:



### Resilient Infrastructure

Promoting investment, safety, energy security, and preparedness to ensure cold chain facilities remain reliable and competitive.

Promoting investment, safety, energy security, and preparedness to protect product quality and ensure cold chain facilities remain reliable and competitive in global markets.



### Safe and Secure Trade

Supporting efficient cross-border movement, modern inspection systems, and recognition of the cold chain's role in food and pharmaceutical safety.



### Sustainable Supply Chains

Advancing policies that reduce food loss and waste, improve emissions tracking, enhance energy efficiency, and enable practical pathways to decarbonization. While political and regulatory contexts vary, GCCA's experience confirms that the cold chain's fundamental challenges – and opportunities – are strikingly consistent worldwide.

## Thanks to our Advocacy Fund Contributors

Our work and advocacy around the world would not be possible without the participation of volunteer leaders and contributors to the GCCA Advocacy Fund. We recognize and thank the following companies for their leadership in supporting our advocacy efforts.

### Founders



### Leaders



### Advocates

Coldbox Builders  
Eskimo Cold Storage  
Los Angeles Cold Storage  
Mattingly Cold Storage

Mesa Cold Storage  
Minnesota Freezer Warehouse  
SnoTemp Cold Storage  
Vapor Armour

### Builders

Evapco  
Interchange Group  
Jamison Door Company  
Midwest Refrigerated Services

Nor-Am Cold Storage  
QuickFreeze  
Refrigiwear

# Advocacy in Action: 2025 Highlights

## International



In October, GCCA represented the cold chain at the International Meeting of Governments on the Montreal Protocol, addressing the global phase-down of high-global-warming-potential refrigerants. GCCA made the case for operator choice, highlighting the industry's leadership in adopting natural refrigerants for cold storage, while also explaining technical limitations—particularly in refrigerated transport.

## Brazil



Members convened in Brasilia for the second GCCA Regulatory Forum, meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA). The forum marked a key milestone in a year of sustained engagement on improving regulatory treatment of third-party cold storage facilities. This work supports Brazil's fast-growing export markets, with meaningful policy outcomes expected in 2026.

## Canada



In November, GCCA met with government officials and allied associations in Ottawa. Engagement with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency focused on opportunities to modernize export inspection systems and support innovation. These discussions highlighted how the Canadian cold chain can help producers—particularly in the meat sector—diversify and grow export markets.

## Europe



In June, GCCA hosted the first-ever Cold Chain Industry Roundtable inside the European Parliament in Brussels. Leaders from GCCA's European membership, national associations, and Members of the European Parliament came together to discuss how the cold chain underpins Europe's food security. Discussions focused on access to affordable energy, efficient import and export flows, and the importance of continued incentives for cold storage construction—particularly in emerging markets such as Eastern Europe—to strengthen supply chain resilience.

## South Africa



At GCCA's Africa Conference, senior South African minister John Steenhuisen delivered a keynote address emphasizing the importance of modern cold chain infrastructure to food security and export growth. The conference included engagement with ports authorities and food industry stakeholders on accelerating investment and modernization across logistics and supply chain infrastructure in the region.

## United States



In July, cold chain leaders gathered in Washington, DC, for GCCA's annual Advocacy Fly-In, meeting with Administration officials and Congressional offices. A central priority was strengthening collaboration between the private sector and the federal government to build cold chain capacity in emerging U.S. export markets. GCCA is optimistic about progress toward passage of the FRIDGE Act amendment as part of the Farm Bill in 2026.

# Connecting Cold Chain Professionals

In-person conferences, congresses, seminars, and conventions grow GCCA's global thought leadership footprint and continue educating and connecting all links of the cold chain.

## GCCA Convention | 15-17 September 2025

The 134<sup>th</sup> annual GCCA Convention brought 550+ attendees to San Antonio in the Fall to learn, share, and connect.



## GCCA Africa Conference | 20-21 August 2025

This year's Africa Conference provided compelling education for a record-breaking number of attendees and included a keynote from South Africa Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen.



To find out more about GCCA's advocacy work globally or in your region contact [sbrennan@gcca.org](mailto:sbrennan@gcca.org)

**GCCA European Conference | 26–28 March 2025**

Our Europe gathering convened the top leaders and cold chain experts in Copenhagen for a 3-day program and expo.



**GCCA Brazil Congress | 11–12 June 2025**

The 2025 Brazil Congress program boasted over 140 participants, discussing topics like tax updates, food waste, and emerging tech.



**GCCA Latin America Congress | 27–28 August 2025**

The 2025 Latin American Congress, was held in Santiago, Chile; in partnership with Chilealimentos. The agenda included expert keynotes and panels on global trade, supply chain disruptions, and warehouse capacity.



**Cold Chain Connections**

Eleven Cold Chain Connections were hosted in cities around the world in 2025, including Atlanta, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Toronto, Santo Domingo, Curitiba, Rotterdam, Cologne, Paris, Guatemala City and Mexico City.



# Operational Excellence and Cold Chain Core Competencies

Everything we do is built to strengthen your business, support your workforce, and advance the cold chain industry.

## Highlights:

- Technical Expertise
- Lower operational risk
- Access to expert insights
- Increased efficiency

## Energy and operational efficiency are core priorities for GCCA members: Energy Excellence Program (EEP)

Cold storage operators face rising energy costs, second only to labor, making smart energy management essential to staying competitive and meeting customer expectations. GCCA supports members by helping them measure, track, and continually improve energy performance across their facilities. This approach strengthens operational reliability, reduces costs, and demonstrates meaningful progress toward sustainability goals. With GCCA's EERP, companies can showcase their commitment to efficiency and responsible operations, giving customers



confidence that their products move through a more sustainable, well-managed cold chain. Members are utilizing the program in facilities currently across North and South America.

## Industry best-practice guidelines

Through **committees, councils, and task forces**, GCCA members collaborate to align best practices across operations, engineering, commodity storage, crisis management, and administrative functions. This collective expertise strengthens industry best practices and supports continuous improvement throughout member facilities around the world.



## An Extension of Your Company – Tackling Cold Chain Challenges

The GCCF **Council of Scientific Advisors** is a global network of leading food scientists, logistics specialists, and packaging experts. Serving as an extension of your team, the Council provides timely, research-backed guidance on complex questions – from food storage and handling to regulatory and legal considerations – helping members solve problems efficiently while keeping operations running smoothly.



## Elevating Safety & Trust in Cold Chain Logistics

GCCA members in transportation prioritize more than just moving perishables, they build trust through rigorous safety standards. The **Certified Cold Carrier** designation shows that a carrier company is deeply committed to operating safely and sanitarily, protecting both customers' products and public health.

Through training and alignment with GCCA's Cold Chain – Transportation Best Practices (based on FDA's

FSMA sanitary-transport regulation), carriers strengthen their internal culture and reinforce safety at every level, from management to drivers.

Certified Cold Carriers differentiate themselves in the market, signalling to shippers that they are a high-integrity partner committed to food safety and operational excellence.

## Tools to Power Your Operations and Support Your Customer Conversations

GCCA provides members with actionable tools designed to enhance both operational efficiency and customer engagement.

### Cold Chain Index (CCI)

GCCA's Cold Chain Index gives members a quarterly, data-driven snapshot of cost trends across the cold chain. Drawing on official economic sources and expense data from the GCCA Productivity and Benchmarking tool, the CCI tracks growth rates in labor, electric power, supplies, repairs, and rent. Members can customize the index by region or facility, giving them a credible, transparent resource to justify costs and strengthen customer negotiations. In 2025, GCCA also provided a Canadian version of the Cold Chain Index for the first time.

### Food Freezing and Storage Calculator

To support operational decision-making, GCCF Scientific Advisors have developed a user-friendly Food Freezing and Storage Calculator. Designed for refrigerated warehouse managers, the tool helps determine freezing times, costs, and product shelf-life for nearly 1,000 products across twelve categories. Available online at no cost to members, it provides precise, practical guidance for storing food safely and efficiently.



# Global Cold Chain Foundation: Forward with Purpose



The Global Cold Chain Foundation (GCCF) offered state of the art training and led projects across the globe this year, providing learning opportunities for the cold chain workforce and specific insights into sustainable practices, energy audits, and food waste reduction.

## ATraCSI Support in Central America

In 2025, GCCF provided virtual and in-person training, consultations, and advisory support to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ATraCSI project in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, helping to improve trade facilitation, modernize customs processes, enhance sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, support cold chain logistics, and improve agricultural food safety for products that go to U.S. grocery stores. GCCF Technical Experts provided a series of virtual training on perishable goods handling and transportation, and twelve students from Guatemala, Honduras, and

El Salvador attended GCCF's Cold Chain Institute and participated in a member site visit. GCCF Council of Scientific Advisors (CSA) member Dr. Elhadi Yahia delivered training and consultations to local operators for handling loroco, bell pepper, okra, and avocado. GCCA members also provided technical assistance on energy management and design best practices, as well as served on a review committee for cold chain grants. In total, nearly 200 local operators, logistics providers, and cargo handlers were trained in cold chain best practices through these activities.

## DINA Sustainable Food Initiative

In July, GCCF partnered with GCCA member Michaels Energy, the Supply Chain Management Research Center (SCMRC) of the University of Arkansas, and Feeding America — to pilot an energy efficiency program with two food banks in Texas. The project's goal is to reduce energy consumption to generate cost savings. The project is funded as a part of the Danone Institute North America's (DINA) Sustainable Food Systems Initiative Focus on Food in collaboration with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.

The team performed energy audits at Food Bank of the Golden Crescent and Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley. The two banks were identified by Feeding America based on their size and cold chain operations. The audit reports generated a total of 28 recommendations, ranging from a cost of \$0 for operational practices to \$100,000 for thermal energy storage. GCCF will work with each food bank in 2027 to assist in implementing selected recommendations.

11  
Countries

77  
Consulting member  
companies

251  
Training Participants

22  
New Cold Chain  
Resources



## Food Waste Reduction

GCCF launched the Food Waste Reduction Initiative in 2022 centered around three objectives: Supporting food rescue groups by increasing their access to GCCA's resources and network; alleviating the barriers that prevent GCCA members from donating food that would otherwise go to waste; and increasing awareness within the membership of the problems caused by food loss and waste and potential solutions. In 2025, GCCF food waste reduction numbers increased to more than 70.

In addition, GCCF has developed virtual training for food rescue organizations and a Food Waste Reduction Toolkit to support members with donation and community support, both of which will be promoted in 2026. The Energy Excellence program, piloted through the DINA project, has also demonstrated the cost savings that can be achieved by food banks when utilizing private sector expertise to reduce energy consumption.

## Mentoring in West Africa

In 2025, GCCF facilitated ten mentorship relationships between international expert members and local operators in Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Morocco, and Mauritania. The mentorships are intended to provide one-on-one technical support to individual cold storage and logistics operators, warehouse designers, business development professionals, and customer service representatives in West Africa, with the aim of increasing cold chain technical skills for the market.

This year, the GCCF also delivered a series of in-person trainings and consultations. The training covered business development, design-build best practices for cold storage, and warehouse operations for third-party cold storage and logistics providers in Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Senegal. The in-person activities were supplemented by English and French digital resources. More than 100 participants received technical cold chain support.

# Cold Chain Institute: Developing Leaders



In 2025, the Global Cold Chain Foundation's Cold Chain Institute celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the US and continued its program in Europe, Latin America, Brazil, and Australia.

The Cold Chain Institute, the jewel in the crown of the GCCF offers this unique training and development program that has provided skills and career aspirations to thousands of cold chain workers over two generations.

Some of the leaders of today's biggest cold chain businesses are graduates of the Institute. In 2025, the Institute welcomed 179 new graduates around the world into Institute alumni status.




6  
Continents



26  
Countries represented



179  
Graduates in 2025



155  
Faculty



160  
Capstone Projects



42  
Curriculum Courses

# Strategic Leadership: Boards of Directors

The GCCA Warehouse, GCCA Transportation, and GCCF Boards of Directors provided strategic leadership, building a bigger, stronger, more impactful Alliance.

## Highlights:

- Welcomed new board members bringing diverse expertise in logistics, warehousing, and technology; and celebrated outgoing leaders for their years of service and contributions.
- Enhanced board engagement through strategic planning, including a working retreat in May.
- Strengthened governance structures to support long-term organizational growth.



**Global Cold Chain Alliance | Warehouse Board of Directors**  
Chair, Tim Ludwig | Bradner Cold Storage



- **Vice Chair:** Francisco Moura | SuperFrio-IceStar
- **Treasurer:** Larry Alderfer | United States Cold Storage
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Jason Dreisbach | Dreisbach Enterprises

### Directors at Large:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Albers   Nor-Am Cold Storage</li> <li>• Devon Anders   InterChange Group Inc.</li> <li>• Rich Burke   Konoike-Pacific California</li> <li>• Rob Chambers   Americold</li> <li>• Dwight Clark   Jamison Door Company</li> <li>• Stephen Draper   Envision Cold</li> <li>• Paul Gibbons   Commercial Cold Holdings</li> <li>• Bryan Hedge   CORE X Complete</li> <li>• West Hutchison   Vertical Cold Storage</li> <li>• Andrew Lawrence   Magnavale</li> <li>• Vivianne Leite   Cap Logistica Frigorificada LTDA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russell Leo   RLS Logistics</li> <li>• Chris Murphy   Sierra Pacific Warehouse Group</li> <li>• Nicholas Pedneault   Congebec</li> <li>• Henry Pringle   Constellation Cold Logistics</li> <li>• Karen Reece   Eskimo Cold Storage</li> <li>• Rafael Rocha   Emergent Cold LatAm</li> <li>• Jonas Swarttouw   NewCold</li> <li>• John Tippmann III   Tippmann Group — Interstate Warehousing</li> <li>• Sean Vanderelzen   Lineage Logistics</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



**Global Cold Chain Alliance | Transportation Board of Directors**  
Chair, Richard Patenaude | Congebec



- **Vice Chair:** Robert Fay | Seminole Gulf Railway/Florida Freezer
- **Treasurer:** Keith Mowery | United States Cold Storage
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Don Durm | PLM Fleet

### Directors at Large:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Brennan   Americold</li> <li>• Renier Du Preez   Digistics</li> <li>• Jason Massey   Industrial</li> <li>• Brooklyn Miller   Envision Cold</li> <li>• Chris Mnichowski   CTI Freight Systems Inc.</li> <li>• Rodney Nye   JB Hunt</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael O'Brien   Eagle Air Freight</li> <li>• Eric Olafson   Port of Miami</li> <li>• Barbara J. Pratt   Maersk Line</li> <li>• Roel Smets   Group-GTS</li> <li>• Kris Verbruggen   Frigo Logistics</li> <li>• John Williamson   CWH Johnsons International</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



**Global Cold Chain Foundation | Board of Directors**  
Chair, Ken Whah | Whah Consulting



- **Vice Chair:** Adam Forste | Lineage Logistics
- **Treasurer:** Graham Harvey | New Cold
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Mickey Hoffmann | United States Cold Storage

### Governors at Large:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owusu Akoto   Freezelink</li> <li>• Justin Brandt   Nor-Am Cold Storage</li> <li>• Josh Cronan   ARCOLD Design/Build</li> <li>• Wes Dye   Refrigiwear</li> <li>• Bill Duggan   Eskesen Advisory</li> <li>• Mike Jahncke   Virginia Tech</li> <li>• Andrew Janson   Arcadia Cold Storage &amp; Logistics</li> <li>• Luis Jorge   Rannik/IS Services</li> <li>• Matthew Meredith   Lix Cap Advisory &amp; Capital</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathew Moore   Americold</li> <li>• Joris Olbrechts   Jodifrost</li> <li>• Tom Poe   Crystal Distribution</li> <li>• France Pomerleau   Congebec</li> <li>• Kirk Robertson   Terra Vista Capital</li> <li>• Marty Steinmetz   RealCold</li> <li>• Niels Lundgaard-Svenstrup   Lineage Logistics</li> <li>• Bob Tippmann   QuickFreeze</li> <li>• Gary White   Lineage Logistics</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## Global Advisory Councils and GCCA Staff

Our Advisory Committees represent the best of the temperature-controlled supply chain — leaders who understand the industry’s challenges and opportunities.

### GCCA Africa

- **Chairman:** Renier Du Preez | Digistics
- **Vice Chairman:** Dr. Newton Matope | Vice Chairman, Cold Solutions Kenya (ARCH)
- **Committee Members:**
  - Paul Gibbons | Commercial Cold Store Holdings
  - Ivor Quelly | QK Coldstores
  - Ivan Sutic | Chilleweni Cold Storage
  - Patrick Fernandes | Afrigotel
  - Owusu Akoto | Freezelink

### GCCA Brazil

- Adriano Rocha | Arfrio Armazéns Gerais Frigoríficos
- Adilson Eduardo Assunção | Emergent Cold Latam
- Bruno Nahas | Refrio Armazéns Gerais
- Fábio Galesi Starace Fonseca | Friezem Logística
- Bruno Vargas | Iceport Câmara Frigorífica
- Francisco Moura | SuperFrio Logística Frigorificada

### GCCA Europe

- **Chairman:** Joris Olbrechts | Jodifrost (Belgium)
- **Vice Chairman:** Ben van Leeuwen | Frigolanda Group (Netherlands)
- **Committee Members:**
  - Rob Haesackers | Thermotrafic (Netherlands)
  - Andrew Lawrence | Magnavale (United Kingdom)
  - Niels Lundgaard-Svenstrup | Lineage (Denmark)
  - Jon Miles | NewCold (England)
  - Roel Smets | GTS Group (Belgium)
  - Ron van Gestel | DP World (Belgium)
  - Kris Verbruggen | Frigo Logistics (Poland)
  - Paul Jukes | Cube Cold (United Kingdom)
  - Jesper Hansen | Wagner (Germany)
  - Jeroen Tempels | Americold (Netherlands)
  - Tineke van de Voorde | Port of Antwerp Bruges (Belgium)

### GCCA Latin America

- **Chairman:** Rafael Rocha | Emergent Cold Latam, Panama
- **Vice Chairman:** Ewald Heinsen | E.T. Heinsen, Dominican Republic
- **Committee Members:**
  - Pablo Hernández | Precisa Frozen, Chile
  - Jorge Huanqui | ASAP Consulting Group, PerFrica Construcción, México
  - Abel Fernández Burgos | Polar Port (Reparación Integral de Contenedores), México
  - Luis Jorge | Rannik/IS Services, República Dominicana
  - Edgar Chahua | Ransa Perú

GCCA’s dedicated staff drive daily progress, support member needs, and expand the association’s international impact.

### GCCA Staff

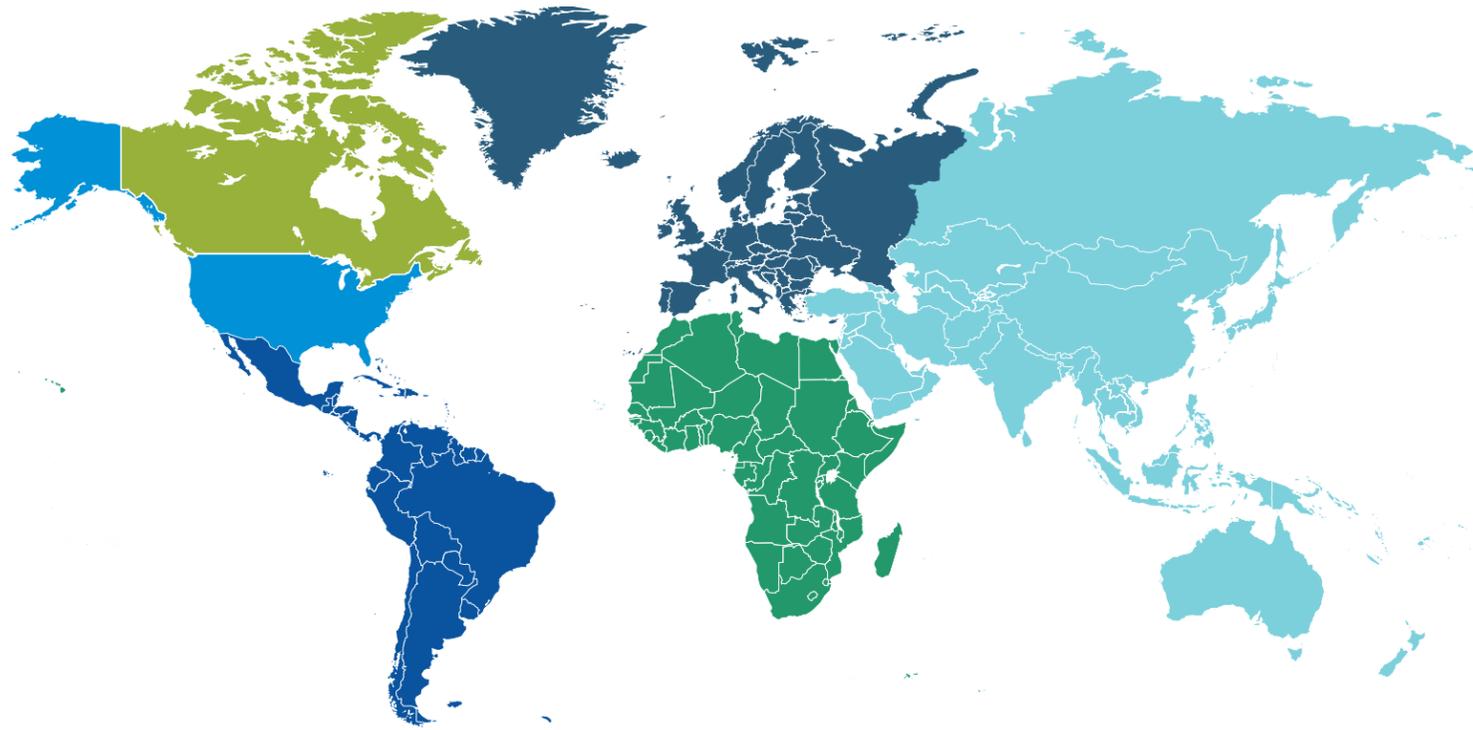
- Sara M. Stickler | President and CEO
- Omi Kadirbergenov | Chief Financial Officer
- James Rogers | Senior Vice President, Member & Program Services and Operations
- Adam Thocher | Senior Vice President, Global Market Engagement & Insights
- Lindsay Shelton-Gross | Senior Vice President, Global Communications, Marketing & Strategic Initiatives
- Shane Brennan | Senior Vice President, Strategy, Partnerships & Policy
- Robyn Kilrain | Vice President, People Culture & Workforce
- Amanda Brondy | Vice President, International Projects
- Joshua Meyers | Vice President, Stakeholder Growth and Impact
- Mary Becton | Vice President, Meetings & Events
- Rita Haley | Executive Assistant and Manager, Boards of Directors
- Jenna Campbell | Director, Learning & Development
- Paul Matthew | Director, GCCA Africa
- Isabela Perazza | Director, GCCA Brazil
- Julie Hanson | Director, GCCA Europe
- Ana Regina Garcia | Director, GCCA Latin America
- Lydia Barr | Manager, Programs and Events
- Holly Coughlan | Manager, Member & Business Development Services
- Serena Moriarty | Manager, Marketing & Communications
- Madison Jaco | Manager, International Projects
- Jeff Greenwald | Manager, Credentialing Programs
- Kate Leonova | Senior Staff Accountant
- Kerri Marbut | Coordinator, Government Affairs
- Tatiana Nascimento | Coordinator, Events & Engagement, Brazil and Latin America
- Nour Bichay | Coordinator, Member & Program Services
- Debbie Kwak | Office and Project Manager



# Looking Ahead to 2026

Supporting our members around the globe in the new year, with new priorities.

## Membership by Region



## 2026 Priorities

As the cold chain continues to evolve amid shifting market demands and global uncertainty, GCCA is focused on redefining what the cold chain means for our members and stakeholders today... and what it will mean for our members and stakeholders tomorrow. In 2026, we are promoting the true value and complexity of temperature-controlled logistics, while more actively raising the voices of our third-party logistics providers (3PL) members. By clearly conveying the cold chain's impact on food security, public health, and the global economy, GCCA is celebrating and emphasizing our importance across the overall supply chain.

Data-driven insights are vital. Mid-year, GCCA plans to launch enhanced data collection and benchmarking tools that will provide members with clearer, more actionable intelligence on cold storage capacity, utilization, supply trends, and industry growth. These resources will empower members to make informed strategic decisions, support investment planning, and better communicate the state of the industry to customers, partners, and policymakers.

Our association represents the full spectrum of the cold chain, ensuring that every link — from transportation and logistics providers to operators, and technology partners — has a voice. At the same time, we are committed to providing members with accessible, high-quality educational opportunities through both in-person and virtual platforms. This approach will allow us to reach a broader audience, support workforce development, and deliver timely insights regardless of location or schedule.

Finally, GCCA is advocating on global trade issues that directly affect the cold chain. As international regulations, trade flows, and geopolitical dynamics continually change, our association will lead with expertise, championing policies that enable efficient, resilient, and sustainable temperature-controlled supply chains worldwide. We invite you to learn more about GCCA's advocacy platform and priorities at [www.gcca.org/advocacy](http://www.gcca.org/advocacy).

Together, our 2026 priorities position GCCA members for a successful new year and beyond.



# Join Us in 2026

## GCCA and GCCF Programs and Events calendar (a/o 2 February 2026)

7-10 FEB	US Cold Chain Institute East Atlanta, Georgia, US	8-9 JUL	Cold Chain Connection Toronto Toronto, Canada
1-4 MAR	US Cold Chain Institute West Tempe, Arizona, US	20-22 JUL	Cold Chain Institute Latin America Mexico City, Mexico
10 MAR	Cold Chain Connection Medellín Medellín, Colombia	22 JUL	Cold Chain Connection Mexico City Mexico City, Mexico
12 MAR	Cold Chain Transportation Best Practices (Webinar)	18-20 AUG	Cold Chain Institute Brazil São Paulo, Brazil
18-20 MAR	GCCA Europe Conference Düsseldorf, Germany	26-27 AUG	Cold Chain Connection Midwest Kansas City, Missouri, US
26 MAR	Leading Through Change (Webinar)	1-3 SEP	GCCA Africa Conference Johannesburg, South Africa
15 APR	Brazil Regulatory Forum Brasília, Brazil	7-9 SEP	Cold Chain Institute Europe Rotterdam, Netherlands
27-29 APR	GCCA Convention Scottsdale, Arizona, US	9 SEP	Cold Chain Connection Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands
13 MAY	Cold Chain Connection Guatemala Guatemala City, Guatemala	14-16 OCT	Cold Chain Connection Northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
21 MAY	Cold Chain Connection Singapore Singapore	27-28 OCT	Cold Chain Connection Lima Lima, Peru
27-28 MAY	Brazil Cold Chain Congress São Paulo, Brazil	3-4 NOV	Cold Chain Connection Southeast Atlanta, Georgia, US

### Conventions, Conferences & Congresses

These are major industry gatherings with broader programming and networking opportunities.

- 18-20 March 2026 – GCCA Europe Conference | Düsseldorf, Germany
- 27-29 April 2026 – GCCA Convention | Scottsdale, Arizona, US
- 27-28 May 2026 – Brazil Cold Chain Congress | São Paulo, Brazil
- 1-3 September 2026 – GCCA Africa Conference | Johannesburg, South Africa

### Cold Chain Connections

Regional, informal networking and education events – often alongside other industry activities.

- 10 March 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Medellín | Medellín, Colombia
- 15 April 2026 – Brazil Regulatory Forum | Brasília, Brazil
- 13 May 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Guatemala | Guatemala City, Guatemala
- 21 May 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Singapore | Singapore
- 8-9 July 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Toronto | Toronto, Canada
- 22 July 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Mexico City | Mexico City, Mexico
- 26-27 August 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Midwest | Kansas City, Missouri, US
- 9 September 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Rotterdam | Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 15-16 October 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Northeast | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US
- 27-28 October 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Lima | Lima, Peru
- 3-4 November 2026 – Cold Chain Connection Southeast | Atlanta, Georgia, US

### GCCA Webinar Series

Online sessions focused on trends, technology, best practices, and strategic insights.

- 21 January 2026 – Cold Chain Development in Latin America
- 29 January 2026 – The Global Year Ahead (GCCA Members Only)
- 19 February 2026 – Understanding the New U.S. Food Traceability Requirements (GCCA Members Only)
- 12 March 2026 – Cold Chain Transportation Best Practices
- 26 March 2026 – Leading Through Change

### Cold Chain Institutes

Multi-day training and professional development programs powered by the Global Cold Chain Foundation.

- 7-10 February 2026 – US Cold Chain Institute East | Atlanta, Georgia, US
- 1-4 March 2026 – US Cold Chain Institute West | Tempe, Arizona, US
- 20-22 July 2026 – Cold Chain Institute Latin America | Mexico City, Mexico
- 18-20 August 2026 – Cold Chain Institute Brazil | São Paulo, Brazil
- 7-9 September 2026 – Cold Chain Institute Europe | Rotterdam, Netherlands



#### Global headquarters

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#### Regional offices

- Brazil, São Paulo
- Europe, Brussels
- LatAm, Guatemala
- South Africa, Cape Town

#### Social media

-  [@globalcoldchainalliance](#)
-  [@gcca\\_org](#)
-  [Global Cold Chain Alliance \(GCCA\)](#)

