



Executive Director, Allyson Mitchell

DIFFICULT. NECESSARY. TOGETHER. NOW.

2020 has been a year, hasn't it? And it's only September! In challenging times, it's human nature to look for the nearest exit; to try to "get back to normal" as quickly as possible. But now, after a few months of having our world flipped upside down, it feels like we are further away from "normal" than ever, as the COVID-19 challenges evolve rather than subside, as extreme climate events repeat like a bad dream, and as this country struggles to pull back the curtain of systemic racism that has existed for centuries. At some point, it becomes clear that we don't get to "return" to the past and that we must all create a new future.

For the IRC, it started with embracing working-from-home, developing [IRC's response to COVID-19](#), and the pivot to a virtual Conference format. It was difficult, but it was necessary, and so we all did it together. As a team, but also alongside YOU. And in retrospect, that was the easy part.

Today, as we reckon with the societal shift necessary to become anti-racists at the individual and collective levels, we commit to creating a new future, rather than returning to the past. We're not just re-evaluating our policies, practices, and how we deliver our programs - but why, and for whom. We are doing this as individuals, as an organization, and as members of the environmental and nonprofit communities. This is humbling work because we're having to educate ourselves, recognize blind spots and hidden-in-plain-sight intersectional issues, and explore the potential for unintended negative impacts of our words and our actions - despite good intentions. This is foundational, transformational stuff, and we didn't see it coming.

There's no doubt; it is difficult.
But it is necessary.
So we are doing it together.
And although it's overdue, we are doing it now.

This is messy and we won't always get it right. I hope you will hear our humility and provide us with compassionate accountability. To borrow an idea from Brene Brown, we're not here to BE right, we're here to GET IT RIGHT.

Join us,



Programs Update

CARTON COUNCIL WEBINAR



**BOOSTING
CARTON RECYCLING
IN INDIANA**

**FREE
webinar**

September 16
3:30pm EDT

 **CARTON
COUNCIL**

BEANS
SOY MILK
UP
NE

The IRC is hosting a webinar on carton recycling in Indiana, sponsored by the [Carton Council](#), on Wednesday, September 16th at 3:30 EDT. Carton recycling has room to grow in Indiana, and this webinar will cover the success of carton recycling in the United States and how you can bring carton recycling to your community. The webinar will include representatives from the Carton Council, [Ray's Trash and Recycling](#) (an Indiana Material Recovery Facility which accepts cartons), [AMP Robotics](#) (a robotic equipment manufacturer), and [Sustana Fiber](#) (a fiber end market).

Would you like to sponsor a webinar with the IRC? Opportunities are still available! Reach out to Jean at jean@indianarecycling.org.

REGISTER NOW

2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The IRC's very first Virtual Conference has been a rousing success! The conference featured over 40 speakers and had over 230 attendees from 20 states. Were you unable to attend? Good news - tickets are still available!

All education sessions can be viewed on the IRC Virtual Conference website. Members receive a discount.

PURCHASE A PASS



LEND-A-BIN FLEET FOR SALE



The IRC is selling our fleet of portable Lend-a-Bin recycling and compost bins, lids, and transporters. If interested in purchasing any of these items, please reach out to marla@indianarecycling.org for more details.

WHIN REPORT

The IRC recently released an in-depth study of the recycling infrastructure of a 10-county region in Northwest Indiana. The report, titled “Regional Recycling Infrastructure: Northwest Indiana in Focus,” was funded by a grant from the [Wabash Heartland Innovation Network](#) Regional Cultivation Fund and studied residential recycling activities via remote recycling drop offs, curbside collection programs, and public and private recycling centers in the region. We are grateful for the collaboration of partners in this effort, including the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), six (6) solid waste management districts (SWMDs), 18 municipalities, six (6) private recycling centers, multiple materials recovery facilities, and public and private haulers. You can view the full report on the IRC website.

[VIEW FULL REPORT](#)

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM



Content creation is currently in progress for the first section of the Master Recycler Program! The launch of the program was delayed due to capacity restraints from the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition of the 2020 Conference from in-person to virtual. Now that the IRC is back to full capacity, program development is back on track!

Want to get involved? Sign up to be a beta tester or participant or take the topic poll!

[BECOME BETA TESTER/PARTICIPANT](#)

[TAKE TOPIC POLL](#)

Partner Updates

IDEM - PRESS RELEASE

Governor Holcomb recently appointed 4 new members to the Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB). For more details, [read the press release](#).

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Drop-off Recycling bins: The City of Indianapolis recently announced changes to its recycling drop-off locations. Drop-off bins will be removed from 2 northwest Indianapolis Kroger stores. For more information, [read the press release](#).

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS - RFQUAL RELEASED

The City of Indianapolis' Office of Sustainability has released a Request for Qualifications related to Solid Waste Minimization. They are interested in an analysis of Indianapolis' current solid waste intake, processes, and opportunities for diversion and education. Work completed for this project will ultimately help inform the city on any short-term opportunities available. It will also provide input for the upcoming Request for Proposal related to solid waste vendor partner contracts expiring in 2025. [Read more](#).

Where in Indiana is Allyson?

As the IRC continues to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are staying connected to our members, our community and each other with technology and limited in-person gatherings. Here's some recent examples of how we're doing it:

INDIANA ENVIRONMENTAL ORGS Check In

The IRC hosts monthly virtual meetings for leaders of Indiana environmental organizations to catch up, share ways we can coordinate efforts, and support each other. Staying connected has been more important than ever these past several months!



JULY 2020 Board Meeting

Now that all IRC board and committee meetings are happening virtually, posing for a group photo at the end of a board meeting is just a quick screenshot!

SPLAT FOR SPRATT at OrangeTheory Fitness

Working out for a great cause at OrangeTheory Fitness in downtown Indy for the #SplatforSpratt fundraiser for IRC Board Member Greg Spratt, benefitting the Sarcoma Foundation of America.



TEAM BUILDING at Eagle Creek

A new addition to Team IRC + great weather = a fun morning for team building and kayaking on Eagle Creek Reservoir. Props to Jean for the skillful kayak selfie!

Staff Spotlight

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, MORGAN HARTMAN

We are excited to announce the newest addition to Team IRC: Morgan Hartman! Morgan started in early August as our new Marketing & Communications Manager. She brings an impressive array of expertise in graphic design, copywriting, website management, email and social media campaigns, and film production and editing! Her commitment to excellence in visual communications and passion for sustainability make her an excellent addition to our team.



IRC in the News

WTHR

4/25/2020: Celebrating Earth Day and recycling during COVID-19.

[READ MORE](#)

IndyStar

5/18/2020: Environmental groups struggle to maintain funding, momentum as COVID-19 pandemic continues.

[READ MORE](#)

IndyStar

5/28/2020: As testing ramps up, Indianapolis incinerator proves safe place to dispose of pandemic waste.

[READ MORE](#)

Encamp Webinar

7/21/2020: Campfire Sessions, Episode 7: The Circular Economy for Recycling with the Indiana Recycling Coalition.

[WATCH NOW](#)

IndyStar, ScrubHub

8/1/2020: What is Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett's record on sustainability?

[READ MORE](#)

Taking Care in Business Podcast

8/20/2020: Episode 89: Allyson Mitchell of Indiana Recycling Coalition.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

The Environmental Transformation Podcast

9/8/2020: Episode 9: Indiana Recycling Coalition, helping the city of Indianapolis achieve its Waste & Recycling goals.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

Indianapolis Circular Economy Initiative Update

IRC's strategic priority of working with the City of Indianapolis to address its decades-long recycling challenges, known as the Indianapolis Circular Economy Initiative (ICEI), is regaining momentum despite the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In late July, the IRC submitted a concept paper to the Lilly Endowment for the [Enhancing Opportunities in Indianapolis](#) grant initiative. The concept paper focused on the job creation potential of expanding infrastructure for recycling and the circular economy in Indianapolis.
- In mid-June, IRC's Executive Director Allyson Mitchell was appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the Indianapolis and Marion County City-County Council's [Commission on Environmental Sustainability](#).
- The September 15 Commission on Environmental Sustainability meeting will be virtual from 5:30-8:00pm EDT and focus on waste & recycling. City of Indianapolis leaders and Allyson Mitchell will be presenting to the Commission. [Watch the live meeting](#) online. Questions must be submitted in advance via [this form](#).

Upcoming Webinars

ISRI Fall Commodity Spotlight Series

September 14-17, 2:00pm EDT

Gain critical market insights with the most comprehensive source of up-to-date analysis in the recycling industry. The ISRI Fall 2020 Commodity...

[REGISTER](#)

Sustainable Recovery: ESG Values and our Resilient Future

September 15, 1:00pm EDT

In a world facing multiple crises, businesses, cities and organizations that have placed ESG values at the core of their work are proving to be...

[REGISTER](#)

Boosting Carton Recycling in Indiana



September 16, 3:30pm EDT

The IRC and Carton Council are hosting this webinar. Carton recycling has room to grow in Indiana, and this webinar will cover the success of carton recycling...

[REGISTER](#)

State & Local Laws Mandating Minimum Recycled Content

September 24, 2:00pm EDT

Products with post-consumer recycled content can drive recycling markets. This has been proven time and time again, but to date there has been...

[REGISTER](#)

New International Requirements for Exports and Imports of Plastic Recyclables

September 24, 2:00pm EDT

This webinar will explain the new international requirements for exports and imports of plastic recyclables or scrap...

[REGISTER](#)

Voluntary Initiatives Driving the Use of Minimum Recycled Content in Products and Packaging

October 6, 2:00pm EDT

With this webinar, we'll learn about voluntary actions by brands and others to increase the use of minimum recycled content and their impact...

[REGISTER](#)

Support the IRC

When you donate to the IRC, you're supporting real, sustainable change in Indiana. There are lots of great (not to mention, stylish) ways to support the IRC. Choose how you'd like to help today! Every donation helps forward our mission of working together to strengthen the circular economy in Indiana.



BECOME A MEMBER



GET YOUR PLATE



PURCHASE A T-SHIRT

DONATE TODAY

New & Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Harvey Abramowitz
Morgan Bennett
Staci Cline
Sam and Audrey Detrick
David Falls
Heather Fuller-Jones
Jeff Haverly
Lasha Kvantaliani
Lisa Laflin
Katie Owens
Taren Porter
Shelly Recker
Katie Robinson
Kristin Salat
Vince Saul
Julanne Sausser
Kim Schafstall
Nolan Taylor
Carey Hamilton
Dean Hemmersbach
David Johnson

Amy Krzton-Presson
Lindsay McGuire
Ken Miller
Allyson Mitchell
Dylan Patterson
Nathan Rues

ORGANIZATIONS

[Bohlsen Group](#)
[Brightmark](#)
[Dearborn County SWMD](#)
[Eco Partners, Inc.](#)
[Encamp](#)
[Furniture Management Solutions](#)
[Monarch Beverage Company](#)
[Pratt Industries](#)
[Ray's Trash Service](#)
[Schott Design, Inc.](#)
[Strategic Materials, Inc.](#)
[Alcoa Warrick Operations](#)
[Allen County Dept. of Environmental Management](#)
[Carton Council](#)
[City of Carmel Utilities](#)
[City of Columbus](#)

[Clif Bar Baking Company of Indianapolis](#)
[Crawford County SWMD](#)
[Green Broad Ripple, Inc.](#)
[Hancock County SWMD](#)
[Heritage Interactive Services](#)
[Hirons](#)
[Hoosier Beverage Association](#)
[J. Solotken & Co., Inc.](#)
[Lake County SWMD](#)
[NuGenesis](#)
[Solid Waste District of LaPorte County](#)
[Southeastern Indiana SWMD](#)
[Technology Recyclers](#)
[Tri-Power Recycling](#)
[Wheeler Recycling Technologies, Inc.](#)

Check out our [Member Directory](#). If you want to add your organizational account or update your listing, log into your account or contact Jean at jean@indianarecycling.org.

