



Executive Director, Allyson Mitchell

THINGS ARE HEATING UP

I bet you read that title and thought I was making small talk about the weather. But I'm not here to tell you how well the tomatoes are growing in my garden. I'm here to tell you that, although the pandemic continues, there's a lot of new activity in the recycling industry in Indiana (and nationwide).

From announcements of new investments from industry partners that will impact Indiana and the release of the Indiana Recycling Infrastructure & Economic Study by IDEM, to the kickoff of IRC's 2022 state legislative agenda and helpful policy wins by the City of Indianapolis—well, now you know why

the Partner Updates section of this newsletter is so large. But there's also a lot of exciting news coming soon from the IRC. As we get started on a new Strategic Plan very soon, you'll witness more big changes for us and get to know us anew.

In other (bittersweet) news, our beloved Director of Administration, Jean Miller, is about to embark on [new adventures](#)! Her last day with the IRC will be October 1.

So come along with us. This fall, and well into next year, promises to be an exciting time for recycling and the circular economy in Indiana. We'll keep you informed, engaged, and encouraged. But since we don't see it cooling off any time soon, bring that reusable water bottle along to stay hydrated and cool.



Legislative Update

FEDERAL POLICY

- The latest version of the INVEST in America Act (the federal infrastructure bill) contains the full text of the RECYCLE Act and recycling stakeholders are optimistic that several key components will remain in the final version. Read more at [WasteDive's website](#).

STATE POLICY

- In Indiana, the state legislature is [awaiting 2020 Census maps](#) (delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, expected to be available in late September) necessary to redraw Congressional and state legislative district boundaries. This process, known as redistricting, occurs every 10 years following the Census and has significant ramifications for voter representation. These decisions have the potential to impact all statewide policy proposals in Indiana including those related to waste, recycling, and the circular economy.



BEYOND INDIANA

- Packaging/recycling extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies [are gaining traction](#) across the US after years of no new bills advancing in state legislatures. [Maine](#) and [Oregon](#) are making significant progress in what is expected to be a continuing trend.

Programs Update

2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE Recap



The IRC 2021 Virtual Conference was a huge success! Over **150** people attended this year, representing **11** states plus Canada and **37** Indiana counties. The Conference covered topics relating to the 2021 Conference theme: *Reimagining the 3 Rs: Resources, Responsibility, and Resiliency*. With over **30** speakers from across the country, **10** education sessions, and **4** networking sessions, this year's attendees left informed and ready to tackle recycling and circular economy challenges in Indiana and beyond! Attendees had overwhelmingly positive feedback about the Conference, with survey respondents rating it an average of **4.5 out of 5 stars**. One attendee even said,

"The best part of the Conference was getting re-energized to accomplish our shared goals after a hard year and general discouragement that can accompany this line of work. Seeing IRC continue to push forward for progress keeps me trying as well."

Many thanks to all our sponsors, speakers, and attendees for making this year's Conference such a fantastic experience!

MISSED THE CONFERENCE?

Catch up with us by watching the recording of the session about the IRC's Indianapolis Circular Economy Initiative (ICEI), [Circular Economy for the Circle City](#)! This pre-recorded Conference session is now available to the public, and examines Indianapolis' once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to significantly improve recycling and pursue the circular economy. Hear from ICEI partners representing a variety of industries and sectors about why this effort is important, how it will positively impact the entire state of Indiana, and what's next for the Circle City.

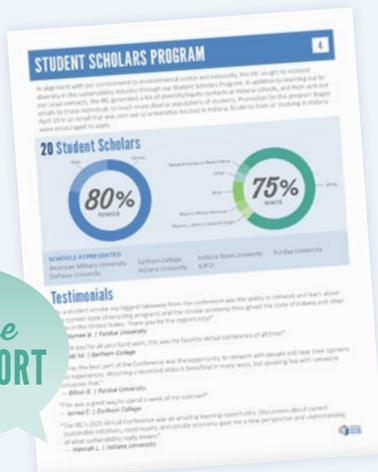


INDIANAPOLIS CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVE

On August 9, 2021, the Indianapolis City County Council passed (19-6) Proposal 190 to create a standing Council Committee on Environmental Sustainability. This new committee, proposed by Councillor John Barth, provides a dedicated venue for the consideration of policy proposals related to the environment and efforts to achieve the Thrive Indianapolis goals, including policy proposals related to solid waste, recycling, and composting. The IRC mobilized its partners to provide support for Proposal 190. Read more about this on [WFYI](#) and [IndyStar](#).



STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM



view the
FULL REPORT

Each year, the IRC Student Scholars Program provides a unique professional development opportunity for Indiana students interested in careers in the sustainability or waste management fields. Through the program, students gain access to all Conference educational and networking sessions, where they can learn and network with professionals representing industry, local and state government, community leaders, sustainability professionals, and other students. As part of the IRC's commitment to dismantling systemic racism, the IRC deployed a new outreach strategy to increase the diversity of Student Scholars applicants and help create a more diverse pipeline of students interested in the sustainability and waste management fields.

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM

At the 2021 Virtual Conference, the IRC unveiled a short demo of the Master Recycler Program. Our final live session focused on the importance of environmental education in Indiana. The session also announced a new program sponsor, [Kroger's Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation](#), and called for additional partners to support program development and content creation.

Commitment to Environmental Justice

The IRC is committed to using our platform to elevate marginalized voices and be an agent of lasting change for the intersecting issues of systemic racism and the environment. Our 2021 Conference discussed this topic in every session and delved into more detail in the Understanding Environmental Racism session. The [replay for this session](#) is now available on our website. Check it out!

Partner Updates

RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

The Recycling Partnership's Elizabeth Biser to lead the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Best wishes, Elizabeth! [Read more.](#)

IDEM

IDEM recently released the [Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Study](#) commissioned by the Recycling Market Development Board. [Read more](#) from the local media in Fort Wayne.

PRATT INDUSTRIES

Pratt Industries announced plans to build a new \$400M recycled paper mill and corrugated facility in Henderson, KY - just over the river from Indiana! [Read more.](#)

STRATEGIC MATERIALS, INC.

Strategic Materials, Inc. (SMI) announced a new look in celebration of its 125-year anniversary. [Read more.](#)

GO GREENER COMMISSION

The West Lafayette Go Greener Commission received an IDEM grant to expand food waste collection. [Read more.](#)

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY SWMD

The Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District recently [received a Community Recycling Grant from IDEM](#) to purchase a new recycling compactor for use at Bartholomew County Landfill.

Where in Indiana is Allyson...

CNN INTERVIEW at the IRC Office

...speaking with national media about recycling and the circular economy in Indiana.
[Watch the whole segment on CNN.](#)



WESTSIDE CHAMBER MEETING

...discussing recycling in Indy and Indiana with business leaders at the West Side Chamber meeting at the Indianapolis Public Library - Pike Branch.

RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT BOARD Meeting

...sharing feedback on the recently-released Indiana Recycling Infrastructure & Economic Study at the Recycling Market Development Board meeting.



ERI'S MOBILE E-WASTE SHREDDING UNIT Tour

...touring [ERI's](#) Mobile E-waste Shredding Unit, following the RMDB meeting.

VISIONTHREE/KODEX Tour

...thinking outside the box for IRC programs with a demo of virtual reality with our friends at [VisionThree](#).





INDIANA STATE FAIR

...at the Indiana State Fair to talk about recycling and other waste minimization strategies with Head of Operations.



Staff Highlight Farewell, JEAN!

Our beloved Director of Administration, **Jean Miller**, is moving on from the IRC. She has been with the IRC for nearly a decade - first as a contractor, then as staff - and the 2021 Conference was her tenth such event. She is ready to take on a new challenge and feels called to use her time, talents, and passions to serve a different mission. Her last day will be Friday, October 1.

Jean has been an invaluable member of the IRC staff and her impact on the organization is undeniable. She has contributed so much wisdom, leadership, mentorship, and positivity to the organization and its culture and we are forever grateful for all she has done for us, personally and professionally. This feels like the end of an era for the IRC, and she will be so missed. We wish her all the best and will look forward to seeing her skills, personality, wisdom, and generosity take another organization to the next level!



Jean said, "I have loved every minute of working for the IRC and during my time here, I have learned so much, been so inspired, and met so many wonderful people. It is hard to walk away, but I will continue to be a supporter and know the IRC will continue its history of growth and success!"

Email Jean before October 1 to send her your well wishes: jean@indianarecycling.org.

IRC in the News

WBIW

6/3/2021: *Indiana Recycling Coalition to host 32nd annual conference June 8-10* — The event will feature five pre-rec...

[READ MORE](#)

Indiana Public Media

6/11/2021: *More Recycling Could Boost Indiana's Economy* — Experts say facilities where recycling is sorted and...

[LISTEN NOW](#)

WFYI, All IN

6/18/2021: *Indiana's Environmental Efforts, Food Insecurity, And The Pandemic Recession* — Where does...

[READ MORE](#)

WFYI

8/9/2021: *Study Makes Recommendations To Boost Recycling In Indiana* — A new study commissioned...

[READ MORE](#)

CNN

8/14/2021: *How much of my recycling actually gets recycled? We answer one...*

[WATCH NOW](#)

Upcoming Webinars & Events

“Maximize Product Utilization” hosted by ReFED

Aug 25, 1pm EDT (Virtual Event)

[REGISTER](#)

Making the Grade with K-12 Recycling & Waste Reduction

Aug 26, 1pm EDT (Virtual Event)

[REGISTER](#)

“Reshape Consumer Environments” hosted by ReFED

Sept 22, 1pm EDT (Virtual Event)

[REGISTER](#)

IDEM's 24th Annual Pollution Prevention Conference/Tradeshow

Sept 23 (In-person Event)

[DETAILS](#)

SWANA's WASTECON 2021

Nov 1-4 (In-person Event)

We're excited to see DEI featured in other waste conferences. WASTECON's Keynote this year is *Embracing DEI as a Strategic Advantage in 2021 and Beyond: Dumping the Rubbish of Antiquated Mindsets and Processes*

DETAILS

National Recycling Conference

Nov 3-4 (Virtual Event)

As an IRC member, you're also an NRC member and therefore receive a \$50 discount on this event! Get your tickets before Sept 1 to take advantage of it.

REGISTER

National Zero Waste Virtual Conference

Dec 8-9 (Virtual Event)

As an IRC member, you're also an NRC member and therefore receive a \$50 discount on this event!

REGISTER

Support the IRC



Don't you wish there was a special glass to hold all your favorite beverages? Look no further! Our Conference Pint Glasses, sponsored by Strategic Materials, were a crowd favorite in our virtual networking sessions. We only have a few pint glasses left, so if you couldn't snag one before the 2021 Virtual Conference, now is your chance to order one at half the price.

Just use the code **IRC50** when you order yours from the [United State of Indiana](#) website and you'll receive **50% off!** This sale ends on August 31!

GET YOUR PINT GLASS

New & Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Harvey Abramowitz
Melysha Acharya
Audra Boarman
Lisa Dix
Heather Fuller-Jones

David Gabovitch
Dean Hemmersbach
Laura Johns
Ricky Lane
Ashley Larson

Ken Miller
Allyson Mitchell
John Morton
Katie Owens
Tracey Page

Katie Robinson
Nicholas Scheimann
Angela Selburg-Lisby
Nolan Taylor

ORGANIZATIONS

[Berry Global](#)
[Brightmark](#)
[Carton Council of North America](#)
[City of Indianapolis](#)
[Clif Bar Baking Company of Indianapolis](#)
[Crawford County SWMD](#)
[Emerge Knowledge Design Inc.](#)
[Hoosier Beverage Association](#)
[Junk Car Medics](#)
[Lake County SWMD](#)
[Marshall County SWMD](#)

[Midwest Bale Ties](#)
[Monroe County SWMD](#)
[Pratt Industries](#)
[Ray's Trash Service](#)
[Republic Services of Indiana](#)
[Rumpke Waste & Recycling](#)
[Solid Waste District of LaPorte County](#)
[Strategic Materials, Inc.](#)
[Technology Recyclers](#)
[Tipton County Solid Waste Management District](#)

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.

