



Executive Director, Allyson Mitchell

## LEAN INTO IT

Welcome to our first quarterly\* newsletter of 2021! We made it through 2020, and even though the pandemic continues and its challenges remain, I hope you learned something about yourself that gives you courage for 2021 and beyond. You are making your way through this. You are resilient.

As we face 2021, the slow climb out of the pandemic, and the certainty of uncertainty that defines this moment in time, we have found a helpful mantra: **lean into it**.

The waste and recycling industry, perhaps, got a head start on this way of thinking when the global recycling market was upended in early 2018. Not that a pandemic was anywhere near the “unexpected” that anyone could have even dreamed up. But the notion of needing to scrap the “set it and forget it” strategy and stay nimble caused many to face the reality of the industry’s challenges head on.

So what are we leaning into? We are leaning into our role as the only statewide organization in Indiana focused on educating and advocating for the circular economy.

We are leaning into our mission and vision, as the rallying cry for what motivates and inspires us through the perpetual groundhog’s day, as working from home continues.

We are leaning into the excitement of our programs as we gear up for another - and even better - virtual [Conference](#), the emerging [Master Recycler Program](#), and the evolving [Indianapolis Circular Economy Initiative](#).

We also find ourselves leaning into our partners, our supporters, our board members, and each other, sharing more meaningful discussions and connections over Zoom than would normally happen in a typical, rush-to-the-next-thing world. This has been most evident in our discussions on embedding antiracism within the IRC’s organizational culture and our programs, mission, and vision.

This year, we hope you are using what you learned about yourself in 2020, tapping into your own resilience, and leaning in with us. We will make it through this, one lean in moment at a time.

Sustainably yours,



*\*With the switch from every-other-month to quarterly, you’ll get even more bang for your buck - just less frequently. So be sure you don’t miss an issue! Know someone who needs this resource? Forward yours on and encourage them to subscribe!*

## Legislative Update

### FEDERAL POLICY

- In December, the US EPA, under the previous administration, closed the public comment period for its [Draft National Recycling Strategy](#).
- In mid-January, the incoming Biden administration nominated Indiana's [Janet McCabe](#), who taught at the McKinney School of Law at IUPUI and led Indiana University's Environmental Resilience Institute, as the deputy administrator for the US EPA.
- The Biden administration, which [has already acted on](#) environmental justice and climate change policies, has not yet signaled a specific policy priority related to recycling. Read more in [Waste Dive](#).
- The Recycling Partnership urges the EPA to take action now on recycling policy. [Read more](#).



### STATE POLICY

- Currently, the only legislation that has been introduced in the 2021 session of the Indiana General Assembly is [HB 1325](#), authored by Representative Gutwein, who chairs the House Environmental Affairs Committee. The bill urges the legislative council to assign to the appropriate interim study committee the task of studying the recycling operations of solid waste management districts and how to promote the economic viability of those recycling operations. It has been referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures.

## Programs Update

There are **TWO BIG EVENTS** coming up that we want you to join!

### EARTH DAY WEBINAR

To celebrate Earth Day 2021, we'll be hosting a webinar on the topic of food waste, sponsored by Kroger. This virtual event will take place on Thursday, April 22, so be sure to save the date and plan to join us!



### IRC'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for June 8-10: the IRC's Annual Conference is virtual again! We had an amazing turnout last year and are excited to be hosting another conference that is 100% virtual. This year's theme is Reimagining the 3 Rs: Resources, Responsibility, and Resiliency. We're using the same platforms as last year to deliver unique educational content and networking opportunities - check our [2021 Virtual Conference webpage](#) for the latest details!

CALL FOR SPEAKERS  
NOW OPEN!

## CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Call for Sponsors

Help us develop and diversify the next generation of sustainability leaders in Indiana by sponsoring the IRC's Student Scholarship Program for the 2021 Virtual Conference! The Student Scholarship Program convenes Indiana college students around topics related to the circular economy and provides an opportunity for these students to connect to each other and professionals in the waste, recycling, and related industries. We aim to expand our outreach for potential conference scholars and provide professional development opportunities to a more diverse audience.

The scholarship covers the costs of conference attendance, allowing the students to attend for free. Scholarship recipients experience high-level speakers, panels, and presentations to expand their professional network and exposure to individuals from a wide range of sectors and position types to assist them in determining a career path.

For sponsorship information, contact [Allyson Mitchell](#).

## INDIANA FOOD SCRAP INITIATIVE (IFSI)

Interested in learning more about food waste? The topic of the IRC's first 2021 webinar, planned for Earth Day, will focus on food waste. Stay tuned for future details!



IFSI's Food Rescue strategy group is producing a white paper detailing the state of food rescue in Indiana. The paper puts together baseline data from the state of Indiana and compares Indiana to its neighboring states. The paper will be released in March 2021.

IFSI's newsletter and social media pages are moving! The IRC is refreshing its marketing and communications plan for all its programs. Therefore, IFSI will no longer have separate newsletters or social media accounts. Rest assured that all of IFSI's great content will continue - just in a new format! Be sure to like/follow the Indiana Recycling Coalition's page on Facebook and Instagram so you don't miss any of the new and exciting IFSI content coming in 2021! All IFSI social media pages will be taken down on February 26, 2021.

## MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM (MRP)



Content creation for the first level of the Master Recycler Program continues—keep an eye out for a special announcement at the IRC's 2021 Virtual Conference!

## Commitment to Environmental Justice

Over the past several months, IRC's staff and board came together to create a new, Environmental Justice Task Force to address our organization's role in dismantling systemic racism. The first product of the task force is the adoption of an organizational commitment:

*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. We will do this by seeking out, connecting with, and listening to diverse perspectives, pursuing lifelong personal, organizational, and community education, and advocating for just and equitable environmental policies.*

To celebrate Black History Month, the IRC is recognizing four Black leaders who have had a significant impact on the environmental field: Dr. Robert Bullard, Warren Washington, Dorceta Taylor, and Van Jones. Follow us on social media to learn more about these remarkable individuals.

## Partner Updates

### THE RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP, Polypropylene MRF Grant

The Polypropylene Recycling Coalition, an initiative of The Recycling Partnership, is awarding grant dollars to Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) across the United States. [Read more.](#)

### IDEM, Community Recycling Grant

Counties, municipalities, solid waste management districts, schools, and nonprofit organizations in Indiana are eligible to submit a Community Recycling Grant application requesting \$500 to \$100,000 in funding. [Read more.](#)

### IDEM, Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study

IDEM's Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study is underway by GT Environmental. Your help is needed by completing a [brief survey](#). If you have questions about the survey, please contact Erin Oulton at [eoulton@gtenvironmental.com](mailto:eoulton@gtenvironmental.com) or 614-964-7284.

## Where in Indiana is Allyson?

### COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Meeting

Allyson participated in the final meeting of the Indianapolis City County Council's Commission on Environmental Sustainability.



### OUTSIDE the IRC Office

What is 27 feet long and has an interior inspired by ketchup and mustard? That's right, folks. This actually happened. You never get too old - and it's never too cold - for a photo with the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile!

## IRC Board Highlight

We had elections at our December Board meeting, and we'd like to:

- Welcome our newest Board member, Roh Lehan representing [Pratt Industries](#)
- Congratulate our new Officers:
  - President, Pamela Francis
  - Vice President, Ryan Franz
  - Treasurer, Michael Davis
- Share our sincere gratitude for exiting long-term Board members, Stacey Boggs, who joined the IRC Board in 2010, and Greg Spratt, who joined in 2013. Both of them served as Officers for most of those years, and the IRC benefited enormously from their dedication, guidance, wisdom and involvement.

To see who's currently serving on our board, visit [our website](#).



## IRC in the News

### THE REFLECTOR, UIndy

11/12/2020: *Tackling Indianapolis' Wastefulness* — Indianapolis has been labeled as the most wasteful city in...

[READ MORE](#)

### IndyStar

11/15/2020: *Where to take your hard to recycle items in Indianapolis* — Recycling diverts tens of millions of tons of waste...

[READ MORE](#)

### IndyStar

12/21/2020: *'Tricky this year': How to help the planet while gift shopping during the pandemic* — The holiday...

[READ MORE](#)

### IndyStar

12/29/2020: *How can I be more environmentally-friendly in the new year?* — With the start of the new year...

[READ MORE](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

### Material Characterization and Economic Impacts of Recycling

February 25, 2-3:30pm EST

In 2018, the United States generated more than 292 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW). Measuring waste generation and how it is managed characterizes the national waste stream and is an important foundation for managing materials. This webinar is divided in to two sections. The first part will present the latest information reported in EPA's most recent Advancing Sustainable Materials Management...

[REGISTER](#)

### Plastic Film Recycling & End-markets

March 9, 2-3:30pm EST

This webinar is presented by the Association of Oregon Recyclers and covers a panel conversation about residential plastic film recycling and the status of film end-markets. Presented as a free webinar, the conversation will be moderated by Chaz Miller, NERC Board of Directors. Speakers will be: Tonya Butler, Eadaoin Quinn, Cherish Miller, and Sandi Childs.

[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.



**DONATE TODAY**

## New & Renewing Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Tanjimul Alam  
Kathy Arnold  
Penny Ausmus  
Patricia Baehler  
Cassie Beaman  
Morgan Bennett  
Neal Bennett  
Jessie Biggerman  
Melinda Blakesley  
Stacey Boggs  
Dan Boots  
Elizabeth Brandt  
Linda Broadfoot  
John Cangany  
Tracy Chandler  
Marla Cherney  
Holland Cluff  
Michael Davis

Lisa Dimond  
Brian Disborough  
Pamela Francis  
Jennifer Franer  
Indra Frank  
Jennifer Franz  
Kristin Fuller  
Jim Gamage  
Bob Gedert  
Eric Goldsmith  
Michael Gulich  
Andrew Harris  
Morgan Hartman  
Jennifer Hartwell  
Julia Hogan  
David Jose  
Gregg Keesling  
Maureen Keller

Jesse Kharbanda  
Jesse Kirkham  
Ron Lehan  
Megan McLarty  
Ryan Natzke  
Ruthann Osenbaugh  
Brock Patterson  
Addelyn Ratcliff  
Anne Renihan  
Alicia Reuter  
Brenda Rising-Moore  
Lacey Robinson  
Danielle Schaust  
Jordan Sewell  
Dean Smith  
Catherine Snyder  
Rosemary Spalding  
Greg Spratt

Katherine Stellhorn  
Natalie Stucky  
Christopher Thilges  
Mike Thompson  
Kyle Trost  
Erin Urschel  
Chris Van Gessel  
Gretchen Van Gessel  
Brett Welch  
Melissa Widhalm  
Barbara Wilder  
Mary Jane Young  
Sylva Zhang

## ORGANIZATIONS

[AISWMD](#)

[Bartholomew County SWMD](#)

[Berry Global](#)

[Boone County SWMD](#)

[City of Indianapolis](#)

[Cummins](#)

[Dubois County SWMD](#)

[Earth Day Indiana](#)

[Ecosystem Events](#)

[Fulton County Solid](#)

[Waste District](#)

[GHD Services Inc.](#)

[Gibson County SWMD](#)

[Hamilton Co. Household](#)

[Hazardous Waste](#)

[Historic Irvington](#)

[Community Council](#)

[Jewish Federation of](#)

[Greater Indianapolis,](#)

[Inc.](#)

[Junk Car Medics](#)

[Keep Indianapolis](#)

[Beautiful](#)

[Knox County Solid Waste](#)

[District](#)

[MIBOR REALTOR](#)

[Association](#)

[Monroe County SWMD](#)

[Mundell & Associates,](#)

[Inc.](#)

[Newfields](#)

[Northwest Indiana](#)

[SWMD](#)

[Perry County Recycling](#)

[Mgmt District](#)

[Plastic Recycling Inc](#)

[Posey County SWMD](#)

[Purdue University](#)

[RecycleForce](#)

[Rideout Public Affairs,](#)

[Inc.](#)

[Rumpke Waste &](#)

[Recycling](#)

[Schott Design, Inc.](#)

[SecureShred](#)

[Solid Waste District of](#)

[LaPorte County](#)

[Steve Johnson Products](#)

[Strategic Materials, Inc.](#)

[The Recycling](#)

[Partnership](#)

[WUR SWMD](#)

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](mailto:jean@indianarecycling.org).

