



Executive Director, Allyson Mitchell

BACK AT IT!

As we all get vaccinated, the world moves closer to a post-pandemic reality (#prayersforindia), and life slowly begins opening up again, we at the IRC are eager to get back to the office and back to traveling around the state to visit our partners and members. On this side of a global pandemic, we know there's a lot we'll not take for granted again. Among them, the simple things like lunch meetings, hand shakes, and phone calls during road trips. But more so, the "big deal" things like in-person events, facility tours, and seeing people smile in 3 dimensions.

Like a lot of you, we are reflecting on what we will carry forward from this experience, personally and professionally. Also like you, we know we're different because of it. These individual and organizational changes affect our evolution. As the only statewide organization in Indiana focused on education and advocacy for recycling and the circular economy, we seek to evolve in the direction that meets the needs of our members and partners. But to do that, we need to understand how you are evolving. So we're inviting you to take our [2021 Survey](#) and share that with us. Please complete the survey by May 31! We look forward to hearing from you so that we can better serve you!

As our [2021 Conference](#) quickly approaches, we are excited about the conversations we will curate, the ideas they will generate, and the partnerships that we'll build - with intention. You will learn about topics on the forefront - like environmental justice and policy changes proposed at the state and federal level. You will hear from many speakers that have experience, advice, and ideas to inspire you. We'll be together for virtual networking in the Remo platform again. And soon, in person. You'll have to attend the Conference for that announcement!

Until then: get registered, get your favorite vaccine, get your favorite beverage ready (for the complimentary Conference pint glass, of course), and get ready for more exciting announcements from the IRC as we evolve together!

With gratitude,
Allyson



We want to hear from you! Who are you? What do you like to do? Why do you support the IRC? [Take our survey](#) and let your voice be heard.

TAKE SURVEY

Legislative Update

FEDERAL POLICY

- The Senate voted Tuesday, April 27, to confirm Indiana's Janet McCabe as the No. 2 official at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [Read more.](#)

STATE POLICY

- In the latest [MSW landfill tipping fees report](#) from the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF), Indiana has the lowest tipping fee in the Midwest and one of the lowest in the entire country.



Programs Update

2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE, June 8-10



Join us for Indiana's premier waste reduction conference to learn, connect, and feel inspired about the tremendous potential for the future of Indiana's circular economy. This year, our conference will be featuring:

- 9 live, interactive Educational or Networking Sessions (3 per day on June 8, 9 and 10)
- 5 pre-recorded educational sessions to watch at your convenience beginning June 7
- Multiple conference pass options from \$49 to \$279 - *IRC members receive a 35% discount on all passes* (Members: check your email for the code!)
- Fun and interactive **Networking and Exhibit Hall** sessions via the Remo platform
- Real-time Q&A with live session Speakers
- Complimentary Conference Pint Glass (sponsored by [Strategic Materials](#)) shipped directly to your home - use for June 8 Premier Exhibit Hall Happy Hour Networking Session!

Busy that week? Register anyway, and we'll send all the replays after! Not only can you join live, interactive sessions June 8-10, but you will also have access to our virtual conference platform until December 31, 2021.

ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

get your
**CONFERENCE
PINT GLASS**



STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The IRC is seeking applications for its Student Scholars Program, which provides a unique professional development opportunity for Indiana students interested in careers in the sustainability or waste management fields. Student Scholar recipients receive free access to all education and networking sessions of the [2021 IRC Virtual Conference](#).

The application deadline has been extended until Friday, May 28 at 11:59pm EDT. To apply, visit the [IRC's Student Scholars page](#).

Thanks to [Hoosier Beverage Association](#) and [Carton Council](#) for sponsoring this program.



INDIANA FOOD SCRAP INITIATIVE (IFSI)

As the IRC continues to evaluate and update our programming in alignment with our mission and vision, the Indiana Food Scrap Initiative is going away as a separate and distinct program of the IRC. The IRC understands the critical role that managing food waste plays in the circular economy and remains committed to reducing food waste.



As such, food waste minimization education will be woven into all IRC programming for education and advocacy, such as the [Earth Day Webinar](#) on *Restoring Our Earth: Preventing and Managing Food Waste*, the Master Recycler Program, and the Indianapolis Circular Economy Initiative.

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM (MRP)



Content creation for the first level continues. Attend the IRC's 2021 Virtual Conference session - [Making the Connection: Environmental Education is Urgent](#) - for a live demo and an exciting announcement regarding the [Master Recycler Program!](#)

Commitment to Environmental Justice

New in 2021: An entire Conference [session](#) dedicated to educating our attendees on the topic of environmental justice! In alignment with IRC's commitment to environmental justice, we will be addressing this topic in all our educational programming as we pursue lifelong personal, organizational, and community education so that we can be an agent of lasting change for the intersecting issues of systemic racism and the environment.

Partner Updates

PURDUE UNIVERSITY, Survey

The purpose of this study is to collect data about household consumer electronics use, storage, recycling, and disposal in the United States. Please participate and share with your networks as well! [Take survey](#).

OFFICE OF INDIANA STATE CHEMIST

Do you have old or unused pesticides to dispose of? Do it safely through the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) Clean Sweep Program! [Read more](#) about dates and locations.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

The goal of the [Technical Education and Analysis for Community Hauling and Anaerobic Digesters \(TEACH AD\)](#) Program is to help communities and water resource recovery facilities in the Midwest region divert food waste from landfills by providing education and no-cost technical assistance to explore the increased adoption of anaerobic digestion and renewable energy biogas technologies.

IUPUI, #2 in Sustainability

Congratulations to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis who has been [ranked second](#) in the nation and 28th in the world among universities for its efforts to accomplish the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals!

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, New Sustainability Director

The City of Indianapolis recently hired a new Director of the Office of Sustainability. Congratulations Morgan Mickelson! [Read more](#).

IDEM, Recycling Market Development Program

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) recently announced the availability of grant funding for recycling projects from the Recycling Market Development Program. Eligible candidates may seek a grant ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Proposals are being accepted now through June 23, 2021. Final funding determinations will be made by October 2021. [Apply here](#). For additional information, please contact 800-988-7901 or RMDPGrants@idem.IN.gov.

HOOSIER ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) is hosting an online event on Thursday, May 20 to discuss how Indiana, even in tough terrain, can make public policy changes that address climate change! [Climate Solutions: What Policy Paths in Indiana?](#)

IDEM

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will be sharing the results of their Indiana Recycling Infrastructure & Economics Study in early June via the [IDEM website](#) and briefly during the [Welcome Session](#) at the IRC Virtual Conference.

USDA, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY COMPOST

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of up to \$2 million for local governments to host Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2021. Applications are due through [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59pm EDT on July 16. [Read more](#) about the news release.

Where in Indiana is Allyson?

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER in West Lafayette

We met up with our friends at Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, the Indy Office of Sustainability, and Purdue Sustainability to tour the anaerobic digester at the wastewater treatment plant in West Lafayette, IN.



FILMING at the IRC Office

Since there's not a lot of "out and about" activity to share just yet, here's a behind-the-scenes peek at filming at the IRC office for some videos for the [Master Recycler Program!](#)

INDY HUB'S Shape Our City

IRC loves working with our partners at IndyHub, and in April we had the pleasure of being part of two of their virtual events. Here's Allyson talking about recycling in Indianapolis during the Shape Our City Briefing on Sustainability event on April 30.



IRC Board Highlight

Meet our newest BOARD MEMBERS!

Aaron Friedrich is a Principal Consultant with [ERM](#), a consulting firm that creates innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. Aaron has a passion for leading a paradigm shift that makes waste reduction and reuse/recycling a standard in our everyday lives—not just as something that people feel obligated or compelled to do. To him, the board is composed of a dynamic group of individuals representing a broad range of sectors, companies, and organizations and integrates aspects of the circular economy at these different levels. The knowledge sharing among board members is one of things Aaron has enjoyed most about being a part of the IRC team, and it empowers him to spread this education beyond the board to make an even bigger impact throughout Indiana.



Ron Lehan works for [Pratt Industries](#), a producer of 100% recycled containerboard and a long-time sponsor of the IRC. As a board member, he recognizes that the IRC's greatest impact is our commitment to reduce waste and strengthen the circular economy in Indiana. Ron's involvement has led him to personally adopt new waste habits, like considering how to reduce waste or reuse items before disposal. In the future, he would like to see the IRC reach lawmakers to draft legislation which encourages better recycling policies and processes statewide.

Ken Miller has decades of experience in the plastics and chemical industry and is a leading voice in the movement for a more circular Indiana. Ken envisions an Indiana that leads in the circular economy, rather than lags behind, and believes that the IRC has two major impacts. First, the IRC's network provides the forum to have significant conversations on the importance of recycling and the circular economy. Second, the IRC's presence is a driving force in improving curbside recycling in Indianapolis. To Ken, the future of the IRC is in advancing the circular economy through education, policy, public/private partnerships, and holding the public, businesses, and government to a higher level of responsibility.



IRC in the News

WFYI, All IN

2/18/2021: *Plastic Waste and Recycling During the Pandemic* — Allyson spoke on single use plastics and their uses in the...

[READ MORE](#)

Indiana Public Media

4/8/2021: *When in Doubt, Throw it Out: the Dirty Truths about Local Recycling* — Allyson talks about the concept of...

[READ MORE](#)

IndyStar, ScrubHub

4/21/2021: *16 virtual events and outdoor activities you can do to celebrate Earth Day this year* — IRC's Earth Day Webinar...

[READ MORE](#)

Knauf Insulation, Latest News

4/22/2021: *Knauf Insulation Celebrates Earth Day by Doubling Down on Commitment to Planet, Establishing...*

[READ MORE](#)

Resource Recycling

4/27/2021: *Women in Circularity* — IRC Board President Pam Francis is featured in the April online edition of Resource Recycling magazine.

[READ MORE](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Restoring Our Earth: Preventing and Managing Food Waste

Watch the replay!

In case you missed it, the IRC hosted an exciting Earth Day webinar all about food waste. Watch the replay on our website!

[WATCH NOW](#)

Achieving Zero Waste with Innovative Reuse and Recycling Contracts

May 25, 2-3pm EDT

Innovative contracting approaches to reduce and manage materials can advance your federal, state, tribal, community, or organizational zero waste...

[REGISTER](#)

USDA Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair

May 26, 12-4pm EDT

In the U.S., more than one-third of all available food goes uneaten through loss or waste. Public and private organizations are creating solutions...

REGISTER

“Optimize the Harvest” - Following the Roadmap to 2030 Webinar Series

June 2, 1pm EDT

More than a quarter of surplus produce left behind after harvest is considered edible but “not marketable” – frequently because of overly strict quality or...

REGISTER

Food Waste Insights + Innovation Forum

June 16, 12pm EDT

Join The Spoon and ReFED as we examine the way technology and other innovative initiatives are helping to curb food waste from the consumer kitchen all the way to...

REGISTER

Support the IRC



Support the IRC while you shop at Kroger! It's free for you and adds up to **big rewards** for the IRC! The IRC recently enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards program, and we are grateful for the 25 people who have signed up to support us! If you would like to sign-up, visit [Kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) and log into your Kroger account. Search for *Indiana Recycling Coalition* either by name or XP386 and then click "Enroll." New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a Kroger Rewards card.

[AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) is a simple way for you to support the IRC as you shop, at **no cost** to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to us!

The AmazonSmile logo features the word "amazon" in black with a curved orange arrow underneath, and the word "smile" in orange.



We are still “IN This Together” and are once again offering this limited edition t-shirt (also available as a tank top). IRC members receive a discount!

Note: Members should have received an email with the discount code on April 30. If you did not receive this email, please email Jean at jean@indianarecycling.org.

PURCHASE A T-SHIRT

DONATE TODAY

New & Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Nicholas Brothers
Shelly Burns
Christine Carlson
Chase Christy
James R. Crouse
John Dane

Sam & Audrey Detrick
David Falls
Maegen Fleck
Nichole Freije
Aaron Friedrich
Kelly Geckler

Debbie Hackman
Jeffrey Haverly
Timothy Jarzombek
Jennifer Junod
Amy Krzton-Presson
Kelvin Okamoto

Joe Purcell
Christine Smith
Sacha Teague
Benjamin Tebbe
Kyle Trost

ORGANIZATIONS

[Allen County Dept. of Environmental Management](#)
[Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District](#)
[Best Way Disposal](#)
[Boone County SWMD](#)
[Butler University](#)
[Clark County Solid Waste District](#)
[Eco Partners, Inc.](#)
[ERM](#)
[Green Broad Ripple, Inc.](#)
[GT Environmental](#)
[Guidon](#)
[Hancock Co. SWMD](#)
[Hendricks County Recycling District](#)
[Hoosier Environmental Council](#)
[IDEM](#)
[Indiana State University Recycle Center](#)
[Indiana University Bloomington](#)
[Johnson County SWMD](#)

[KC Recycling Depot/KCSWMD](#)
[Knauf Insulation](#)
[Kroger](#)
[Kruse Carpet Recycling](#)
[Meijer](#)
[Miami County Solid Waste District](#)
[Randolph Co. SWMD](#)
[Rush County SWMD](#)
[Shaw Contract Flooring](#)
[Shelby County Recycling District](#)
[The Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc.](#)
[The Recycling Partnership](#)
[The Science & Magic Corporation of America](#)
[University of Notre Dame](#)
[Vanderburgh Co. SWMD](#)
[Wabash County Solid Waste Management District](#)
[West Central S.W.D.](#)
[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.

