INDIANA RECYCLING COALITION

1999-2000 ANNUAL REPORT
Mission

The mission of the Indiana Recycling Coalition is to support source reduction, reuse, composting and recycling activities in Indiana. To encourage integrated recycling, the Coalition supports buying recycled-content products, and the collection and remanufacturing of recyclable materials. The goal of this support is to conserve our natural resources, decrease our reliance on final disposal, and encourage environmental responsibility.

The Coalition provides this support by:

➢ Fostering a diverse and active membership;

➢ Offering forums for discussion, networking, and education;

➢ Supplying materials to support the development of solutions on the local, regional, and state levels; and

➢ Developing consensus positions to serve as a voice of the membership

INDIANA RECYCLING COALITION
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A Not-For-Profit Corporation
Both new and returning members of the Board of Directors, and a number of active board supporters made for another good year for the board. Janet Fox Neltner continues to provide excellent support in organizing the meetings—ensuring a meeting place, advance agenda, and dinner. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Environmental Management Institute with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and business meeting following at 5:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
Sadly, we say goodbye to a number of board members this year. We wish all the best to: Maribeth Rizutto, Brook Edwards, Cathy Bastin, Joel Hall, and Jeffrey Raffenburg.

A special thank you to out-going Board member and Conference Czar, Brook Edwards. Brook has served the Coalition both as Treasurer and Chair of the Conference Committee. Our conference moves to Evansville and Merrillville have been due to Brook's hard work and dedication to his duties as Conference Czar. The IRC will miss his dedication and eye for detail. Best of luck and please stay active with the Coalition, Brook!

MEMBERSHIP

Under the leadership of Chair Melinda Antell, the membership brochure was re-tooled and updated. The brochure reflects the new dues structure which was designed to help integrate our closer affiliation with the National Recycling Coalition. Total membership in the Coalition has remained steady from 1998 to 1999—167 members at the end of fiscal year 1999 (November). Membership numbers by sector also remain stable. Membership is now being tracked through a database program, which allows the IRC to better manage membership issues, mailings, renewals, etc.
FINANCIAL

Income outweighed general operating expenses this year by a total of $5740.00, giving the Coalition a second year end net gain. The Indiana Recycling Coalition currently has net assets of $26,067. General operating income came from two major sources – the 10th annual conference and memberships. The new financial software program has been implemented and allows better fund management and budgeting for the IRC.

The Coalition continues to receive grant funds which help support its projects. This past year, grants from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management helped to support Indiana's America Recycles Day education campaign, the Recycle Right educational project, and the NIRI multi-media anti-illegal dumping and quality of recycleables campaign. A total of $58,912.00 in grant dollars from local and state sources passed through the IRC. More information about IRC projects is included in this report.

The Coalition is proud to note that expenses for project services make up 81.72 percent of total expenses, only 15.59 percent go to management and general operating funds and 2.69 percent of expenses go toward fundraising efforts.
Long Term Funding Options
As the IRC continues to grow and mature as an organization, long term funding strategies are emerging through work between the membership and recently reinstituted finance committee. Ideas such as year round sponsors--friends of the IRC, are being developed. In the past year, the Board voted to join with other environmental groups in the Environmental Fund for Indiana. The EFI works much like the United Way works for social service organizations, acting as an umbrella organization allowing groups like ours to fundraise in the payroll deduction arena.

Audit/taxes
The IRC again hired Richards CPA Group to audit the books for 1998 and 1999 and to prepare the 1999 taxes. The audit report is in draft form and will be finalized soon. Figures reported are from the draft report.

COMMITTEES
Committees and Task Forces are lead and staffed by volunteers. Committees are standing bodies while Task Forces form, disband and reform as projects arise. IRC has three sponsored committees, for which the Executive Director prints and mails agendas and minutes.

1. Northern Indiana Recycling Initiative
Outgoing Chair/Sec.: Rob Whitacre/Marsha Eikenberry
New Chair/Sec.: Mike Good/Gary Belconis

NIRI held two chair elections this past year. Lee Anne Scott was elected Chair, but resigned one month after being elected to pursue other employment and interests. Mike Good was elected shortly after Lee Anne's departure. A paper identification workshop was held last November as part of the Quality Paper Marketing Initiative which wraps up this year. NIRI worked diligently on the Rural Recycling Workshop and has a new web page this year.
2. Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative
Outgoing Chair/Sec.: Patricia Bunner Colbert/Debbie Haseman
New Chair/Sec.: to be determined at next SIRI meeting.

SIRI held a Project Learning Tree workshop session, toured Crane Naval Base's recycling operations, toured GE Plastics, and Tri-State Resource and Recovery. Elections for new Chair and Secretary are being held immediately after this year's IRC conference. Work continues on the SIRI informational brochure.

3. Multi Media Campaign
Chairs: Keith Fallon and Dean Smith

Phase II of the media campaign is well underway. A regional grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management helped to spur on the expanding NIRI project. The anti-illegal dumping campaign is just about to begin airing across the north central region of the state. It features our beautiful Indiana landscape soiled with trash. The message encourages people to report illegal dumping to keep our state pristine. It is quickly being picked up by other parts of the state for use in their areas. A second part of phase two is just starting to move along. It will help teach people how to improve the quality of recycleables. These campaigns are also supported by Caterpillar, Inc., the Chrysler Corporation, as well as solid waste districts and other NIRI members.

Other Committees and Task Forces
Finance--Co-Chairs, Joel Hall, Brook Edwards
Membership--Chair, Melinda Antell
Nominating--Chair, Melinda Antell
Conference--Chair, Brook Edwards; Exhibits Chair, Ken Decker
Buy Recycled Task Force--Chair, Sarah Carney
Consensus Position Task Force--Chair, Kari Simonelic
ARD--Co-Chairs, Chad Trinkle, Carey Jeffries
Newsletter--Co-Chairs, Rudy Osenbaugh, Jeff Myers, Diane Shew
HIGHLIGHTS (WHAT WAS NEW!)

Annual Conference
Last year's conference was held in Evansville, IN where Southern Hospitality ruled. A successful conference with a full slate of sessions was due in part to the work of the Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative, whose members worked hard at fundraising and bringing in new members and exhibitors. The tours and boat ride were great and a good time was had by all. Thanks especially to Patricia Bunner Colbert, Joe Ballard, Jim Daniels and all the SIRI members! The Evansville conference was held in conjunction with a reuse seminar put on by the Reuse Development Organization. Many conference attendees commented on the benefit of having a full reuse seminar in conjunction with the conference. Thanks to Julie Rhodes and ReDo for providing an informative workshop here in Indiana.

Recycle Right!
IRC kicked off a cooperative effort with the Glass Packaging Institute on a campaign entitled Recycle Right! This public education campaign is designed to present recycling quality control issues and the goal is to provide locally adaptable TV, radio, and print materials. These educational materials encourage consumers to adapt their recycling behavior to the needs of the recycleables markets. The campaign has been featured at the AISWMD conference, the Rural Recycling Workshop, HASTI and other venues. IRC received a Regional Cooperative grant to support this project financially. CDs and other Recycle Right materials are available to Indiana educators at no charge.

NRC Affiliation
The IRC joined the National Recycling Coalition as an affiliate, under the new NRC affiliation rules. IRC membership dues were modified to facilitate the NRC/IRC dues structure. Our new partnership began
with work on the Rural Recycling Workshop, and continues with a joint Buy Recycled Business Alliance membership drive. A partnership works both ways--to keep our end of the bargain, Janet Fox Neltner is representing the IRC on NRC's Recycling Organization Council (ROC) as an elected at-large member. Congratulations, Janet!

First Ever IRC Picnic
Terry and Sara Duffy invited IRC Board members and their families to come out to the farm for a day! Beautiful weather and surroundings reminded us all how important our mission is to keep our environment beautiful.

Rural Recycling Workshop
The IRC monthly meeting traveled to Fort Wayne, IN for its October meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Rural Recycling Workshop. The workshop was co-sponsored by the National Recycling Coalition under an USDA grant to promote rural recycling. Workshop chair, Pam DeCamp ensured that all went as planned. Attendance was good and the sessions were well received.

IRC Turns 10 Years Old!
The IRC has been helping Indiana reduce waste, recycle, compost and buy recycled for ten years! To celebrate this milestone, a birthday party was held at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Students and faculty joined IRC members for conversation, reminiscing, and birthday cake.

Recycl-IN News
The Coalition Newsletter got a facelift this past year. Editor Rudy Osenbaugh and the newsletter revision committee put together a survey of readers to help redesign the newsletter and be sure that it is an effective means of communication. The new title was chosen from many entries in the name the newsletter contest.
Highlights (What was New!)

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Congratulations to Jeffrey Miller, whose entry was picked. The Recycl-IN News is published six times during the calendar year. Contents of the newsletter range from Coalition policy news to informational articles on state and national issues of interest. Regular features include information about local recycling activities, IRC and recycling related meeting announcements, reports on committee activities, and an annual summary of both the IRC Conference and the Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Recycling.

A Special Thank You:
To Rudy Osenbaugh, editor extraordinare, who’s desire for copy never ends. Thanks, Rude for all your work on the updated look!

Compost 2000
Many thanks to Board member Peter Klaich who was instrumental in organizing the composting seminar held in Lafayette this past March. The day long event brought approximately 70 interested individuals together to listen to and network with composting experts on the national, state, and local level.

OUTREACH/SPECIAL EVENTS

IRC Holds Third Silent and Live Auction (May)
The atrium at the Holiday Inn Evansville provided a bright backdrop for the third annual silent auction for which over 75 items were donated. Special items included pop bottle fleece jackets, an autographed Pacer's basketball, and an Earth Flag. Jeff Myers of the Greene County Solid Waste Management District offered his auctioneering skills once again to the delight of the crowd.
Board Retreat (Jun)
New IRC board members met current board members at the home/resort of Melinda Antell in Trafalgar on June 4, 1999. This retreat has become an annual tradition, helping the Board set the tone for the upcoming year and to set goals for the Coalition. The work session was followed by a bbq lunch. Perfect weather helped out in providing a lovely backdrop for the day.

Indiana State Fair (Aug)
The Indiana Recycling Coalition co-hosted a booth at the Indiana State Fair with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Thousands of fair-goers strolled down Buy Recycled Boulevard browsing at the many donated recycled content items in our model stores. This year a hands on display helped visitors make the connection between the cans and plastic bottles they recycle and the new recycled content products that are made from those materials. Special thanks to Faerber's Bee Windows for loaning window frames for the display again this year, Cathy Bastin and family for creating the hands on display, and those that helped build, staff and tear down the booth.

NRC Congress (Sep)
The Congress comes to the Midwest! Cincinnati welcomed NRC's annual congress and a group of IRC members. IRC hosted a booth in the Hall of States with other state recycling organizations--a great way to meet new colleagues and see old friends.

America Recycles Day (Oct)
The third annual America Recycles Day: Indiana campaign kicked off in October 99 at the Indianapolis Artsgarden in downtown Indianapolis. Co-chairs, Carey Jeffries and Chad Trinkle with Cheryl Coverdale, mistress of ceremonies, orchestrated a day's worth of activities with acting troops, prize drawings, recycled art and other informational booths in the Artsgarden. Pledge cards from
this event and other ARD activities across the State totaled 11,516, an increase of 24% over last year. America Recycles Day is a national environmental partnership effort aimed at increasing consumer purchases of recycled products and increasing nationwide media attention for recycling and waste reduction. The IRC received a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to help support this important event.

**AISWMD Conference (Oct)**
IRC had an information booth at the annual gathering of Indiana solid waste management district professionals.

**HASTI Booth (Feb)**
IRC sponsored a booth at the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers in February. Shane Hollingsworth coordinated the booth this year. Shane and Kevin Hardie presented workshops on worm composting and Recycle Right!, respectively. Thanks also to the many solid waste districts and IRC business members who sent in materials or give-away information items for the double booth.

**Governor’s Conference on the Environment (Apr)**
The Recycling Coalition participated in the Conference again this year with a booth in the exhibit area, thanks to Jim Parker.

**Earth Day Indiana Festival (Apr)**
IRC once again participated in the Tenth Annual Earth Day Indiana Festival – this year as an environmental sponsor. As an environmental sponsor, IRC joined other sponsors in promoting the festival and staffing an information booth. The festival was held Sat., April 29th at the American Legion Mall and Veterans Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis.
Other outreach efforts such as the booth at the Cinergy Employee Environment Fair, presentations to the Indiana hand Center and the improved web page bring our message to the public. As evidenced here, the IRC is busy almost every month of the year reaching out to communities interested in learning more about source reduction, recycling, reuse, and composting.

WORK WITH PARTNERS

The IRC does not work in a vacuum! We are constantly finding others with whom to partner and work together. The IRC continues to work with the Department of Environmental Management, specifically the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance. This year we had a joint booth at the State Fair and the IRC helped review the Greening the Government guidelines that will be presented to the Governor's office. And, of course, again the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Recycling will be presented at the IRC's 11th annual conference.

But OPPTA is not the only one! Thanks to all of our other partners and friends across the State for all the work we accomplish together!

ADMINISTRATIVE

Janet Fox Neltner and Stephanie Biehn traveled north to Wisconsin to finish out Ms. Fox Neltner's Executive Director training program with the Institute for Conservation Leadership. The weekend long sessions gave Biehn and Fox Neltner a chance to focus on the Coalition and learn more about how to improve and grow as an organization while working with other non-profit environmental organizations from around the country.
The IRC's computer software has been upgraded to Windows 2000, new financial software and new database implementation and training has improved the Coalition's information systems. Ms. Fox Neltner is pleased with the way the organization's information is being managed and tracked.

The Coalition is seeking a part time office person to help with mailings, data entry, and general office work. To help facilitate this new person and to bring a public presence to the Coalition offices, new office space is being investigated for a move this coming summer.

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**SPECIAL THANKS**

With the exception of our Executive Director, Janet Fox Neltner, all the work of the Indiana Recycling Coalition is carried out by volunteers. These volunteers—including the working board of directors—are to be commended for their continuing dedication to advance IRC’s mission.

Several individuals stand out as particularly strong advocates for the IRC in the past year. These individuals are not necessarily Board members—just dedicated folks willing to give of their time and talents. Special thanks to Pam DeCamp and Peter Klaich for working with enthusiasm and competence on their respective workshops. Similarly, Chad Trinkle and Carey Jeffries worked tirelessly on the America Recycles Day campaign. Carey and Chad chose a winner when they secured Cheryl Coverdale as mistress of ceremonies for the kick-off event. Our thanks and prayers go to Cheryl—we miss you! Jim Parker helped the IRC work through the NRC affiliation agreement and new dues structure, as well as spend time working on the state fair booth, thanks Jim. And as if being immediate past president wasn't enough, Melinda Antell deserves a big thank you for her work with just about every committee the IRC
has. She also acts as Auction Co-Chair with Susan Haislip--thanks ladies. Finally, a big thank you to the Chairs of all the IRC committees. These committee leaders contribute huge amounts of time and effort to keep their groups running smoothly and projects moving ahead.

A Closing Note...

As we move into the remaining months of 2000 and beyond we have a board with many new faces. The projects IRC takes on will depend upon the interest of the Board and membership. That’s each of us! If any of these issues is of particular interest to you, please volunteer to help. Action in the IRC is membership based, so please lend your hand.