INDIANA RECYCLING COALITION

2000-2001 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.
2000-2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Stephanie Biehn, At-Large
Vice President: James Parker, NuGenesis
Treasurer: Ruthann Osenbaugh, At-Large
Secretary: Jami Abrams, Imajine Results

Jeff Abercrombie, Rumpke, Inc.
Melinda Antell, Johnson County Solid Waste Mgmt District
Daniel E. Baker, Northwest Indiana Reclamation, Inc.
Kristin Brier, West Central Solid Waste District
Patricia Bunner Colbert, Posey County Solid Waste Mgmt District
Sarah Carney, Indiana Department of Commerce
Kenneth Decker, Decker Deals
Terry Duffy, Whitewater Environmental Council
Bob Gedert, Indiana Department of Environmental Mgmt
Philip Grounds, Vincennes University
Peter Klaich, BioCorp
Mark Mehall, Indiana Institute on Recycling
Jeffrey Miller, Earth Day Indiana
Julie L. Rhodes, Reuse Development Organization (ReDo)
Kari Simonelic, At Large
Dean Smith, East Central Indiana Solid Waste Mgmt District

Michelle M. Cohen, Executive Director

Both new and returning members of the Board of Directors, and a number of active board supporters made for another good year for the Coalition. 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.
This year the Coalition again showed a net gain. A total of $4157.54 provided the third year in a row of gains. The Indiana Recycling Coalition currently has net assets of $19,074.39.

General operating income came from two major sources – the 11th annual conference and memberships, both new and renewals. The new financial software program again proved useful in better fund management and the annual budgeting process 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, NIRI paper project, and the NIRI multi-media anti-illegal dumping and quality of recycleables campaign. A total of $7273.75.00 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 86 percent of total expenses, only 12.8 percent go to management and general operating funds and 1.2 percent of expenses go toward fundraising efforts.

Audit/taxes
The IRC contracted with Richards CPA Group to audit the books for fiscal year 2000 and to prepare the 2000 taxes. Audit report is not currently available. Figures reported are not audited and may be adjusted.
ADMINISTRATIVE
The Coalition offices moved briefly to a shared office space in Indianapolis. Our new Executive Director, has set up the Coalition offices in her Brown County home.

A new computer was purchased by the IRC to help facilitate the new database and provide a separate work station machine for part time office help.

 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 two sponsored committees, for which the Executive Director prints and mails agendas and minutes.

1. Northern Indiana Recycling Initiative (NIRI)
   Chair: Mike Good
   Secretary: Gary Belconis

   NIRI has taken the lead with the multi-media campaigns--quality of recyclables and illegal dumping. The Illegal dumping program reminds citizens that dumping is everybody's problem. The quality campaign is gearing up for kick off soon.

2. Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative
   Chair: Debbie Steinkamp
   Secretary: Debbie Haseman

   SIRI hosted a booth at the AISWMD Legislative lunch, speaking
with tell legislators about the partnerships with business that are fostered by the group. Building off the NIRI Illegal Dumping Awareness Campaign, SIRI hosted an Illegal Dumping Workshop to help foster awareness about illegal dumping in southern Indiana. The workshop brought together law enforcement, elected officials and local government to discuss the issues. In March, SIRI worked with a facilitator to help it focus on its goals for the upcoming year.

Other Committees and Task Forces

These groups work throughout the year, fostering the Coalition's mission in specific areas. Thanks to all Committee Chairs and members for your consistent dedication.

Membership--Chair, Melinda Antell
Nominating--Chair, Kristin Brier
Conference--Chair, Jami Abrams; Exhibits Chair, Ken Decker/Kevin Russell
Buy Recycled Task Force--Co-Chairs, Sarah Carney, Gavin Williams
Consensus Position/Advocacy Task Force--Chair, Terry Duffy
ARD--Co-Chairs, Chad Trinkle, Meggan Walker
Newsletter--Editor, Rudy Osenbaugh
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Annual Conference**
We returned to Indianapolis for the 11th annual conference and exposition, where attendees were encouraged to "Get in the Loop!" and were reminded that "All Roads Lead to Recycling!" The technical sessions garnered high ratings and the Duck Pin Bowling was a blast. Several out of state speakers joined us bringing a different perspective to the conference. Jim Bosch from Target Corporation gave our keynote address and the Governor's Awards winners basked in their achievements throughout the conference. Thanks to our conference committee for putting on another great meeting!

**Executive Director Hired**
For only the second time in the IRC's eleven year history, an Executive Director was hired. Michelle Cohen joined the staff of the IRC in September, 2000.

**Precycling Grant Approved**
Two grant rounds after first submission, the Precycling Education grant application was approved. The Coalition will work this coming year on developing an educational message that focuses on source reduction and reuse. These two components are critical in solid waste management, and often do not receive enough attention. This campaign will build off the successful Recycle Right! work the Coalition has done in the past. Thanks to all the partners who have agreed to work on this project.

**NRC Partnership**
For the first time, the Recycling Organization Council of the National Recycling Coalition gave input to the NRC's workplan for the year 2000. RO's from around the country reviewed and made suggestions to the workplan developed by the NRC Board and staff.
The IRC continues to be active on the ROC, sending Jim Parker, our representative to the mid-year meeting in Denver this January. Thanks, Jim!

**IRC Picnic Continues to Be a Hit**

Terry and Sara Duffy put on another great outdoor event for the IRC Board members and their families. The farm has much to offer, and also serves as a reminder for how important our mission is to the environment.

**Buy Recycled Workshop**

After a short postponement, the Buy Recycled Workshop went off without a hitch. Over 10 vendors displayed their recycled content wares to 40 attendees. Exhibits ranged from refurbished computers and recycled cartridges to flooring and paper with recycled content. Thanks to the Department of Commerce and the West Central Solid Waste District for their support and assistance.

**Environmental Fund for Indiana**

The Coalition participated in its first workplace giving campaign through the Environmental Fund for Indiana this year. The distributions have not yet been completed, but we hope that our membership dues to the EFI will be covered soon by donations and that the Coalition will see a financial benefit on our books in the next year or so. Thanks to Melinda Antell for attending EFI meetings.

**Consensus and Advocacy Positions**

The Coalition is moving toward "advocacy" rather than consensus positions. To allow the IRC to take active stands on pertinent issues, the consensus position process has been reviewed and changes have been recommended. The Board will take final input on this new process at the annual meeting and intends to move forward if no great opposition is voiced. The new advocacy position process is intended to help the IRC become more active and visible.
OUTREACH/SPECIAL EVENTS

4th Live and Silent Auction a Success! (May)
Auction items lined the walls of the ballroom at the Marriott during the annual conference in Indianapolis. All items, including a recycling t-shirt quilt, blue jeans rug, antique spilt bamboo flyrod and Paddy'O Stones were donated by friends of the Coalition. Resident auctioneer, Jeff Myers again got us in the groove with his auction chants.

Board Retreat (Jun)
The Board again basked in beauty as we brainstormed and reviewed Coalition policy and procedures. This retreat offers a chance for all the Board members to get to know one another and set the tone for the coming year of events. For the second year in a row, the weather cooperated and a good time was had by all.

Indiana State Fair (Aug)
The Indiana Recycling Coalition did not host a booth this year at the fair. Instead, it worked with the Department of Environmental Management, the State Fair committee, and the Department of Administration to implement a plastic (PETE) bottle recycling program. It was the first year the Fair had recycling on the grounds and the Coalition is proud to have played a part in this auspicious event.
NRC Congress (Sep)
Janet Fox Neltner and Stephanie Biehn presented at the NRC in Charlotte this year. Their talk focused on the importance of Board and Staff development. Both IRC representatives stressed the benefits of taking time out to work together on positive steps for your organization. The Congress also served as trial by fire for our new Executive Director, Michelle Cohen. Her very first day on the job found her flying to Charlotte for the Congress!

America Recycles Day (Oct)
Indianapolis again served as the host City for the America Recycles Day: Indiana kickoff. Co-Chairs Chad Trinkle and Meggan Walker had a series of firsts for the ARD campaign including local linking via a treasure chest, a Lifestyles Plus magazine article, an eight page insert in the Indianapolis Star and a live television interview. Over 12,265 pledges were received and media outreach efforts garnered 557,200 total media impressions from television, radio, newspaper, and magazine. The IRC received a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to help support this important event.

AISWMD Conference (Oct)
Michelle Cohen staffed our booth at the annual gathering of solid waste management district professionals. The exhibit theme, "Hey, I didn't know they could do that!" offered insight into how recycling at the curb supports the manufacturing of new products.
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HASTI Booth (Feb)
Shane Hollingsworth again coordinated the IRC's double booth at this well attended and popular event, the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers. Thanks to IRC business members, and many solid waste management districts the IRC had plenty of give away information and materials this year.

Earth Day Indiana Festival (Apr)
The IRC was an environmental sponsor of the Earth Day Festival this year. Our booth was located in the Department of Commerce tent where volunteers, Jami Abrams, Jim Parker, Kristin Brier, Julie Rhodes, Mark Mehall and talked to folks about reusing, reducing and recycling. The Festival had a good turn out and wonderful weather for their downtown Indianapolis event.

Other outreach efforts including television shows and presentations to local groups help bring the Coalition message and mission to the public. The IRC is busy every month of the year reaching out to communities across Indiana.

PARTNERSHIPS
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, the Department of Administration, and the Department of Commerce. We are happy to work with these State government agencies as well as our corporate friends that sponsor IRC activities, events and operations.
SPECIAL THANKS

With the exception of our Executive Director, Michelle Cohen, 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 Gavin Williams for his work on the buy recycled workshop; and also to Chad Trinkle and Meggan Walker for their tireless efforts on the America Recycles Day campaign.

The President’s personal thanks go out to the members of the selection and hiring committee for the Executive Director. Jeff Abercrombie, Melinda Antell, Terry Duffy, Rudy Osenbaugh, and Jim Parker. These Board members spent hours evaluating and interviewing candidates. Without their honesty, earnestness, and humor, we might not be where we are today.

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 2001 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. The IRC is membership based, so please, TAKE ACTION TODAY!