CONTENTS

03 LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
04 THE CONFERENCE
05 CONFERENCE SPONSORS
06 REVENT
07 PUBLIC SPACE RECYCLING
08 PUBLIC SPACE RECYCLING
09 PROGRAMS
10 PROGRAMS
11 PROGRAMS
12 LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY
13 OUTREACH
14 OUTREACH
15 FINANCIALS
16 STAFF & BOARD
17 DONORS
Dear friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read about our work in 2015.

We raised awareness across Indianapolis, central Indiana and even the nation about the importance of quality recycling as we continued a coordinated campaign in support of a real recycling plan for Indy.

We launched a state-wide high school scholarship program for students who spearhead recycling initiatives in their schools and communities.

We continued to monitor the Statehouse and helped secure limited grant funding for recycling.

As always, we served as a resource for Hoosiers working to sustainably manage materials in their homes, offices, schools, churches and more.

And, of course, we delivered another successful conference providing excellent learning and networking opportunities for approximately 250 people from across the state.

Thanks to you, the IRC continues to make a positive impact, and together we are creating a more sustainable Indiana for future generations to enjoy!

Sustainably yours,
Carey Hamilton, Executive Director
Each year, the IRC hosts the premier sustainable materials management event in the state. In 2015, the IRC held its 25th annual conference, which was attended by over 200 recycling stakeholders, at the Marriott East hotel in Indianapolis. The conference featured educational sessions, excellent speakers, networking opportunities, and, as always, the fabulous trade show. Special thanks to our exhibitors for donating items to our silent auction.

Business and pleasure mixed with a four-part tour to kick off the conference. This year we headed to Broad Ripple Village to learn about local Indianapolis green initiatives. The first stop on the tour was Public Greens: an Urban Kitchen with a Mission. Public Greens is a farmers market-inspired urban cafeteria and micro farm. All of their profits and crops go to feeding kids via the Patachou Foundation. The second stop on our tour was BRICS (Broad Ripple Ice Cream Station) to learn about their impressive sustainable practices. From there, we headed down the Monon Trail, highlighting several green initiatives throughout Broad Ripple, including the bar and restaurant glass recycling program created by Green Broad Ripple. Through a partnership with Union Jack’s pub and local glass processor, Strategic Materials, tons of glass are diverted from the incinerator each year! The last stop was at HopCat, a bar and restaurant with very impressive zero waste efforts.

The opening night reception was held downtown near Mass Ave at The Sol Center, home of the IRC. Attendees enjoyed an evening of networking, hors d’oeuvres, wine and beer, a recycled photo booth and an art show put on by students from IUPUI.

The keynote address, “Indianapolis Recycling at a Crossroads - The Local, Statewide, and National Impact of this Decision,” was delivered by a panel composed of the Paper Recycling Coalition’s Fran McPoland, Indianapolis City County Councillor John Barth, and IRC’s Executive Director, Carey Hamilton. The plenary session, “National Recycling Updates,” was given by Jerry Powell, long-time editor/publisher/owner of Resource Recycling.

Conference Topics

- Public Space Recycling: Challenges & Successes
- Different Approaches to Textile Recycling
- Indiana’s E-Cycle Workshop
- Indianapolis Recycling at a Crossroads
- Community Innovations in Recycling: Success Stories & Best Practices
- Get to Know Your Government: Recycling Agencies at the Local & State Level
- National Recycling Updates
- Trends in Environmental Education
- Conversations in Commodities
- Food Waste, Bar & Restaurant Recycling
- Hot Topics in EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility)
WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE MANY SPONSORS OF OUR 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR HELPING MAKE OUR CONFERENCE A SUCCESS! WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT, THIS EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PREMIER</strong></th>
<th><strong>DIAMOND</strong></th>
<th><strong>SILVER</strong></th>
<th><strong>PERPETUAL RECYCLING</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARDAGH GROUP</td>
<td>ALCOA FOUNDATION</td>
<td>RUMPKE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MONARCH BEVERAGE COMPANY</td>
<td>BERRY PLASTICS</td>
<td>STEEL RECYCLING INSTITUTE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGIC MATERIALS</td>
<td>IDEM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>PLATINUM</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOLD</strong></td>
<td><strong>GENERAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPUBLIC SERVICES</td>
<td>KROGER</td>
<td>PETOSKEY PLASTICS</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>MEDIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>INDIANAPOLIS BUSINESS JOURNAL</strong></td>
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<td>GLASS PACKAGING INSTITUTE</td>
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REVENT

REVENT, the IRC’s annual fundraising gala, was held on Saturday, November 7, in the gym of Indianapolis Metropolitan High School. The high school is on the campus of Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana located near downtown Indy at 1635 W. Michigan Street.

We’re proud to announce that 2015 REVENT was a zero waste event thanks to recycling provided by Strategic Materials and food waste composting provided by Duos, our caterer.

WFYI reporter Jill Ditmire served as our emcee for the evening and did a wonderful job entertaining attendees. IRC Board President Cassie Stockamp facilitated the “Head or Tails” raffle of two Southwest Airline tickets which raised over $2,000 for the IRC. Our art and entertainment themed auction raised over $8,000 for IRC programs and served as a fun backdrop for the cocktail hour. We are grateful for all of the donations we received! We are also grateful to Monarch Beverage for donating beer and wine to our event, Hoosier Beverage Association for donating sodas, Bazbeaux Pizza and Jimmy Johns for donating food for our volunteers, Fresh Market, The Best Chocolate in Town and Insomnia Cookies for donating dessert, Lindsey Gerlach for being our official photographer, Laura Walters of Pattern Indy and Style Riot for being our official vintage/thrifty/upcycled/artsy fashion contest judge and to everyone who participated in the contest!

A big thank you to IRC Board Members Morgan Bennett, Nick Brothers, Linda Broadfoot and Cassie Stockamp for serving on the REVENT planning committee and helping make this event a success. Thank you to our wonderful REVENT volunteers: Matt Miller, Will Schaut, Justin Morris, Anna Vonderheide, Ian Grant, Alison Blankenship, Jess Hochstetler, Katie Cordell, Lashata Grayson, Aley Underwood, Ashley Gonzalez, and Larry Grider. Special thanks to the Dumpster Drummers for putting on an amazing performance during our program!

SPONSORS

This event would not been possible without the financial support of our generous sponsors:

PREMIER
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ARDAGH GROUP
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2015 saw significant growth in the popularity of the Lend-A-Bin Program. Free to IRC members, these ClearStream recycling containers could be seen around the state at a wide variety of events: Hyperion Music Festival, the Indianapolis Irish Festival, TURNFestival, Virginia Ave Folk Festival, WAMMFest and many more! At the end of 2015, more than 5 tons of recyclables were diverted from 29 events and more than 250,000 Hoosiers had access to away-from-home recycling.

On Friday, March 6, 2015, WFYI hosted over 1,500 people at the Crowne Plaza Historic Union Station Grand Hall for their annual Wine Fest celebration featuring over 40 wineries and sponsors. The IRC provided glass, cardboard and plastic recycling for the event. We were able to recycle 696 wine bottles from the event! A big THANKS to our generous sponsor, Strategic Materials, for transporting and recycling the glass and cardboard, and to our wonderful volunteers!
In 2015, IRC partnered with the 500 Festival to provide comprehensive recycling and composting at two events: the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon and Chase Kids’ Day. The goals of this partnership were to provide highly visible recycling and to capture the majority of recyclable materials: 40,000 water bottles, 10,000 beer cans and 42,000 bananas at the Mini, as well as the 1,200 water bottles and vendor cardboard at Kids’ Day. Our efforts resulted in the collection of over 4,000 pounds of recyclables and compostables! Thanks to our wonderful volunteers from Bishop Chatard High School football team and Atterbury Job Corps for your support.

For the third year, the IRC partnered with the Indiana State Fair to increase access to away-from-home recycling. This effort enabled us to provide recycling to over 900,000 Hoosiers in 2015. Thanks to the efforts of the IRC, volunteers, fairgoers and the Indiana State Fair maintenance crew, over 43 tons of recyclables were diverted from disposal! Thanks again to all of our wonderful volunteers; this project would not have been successful without you.
The IRC manages programs big and small to help people in Indiana succeed in their recycling efforts. Here are the programs we’ve participated in and managed throughout 2015. Thank you to everyone who helped make the following programs possible!

**America Recycles Day (ARD)** is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Every year on or around November 15 (America Recycles Day), event organizers educate neighbors, friends and colleagues through thousands of events. Each year, the IRC promotes ARD to our partners across the state. This year over 18 official events were held throughout Indiana, ranging from plastic bag recycling in LaPorte County to free electronic waste recycling in Warsaw. Hoosiers hosted events to collect just about every type of material, including china shards and broken toys.

In late 2015, a small group of IRC members and friends launched a new multi-stakeholder initiative to explore the issues that cause food waste in Indiana. The IRC hosted two meetings and will continue hosting a series of targeted meetings in 2016 to reveal the causes, hurdles and opportunities to save more food at every rung of the waste management hierarchy - prevention, reuse, composting and digestion. We look forward to building a more comprehensive infrastructure to address Indiana’s food scrap challenge in 2016 and beyond.
The Student Recycling Leadership Corps (SRLC) program was launched in 2015 in partnership with PepsiCo Recycling. The SRLC program aims to increase recycling rates and make recycling more commonplace by facilitating PepsiCo Recycling's Recycle Rally program in schools and implementing public space recycling projects in communities across Indiana.

Students accepted into the Leadership Corps are required to complete a one-year commitment during their Junior or Senior year of high school. Students will gain leadership skills, work experience and a $1000 scholarship upon completion of the program. The goal of the Leadership Corps is to engage student leaders across Indiana in recycling initiatives in their communities, building the next generation of recycling champions.

TEN INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE SELECTED FOR THE 2015-2016 INAUGURAL GROUP OF STUDENT LEADERS. STUDENTS WERE SELECTED THROUGH A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION PROCESS AND ARE WORKING TO LEAD SIGNIFICANT RECYCLING PROJECTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

- CLAIRE FULLER, WESTERN BOONE JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL
- JAINA COX, NEXUS ACADEMY OF INDIANAPOLIS
- JARRED MILLER, CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
- JAZZ BRIGGS, AVON HIGH SCHOOL
- JENNIFER SHULTZ, LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL
- MADDIE GULLION, DELTA HIGH SCHOOL
- MAYRA CHANON, WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
- RUTH SMITH, DELTA HIGH SCHOOL
- SATYA SANAPATI, CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
- SITHA VALLABHANENI, CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

THANKS TO PEPSICO RECYCLING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM AND IN LEADING THE CHARGE TO BUILD THE NEXT GENERATION OF RECYCLING CHAMPIONS!
Recycle-Bowl, a program of Keep America Beautiful, celebrated its fifth year as the national recycling competition for K-12 schools. From mid-October through November, 1,266 schools across the U.S. and Canada representing more than 700,000 students recycled more than 4 million pounds of bottles, paper, cartons, trays, cardboard and food scraps. Thirty-two Indiana schools competed for the Indiana state title. Once again, Northwestern Middle/High School in Kokomo, Indiana took home the title, recycling 30,000 pounds in just 4 weeks! That’s equivalent to 36 pounds of material recycled by each student!

**Recycle-Bowl by the Numbers**

- More than 1,266 schools participated in Recycle-Bowl, with 32 of them in Indiana.
- Across the country, Recycle-Bowl participants recycled over 4 million pounds of waste.
- The Indiana state winner, Northwestern Middle/High School recycled 36 pounds of material per student to take home the state prize.

In early Spring 2015, 394 schools across the nation competed in the 15th annual RecycleMania.

Ten Indiana colleges and universities competed in 11 categories targeting commonly recycled or composted materials such as paper and paper-based packaging, aluminum, plastic bottles, electronics and food organics. Updated rankings published online each Friday allowed schools to track their progress and rally to improve their standings against rival colleges.

Between the early-February kickoff and the tournament’s final day on March 29, participating schools recycled or composted 80.1 million pounds of recyclables and organic materials, preventing the release of 129,411 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E) into the atmosphere, which is equivalent to preventing annual emissions from 25,375 cars.

**Grand Champion**

**Purdue University West Lafayette** with a recycling rate of 41.077%!

**Results from Other Categories**

- **Per Capita Classic - University of Notre Dame**
- **Gorilla & Food Service Organics - Purdue University West Lafayette Campus**
- **Bottles & Cans, Cardboard, Paper - Indiana State University**
- **Waste Minimization - Ivy Tech Community College - Southwest**
In 2015, we provided statehouse testimony in support of recycling grant funding and were able to maintain a low level of support for the state recycling grants program. We also reached out to several new legislators to continue to build awareness around the economic and environmental benefits of recycling. Our legislative education efforts continued throughout the year in conversations and presentations across the state.

Our work in support of clean and effective recycling in Indy continued from 2014 throughout 2015. In 2015, this issue rose to prominence on the national stage as both the recycling industry and the commodity markets that rely on quality recycled feedstock became more and more concerned about the Indianapolis dirty MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) proposal. Policy makers across the country also became concerned about the “too good to be true” nature of the dirty MRF proposal. There was significant concern that if Indy moved forward with such a proposal, other cities might do so as well. The IRC was cited in dozens of local media outlets and national industry publications throughout the year. The IRC also presented at the national Resource Recycling Conference in Indianapolis in the fall of 2015. Soon thereafter Montgomery, Alabama’s dirty MRF (a model for Indianapolis) closed down having failed to produce sufficient marketable material. At the end of 2015, we felt hopeful that our nearly two year battle for clean recycling in Indiana’s largest city might be winnable.
OUTREACH

THE IRC SERVES HOOSIERS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GREAT STATE OF INDIANA. THROUGH OUR STAFF, BOARD MEMBERS, PARTNERSHIPS, FACILITY TOURS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS LIKE THE IRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE IRC WORKS TO HAVE A PRESENCE ALL OVER THE STATE. WE ARE SUPPORTED BY A DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-PROFITS, UNIVERSITIES AND INDIVIDUALS. ADDITIONALLY, WE CONTINUE TO CONNECT HOOSIERS TO RECYCLING RESOURCES THROUGH OUR ONLINE RECYCLING LOCATOR, ECOPoint, AND VIA PHONE CALLS TO OUR OFFICE.

ECOPoint Recycling Locator

Type in the item you want to recycle, enter the nearest zip code, and BOOM! the EcoPoint recycling locator will find the nearest recycling facility for Hoosiers across the state. EcoPoint is a popular feature on the IRC website, allowing Hoosiers to seek out recycling options 24/7, 365 days a year.

Drop-off recycling, yard waste composting, HHW facilities and more options are added to EcoPoint all the time.

Top Searches:

- Commingled Recycling - 4,883
- Cardboard Recycling - 2,640
- E-Waste Recycling - 2,033

Dumpster Drummers Partnership

The IRC has enhanced our K-12 outreach by continuing our partnership with The Dumpster Drummers, an educational performance group that uses the arts to teach children (and adults) about recycling and environmental conservation. Their performances at schools, parks, libraries and festivals are entertaining, engaging and memorable. You can learn more about them here: www.dumpsterdrummers.com.
DIGITAL PRESENCE

When we can’t reach Hoosiers in person, we turn to new and traditional media outlets to spread the story of recycling. In addition to countless print, radio and television interviews, here’s a snapshot of our digital presence in 2015.

FACILITY TOURS

The IRC visits different recycling and manufacturing facilities across the state of Indiana. In 2015, we visited facilities from plastic recycling to zero waste restaurants. If your company has zero waste initiatives, let us know! We’d love to come for a tour.
During 2015, the Board of Directors decided to make strategic investments in current projects and future capacity. These decisions were funded utilizing the IRC’s healthy operating reserve. This flexibility to serve the mission in the face of unique opportunities speaks to the financial soundness of the organization.
CAREY HAMILTON, Executive Director
NANETTE JOHNSON, Accountant
DANNI MCPHERRON, Program & Events Coordinator
JEAN MILLER, Director of Administration
RACHEL MORRIS, Marketing & Events Coordinator

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- Ray's Trash Rebate
- Ann M. & Chris Stack

**$100 TO $999**
- Anonymous (2)
- Mike Alerding
- All Souls Unitarian Church
- Thomas Battista
- Nick and Angie Brothers
- Jane Collisi
- William S. Connor
- Marsh Davis
- Ramon Dunkin
- David Forsell
- Indra Frank
- Marilyn Gatin
- Global Gifts
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**$50 - $99**
- Jessie Biggerman
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- Donna Clark
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- Hoosier Beverage Association
- IBJ
- Jimmy Johns
- Monarch Beverage
- The Best Chocolate in Town

**17 DONORS**

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