

July 22, 2019

INDIANA RECYCLING COALITION AWARDED PLANNING GRANT FROM WABASH HEARTLAND INNOVATION NETWORK

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Recycling Coalition (IRC) was selected to receive a Planning Grant from the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) in its first round of funding from the Regional Cultivation Fund. The \$95,100 grant will be used to perform an in-depth inventory of the recycling infrastructure in the 10-county WHIN region, including collection, processing, education, and logistics.

IRC's partners in this project include the Recycling Partnership, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Purdue University's Environmental & Ecological Engineering Department, the Solid Waste Management Districts of Northwest Indiana, West Central Indiana, Tippecanoe County, Warren County, and the Cass County Recycling District.

The IRC-led team will analyze the infrastructure, create models to determine where opportunities for system optimization exist, and perform cost-benefit analyses to rank potential infrastructure and education investments. They will analyze the potential use of smart sensors and IOT-enabled devices to measure and communicate utilization of storage units for maximum system optimization. As a result of this project, they will create a prioritized list of future infrastructure investments, including smart sensors, IOT-enabled devices, collection and storage equipment, education campaigns and personnel, that will optimize the collection system. The partners intend to utilize this list to inform a future WHIN RCF Impact Grant proposal with matching funds from various local, state, and national partners.

"The IRC is honored to have been selected for a WHIN Regional Cultivation Fund Planning Grant in this first round" states IRC Executive Director Allyson Mitchell. "We look forward to identifying investment opportunities for maximum system efficiency and creating a model for analysis that we can replicate in other regions of Indiana and beyond."

The purpose of the Regional Cultivation Fund (RCF) is to invest in innovative projects and programs that increase education, vitality and connectivity across the entire region by funding

multi-entity/multi-county opportunities that embed technology into place-making strategies. WHIN will provide counties and communities with the capacity-building support necessary to plan for the sustainability of these projects and programs in order to make the Wabash Heartland a desirable place to live, work and play for years to come.

Over 34 groups submitted Letters of Intent, 17 groups were invited to apply, and 8 projects were selected to receive funding.

###

ABOUT THE INDIANA RECYCLING COALITION

The mission of the **Indiana Recycling Coalition (IRC)** is to strengthen the circular economy in Indiana through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

The IRC is a statewide not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation representing concerned citizens, state and local government officials, business, industry and environmental groups since December of 1989. We focus on uniting Hoosiers in waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting in order to preserve our communities for future generations. We educate and advocate to inspire individual Hoosiers, businesses, institutions, and state and local governments to think and act beyond recycling and towards a more circular economy in Indiana.

At the IRC, we educate Hoosiers about their role in sustainable materials management to empower them to make informed decisions in their daily lives. We convene our members and industry partners to connect them to each other and to the information, resources, and inspiration they need to solve problems and improve our economy and environment. And we advocate at the state and local level to advance policies that create jobs, protect the value of our resources, and improve quality of life in our communities.

Visit the IRC website and follow @INRecycling on Twitter.

ABOUT THE WABASH HEARTLAND INNOVATION NETWORK (WHIN)

The Wabash Heartland Innovation Network is an alliance of 10 counties in north-central Indiana, funded by the Lilly Endowment, devoted to working together to fuel prosperity by harnessing the power of internet-enabled sensors to develop our region into a global epicenter of digital agricultural and next-generation manufacturing.

WHIN serves *10 counties in North Central Indiana to develop the region into the global epicenter for digital agriculture and next-generation manufacturing empowered by data-science and Internet-enabled sensors of all types. In addition, the organization's regional cultivation initiative is designed to increase the vitality, education and connectivity of the Wabash Heartland region.

The "Regional Cultivation Fund" (RCF) is the name of a grant created by WHIN to serve the people in our region. WHIN has set aside \$10M to distribute over the next 5 years in the form of planning and impact grants, dedicated to advancing the region's quality of place and supporting education, vitality, and connectivity. The goal of the Regional Cultivation Fund is to spur innovative and visionary quality-of-place projects.

For more information, visit www.whin.org