



WINTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

This edition is dedicated in memory of Greg Spratt



FLIPPING THE SWITCH

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After a brief pause to our quarterly newsletter, we are back in your inbox with the latest news from around the state (and beyond) on the circular economy. We've got some catching up to do, so thanks for reading.

As you may have noticed, we've undergone some big changes since our Summer 2021 newsletter! We celebrated America Recycles Day in November by 'flipping the switch' on our new name, new branding, and new website. And while it literally was like the flipping of a switch on the new website, the transition to our name and identity is a process that began years ago and will take a few months to fully finish. That's why you'll see mentions of both Indiana Recycling Coalition and Circular Indiana in this newsletter! We feel that our new identity captures all aspects of our continuing evolution, and we hope you do too.

Also since August, we joined the Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) and its Environmental Committee, hosted

our first ever Full Circle Event, said farewell to our beloved Director of Administration Jean Miller after nine years of transformative service, welcomed our newest team member, Cortnee Yarbrough, kicked off another Strategic Planning process, and helped author legislation making its way through the statehouse now—all while the COVID-19 pandemic continues/morphs/lingers/repeats. Wait, is it really 2022?!

Groundhog's Day jokes aside, thanks for coming along on this journey with us! We appreciate your feedback along the way so that we can realize our fullest potential and highest ideal: to be the organization leading the way towards a stronger, more resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous circular economy in Indiana.

Yours in circularity,
Allyson Mitchell

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REMEMBERING GREG SPRATT

FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT

The Circular Indiana family recently lost a one-of-a-kind man and beloved friend. [Greg T. Spratt](#) passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022 after tenaciously battling cancer for 8 years. Greg was a longtime volunteer and advocate for the organization, joining the board in 2012 and serving on the Executive Committee for many years before becoming board president in 2019. His passion for sustainability, charismatic leadership, and generous heart shined brightly from within and warmed every room he entered. His courageous approach to fighting cancer and intentional vulnerability by sharing his journey via his [blog](#) inspired us all to treasure every moment, invest more in relationships than in stuff, act on and verbalize the love in our hearts, and never stop fighting for what we believe in. He left an indelible mark on the organization, and we are all better people because we knew him. We loved him so much; may he forever rest in peace. His wife Pamela, his loving family, and his expansive group of friends and fellow fan club members ([#SprattsPack](#)) are forever in our hearts as they grieve his loss and continue his legacy of loving hard.



If you would like to contribute to a memorial gift honoring Greg's legacy organized by Greg's Circular Indiana friends, please contact [Allyson Mitchell](#).

MEET CIRCULAR INDIANA

WE'VE CHANGED. FOR GOOD.

On America Recycles Day (November 15) 2021, the Indiana Recycling Coalition became CIRCULAR INDIANA. The change represents a major step in our evolution to go beyond recycling and fully embrace the circular economy in our mission. We're investing in proactive advocacy, strengthening our partnerships, broadening our engagement, serving more diverse communities, and leading the effort to inspire action for a more circular economy in Indiana. Our new website is a big step forward, and we are adding new resources to it often. [Go check it out](#) and let us know what you think!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FEDERAL POLICY

The [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), signed into law in November of 2021, includes support for recycling. The bill includes the formerly stand-alone RECYCLE Act, which aims to improve residential recycling by authorizing up to \$15 million per year in recycling education grants over the next five years.

Two components of the stalled federal legislation, the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act, [could be made into stand-alone bills in 2022](#). Legislators are considering introducing bills that create a national bottle deposit and set federal guidelines around recycling labeling.

STATE POLICY

The Indiana legislative session kicked off Tuesday, January 4, 2022. This is a non-budget year; and therefore, a short session. Circular Indiana, in collaboration with its manufacturing partners and IDEM, helped author the Central Indiana Waste Diversion Pilot Project component of [HB1226](#). The pilot project assigns a percentage of the Recycling Market Development Fund allocated each year to fund one or more pilot projects focused on waste diversion in Central Indiana. The project also requires the board to prioritize funding applications that divert and productively reuse the greatest amount of waste to markets within Indiana. HB1226 was assigned to the House Environmental Affairs Committee and successfully passed out of committee on January 25 with unanimous, bi-partisan support. It recently passed out of the full House and now moves over to the Senate for continued consideration. Circular Indiana continues to work with IDEM and partners to advance it. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming weeks!

AROUND THE US

MARYLAND: Maryland becomes the most recent state to set policies focusing on [organics recycling strategies](#). One policy requires large producers to seek alternative disposal methods for food waste such as anaerobic digestion or composting. A different policy focuses on strategies to make residential organics recycling easier, such as prohibiting homeowners associations from banning backyard composting or composting pick up services.

WASHINGTON: Enacted in mid-2021, the Washington law sets [minimum recycled content standards](#) for certain types of plastic packaging, such as food and beverage containers, plastic bags, household products, and more. The bill also bans certain types of expanded polystyrene plastics, more commonly known as styrofoam.

CALIFORNIA: California passed a number of bills in late 2021 intended to support the circular economy in the state. The most notable bill sets [new labeling standards for the use of the chasing arrows](#) or recycling symbol. There are currently no federal standards for when a product can be considered "recyclable," which leads to confusion among consumers about what can and cannot be put in their recycling bin. The California bill limits the use of the term "recyclable" to only the products which are commonly recyclable in a majority of communities within the state.

NEW JERSEY: New Jersey's [newest recycling bill](#), which sets new standards for minimum recycled content in certain types of packaging, was signed into law on January 18, 2022. The bill requires minimum percentages of postconsumer recycled material (PCR) in plastic, glass, and paper packaging manufactured or sold in New Jersey. The minimum required amounts vary by material and are set to increase over time.





END OF YEAR FUNDRAISING

Our end of year fundraising campaign results are in—we exceeded our goal with a final total of \$15,700! This more than tripled the match from our incredible Board of Directors, who contributed almost \$4,500 towards our match. Thanks to all of our supporters for playing a role in strengthening the circular economy in Indiana—love really does make the world go circular! What a great way for us to roll into the new year!

PROGRAMS UPDATES

LICENSE PLATES

We have a new name and a new look, and soon, a new license plate to match! The new license plate design will be available at the BMV starting on July 1, 2022. Here's a brief summary of what you need to know:

CURRENT LICENSE PLATE HOLDERS WITH A RENEWAL DATE BEFORE JULY 1:

Your plate will continue to have the old plate design at your time of renewal. After July 1, you can choose to update your plate to the new design OR you can keep your existing plate until the BMV sends you a replacement plate (done automatically 7 years after you purchased/replaced your current plate).

CURRENT LICENSE PLATE HOLDERS WITH A RENEWAL DATE AFTER JULY 1:

at the time of your renewal, you can choose to update your plate to the new design OR you can keep your existing plate until the BMV sends you a replacement plate, (done automatically 7 years after you purchased your current plate).

DON'T HAVE A LICENSE PLATE YET? For the coolest wheels in Indiana, choose the specialty plate option when renewing or purchasing a new license plate—we are the "Recycling Coalition" option (often listed on the second page or back side of the BMV's specialty plate flier). If getting your plate after July 1, the design will change—more details to come!



INDIANAPOLIS CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVE

The City of Indianapolis recently completed its Solid Waste Minimization Plan and will be releasing the information to the public soon. The next ICEI meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10 at 10:30am via Zoom.

FULL CIRCLE EVENT

This new program is a tour-focused event co-hosted by Circular Indiana and sponsoring organizations that brings together manufacturers, supply chain partners, elected officials, and economic development leaders. Attendees gain insight into the host company's unique strengths and challenges, witness the relationship between the manufacturing supply chain and the circular economy, and discover Indiana's strategic advantages in this expanding framework.

Planning for 2022 Full Circle Events are underway now, and [sponsorships](#) are still available. For more information, [view the album](#) from our previous event.



PARTNER UPDATES

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

On America Recycles Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its [National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy](#), which identifies actions to address challenges facing the U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system. The EPA is seeking partners to implement these actions to create a stronger, more resilient, and more cost-effective domestic recycling system. View the full Strategy on the [EPA website](#).

NATIONAL RECYCLING COALITION

National Recycling Coalition (NRC) President Bob Gedert recently shared his [2022 NRC President's Update](#) with State Recycling Organizations so that we can pass it along to you. All Circular Indiana members receive a complimentary membership to the NRC.

The NRC is seeking a treasurer. This is an unpaid, volunteer position and if you know anyone who is interested in this role, please reach out to Bob Gedert at robert.gedert@gmail.com.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

On December 10, 2021 [Governor Holcomb named a new Commissioner](#) for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), [Brian Rockensuess](#), following the departure of Bruno Pigott from the role. Pigott stepped down in early December to become Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Water for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

IDEM is now accepting nominations for the [2022 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence](#). These awards recognize individuals and organizations which have implemented outstanding environmental strategies into their operations and decision-making processes. The selection process is highly competitive, and only one award per category will be presented during a ceremony in September annually. The public is invited to submit nominations and organizations may self-nominate. Nominations must be received by IDEM no later than **5:00 PM EST on Monday, April 4, 2022**.

PRATT INDUSTRIES

In mid-December, Pratt Industries broke ground on a paper mill and box plant in Henderson, KY and [announced](#) it would invest an additional \$100 million in the facility, for a total investment of \$500 million.

In mid-January, Pratt Industries also announced it has acquired a 60,000 square foot warehouse in Whitestown, IN which is currently under renovation, to support the new Kentucky mill.



COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Circular Indiana has been exploring our role - as individuals and as an organization - in the fight against systemic racism and for environmental justice for the past few years. In 2021, our Environmental Justice Task Force recommended including a deeper and broader review of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies and practices by an expert in the field. As part of our process to create a new Strategic Plan, we have hired Doneisha Posey to serve as our DEI consultant to help us weave DEI into the fabric of our organization and create a plan with actionable steps and accountability. Stay tuned—we look forward to sharing the new Strategic Plan later this year.

CIRCULAR INDIANA AROUND THE STATE



FULL CIRCLE EVENT

9/29/2021 At Bottleworks Hotel in Indianapolis, hosting the first Full Circle Event with Brett Welch of Knauf Insulation and Malika Butler of Taft Law.



SEND OFF SOIREE FOR JEAN MILLER

09/30/2021 In the garden near the Circular Indiana office, sharing memories and good cheer for Jean's Send-Off Soiree.



AISWMD RETREAT

10/6/2021 At Fair Oaks Farm for the AISWMD Annual Retreat to present about the Master Recycler Program.



MASS AVE CLEANUP EVENT

10/10/2021 Volunteering at the fall Massachusetts Avenue Cleanup Event to give back to our neighborhood.



RAY'S MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

11/02/2021 Touring at Ray's Recycling Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Indianapolis.



DAVLAN PARK

11/15/2021 On Massachusetts Avenue in downtown Indy with board, staff, and friends at the Circular Indiana Launch Event.



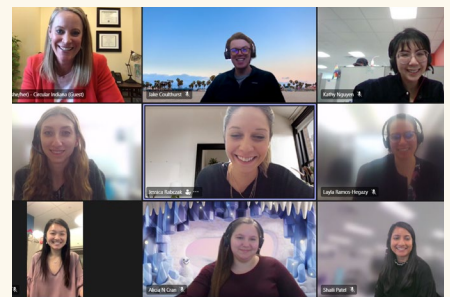
CW RECYCLING

12/16/2021 Touring CW Recycling's new Indianapolis facility, opening soon, to learn more about this new recycling partner in central Indiana.



INDIANA STATEHOUSE

1/12/2022 At the Statehouse with Knauf Insulation's Brett Welch to testify in support of HB1226, Section 2. While there, we met with Sen. Jean Leising, who represents the district where Knauf's Shelbyville plant is located.



ELI LILLY'S NEW HIRE NETWORK

1/18/2022 On a virtual call to introduce Eli Lilly's New Hire Network to the work of Circular Indiana and share the fundamentals of how to recycle right.

MEET CORTNEE YARBROUGH

THE NEWEST MEMBER OF TEAM CIRCULAR INDIANA

On December 8 of 2021, Cortnee Yarbrough joined Circular Indiana as its first Director of Strategic Engagement. Previously, Cortnee worked at IUPUI for 14 years, most recently for University Library. She brings knowledge and experience in fundraising, marketing, and strategic thinking to Circular Indiana. She earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Purdue University and her Master of Public Affairs degree in Urban Sustainability and Nonprofit Management from the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI.



The rebranding from Indiana Recycling Coalition to Circular Indiana reflects a more holistic approach to waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. This broadened mission allows Cortnee to leverage her goals and skills to improve Indiana as a whole, by creating jobs, strengthening the supply chain, and helping our communities thrive. In her new role, Cortnee will provide a boost in fundraising, capacity, and partner engagement to help Circular Indiana meet its mission to strengthen the circular economy in Indiana through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. To learn more about Cortnee, view her profile at CircularIndiana.org or on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/cortneeyarbrough/).

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



ROBERT CHRISTIAN

Robert Christian is the Regional Sourcing Manager at Strategic Materials, Inc. Robert's recycling passion started when he was a child taking old soda cans, paper towel rolls, plastic bags and turning them into art just for the fun of it. When he got serious about it, he went to the local community center in his neighborhood and was able to initiate an arts program from waste which became recycled material. In addition to being a Board member for Circular Indiana, Robert also serves on various organizational boards within the state. He lives in Indianapolis with his beautiful, intelligent, and extremely patient wife, Tiff.

SARAH TURNER

Sarah Turner is a Developer for Pratt Industries in the Midwest Recycling Division. She helps manufacturers, communities, and non-profit organizations focus their efforts on sustainability and utilize fiber to make a profit.

In her "free time" she is a member of the Indianapolis Colts Cheer program. She works with the Colts Organization to help create a memorable experience on and off the field for their fan base. By tying the two jobs together, she looks forward to sharing her experiences with the Circular Indiana Board and bringing sustainable solutions to Indiana.





CIRCULAR INDIANA IN THE NEWS

SHELBYVILLE NEWS

8/21/2021 Recycling District Starts New Glass Program

[READ ARTICLE](#)

INDYSTAR

8/25/2021 Trash, Recycling Pile up in Indianapolis as Republic Services Falls Behind on Routes

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WASTEADVANTAGE

10/7/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition Hosts Full Circle Event Highlighting Knauf Insulation, Inc.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

SHELBYVILLE NEWS

10/7/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition Hosts Full Circle Event Highlighting Knauf Insulation, Inc.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WTHR

11/8/2021 Millions of Pounds of Recyclable Material Dumped at Landfill instead

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WBIW

11/10/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition Announces Upcoming Name Change, Rebrand, Website

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WASTEADVANTAGE

11/10/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition Announces Upcoming Name Change, Rebrand, Website

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WASTEADVANTAGE

11/15/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition is now CIRCULAR INDIANA

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WBIW

11/15/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition Rebrands

[READ ARTICLE](#)

INSIDE INDIANA BUSINESS

11/15/2021 Indiana Recycling Coalition is now CIRCULAR INDIANA

[READ ARTICLE](#)

WVPE

11/15/2021 Indiana recycling group's name change reflects need to address waste holistically

[READ ARTICLE](#)

INDIANA PUBLIC MEDIA

11/15/2021 Indiana recycling group's name change reflects need to address waste holistically

[READ ARTICLE](#)

RESOURCE RECYCLING NEWS

11/16/2021 Stakeholders chime in for America Recycles Day

[READ ARTICLE](#)

SHELBYVILLE NEWS

1/13/2022 Leising Meets with Area Businesses

[READ ARTICLE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

USGBC INDIANA'S VIRTUAL DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE

Hosted by: USGBC
February 7, 2022
12-2pm EST

REGISTER

ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Hosted by: SWANA
February 9, 2022
11am-12pm EST

REGISTER

WHAT'S NEXT FOR WASTE AND RECYCLING IN 2022?

Hosted by: Waste Dive
February 10, 2022
2-3:30pm EST

REGISTER

INDIANA RECYCLING STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION

Hosted by: IDEM
March 16, 2022
2-4pm EST

REGISTER

SUPPORT CIRCULAR INDIANA

MAKE A DONATION

We have an ambitious agenda for 2022 and will only be able to accomplish our goals with your support. We are connecting with partners to discuss the needs of our community, informing our elected officials about legislative and policy needs, empowering you to participate in the circular economy, and innovating within our own organization to make real change. Indiana is ready for a change in the way we think about waste—help us share the story and continue the momentum! **Make a donation today** and receive a thank you gift, your choice of a Circular Indiana t-shirt or reusable tumbler.



MAKE A DONATION



SEE ALL SPONSOR BENEFITS

BECOME A SPONSOR

Our new programs, events, and outreach campaigns offer more variety to sponsors—and allow us more creativity and flexibility in how we can partner with organizations of all sizes and types. If you see a way that partnering with us may enhance your message, share your value of the circular economy with our constituents, or if you would like to support the important work we are doing, reach out to us! From webinars and videos to advocacy efforts and full scale events, we are ready to partner with you to strengthen the circular economy in Indiana.

If you'd like to sponsor Circular Indiana, reach out to Allyson Mitchell at allyson@circularindiana.org.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

Charlee Alexeev
Jenny Androne
Morgan Bennett
Audra Boarman
Deb Bonte
Dan Boots
Monica Brase
Linda Broadfoot
Bob Bryant
David Bye
Tracy Chandler
Marla Cherney
James R. Crouse
John Dane
Michael Davis
Kathleen Drippe
Ramon Dunkin
Karen Eller
Lynne Fox
Kary Franz
Jim Gamage
Marilyn Gatin
Sean Grady
Morgan Hartman
Jennifer Hartwell
Laura Hennemann
Rachael Hoover
David Johnson
Kandy Kendall
Anne Laker
Joe Latty

Lars Lawson
Andra Liepa
Jill Lloyd
Alexandra Lohman
Elizabeth Marshall
Lindsay McGuire
Morgan Mickelson
Jean Miller
Charity Myers
Daniel Overbey
Jae Park
Dylan Patterson
Anne Pumphrey
Charlie Pumphrey
Mollie Pumphrey
Alicia Reuter
Julie Reyes
Brenda Rising-Moore
Nathan Rues
Michael Sanders
Dean Smith
Catherine Snyder
Beth South
Rosemary Spalding
Ann Stack
Quintin Thompson
Kristina Traxler
Sarah Turner
Cathy Weinmann

ORGANIZATIONAL

Ardagh Group
Bohlsen Group
City of Carmel Utilities
City of Columbus
Crawford County SWMD
CW Recycling
DAK Americas
Dubois County Solid Waste District
Earth Day Indiana
Ecosystem Events
EFS PLASTICS
Fulton County Solid Waste District
Heritage Interactive Services
Hirons
Historic Irvington Community Council
Honda Manufacturing of Indiana
Indianapolis Demolition Company
Indy Chamber
Kaiser Aluminum Warrick
Midland Packaging Paper Performance
Northwest Indiana SWMD
Perry County Recycling Mgmt District
Posey Co. SWMD
Quincy Recycle
Resource Recycling Systems
Rush County SWMD
Salesforce
Schott Design, Inc.
Teachers' Treasures
The Heritage Group
Waste Management of Indiana, LLC

Check out our [Member Directory](#). If you want to add your organizational account or update your listing, log into your account or contact Cortnee at cortnee@circulairindiana.org.