



Press Release, September 22, 2020

The Illinois Recycling Association, a non-profit formed almost 40 years ago, is the Collective Voice of the Recycling Industry in the State of Illinois, taking positions with legislators on recycling issues, holding webinars that educate, promoting networking & collaboration among its members. The 2020 Annual Conference of the Illinois Recycling Association was held virtually on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. During the Conference the IRA continued its tradition of awarding the prestigious Steve Apotheker Recycler of the Year award.

This year's recipient of the Illinois Recycling Association's Recycler of the Year Award is not only being recognized for contributions to the industry in the past year, but for a lifetime of service to the recycling community in the State of Illinois.

Kristina Kaar began her commitment to the environment in the late 1970s addressing sustainable transportation. She became the City of Naperville's first Resource Recovery Manager, ushering in the first curbside collection program in the State, ran the first municipal landscape waste compost facility, and started the first Household Hazardous Waste drop-off site in Illinois.

Over the years, Kris has served on various regional and state advisory committees. She has served as both the president of the SWANA Land of Lincoln chapter, and Illinois Recycling Association. Since 2011, Kris Kaar has been representing the Carton Council as a senior consultant for Resource Recycling Systems (RRS). Kris is also currently serving on the Illinois Materials Advisory Committee and the ad-hoc Contamination Task Force

Kristina Kaar is a giant in the Illinois recycling community. Kris follows the motto of "leaving the earth in a better place than she found it." The Illinois Recycling Association honors her for doing exactly that with competence and caring.

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For more information, please contact Gloria McDonald, IRA Administrative Coordinator

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