

The National Recycling Coalition 2016 Awards Recipients

This September, the National Recycling Coalition honored recycling awards recipients at the Resource Recycling Conference in New Orleans. The awards were presented to the recipients at the 2016 Murray J. Fox Scholarship and NRC Annual Awards Luncheon.

The awards program is designed to honor and recognize outstanding individuals, programs, and organizations around the country, both for their achievements, and to serve as a model and a resource for learning for NRC members.

2016 Awards and Recipients:

- Lifetime Achievement in Recycling - *Meg Morris of Covanta Energy*
- Bill Heenan Emerging Leader - *Laurel Stelter of Iowa*
- Outstanding Business Leadership For-Profit Company - *Sheetz Inc. & Weis Markets, Inc.*
- Outstanding Not-for-profit Business Leadership - *La Soupe of Cincinnati, Ohio*
- Outstanding Recycling Organization - *Indiana Recycling Coalition & Texas STAR*
- Outstanding Higher Education - *Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas*
- Outstanding Community or Government Program - *The Chapel Hill - Carrboro School District, North Carolina*
- Outstanding Community or Government Program, Honorable Mention - *City of Columbia, SC, School District*

Details of the Awards and Winners

Lifetime Achievement in Recycling

Meg Morris has dedicated her personal and professional life to the advancement of recycling. She is long-time NRC Board member - serving as president, chair, vice president and treasurer of the NRC during her long tenure on the Board, and was a major force in the re-emergence of the NRC, helping organize the rebuilding of the organization and its finances. **Meg** has had roles on the Boards of Directors for NYSAR³, the PA Recycling Markets Center, Go Green Initiative, Mass Recycle, America Recy-

cles Day, Inc., and the Federation of NY Solid Waste Associations serving in leadership positions.



Bill Heenan Emerging Leader

Teenager **Laurel Stelter** has not only participated in the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) event for several years but has also been helping Iowa towns become better stewards of their environment. In 2013, at only 16 years of age, Laurel contacted the event's planners to begin a bottle and can recycling campaign - and did a "get it done" move, getting recycling going in the towns and event. Her commitment and dedication to this program shows you how one individual truly can make a difference for her own and future generations.

Outstanding Business Leadership For-Profit Company

Sheetz, a family-owned firm, pilot tested bins, service, hauling contracts, and employee training and found a solution that works in this sector - which they have now rolled out to 70% of their locations. They are already diverting over 8 million bottles and cans, expecting to hit 12 million as they finish roll-out. What a great example for others in the convenience store industry!

In response to a corporate mission to be good environmental stewards, **Weis** reduced their company's carbon footprint 22.1% from their 2008 baseline - surpassing their 20% by 2020 target 4 years early. They achieved this goal by creatively manufacturing recyclables into new products, including Envirologs from recycled waxed paper; Weis Choice com-

post from food from 70 stores; and customer plastic bags turned into Trex lumber - and also receiving back park benches to donate to community organizations.

Outstanding Not-for-profit Business Leadership

Food is a huge focus in our industry, and **La Soupe** is a non-profit that rescues food toward feeding hungry people with the soups and stews that chef and founder Suzy deYoung whips up - a step up the process over composting! Partnership is the name of the game at **La Soupe** - including partnerships with grocery stores, organic farmers, and other area chefs (called the "Chef Bucket Brigade"). They also hold after-school cooking classes, and feeding children in food deserts is a special target for **La Soupe**.

Outstanding Recycling Organization

The **IRC** (Indiana Recycling Coalition) had three main accomplishments this last year: 1) leading a successful two-year campaign bringing together an array of efforts to oppose siting of a mixed waste facility in Indianapolis; 2) Launching the Indiana Student Recycling Leadership Corps (SRLC), with PepsiCo, a high school scholarship program that allowed two students to present their work on community recycling projects at this year's **IRC** conference; and 3) launching the Indiana Food Scrap Initiative (IFSI), a high-engagement stakeholder initiative to build food infrastructure, pilot projects, and toolkits.

Texas STAR was busy this year - spreading word about the huge impact the recycling industry has had on the state through the Texas Data Recycling Initiative (TDRI). Other efforts include strengthening partnerships and relationships with other NGOs in the state, reaching out to new sectors and companies, and a huge focus on providing value to and engaging WITH members through presentations at meetings, conferences, and events to develop a stronger understanding of recycling in Texas.

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Outstanding Higher Education

JCCC (Johnson County Community College) has a tradition of proactively connecting students to work in recycling and diversion through internships at the Center for Sustainability. These efforts have led to partnerships with community organizations, and significant "green" changes on-campus. These efforts have increased diversion from 14% to 51% since 2010, helping them progress toward their "Zero Waste by 2025" goal. Community partnerships have also raised more than \$135,000 for scholarships.

Outstanding Community or Government Program

The Chapel Hill - Carrboro City School District implemented a district-wide compost separation program. In its first full year, the program diverted more than 255,000 pounds from the landfill to a composting facility. In addition, they increased recycling rates significantly. The result is a net zero-financial program that educates students and their families about composting and waste reduction

Outstanding Community or Government Program (Hon Mention)

The **city of Columbia**, and recycling coordinator Samantha Yager, carried out a city-wide conversion from 18-gallon recycling carts to 95 gallon roll carts in record time, moved forward the recycling program and green living initiatives, and saved \$250,000 with their initiatives.

