

Carey Hamilton White Paper

Background: Carey Hamilton is the Executive Director of the Indiana Recycling Coalition (IRC), an affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition. The IRC was created in 1989 and today represents its 160 members plus dozens of donors from diverse sectors, including business and industry, government, non-profit organizations, students and individuals. IRC, as an organization, takes policy positions relating to source reduction, reuse or recycling only after a careful consensus-reaching process has been completed. Hamilton brings 20 years of experience in the environmental field including 10+ years of experience working in various aspects of sustainable materials management.

Recommendations: In its efforts to progress recycling, the IRC has focused much efforts on demonstrating the significant positive economic and employment impacts of recycling in Indiana. In 2013, the IRC commissioned a study of Indiana's recycling jobs sector. Some key findings included:

- If Indiana were to increase its diversion (recycling/composting) rate of in-state waste by 10%, Hoosiers would see the creation of 3,877 new jobs. A 25% increase in the diversion rate would create 9,908 new jobs, and a 50% increase in the state's diversion rate of in-state waste would lead to almost 20,000 new Indiana jobs.
- Manufacturers that use recycled feedstock are the primary drivers of recycling related jobs and job creation varies considerably according to the recycled material used and the sector.
- If Indiana were to increase its diversion (recycling/ composting) rate of total waste discarded by 25% nearly 10,000 new Indiana jobs would be created.
- Indiana manufacturers that use recycled feedstock support over 30,000 full-time Hoosier jobs.
Direct Hoosier Jobs = 30,447 FTE
- 77 Hoosier manufacturers use and depend on recycled content feedstock to make new consumer products. Indiana is home to manufacturers of each major commodity sector that uses recycled feedstock (paper, plastics, metals and glass). Many of these manufacturers are clamoring for more recycled feedstock to support the most energy efficient production of their products

The IRC recommends that SMM Summit Stakeholders discourage communities from pursuing a 'dirty MRF' (also called 'mixed waste processing') model because of:

- 1) The positive economic impact of the current recycling industry and the potential to significantly grow that impact with increased collection of quality recycled feedstock.
- 3) The negative impacts from contaminated material (especially fiber products);
- 4) The elimination of glass from all collection under a dirty MRF program;
- 5) The penalty of fines for creative and increased recycling alternatives (a monopoly system);
and
- 6) Long-term contracts that locks communities into a system eliminating the possibility for more innovation in the future.

The IRC encourages SMM Summit Stakeholders to support source-separated recycling opportunities for all.