



Voice of the Recycling Industry™



# Annual Report 2022

**ISRI** is the Voice of the Recycled Materials Industry™, promoting safe, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible recycling through networking, advocacy, and education.

# Letter from ISRI's Chair

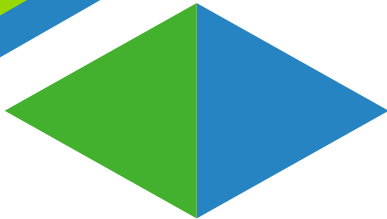
This past year has been an incredible one for the recycled materials industry. At every turn, we've witnessed milestones and markers that are propelling our industry forward. We also worked to position ISRI and the industry in thought leadership on many fronts that will serve us well.

The national conversation about sustainability and environmental stewardship taking place in so many state capitals and in Washington, D.C., now more than ever includes our industry's powerful point of view.

Turning recycling challenges into opportunities is a hallmark of our industry. Innovation and investment are occurring every day, regardless of the economic or legislative environment. In 2022, we recognized those who achieved the highest acclaim in our industry, and those awards speak to a future of innovation and remarkable dedication. For example, our Design for Recycling™ Award continues to elevate product innovations that make for better recycling.

Our thought leadership will continue to ignite opportunities for our members and their businesses. In 2022, we laid the groundwork to be at the table on EVs, lithium-ion batteries, safety, design for recycling and so much more. We look forward to 2023 with our sights on elevating the best membership of any organization anywhere.

Sincerely,  
  
Brian Henesey  
ISRI Chair



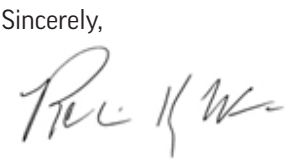
# Letter from the President

As we look back on the year, 2022 was filled with many accomplishments that amplified the importance of the recycled materials industry around the world. Those many successes are because of you – our members and stakeholders. Your dedication to the industry by being involved, informed and invested has helped ISRI make a meaningful difference.

From passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act to creating a first-ever Recyclability Protocol, to creating a new ISRI member category for major brands to elevate our Design for Recycling™ efforts – you have made a difference. ISRI's influence was bolstered by many thought leadership initiatives that will continue on in 2023.

We also returned to face-to-face meetings, which were a resounding success. ISRI2022 in Las Vegas was our largest in-person event in almost a decade, and "The Roundtables" event in Chicago attracted more attendees than ever before. At the chapter level, we've seen increased event attendance that is continuing to build networking opportunities and connections across the country.

ISRI is poised for even more success in the future. And that's thanks to our members and stakeholders who every day are showcasing the vibrancy and importance of the recycled materials industry. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
  
Robin Wiener  
ISRI President



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Recycled  
Materials  
are what  
we're  
made of.





ISRI Elects New Leadership: (L-R) Secretary/Treasurer Neil Byce, Chair-Elect Colin Kelly, Chairman Brian Henesey, and Vice-Chair Andy Golding.

## Introduction

### New Leadership and Record Membership in 2022

After returning to in-person gatherings, ISRI's voting directors cast their ballots for national officers and directors-at-large for the 2022-24 term. Gary Champlin ended his term as ISRI chair and turned leadership over to Brian Henesey, to begin his two-year term. In this line of succession, Colin Kelly became Chair-Elect, while Andy Golding moved from Secretary/Treasurer to Vice Chair. Neil Byce was elected to serve as the new Secretary/Treasurer.

This new slate of leaders will lead the organization on a strong membership growth path. In 2022, ISRI celebrated record breaking membership recruitment exceeding projections to include the addition of the most new members ever in ISRI's history. The association ended the year with 301 new members and a retention rate of 89.5 percent, for a total of 1417 members at the end of 2022. This outstanding performance is the result of the Road to 1,600 initiative started in 2020, with new membership recruitment and renewal tactics involving staff and member volunteers doing their part at both the national and chapter levels.

With ISRI so well positioned for growth, the following are highlights from throughout 2022. From advocacy, safety, networking and member services, there's tremendous value for membership – now and into the future.

America in 2022 saw mid-term elections that reshaped the makeup of the U.S. Congress, as well as a growing number of state-related advocacy issues stemming from newly elected state lawmakers. ISRI works with the Administration, Congress, state and local authorities no matter what political party is in leadership. ISRI also continued its work with law enforcement groups to combat metals theft. The following are highlights of advocacy efforts and outcomes from 2022.

## CONGRESS

### Helped Secure Passage of Ocean Shipping Reform

ISRI helped advocate for the successful passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA), which was signed into law in 2022. The law contains targeted reforms to address service deficiencies and unfair business practices that, when implemented, will address many of the challenges ISRI members and other shippers have experienced over the years.

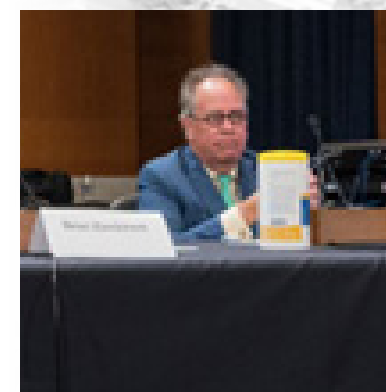


### ISRI Provides Congress with Proper Definitions of Recycling

ISRI advocated for the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act (RCAA) that was introduced in both House and Senate by providing lawmakers with clear definitions for recycling for the first time at the federal level. RCAA tackles a vital issue for the recycling industry that no recycling legislation has done before – it lays out ISRI's definitions of recycling, recyclable materials and processing. These terms have never before been properly defined in a federal law or regulation.

### ISRI's Chief Lobbyist Testifies Before Congress

The industry's positions were taken directly to lawmakers on Capitol Hill in 2022 when ISRI's Chief Lobbyist Billy Johnson testified before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on environment and climate change. Johnson testified about the strength and resiliency of the U.S.-based recycling industry, detailing for lawmakers the breadth of the industry and its essential contributions to the nation's economy. ISRI was the only recycling association to testify on how recycling in the U.S. isn't broken, but rather strong and getting stronger.





THE ADMINISTRATION

Transportation Related Agencies

ISRI worked throughout the year to represent member interests before Congress and the Biden Administration's transportation-related agencies by reinforcing the relationship between recycled materials and sustainable manufacturing and infrastructure projects around the nation. This included:

- Seeking Better Rail Service: ISRI engaged aggressively with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to member concerns were at the forefront of the debate on poor rail service. We testified at STB hearings, submitted extensive comments and hosted STB members at a number of ISRI member facilities. At ISRI's urging, the STB agreed to open a proceeding regarding demurrage for private railcars allowing owners to charge back fees for late rail car returns. We will continue to push for this in 2023.
- Keeping West Coast Port Operations Moving: ISRI joined with the National Federation of Retailers (NFR) and other supply-chain related associations in urging the Biden Administration to continue working with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) on a new labor agreement so as to prevent disruptions to West Coast port operations. The port labor negotiations are critically important to keeping imports and exports moving across the country.
- Preventing a Nationwide Rail Strike: ISRI supported efforts to avoid a potentially disastrous rail strike through congressional advocacy and joining forces with the railroads.
- Improving Federal Maritime Outcomes: ISRI engaged with the Federal Maritime Commission, submitting comments and meeting with officials to address wrongful detention and demurrage charges as well as "reasonableness" claims.

Successfully Advocating for Tariff Exclusion Extension

ISRI successfully advocated for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to extend the tariff exclusion for shredder wear parts imported from China. This is a major relief for the recycled materials industry as well as the nation's steel and aluminum producers that rely heavily on the high-quality recycled materials produced through shredding as a sustainable source of raw material for the manufacture of new product.

Engaging with EPA on Shredder Emissions

ISRI held important discussions with EPA to address volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from shredders, with the goal of helping the agency recognize that a one-size-fits-all approach to enforcement and compliance does not accurately reflect the diversity in shredding operations.

To reinforce this effort, ISRI hired an outside consultant to compile and analyze available emissions data. This will allow us to better define shredder variability and to relate such variability (e.g., shredder size, feedstock, configuration) back to estimated emissions. This analysis is expected to be completed and presented to EPA by April 2023. Accompanying compliance guidance will also be made available to members at the same time.

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Addressing PFAS in Recycled Materials at EPA

ISRI actively engaged with EPA on issues related to PFAS, or so-called "forever chemicals," which are a large family of complex manufactured chemicals that are ingredi-ents in everyday products – and therefore may find their way into the recycling stream. ISRI has argued for exemptions and exclusion for the industry based on the fact that they have entered recycling through no fault of our industry. Additionally, states are examining stormwater and other permitting requirements as potential vehicles to address environmental PFAS contamination, raising concerns over whether recyclers will be seen as a "source" of PFAS rather than the original manufacturer. The issue will remain a major focus in 2023.

ISRI Challenges EPA's Paper Recycling Residuals Proposal

ISRI commented on EPA's proposal regarding Paper Recycling Residuals (PRR) to be used as fuel under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations for non-hazardous secondary materials. ISRI opposed the use of mixed paper, as defined by ISRI's Specs for fuel.

ISRI Chief Scientist Appointed to Federal Advisory Committee



David Waggoner, ISRI's chief scientist and director of environmental management, was appointed

to the government's new Acquisition Policy Federal Advisory Committee. The appointment adds the voice of ISRI and the recycled materials industry to discussions occurring in the federal government around sustainability and climate change.

The General Services Administration (GSA) vetted over 100 candidates and built a diverse committee whose members include representatives from industry, federal, state and local governments, industry associations and academia.

Providing Guidance on Electric Vehicles and Batteries



ISRI is engaging with the U.S. Department of Energy, EPA and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) as they develop new regulations and research and safety programs for the handling and recycling of Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV batteries. In addition, as states consider how to improve their energy infrastructure to accommodate a transition to EVs, we must ensure that concerns regarding ease and safety of dismantling, storing, transporting and recycling vehicle lithium-ion batteries are also addressed.

ISRI is working to prepare the recycled materials industry for the safe recycling of electric vehicle (EV) batteries to meet the upcoming increase in end-of-life EV batteries. ISRI's safety operations department formed a task force in 2022 that brings experts together to educate recyclers on how to safely recycle EV batteries. The task force is creating a web-based EV battery Safety Training Awareness program for members, as well as a hands-on program that will include a classroom and laboratory for instruction.

ISRI also formed a new EV Working Group comprised of members with expertise in shredding, transportation, electronics and battery recycling. The Working Group will evaluate the opportunities and challenges posed by the transition to EVs and recommend strategies to ensure that our industry is positioned correctly with the necessary tools and resources.

Building Alliances on the Recycling of Smaller Batteries

Small capacity batteries found in toys and many consumer products are also of concern to the industry. ISRI joined the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA), and Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) in issuing a joint letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan citing best practices for safe recycling and labeling of lithium batteries. The letter is in response to the EPA's Request for Information on the development of best practices for collection of batteries to be recycled and voluntary battery labeling guidelines.

The letter commended the EPA's increased focus on the hazards that batteries pose in the waste and recycling streams. The organizations noted that these hazards are increasing as more lithium-ion batteries get discarded and improperly placed in curbside residential waste or recycling collection containers and bags. It addressed the increased usage poses serious fire risks and safety challenges for consumers and the recycling industry.

A Push to Redeem the Mutilated Coin Program



ISRI continued to advocate for resumption of the U.S. Mint mutilated coin program by providing policy solutions. In addition, ISRI members provided a tour of recycling operations to representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help them better understand shredding operations and how mutilated coins are recovered during the process, with a focus on the difference between legitimate and illegitimate mutilated coins.

# STATE ADVOCACY SUPPORT

- In addition to work in Washington, ISRI conducted state relations across the country, and engaged with national organizations that provide access to lawmakers that have the potential to influence the recycled materials industry. Here are some highlights.
- At the 2022 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), ISRI sponsored two luncheons featuring members and exhibits from local recycled materials facilities. Approximately 4,600 attendees attended and saw the positive impact of the recycled materials industry on a national level.
  - Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist was presented with ISRI's 2022 National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Recycling Impact Award. Gilchrist praised the recycled materials industry and its role in promoting sustainable solutions. Additionally, through ISRI's participation in the NLGA Partnership, Colorado Lt. Governor Diana Primavera was an ISRI guest at NCSL's Legislative Summit in Denver.
  - New Jersey Chapter members met with the sponsor of a proposed state law NJ A3492, that would establish an EV Battery Recycling Task Force to discuss industry concerns and expectations for potential EV battery-focused legislation, including the outcome.
  - The CalEPA Lithium-Ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group released policy recommendations to the California legislature in May, including concerns over the responsibility for EVs when a dismantler takes ownership of the vehicle.

**ISRI Chapters**  
*play a critical role*  
*in state relations.*  
*Here are some*  
*highlights of work*  
*between ISRI*  
*national and some*  
*of its chapters.*

## Gulf Coast Region

Alabama members successfully held the American Chemistry Council (ACC) prevented the advancement of an "advanced recycling" bill by getting the chairman to hold the legislation until the clock ran out.

Comal Iron and Metals hosted Texas Governor Greg Abbott for a roundtable discussion with small business leaders on jobs creation and the essential role of recycling in securing everyday items and essential infrastructure.

## Michigan Chapter

Michigan members succeeded in passing a several bills to revamp the state's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act that the chapter has been working on for several years. The changes include a recycling markets developments program to fund investments in new recycling



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equipment and technologies, as well as requiring the ACC to drop their "advanced recycling" language and ban conversion to fuel from being included as a chemical recycling "recycled product." Additionally, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist met with chapter leadership several times and was awarded with ISRI's NLGA award.

## Mid-America Chapter

Missouri members successfully opposed six bills seeking amendments to catalytic converter requirements. Members testified that chapter-supported amendments passed in 2021 should have time to take effect before further changes are made.

## Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Chapter members submitted comments to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) opposing

the inclusion of "scrap metal facilities" in a new class of "opt-in permits" in revisions to the DEP's Environmental Justice Policy.

Maryland members successfully opposed catalytic converter legislation that would have bypassed existing scrap metal processor requirements.

## New England Chapter

New England Chapter successfully lobbied for amendments to catalytic converter legislation in Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island. The chapter continues to push for legislation in Massachusetts that would provide a total overhaul of the current state requirements rather than tacking on mismatched provisions to address catalytic converters.

The Rhode Island chapter prevented the passage of environmental justice bills modeled on New Jersey's, as well as "advanced recycling" legislation that would count any product of chemical recycling as recycled content, including fuel.

## New Jersey Chapter

ISRI's New Jersey Chapter submitted comments supporting catalytic converter theft legislation that ISRI helped redraft and is in legislative process.

Members also worked with Sen. Bob Smith, chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, to secure passage of minimum recycled content requirements in January. They continue to work with the committee on extended producer responsibility for packaging, recyclability / labeling requirements and electric vehicle battery management.

## Northern Ohio Chapter

Ohio members have so far successfully opposed catalytic converter legislation that would have created unique "bulk seller" requirements.

## Ohio Valley Chapter

Kentucky members worked with their legislators to pass additional recordkeeping requirements for catalytic converters within the existing scrap metal requirements.

West Virginia members defeated several bills that sought to amend catalytic converter requirements passed in 2021.

## Pacific Northwest Chapter

Washington members worked with legislators to pass updates for catalytic converters to the state's metals theft bills, making a new industry ally out of sponsor Sen. Jeff Wilson in the process.

Oregon members are proactively working with the Multnomah County district attorney's office to introduce "Do Not Buy" list legislation for the 2023 session.

## Paper Stock Industries Chapter

The chapter experienced its highest historical scholarship award season ever by awarding 12 scholarships to college-bound students.

## Pittsburgh Chapter

Chapter members supported amendments to create the offense of theft of catalytic converters.

## Rocky Mountain Chapter

ISRI's Rocky Mountain Chapter hosted ISRI's Exhibit Hall luncheons at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Summit in Denver, and was able to secure participation of Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera, who also toured two member facilities following the summit.

## Southeast Region

Members in Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia worked with their legislators to pass additional restrictions on catalytic converter transactions and on the possession of used, detached catalytic converters.

South Carolina members successfully defeated a bill that would have rolled back the catalytic converter restrictions that the region supported in 2021.

## Upper Midwest Chapter

Wisconsin passed chapter-supported legislation including catalytic converters as "proprietary articles" under existing scrap material requirements.

## West Coast Chapter

Two San Diego members, SA Recycling and Allan Company, hosted facility tours for the NCSL Recycling Partnership in December, with over 20 state lawmakers participating.



## ISRI PARTNERS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT



ISRI as the voice of the recycling industry is working to help solve the problem of metals theft, including addressing catalytic converter theft and recycling these devices. Todd Foreman, a retired Virginia police chief, joined ISRI in early 2022 as Director of Law Enforcement Outreach to help elevate ISRI's work with law enforcement around the country.

Among the groups ISRI collaborated with during 2022 in our continued efforts to help prevent the theft of catalytic converters were:

- The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP),
- The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) on marking programs,
- The International Association of Auto Theft Investigators,
- The International Association of Crime Analysts,
- The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police,
- The Virginia FBI National Academy Associates, and
- Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCI), one of the six Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) centers

Scraptheftalert.com reached more than 32,000 subscribers, over half of which are members of law enforcement. The system issued more than 700 alerts during the year and was responsible for recovery of over approximately \$3.3 million dollars of stolen materials.

Members partnered with law enforcement to put a stop to catalytic converter thefts in their regions. In one example, a video developed by ISRI members and the Habersham County, Georgia, Sheriff's Office demonstrated a theft deterrent program that stamps converters with identifiable markings. The project is being led by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI), Habersham County Sheriff's Office, National Insurance Crime Bureau and ISRI's Catalytic Converter Working group.

ISRI also updated its State Metals Theft Law Database and the individual state law summaries on the State Resources and Tracking pages to include amendments and new laws passed through 2022 in preparation for the 2023 state legislative sessions.

# Sustainability Initiatives

## Brands Council Members on Joining ISRI

*"At Unilever, we understand the importance of designing packaging for a circular economy. ISRI's Brands Council brings the right businesses together to optimize the sustainable recovery process. Through a strong supply chain perspective and an exceptional understanding of material value, we will advance the sustainability journey together."*

**Glenn Gruskin**, senior category manager packaging – design for circularity and sustainability

*"At Keurig Dr Pepper, our vision is a circular future in which our packaging is recycled or repurposed to remain in use and out of the environment. Our engagement through ISRI's Brands Leadership Council will help to inform how we design packaging to ensure true circularity of packaging through the recycling system and to give a critical brand voice within this highly respected recycling organization."*

**Charlie Schwarze**, director, sustainability – packaging and product stewardship

The recycled materials industry helps keep supply chains sustainable, while protecting natural resources. Working with stakeholders across the recycling chain, ISRI is helping develop more sustainable packaging to protect natural resources and reduce emissions.

Safety is at the core of the recycled materials industry, and ISRI is helping members with a wide variety of safety training and fire prevention programs. At the same time, ISRI in 2022 took major strides in developing the industry's workforce of the future needed to advance more innovative and efficient recycling solutions. Here are some key areas of focus and achievement in 2022.

## ISRI Forms Brands Leadership Council

ISRI announced the formation of the Brands Leadership Council (BLC), with inaugural members Starbucks, Keurig Dr Pepper, McDonalds, Unilever and Colgate-Palmolive. The Brands Leadership Council provides a forum for leading consumer brands to connect with the recycled materials industry in a collaborative forum aimed at addressing challenges in the manufacturing supply chain.

"Every new manufactured product made from recycled materials makes the supply chain more secure by providing a renewable source of raw materials," said ISRI President Robin Wiener. "That is why ISRI is also partnering with consumer brands and other manufacturers to help them recycle more, use more recycled materials in their products and design their products to be recycled more easily."

The BLC brings global consumer brands into the only trade association representing the complete recycling infrastructure. The vast majority of recycled materials flows from that infrastructure for processing into high-quality consumer and industrial products. Through membership in the council, brands can connect and form close-knit relationships with recyclers across commodities to solve issues and identify opportunities around the recycling value chain, including sustainability and design.

## Recyclability Protocol for Fiber-Based Packaging

ISRI finalized its Protocol for Fiber-Based Packaging, a research-based approach for users to assess the extent to which fiber-based packaging may be recyclable and does not pose known challenges for the recycling system.

An accompanying online tool is set for release in 2023 and is being designed to automatically score each criterion based on the methodology research conducted for the protocol. The results will determine whether the packaging meets the criteria of the protocol, whether it has challenges that require modifications or testing or does not meet the criteria. The tool currently focuses on recycling post-consumer fiber-based packaging that will be marketed in the U.S., but it will later be expanded to serve as an assessment tool for other recycled materials.

Safety is the recycled materials industry's top priority, and ISRI in 2022 made great strides in supporting the safety education and training for its members. Some highlights from 2022 include the following:

- ISRI organized an industry-wide safety stand-down last June, Dubbed, "ISRI's Annual Safety Stand-Down Day," members came together and halted operations for one hour during each shift to celebrate the recycling workforce and our health and safety programs. ISRI provided resources for members to use when holding important discussions around workplace safety.
- ISRI's Spring 2022 Safety and Environmental Conference was held in St. Louis and saw the largest attendance in the past 10 years.
- ISRI's safety team visited more than 40 member facilities during the year, providing on-site training, educating the workforce on safe mobile equipment operations, fire safety & prevention, and other important health and safety topics.
- As more electric vehicles (EVs) enter the recycled materials industry, we are focusing on raising awareness about their safe handling during recycling. As part of that effort, ISRI prepared a downloadable poster for members to access and post around their operations to help keep employees safe working around EVs. The poster is entitled, "Stop Before Disconnecting EV Cables."



# Workforce Safety Training

- ISRI's online Organizational Culture and Safety Success training was offered three times, nearly selling out each time. The course provided guidance on developing positive organizational culture through leadership. Specifically designed for supervisory managers and safety professionals, the course provided specific techniques for improving culture, guidance on transformational leadership and its principles and information on the impact of an organization's culture on safety and

## OSHA Alliance Continues, Federal Grant Funds Fire Safety Training

The ISRI/OSHA Alliance entered its 7th year in 2022, presenting a webinar on the OSHA compliance inspection process. In Fall 2022, OSHA provided resources to ISRI members on the value of consultation programs.

ISRI provided training on fire safety prevention and response to more than 300 individuals in 2022. It was offered during 18 classes around the country. In ISRI's Fire Safety in the Recycling Industry class, attendees learned ways to control hazards associated with fires to prevent significant losses. This effort was funded through OSHA's Susan Harwood Training Grant Program.



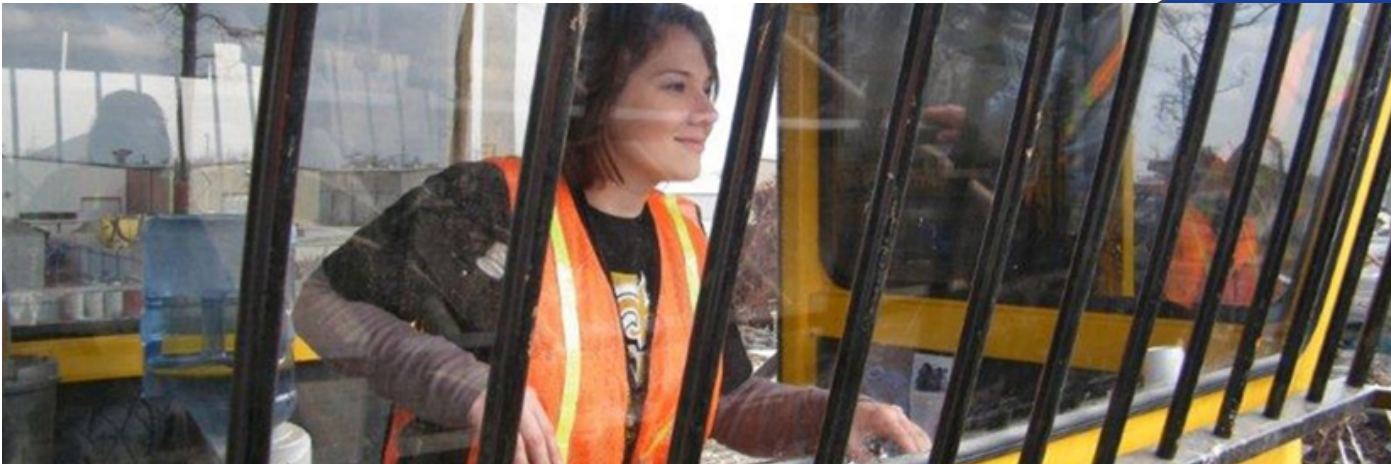
ISRI's safety team also produced 13 new, short training safety videos. The videos were originally released through the EHS Update weekly newsletters. Safety video topics include:

- Distracted driving
- Emergency action plan – cold weather
- Mobile equipment safety
- Personal protective equipment
- Slips, Trips, Falls

And they can be found on ISRI's monthly safety calendar here: [videos.isri.org/category/monthly-ehs-calendar](https://www.isri.org/category/monthly-ehs-calendar)



# ISRI Sustainability Pathways Program Launched



In 2022, ISRI launched its groundbreaking Sustainability Pathways Program to provide apprenticeship, internship and fellowship opportunities to students with an emphasis on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), trade schools and community colleges. Two students were selected as fellows and five as interns. At the end of 2022, ISRI received more than 50 applications for the 2023 program.



## Spanish Language Safety Training

ISRI now has several education and training program material in Spanish. This includes the following:

- Certified Scrap Metal Professional Program – Offered in Spanish The partnership with Scrap University launched in 2021 and this past October the Spanish version became available for participants. The program is made up of eight individual online courses focused on metals identification.
- Hazard Recognition: Fire Safety & Prevention in Recycling Presented in Spanish featuring presenter Felipe Guerra. Thanks to the OSHA Grant awarded to ISRI's Safety Team, in 2022 we had the opportunity to begin offering our hazard recognition in recycling course in Spanish.
- Forklift Operator Training In Safety This course equips (available in English and Spanish) participants with targeted training on safe operations with forklifts. It covers safe traveling and loading, and will teach you how to recognize the risks forklifts pose to pedestrians and the proper safety measures to follow. Containing four modules, the course is approximately 40 minutes of classroom seat time.



# Recycling 'Jobs of Tomorrow' Docuseries Now on Streaming Services

ISRI also launched a groundbreaking docuseries called, "Jobs of Tomorrow," which explores employment opportunities in the innovative fields that comprise recycling. The six-part docuseries released by ISRI on Freevee, Tubi and Roku goes behind the scenes to explore the opportunities and future of the recycled materials industry.

The docuseries offers a first-hand look at the growing use of technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and data security by focusing on innovation and creating a more sustainable planet.



# International & Strategic Partnerships

## Supporting Global Effort on Infinitely Recyclable Sustainable Steel

ISRI joined the Global Steel Climate Council as a founding member to support development of a global standard that will encourage sustainable steel. Sustainable steel is made from recyclable materials and can be recycled infinitely while preserving natural resources. In partnership with the Steel Manufacturing Association (SMA), ISRI will help develop the standard that will help highlight the emissions and energy reduced through sustainable steel.

Collaboration toward a standard will provide the necessary information for manufacturers and policymakers alike to incentivize more climate-friendly steel manufacturing. The standard will eliminate the need to mine for natural resources, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making a positive environmental impact.

### Advancing a Circular Economy

In 2022, ISRI continued its activity with the REMADE Institute, which focuses on advancing a circular economy. In March, ISRI's chief scientist was elected by peer vote to serve on REMADE's Strategic Advisory Committee after finishing a term on REMADE's Technical Advisory Committee. In May, ISRI began its work on a new REMADE project, "Material and Vehicle Design for High-Value Recycling of Aluminum and Steel Automotive Sheet," led by the University of Michigan. The work has involved recruiting ISRI members to provide information to UM researchers on various aspects of vehicle recycling.

### ISRI Staff Member Board and Volunteer Appointments on Behalf of Members

- ISRI staff members share their expertise in wide-reaching service through board and volunteer appointments. This involvement serves to advance the recycled materials industry and help our member businesses.
- Collectively, ISRI staff serve on more than 35 different recycled materials industry-related committees and boards for federal governmental agencies and organizations.
  - Federal governmental committees include appointments and service to the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Commerce Department and General Services Administration.
  - ISRI staff serve on the boards of many non-profit organizations, including the National Recycling Coalition, Keep America Beautiful (KAB), JASON Learning, Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI), the Northeast Recycling Council, Southeast Recycling Council, National Conference on State Legislatures, Trade Associations Economists Group and Washington Council of Governments.

# Thought Leadership & Communications

## A Common Language for the Recycled Materials Industry

Led by a working group of member volunteers, ISRI undertook an effort to improve the communication efforts as we try to boost the industry reputation and improve outcomes when working with a variety of important audiences, including lawmakers and community groups. Working with the New York-based research firm Maslansky + partners, ISRI conducted an extensive communication research effort to analyze how the recycling industry is perceived, and ultimate to find "words that work." The approach they took, and overall strategy focuses on how: "It's not what you say, it's what they hear."

The research project examined traditional and social media, focus group feedback and quantitative surveys about the language we use. The results of this research was a reference guide called: "Common Language for the Recycled Materials Industry," sometimes referred to as "the playbook." It is a benefit to ISRI members, as a resource that serves as a guide for how to have successful conversations with anyone outside of the industry – including policymakers, advocacy organizations, business partners, or the general public. This helps ensure we're all speaking with a common language as the recycled materials industry.

### New ISRI Position Paper Clearly Defines 'Recycling'

ISRI issued a position paper clearly defining "recycling" to clearly differentiate the operations of ISRI members from those in the waste industry. This was an important development because policymakers at all levels of government are increasingly looking to create legal frameworks that encourage sustainability and discourage waste generating activities.

A clear definition of recycling is particularly important when addressing either mechanical or chemical plastics and the series of activities that processes end-of-life plastic materials into marketable commodities that are subsequently consumed in lieu of new raw materials.

## Anticipating Trends that Could Impact the Industry



ISRI commissioned a report from global trend-watcher Vikram Mansharamani that detailed his predictions for several high-impact trends and their likely implications for the industry. Mansharamani focused on several trends, including:

- Climate Change, Sustainability, and Electrification
- Inequality, Inflation, and Social Pressures
- Technology, Digitization, and Data, and
- Geopolitical Realignment and Shifting Trade Patterns

Through the report, Mansharamani found that global trends currently creating unprecedented uncertainty are producing numerous opportunities and risks for the recycled materials industry. The report can help managers, policymakers, and the public understand the increasingly important role that the recycling industry will play in the future. The report can be found at [ISRI.org](https://isri.org).



Community Service

In addition to ISRI members giving back to their local communities, here at ISRI HQ we participated in giving back to those in need both nationally and internationally. In August ISRI and a group of member volunteers joined forces with the Food Bank of the Rockies to fill bags for those in need in the Denver area.

To assist in funding humanitarian support of the people of Ukraine, The ISRI Board approved financial contributions of \$5,000 each to World Central Kitchen and Doctors Without Borders who served on the ground in the country.

Media Outreach

The Wall Street Journal published President Robin Wiener's letter to the editor in response to its article on plastics recycling. Robin detailed the confusion that exists regarding residential recycling and focused on the positive steps being taken to increase recycling rates through our work in Congress, starting with increasing accessibility and collection. She also explained the importance of clarifying definitions around recycling, recyclability and accuracy in data collection.

A comprehensive approach to establishing ISRI as a thought leader resulted in placing two op-eds authored by Robin in The Hill and Inside Sources which are outlets read by police associations in D.C. and across the country. The former reaches approximately 50 million readers per month and the latter reaches about 25 million readers per month.

National Public Radio interviewed Todd Foreman, ISRI Director of Law Enforcement Outreach, about measures for the public to take to help prevent catalytic converter theft. The mainstream media interview reached a radio and digital audience of more than 55 million. ISRI Communications team developed member resources include ISRI's Social Media Guide for Recyclers for both social media novices as well as experts. This resource helps showcase how the general public can recognize the numerous benefits of the recycled materials industry, the important role the industry plays in daily life, and helps market members' companies and personal brands.



Design for Recycling® Award Presented to Sonoco Alloyd

In recognition of its innovation and commitment to sustainability in the design and manufacture of new products, ISRI named Sonoco Alloyd as its 2022 Design for Recycling® (DFR) Award winner. The DFR Award is ISRI's most prestigious award presented annually to the most innovative contribution to products designed with recycling in mind.

Sonoco received the award for its innovative Sonoco Alloyd EnviroSense™ PaperBlister™ package that offers a recyclable alternative to traditional retail plastic-to-card blister packaging – all without the need for costly new sealing equipment lines. Made entirely from renewable resources, the mono-material EnviroSense PaperBlister package is plastic-free, so it is recyclable in the paper stream.

Lifetime Achievement Award Goes to Industry Icon

ISRI honored Charles “Cricket” Williams with its 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. Williams was recognized for his lifelong dedication, leadership and service to the recycling industry and ISRI. “Cricket possesses the timeless qualities of great leadership and he has used his strengths to be a champion in the recycling industry,” said ISRI President Robin Wiener. “He is an industry veteran who has been part of leading the way on many great recycling initiatives. Cricket is a powerful inspiration in recycling and that is an important part of his legacy.”

ISRI Presents Young Executive Award to Fourth-Generation Recycler

Jacqueline Lotzkar of the Pacific Northwest Chapter received the 2022 Young Executive of the Year Award. Lotzkar is a fourth-generation recycler who serves as vice president of her family’s business, Pacific Metals Recycling International. She recently served as the chapter’s vice president and is currently the chapter president, as well as an ISRI director at large.

Youth Recycling Video and Poster Award Contest

ISRI and JASON Learning announced the winners of the 2021-2022 Youth Recycling Video and Poster contest at ISRI2022 annual convention. Contestants in grades K-12 submitted original posters or videos that communicated one central theme: recycling can make a positive impact on climate challenges.



ISRI named Mark Monteleone and Joei Tarrazi, high school seniors from Marine Academy of Science and Technology in Highlands, N.J., as winners.

Monteleone and Tarrazi focused their entry on how rising sea levels affected their coastal community and how recycling rubber tires can be a solution. The poster identifies the problem and provides practical steps that local residents can take, such as donating old tires to local manufacturers or turning the tires into a gravel substitute, wastewater treatment filter or garden mulch.

Ani Nishanian and Namira Meghla, fifth graders from Willow Springs Elementary School in Fairfax County, VA, produced the winning video entry. Their video was designed to inform young people about the growing problem of climate change, the importance of recycling and actions citizens can take in their own communities.



The contest was open to K-12 students who submitted original posters or videos that communicated one central theme: that recycling can make a positive impact on climate challenges.



# President Robin Wiener Awarded the Israel Proler Award

ISRI's Gulf Coast Chapter presented ISRI President Robin Wiener with the 2022 Israel Proler Award in New Orleans. Presented during the Gulf Coast Region's annual summer convention, the award recognizes individuals for their outstanding leadership, achievements and contributions to the recycled materials industry. Wiener was recognized for the positive work she has done for ISRI and the recycled materials industry for more than 33 years.

"I am so incredibly honored, especially when I look at the list of those who have won the award before me," said Wiener. "I love this industry and its members, and I look forward to continuing to serve and live up to the standard set by Israel Proler so many years ago."

Wiener joined ISRI in 1989, initially serving as a compliance coordinator, then as assistant counsel and director of environmental compliance. She was named ISRI's executive director in 1997. In March 2000, ISRI's board conferred on her the title of president.

## ISRI Receives International MarCom Awards



ISRI was the recipient of eight 2022 MarCom Awards, including the Platinum Award—the organization's highest honor—for the video Recycled Materials Making a Difference in Our Lives. The Platinum Award is presented to those submissions judged to be the most outstanding entries in the competition.

The MarCom Awards, presented by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, are an international competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. Entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, public relations firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers. There were over 6,000 entries in the MarCom Awards 2022 competition.

ISRI provides members with a variety of products and services designed to help them run better, safer, cleaner and more profitable operations. Here are highlights from 2022:

### Cyber Insurance Program

Through a partnership with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), ISRI Introduced an exclusive cyber insurance program for members to provide protection at an affordable rate against all possible breaches. ISRI chose the NAM cyber insurance program due to its tools that help with cyber risk management and focus on manufacturing operations, including operations in the recycled materials industry.

### Energy Cost Containment

To help members contain costs, ISRI partnered with APPI Energy to negotiate energy pricing and contracts for recyclers. With no upfront costs, APPI will analyze energy usage, evaluate bills and then provide an apples-to-apples comparison of supplier prices and contracts. APPI can help with energy management solutions to reduce demand and costs through efforts such as LED lighting retrofits, adding solar or wind power and "demand response," which can reduce electricity usage during peak periods in response to time-based rates or other forms of financial incentives.

### Industry Compensation & Benefits Study

In 2022, ISRI launched a new Industry Compensation & Benefits Survey. When released in early 2023, it will be the only comprehensive source of objective salary and wage data that comes directly from those in the recycled materials industry – including both processors and brokers.

### SREA

SREA reports are an important risk management tool and due diligence resource for all ISRI Members. ISRI recommends ordering SREA reports annually for every consuming facility to which your company sends recycled materials and prior to any transactions with new customers. ISRI provides member pricing at just \$75 per report January through April! Pricing for ISRI members does increase to \$250 for unique reports on May.

### RIOS

Improve your company's bottom line, increase revenue, reduce business risk and boost your competitive advantage – all at the same time. The Recycling Industry Operating Standard™ (RIOS™), the recycling industry's management system standard for quality, environment and health & safety (QEH&S) does exactly that.

Specifically designed for the recycling industry, RIOS™ integrates the key operational elements of a robust management system, bringing quality, environmental and health and safety together into one streamlined system.



## ISRI2022: Resounding Success, Largest Attendance Ever

ISRI2022 was held March 21 – 24 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Two years of COVID-19, quarantines and travel restrictions threatened to reduce the number of attendees and lessen the enthusiasm for an in-person convention but ISRI2022 proved to be one of the association's most successful. Attendance and exhibitor figures beat budget estimates. Overall, ISRI2022 was the fifth largest convention in ISRI history and had the largest paid attendance since 2014. There were more than 5,000 attendees represented 53 countries and 49 states plus DC and Puerto Rico.

The more than 400,000 sq. ft. of expo area was occupied by 261 booths and 26 equipment spaces totaling 287 exhibitors. ISRI budgeted for 285 exhibitors. As always, we continue to assess the various functions of the ISRI Convention to assure the event continues to be relevant and useful for attendees, the best exhibit venue for exhibitors, and a financial success for the association.

### Record Setting Roundtables Event in Chicago



The ISRI Roundtables annual meeting in Chicago reached record-high attendance in 2022, living up to its reputation as the largest event in the country for traders, processors and consumers of recycled materials. It is known as the premiere deal-making, networking venue that directs commodities deals for the upcoming year. The success of the 2022 ISRI Roundtables is indicative of the industry's vital role as the key supplier of sustainable raw materials and driver of economic growth in the United States and around the world.

Among the many market issues covered by analysts at the educational sessions, the meeting featured a general session on electric vehicles (EVs) and battery recycling, an emerging topic of interest for the industry. Sandy Pierce, commodity trader at PADNOS, also spoke at the Future of EV/Battery Recycling panel.

### ISRI Expands Online Education and Training Offerings



In addition to more than 20 webinars, ISRI in 2022 offered three online courses in two different formats: live instructor-led courses scheduled on a specific day/time and courses that are “on-demand,” which may be taken at any time on any day at the learner's convenience.

- Safety in Scrap Recycling
- Certified Scrap Metal Professional
- Organizational Culture and Safety Success

## CHAPTER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ISRI's chapters and regions had a very successful year with in-person networking and membership building events across the country. Here are some highlights shared by our chapters and regions in 2022.

**New England Chapter** held its annual golf outing is New England Chapter's signature event and one that attendees look forward to every year. The 2022 event was no exception not only because of the socializing and networking opportunities but also because the donations for the 2022 fundraiser went to the American Brain Tumor Association—a nonprofit close to attendees' hearts.

**West Coast Chapter** hosted the Western Regional Conference in connection with the 2022 ISRI Fall Meeting. Activities included a sand volleyball tournament, golf at Monarch Beach Golf Links, deep-sea fishing at Dana Point Harbor and an art tour of local galleries. Mark Sanchez, former NFL quarterback and Fox Sports NFL game analyst, was the keynote speaker.

**Paper Stock Industries Chapter** experienced its highest historical scholarship award season ever by awarding 12 scholarships to college-bound students.

**Gulf Coast Region** hosted its summer convention in New Orleans with 767 registrants and 79 exhibitors, which set an attendance record for GCR's biggest annual event. The convention golf tournament attracted 144 players and raised almost \$41,500 for the region's scholarship program, awarding 17 scholarships to college-bound students.

**Michigan Chapter** and ISRI presented Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist was presented with the 3rd Annual 2022 Recycling Impact Award. ISRI, along with the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), presents the award

annually to an NLGA member who is committed to working within a state, region and/or communities to positively affect resource conservation and recycling.

**Northern Ohio Chapter** held its highly-successful 2nd Annual Sunset Cruise event. The event attracted a diverse recycled materials representation from metal, paper, plastic, electronics, and equipment.

**Pacific Northwest Chapter** held the 2022 Best Young and Brightest event targeting industry young executives ages for 40 and under.

**New York and Empire Chapters** jointly held a public safety event at Brighton High School on catalytic converter theft prevention featuring Katie Ilecki, vice president and general manager at metals recycler Metalico Rochester and Lawrence Schillinger, compliance counsel for ISRI's Empire and New York Chapters. The public events were in connection with the chapter's partnership with the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police to combat metals theft.

**Indiana Chapter** held another successful golf outing that raised funds for the chapter's scholarship program.

**Upper Midwest Chapter** presented Lifetime of Excellence Award during their summer membership meeting honoring long-time ISRI veterans David Borsuk and Mike Potash, respectively, for their years of diligent service to the chapter and ISRI.

**New Jersey Chapter** hosted its annual networking event in Atlantic City in June that attracted over 170 attendees for an evening of networking. Overall chapter membership is up 20 percent from 2021 and member engagement continues to increase.

**Pittsburgh Chapter** presented its 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award to Duffy Friedlander, President of Daniels & Miller, Inc., for his long-time contributions and service to the chapter and the industry.

**Mid-Atlantic Chapter** brought back its popular Mid-Atlantic Chapter's annual Oyster Roast in October. The chapter hadn't been able to hold this event in its entirety since 2019, and members were eager to reconnect. A full slate of golfers enjoyed the course for a great round of golf, followed by a packed house for happy hour and delicious food at the historic Woodholme Country Club in Baltimore.

**Southeast Region** held its successful convention November in the true birthplace of Mardi Gras -- Mobile, Alabama. Over 250 registrants joined for jam-packed few days complete with vendors, membership meeting, regional elections, fishing, golfing, a port tour and an Oyster Party at the historical Mardi Gras Museum.

**Ohio Valley** hosted its spring event in Louisville, Kentucky, at the legendary Churchill Downs where attendees strolled its historic grounds and enjoyed one of the most hallowed shrines in American sports. The chapter held a board meeting followed by a racing event and networking.

**Rocky Mountain** held its popular annual ski meeting in February garnering its largest attendance to-date. Members gathered in beautiful Vail, Colorado, for a chapter meeting, dinner and multi-day ski activities complete with the highly competitive annual member ski race.

**Mid-America** held its 74th Annual Consumers Night in St. Louis. Consumers Night continues to grow interest each year and includes an exhibit hall and amazing networking opportunity.





*Voice of the Recycling Industry™*

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