

The National Recycling Coalition 2017 Awards Recipients

Contacts:

Savannah Betkowski, NRC Staff; (202) 618-2107

Lisa Skumatz, Awards Chair skumatz@serainc.com; 303/913-4229

This August, The National Recycling Coalition honored their recycling awards recipients at the 2017 Resource Recycling Conference in Minneapolis. The awards were presented to the winners, along with the recipients of the Murray J. Fox Scholarship, at the Conference Welcome Reception hosted by the NRC and the Recycling Association of Minnesota.

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. Award categories include higher education, not-for and for-profit organizations, business leadership, and recognition of outstanding programs. The NRC will be posting information on all winners on the NRC's website.

NRC's Awards Committee Chair Lisa Skumatz commented on the process saying of fellow committee members, "They worked long and hard to sort from among the more than one hundred submittals to find those shining examples – a task that was made particularly hard because there were so many really stellar nominees. We were very pleased that winners came from across the country to accept their awards, so attendees had the chance to learn first-hand how these programs work so well!"

2017 Awards and Recipients

- Outstanding Business Leadership For-Profit Company- *Avaya Stadium (San José, CA)*
- Outstanding Not-for-profit Business Leadership- *Cooperative Teamwork & Recycling Assistance: CTRA (Austin, TX)*
 - Outstanding Not-for-profit Business Leadership Honorable Mention- *Northeast Resource Recovery Association: NRRRA*
- Outstanding Recycling Organization- *the Michigan Recycling Coalition: MRC*
- Outstanding Higher Education- *the University of Florida*
 - Outstanding Higher Education Honorable Mention- *The University of Illinois at Chicago, Office of Sustainability*
- Outstanding Community or Government Program- *South Central Solid Waste Authority: SCSWA*
 - Outstanding Community or Government Program Honorable Mention- *Emmet County (MI) Recycling*
- Bill Heenan Emerging Leader- *Samantha Yager: Recycling Coordinator for the City of Columbia, SC & Tori Carle: City of Greensboro (NC) Recycling Educator at 'Operation Bed Roll'*
 - Bill Heenan Emerging Leader Honorable Mention- *Matthew O'Carroll: Refuse, Recycling, & Water Efficiency Manager at UC Santa Barbara*
- Lifetime Achievement in Recycling- *Arthur Boone, CA*

About the National Recycling Coalition (NRC):

The National Recycling Coalition is a non-profit organization focused on promoting and enhancing materials management in North America, with a network of more than 6,000 members extending across waste reduction, reuse, composting and recycling. For nearly 40 years, NRC has been a leader in driving education and policy around recycling. Learn more about the NRC at www.NRCRecycles.org

Outstanding Not-for-profit Business Leadership: Cooperative Teamwork & Recycling Assistance (CTRA)

Texas consists of many rural communities and sparsely populated areas. Because of their size and remote locations, many of these entities are unable to establish cost effective recycling programs. For over 20 years, Cooperative Teamwork & Recycling Assistance (CTRA) has been the only nonprofit cooperative marketing organization in Texas. CTRA currently consists of 52 recycling cooperatives who serve more than 500 entities, 500,000+ Texas citizens, and covers a service area of over 43,000 square miles. The goal of CTRA's partnerships is to establish, maintain or improve recycling as an economically viable option, for underserved rural communities. CTRA's membership includes civic groups, private industry, military bases, government entities and school districts. The strength of the cooperative provides the bargaining power needed to negotiate higher commodity prices.



Marjie Griek, NRC Executive Director (left), and Rachel Hering, Executive Director of CTRA, (right)

For members, CTRA serves as their liaison between the public and private sector by negotiating contracts with haulers and end markets at competitive prices. The collection, transport and sale of recyclables is coordinated through CTRA and its contractors. CTRA helps community recycling programs to effectively increase the amount and quality of collected recycled materials. CTRA's impact on recycling efforts in Texas has been substantial. From November 1995 through 2016, CTRA's members has generated over \$9,283,698 in revenue for these communities as well as saved over 396,879 yards of landfill space and \$3,931,770 in landfill fees! As an outstanding business leader CRTA continuously promotes new programs and with groups across the nation and in Canada providing advice on establishing recycling cooperatives.

NRC's Awards Committee Chair Lisa Skumatz commented on CTRA's achievements saying, "Cooperation is vital to make recycling viable for rural communities, and the CTRA has done a fantastic job using the combined abilities of its members to provide a recycling support network across rural Texas."



Rachel Hering, Executive Director with CTRA Board Members Mick Barry (left) and Dave Keeling (right)