



# RECYCLING CONNECTIONS

## 2025 Highlights

### Think Outside The Trash

- Waste Reduction
- Compost Education
- Near Zero Waste Events
- Solid Waste Consultation
- Reuse & Recycling
- Outreach

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Contact Us



[www.RecyclingConnections.org](http://www.RecyclingConnections.org)



## **A Note from the Executive Director...**

What a year it has been for Recycling Connections. We tried new things, kept good things going, formed new relationships, and advanced our impact in preventing and diverting waste to landfill.

Our Near Zero Waste Program and Group Compost Bin Purchase Programs continue to be our keystone services offered at Recycling Connections. The impact of these programs grew in 2025. Read about the impacts below. With a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin, we launched a Community Pumpkin Smash Event that was more like a festival! It was a lot of fun and we hope to have this become a new tradition in Stevens Point. With this grant, we also re-established a Home Composting Demonstration Site in Stevens Point. Working with Golden Sands RC&D, it is located at the Community Garden near Mead Park. I hope you check it out in 2026!

We proudly formed a new partnership serving as the fiscal sponsor for the newly formed Wisconsin Composting Council. Before the end of the year, this group officially received US Composting Council Chapter Status. We look forward to supporting this group and watching the composting industry grow in Wisconsin.

And our newest resource, *Digging In: A Backyard Composting Guide*, is proving popular. We are proud of this resource that arms home composters with a tool for success in food waste diversion and becoming soil building crusaders.

We value all our partners at Recycling Connections and look forward to what is to come in 2026.

Sincerely,  
Susan Schuller

**Stay in touch with us! Sign-up for our quarterly e-newsletter - *Thinking Outside the Trash***

## Near Zero Waste Events



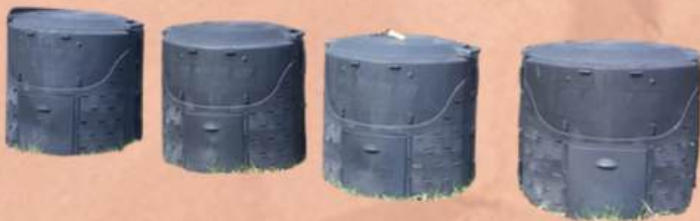
We provided reusables for 21 events, diverting over 4,700 single-use plastic items from the landfill.

We composted over 600 pounds of material from small gatherings and large events, made possible due to our partnership with Bucket Ruckus.

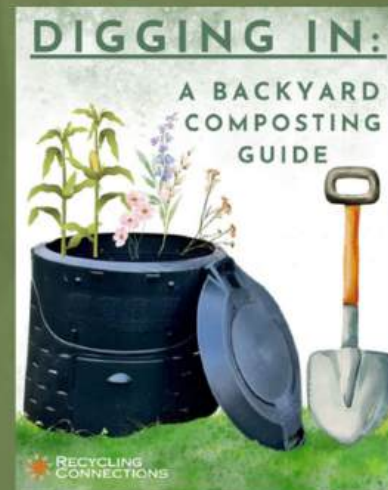


## Group Compost Bin Purchase Program

We partnered with 28 communities across 8 states through the Group Compost Bin Purchase Program providing 2,610 compost bins and 616 kitchen pails!



Over 25,000 compost bins have been sold since the beginning of this program.



We also published a "Digging In: A Guide for Backyard Composting". Available for download on our website **FOR FREE!**

# Community Outreach & Events

Recycling Connections had 18 exhibiting and presenting events. Some of which were:

- WI Integrated Resource Management Conference
- Tap Talk partnering with Golden Sands RC&D
- Non-Profit Meet Up Hosts
- Boston School Forest's Earth Day Celebration
- Discover Downtown Tabling Event
- Levitt Amp Booth with Golden Sands RC&D
- Stevens Point Block Party
- UWSP Eco Fair
- Garden Parade of Homes for Master Gardeners
- Wellness & Farm to School Summit Presentation
- Stevens Point Happenings Family Event
- UWSP Sustainability Fair
- Aspiris Webinar

**350  
Direct  
Reaches**



Top Image: Rylee Mullikin & Michelle Nieuwenhuis exhibit at the Stevens Point Block Party. Photo credit to O&B Photo Co.  
Bottom Image: Susan Schuller presenting at the January Tap Talk at Central Waters Brewery.

## Social Media Outreach

In 2025 we increased our Facebook presence to **1.2K followers** and our Instagram to **286 followers**. We're so thankful for each and every one of you.



We create a social media campaign with tips and tricks for keeping your school year low waste.



Like Us, Follow Us, Share Us!

Recycling Connections received a grant in 2025 from the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. By teaming up with Bucket Ruckus and Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development, we were able to organize Stevens Point's first community pumpkin smash, as well as, a compost bin demonstration site.



Our Pumpkin Smash was a SMASHING success. There were several activities for smashing pumpkins such as a pumpkin slingshot, baseball bat, pumpkin bowling, and a pumpkin drop. 2,759 pounds of pumpkins were diverted from the landfill. We saw attendance of over 100 people throughout our 3 hour event.

**Thank you to Bucket Ruckus, Golden Sands RC&D, Metro Market, Feltz Dairy, Stevens Point Co-op, Children's Museum, our exhibitors, volunteers, and all who donated pumpkins or came to smash them.**



## **Compost Bin Demo Site**



Our compost bin demonstration site is located at the Community Garden next to Mead Park and includes a Geobin, a tumbler system, a Home Composter, and a 3 bin system made by Recycling Connections and Golden Sands RC&D.

This beautiful Schmeckle sign made in the 1990's was found and refurbished.



## School Gardens

RC serves as the Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools' Focus Area Contact for Waste Management & Recycling. This year they installed two school gardens at PJ Jacobs Middle School & Madison Elementary. These gardens are part of a 3-year program, funded by the City of Stevens Point Public Utilities to install rain or prairie gardens at local schools. This year, 1,200 native plants were planted at schools.



**PJ Jacobs School's  
Rain Garden  
Installed May 28th, 2025**

**1,000  
Native Plants**



**Madison Elementary's  
Rain Garden  
Installed June 24th, 2025**

## Providing Industry Support Through Partnerships

- Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW)
- Solid Waste Association of North America - Badger Chapter (SWANA- BC)
- Marathon County Solid Waste Department (MCSWD)
- Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA)
- Wisconsin Composting Council (WCC)
- Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC)



At the Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference, Recycling Connections won the 2025 award for Outstanding Achievement in Education.

Staff from left to right: Kelly Adlington, Susan Schuller, Michelle Nieuwenhuis, & Rylee Mullikin.



## Board of Directors



**Jennifer McNelly** - President  
**Alex Thomas** - Vice President  
**Angie Hauer** - Treasurer / Secretary  
**Brandon Knudtson** - Director  
**Dave Barbier** - Director  
**Katie Gonzalez-Martin** - Director  
**Kenzie Luterbach** - Director

Staff and Board of Directors at our BOD Retreat held on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Schmeekle Reserve.

## Staff

Susan Schuller - Executive Director  
Michelle Nieuwenhuis - Program Director  
Rylee Mullikin - Program Coordinator  
Kelly Adlington - Project Specialist

## Contact information

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