



**RECYCLING
CONNECTIONS**

2024 Highlights



**RECYCLING
CONNECTIONS**

1100 Main Street, Suite 130
Stevens Point, WI



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



Contact Us



www.RecyclingConnections.org



A Note from the Executive Director

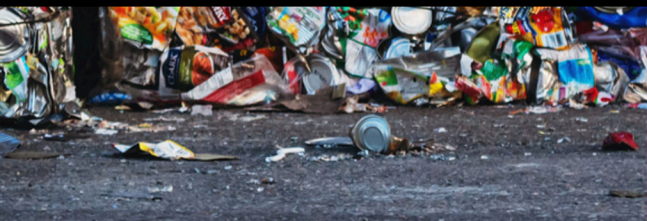
This year, we said farewell to our leader of 32 years, Karin Sieg. Karin led the organization through many phases, laying the solid foundation for the impactful work we continue today. What started as an idea in 1980, conceived by a group of conservation volunteers in Stevens Point, has grown into a thriving organization with a deep commitment to sustainability.

In this report, you will find several highlights on the accomplishments of 2024 including:

- **A New Office Space:** We've moved to the office next door providing an additional 300 square feet of space. This new area allows us to hold small meetings and store more compost bins and pails to better serve our community.
- **Expanded Near Zero Waste Services:** We've expanded our Near Zero Waste Services by introducing a FREE Party Kit and Event Planning Guide. This year, we served 18 events, helping divert 6,466 single-use items from the landfill and compost over 900 lbs of waste.
- **Group Compost Bin Program:** Our Group Compost Bin Program, which began in the 1990s, served 35 communities across 7 states this year.
- **School Gardens Program:** Our school gardens program continues to grow. This year, we installed two new gardens at local schools, educating students about conservation, soil health, and composting.
- **Mattress Recycling Pilot Event:** With the help of leveraged funds, we successfully piloted a Mattress Recycling Event in Stevens Point, diverting 218 mattresses from landfills.
- **Professional Development for Wisconsin Industry:** In partnership with industry associations in Wisconsin, we launched a professional development course specifically designed for Wisconsin industry professionals. The course is self-guided and available at <https://learn.wcswma.org>.

I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such a dedicated and passionate team. The progress we've made is a testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved. Enjoy these highlights and thank you for your continued interest and support in our small but mighty non-profit organization.

Sincerely,
Susan Schuller



Near Zero Waste Events



We launched our Party Kit this year!

We provided reusables for 18 events, diverting 6,466 single-use plastic items from the landfill.



We composted 900 pounds of material from large events, made possible due to our partnership with Bucket Ruckus.

Our Near Zero Waste Events served an estimated 12,315 people this year. From graduation parties to conventions to garden parties. We help events reduce waste and impact.

Free Downloadable Near Zero Waste Guide
Downloaded by 24 people



Community Outreach Events & Presentations

14 Exhibiting and Presenting Events, including:

- WI Integrated Resource Management Conference
- Bucket Ruckus Anniversary
- AIG Staff Training Composting Workshop
- Boston School Forest's Earth Day
- UWSP Eco Fair
- Midwest Renewable Energy Fair
- Garden Parade of Homes for Master Gardeners
- Stevens Point Happenings Family Event
- UWSP Sustainability Fair
- Lion's Convention
- 4 Webinars



MaKayla Galecki & Michelle Nieuwenhuis at Boston School Forest's Earth Day Event

Group Compost Bin Purchase Program

We partnered with 35 communities across 7 states through the Group Compost Bin Purchase Program providing 2,160 compost bins and 269 kitchen pails!

Over 23,500 compost bins have been sold since the beginning of this program.



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 Point of Discovery School & McKinley 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.



**Point of Discovery School's
Rain Garden
Installed May 16th, 2024**



**McKinley Elementary's
Rain Garden
Installed May 23rd, 2024**

**1,200
Native Plants**

Mattress Recycling Event



On May 25th, we coordinated a community mattress recycling event collecting 218 mattresses, saving approximately 4,883 cubic feet of landfill space.

Generous support from: Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin, City of Stevens Point, The Aldo Leopold Audubon Society, Bucket Ruckus, Bound to Happen Books. Portage County Solid Waste, and UWSP Office of Sustainability.

Social Media Outreach

923 likes 1.1K followers

We increased our Facebook presence to 923 likes and 1.1K followers! Our Instagram has 251 followers.

Like Us, Follow Us, Share Us!



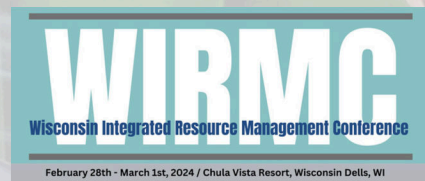
Colby the Grumpy Recycling Cat was a social media campaign to help bust recycling myths and countdown to America Recycles Day in 2024.

Our New Space

In June we moved...to the office next door! Visit Us!



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 County Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA)
- Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC)

Solid Waste & Recycling 101 in Wisconsin



In partnership with AROW, SWANA-WI Badger Chapter, & WCSWMA, we created a new online professional development course for the industry. In total, 14 registrants completed the course and 5 people joined the tour of Outagamie County MRF and Landfill.

Testimony: "I liked that it gave a collective view of waste management. Everyone comes into this with a different vantage point depending on the specific industries they're involved with, but it's important that we all have the broader, shared concept of waste management in mind. There's too much interconnectedness in the field for everyone to only focus on our own specific disciplines as if they're mutually exclusive."

Our Board of Directors

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



Celebrating Karin Sieg's Leadership of 32 Years



Rylee joins us just in time for Project North Festival

Staff

Susan Schuller – Executive Director
Michelle Nieuwenhuis – Program Director
Makayla Galecki – Zero Waste Coordinator
(through August)
Rylee Mullikin – Program Coordinator
Kelly Adlington – Project Specialist

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