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CONTACT: Aaron Pickus, aaron@pickuscommunications.com

Earth Day Celebrated by Washington's Recycling Industry

WA recycling rate is 49%, 32% above the national average

The WA recycling & waste reduction industry is 4.1x carbon net zero when accounting for materials successfully recycled or composted

WA State is working to divert 75% of organics from landfills by 2030, resulting in 552,000 fewer tons of greenhouse gas emissions

WASHINGTON – Today the state's regulated waste reduction and recycling industry joined the communities that it serves to celebrate the shared value of environmental stewardship on Earth Day 2024. The Washington Refuse & Recycling Association (WRRRA), representing large and small companies across the state, affirmed the contributions of all residents to increase Washington's recycling rate, reduce waste and lower carbon emissions to protect the planet.

"We cannot take clean water, clear air, wild green places and the natural beauty of our home for granted," **said Brad Lovaas, executive director of the WRRRA.** "On this Earth Day, we thank residents for their commitment to recycling. Our state's curbside pick-up system is the foundation of the partnership between all residents working to reduce waste and the complex industry required after a bin is picked up to find a new use for used material. We look forward to continuing to increase recycling in Washington, reduce waste and protect a healthy planet for future generations."

Quick Facts About Waste Reduction & Recycling in WA

- About 14,700 workers employed in solid waste and recycling industry to drive trucks, sort materials, oversee landfills and much more.
- Average household's monthly bill for curbside recycling service is \$8-10 (or 35 cents per day), supporting an average of 8 monthly pickups for bins for trash (4), recycling (2) and organics (2), offering reliable service unique to local needs.
- 87% of WA residents have access to curbside service and those who don't may access 108 dropbox locations in their communities

Statewide Opportunities to Increase Recycling

- Expand requirements for recycled content, building on a 2021 groundbreaking Washington law that requires certain packaging contain a minimum amount of recycled content.

- Show truth in labeling by standardizing labeling to avoid confusion and misinformation, making it easier for consumers to sort items into the right bins, reducing recycling contamination.
- Greater producer accountability so that packaging manufacturers will demonstrate a greater commitment to reducing waste and increasing the recyclability of the materials being introduced into our state.

The WRRRA strongly supports the use of data for determining the best statewide and local investments for reducing waste and increasing recycling, advocating for a statewide needs assessment to directly inform Washington's next investments to further increase the recycling rate.

About the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association

The [Washington Refuse & Recycling Association](#) (WRRRA) represents solid waste companies and professionals in Washington State. Our mission is to promote environmentally and economically sustainable solid waste and recycling services within our state's regulatory system. The WRRRA is a partnership with the public in pursuit of environmental stewardship through recycling and reducing waste.

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