

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 24, 2024

CONTACT: Aaron Pickus, [aaron@pickuscommunications.com](mailto:aaron@pickuscommunications.com)

## **WA Recycling, Waste Reduction Industry Honors Steve Wulf With Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Steve Wulf has served as a Manager at Sunshine Disposal and Recycling for 15 years, part of his 30 years of professional industry experience*

*WA recycling rate is 49%, 50% above the national average*

SPOKANE – Today the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association announced Steve Wulf as its 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the waste reduction and recycling industry in Washington State. Wulf has served as a Manager with Sunshine Disposal and Recycling for the past 15 years, part of his 30 years of professional experience in the industry.

“We all benefit from leaders in our industry who contribute not just to the advancement of their specific workplace, but also the entire state as a whole,” **said Brad Lovaas, executive director of the Washington Refuse & Recycling Association.** “I am deeply grateful for Steve’s professional contributions to the industry and his wise counsel through the years as we have worked together to further strengthen our industry’s partnership as environmental stewards.”

Steve’s industry experience and expertise has been vital to both Sunshine Disposal & Recycling success here in Washington and beyond our state borders. Steve is an engineer but has turned his industry experience towards Government Affairs and Community Relations over the last decade. Steve worked previously with WM. WRRRA has been a frequent recipient of Steve’s participation, experience, and expertise as we have navigated increasingly complex industry issues and challenges. Steve lifelong commitment is representative of the people who have dedicated the majority or the entirety of their working careers to serving the communities of Washington State.

### **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.

###