



# Recycling Coalition of WV, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Hampshire County resident honored for recycling efforts

Hampshire County resident Katherine Mariska has been honored as a Recycling Champion by the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia for her important contributions to recycling education in the Mountain State.

Mariska teaches at Romney Elementary in Hampshire County and encourages her students to embrace environmental stewardship. In October, her class buried a school breakfast and dug it up on Earth Day the following spring. Once the students witnessed how unchanged the plastic fork, juice cup and straw were, the class stopped using single-use items and started composting food waste.

The class takes part in the West Virginia Climate Change Professional Development program and learns how to recycle paper, plastic and cardboard. In addition, Romney Elementary students have collected over 236 pounds of plastic film for the Trex School Challenge.

During her personal time, Mariska takes school materials to local recycling centers in Hampshire County and Cumberland Maryland. She recently installed a compost pallet system with the help of community and school volunteers. She and her students collect scrap food from the cafeteria, grass clippings from the community and coffee grounds from a local coffee shop. The compost is then used in the school's raised garden beds to provide hands-on learning. Leading by example, Mariska frequently rides her bike to work.

Mariska's philosophy is that taking care of the environment is not a single act or project with tidy hours, but includes the choices we make and actions we take each day. The daily actions of her class help to enrich garden soil, reduce our single-use plastic waste and lead the wider school community to make better choices.

The Recycling Coalition, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Solid Waste Management Board and the state's 50 solid waste authorities, regularly honors Recycling Champions who reach beyond their normal responsibilities to contribute time and service to support the recycling industry in West Virginia. These Recycling Champions provide recycling leadership across the state and make a significant contribution to the recycling community.

The Recycling Coalition is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to promote the effective and sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling of materials otherwise destined for disposal.

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### Contributing Members

Harrison County SWA	Association of WV Solid Waste Authorities Michael Grunau	Goodwill Industries of Kanawha Valley Inc. Lisa Layden	WV Solid Waste Management Board Mark Holstine Jayne Ann Arthur Paul Hayes Brittany Cummings	WV Dept. of Environmental Protection Thomas Aluise Niki Davis Annette Hoskins Lisa Facemyer	Brooke County SWA
Kanawha County SWA					Wetzel County SWA
Taylor County SWA	WV Dept. of Education Jennifer Schwertfeger	WV Cashin' Recyclables, Inc. Gary Walker			Tyler County SWA
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Roane County SWA	Putnam County SWA	Waste Management	WV Beverage Association		Lincoln County SWA
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