



Leaders in Resource Renewal

*A non-profit association that provides statewide proactive leadership on waste reduction and recycling through education, advocacy, collaboration, programs and services.*

## For Immediate Release

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## AROW Honors Recycling and Waste Reduction Efforts Throughout Wisconsin at Annual Awards Ceremony

**Stevens Point, WI (March 7, 2019)** – The Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) proudly held their annual awards ceremony last week at the 2019 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference ([www.wirmc.org](http://www.wirmc.org)) in Stevens Point, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center. The ceremony, held on February 28th, recognized individuals and organizations for outstanding work in the field of recycling and waste reduction.

This year AROW gave out a total of four awards and two certificates of recognition.

“AROW always looks forward to honoring those working hard in our industry. This year’s recipients clearly demonstrate the strength of recycling in Wisconsin with achievements in private industry as well as education,” said Meleesa Johnson, AROW’s President. “AROW is the voice for recycling and waste reduction in Wisconsin and we are proud to recognize these individuals and groups.”

The recipient of the prestigious **Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year Award** was Brian Jongetjes, President of Johns Disposal Service located in Franksville, WI. This recognition is given to an individual whose career demonstrates the highest professional standards. Brian Jongetjes has been a leader in the waste and recycling industry for several decades. Brian, along with his brother and business partner Ron, have advocated for single-stream recycling, and automated waste and recycling collection, since the 1990s.

Brian has always looked for ways to educate communities on recycling. He has consistently stressed the importance of specifically educating the municipalities and other customers in which Johns Disposal hauls waste and recycling.

Brian has served the industry in a variety of capacities. In 2005 he was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle to assist in developing a strategy for managing Wisconsin’s waste materials, and to report on the generation, recovery, reuse or disposal of waste in our state as part of the Governor’s Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal. Brian also served as co-chair of AROW’s Glass Taskforce which identified issues and possible solutions for glass recycling.

Brian, and Johns Disposal at large, was instrumental in passing the “Slow Down To Get Around” legislation passed in 2013, protecting solid waste and recycling workers in Wisconsin. Wisconsin served as a model template and today 23 states have passed the legislation.

The **Outstanding Achievement in Recycling Award** is awarded to an individual or group that has excelled in their recycling program. This award was given to 7 Rivers Recycling, of Onalaska, WI, for their outstanding achievement with mattress recycling in Wisconsin, their commitment to its continued growth and success, and their connection to the local community.

7 Rivers Recycling, Wisconsin’s only mattress recycler, began recycling mattresses in 2014 in fulfillment of the La Crosse County vision to get mattresses out of the landfill and recycled. The process 7RR uses to separate the