

# ISRI: The Voice of the Recycling Industry™

As the “Voice of the Recycling Industry™,” the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI), serves its membership through education and advocacy concerning the issues that define the scrap recycling industry: economic expansion, job creation, environmental protection, energy savings, and safety.

A Washington, DC based trade association, ISRI represents more than 1,300 private, for-profit companies operating at more than 4,000 facilities in the United States and 34 countries worldwide. **ISRI members are processors, brokers, and industrial consumers of scrap commodities, including ferrous and nonferrous metals, paper, electronics, rubber, plastics, glass and textiles. ISRI’s associate members include both equipment and service providers for the scrap recycling industry.**

ISRI is the voice of a multi-billion dollar industry dedicated to strengthening the economy, protecting the environment, and providing a safe workplace for the estimated 156,000 men and women it employs. ISRI members range from small local businesses to multinational corporations. No matter the size, they all make significant contributions to their local, state, federal, and global economies.

Despite the current global economic uncertainty, the scrap recycling industry remains strong. In fact, in 2017 alone, more than 130 million metric tons of scrap metal, paper, plastic, glass, textiles, rubber, and electronics were manufactured into specification grade commodities by the scrap recycling industry in the United States. As one of the oldest green industries and the first link in the manufacturing supply chain, scrap recycling has been a key contributor to the U.S. economy, global trade, and resource sustainability, generating \$117 billion in economic activity in 2017.

ISRI assists its member companies with a wide variety of products and services designed to help them run better, cleaner, safer, and more profitable operations. First and foremost, ISRI believes that all members’ operations should be carried out “Safely, or Not at All.” To that end, the association provides a vast array of services for members ranging from OSHA compliance guidance to the design of a customized safety blueprint that is fashioned at the member’s facility by one of ISRI’s Safety professionals. ISRI leads the industry in the production and distribution of training materials designed to improve the safety and operations of the scrap industry.

ISRI also provides extensive compliance guidance to assist members comply with federal and international laws and regulations pertaining to the environment, shipping and transportation, licensing, and other key areas affecting their businesses.

Implementation of RIOS™ — the Recycling Industry Operating Standard™ — is also a major focus for ISRI. RIOS™ is the only recycling industry-specific integrated quality, environmental, health, and safety management system and seeks to provide consumers with the same assurances of compliance that they have come to expect from programs like ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and the OSH 18000 standards. R2/RIOS™ is the premium standard for electronics recyclers.

ISRI also publishes the Scrap Specifications Circular, which for nearly 90 years has provided specifications for hundreds of grades of scrap designed to ensure consistency and standardization for the worldwide sale and purchase of scrap commodities.

ISRI provides continuing education and training for its members through forums, seminars, workshops, commodity roundtables, publications, and an annual convention, the world’s largest annual scrap recycling exposition.

Among its many services, ISRI promotes public awareness of the value and importance of recycling to the production of the world’s goods and services, along with the positive environmental benefits derived from scrap recycling. As part of this effort, ISRI advocates on behalf of the industry before the U.S. Congress, federal and state agencies, state governments, and international bodies to help ensure the free and fair trade of scrap commodities globally. ISRI also educates the public about how the scrap recycling industry is uniquely positioned to meet the challenges of today’s world — a leading economic engine for the world providing real solutions that help protect and sustain the earth’s environment.



Institute of  
Scrap Recycling  
Industries, Inc.

