

KRC Timeline

1985: KRC started as a **program of the Knoxville Food Cooperative** to primarily fight a proposed waste incinerator. David Wasserman, a member of the Co-op, founded the organization as the Inter-Cooperative Action Project.

The Inter-Cooperative Action Project started **first recycling drop-off center** in Knoxville started behind the Co-op on Broadway. The center accepted glass, cans, plastic, and newspaper. This operation ran from 1985-1997.

1989: KRC operated a **pilot recycling program** at the Carter Convenience Center in East Knox County. This effort showed that interest in recycling existed, and influenced the county to extend recycling to their other centers.

The organization officially became the **Knoxville Recycling Coalition**.

1990: KRC started the **Office Paper Recycling Service** as a joint venture with Rock-Tenn Recycling. This service provided white paper and computer paper recycling in offices in Knoxville and the surrounding area. Two of the first customers for this service were the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. KRC continues to offer this recycling service to over 200 businesses in the area.

KRC Director David Wasserman served on the Solid Waste Task Force, which was set up by Mayor Victor Ashe to set up waste reduction goals for the city.

1992: KRC published the **Recycled Products Guide**, a booklet detailing where to buy recycled-content products. KRC received grants from the National Association of Purchasing Managers (NAPM), TVA, and the City of Knoxville to produce this guide.

1993: Beginning of KRC's **Recycling Hotline**, which provided 24-hour recycling information for area citizens.

1994: KRC helped to begin **The Living Quilt Garden**. This garden was an organic garden at the former World's Fair site that was established to honor the memory of people who died from AIDS. KRC partnered with Community Shares, AIDS Response Knoxville, and South Doyle High School Green Cross Club on this project.

KRC opened a **demonstration compost site** on the former World's Fair site.

1995: KRC starts a **Recycling to Build Community** initiative, which was a joint venture of the Corporation for National Service and the National Recycling Coalition. KRC utilized an Americorps worker to aid this project in increase

KRC's grassroots recycling effort.

1996: With the help of Knox County, KRC ran a **demonstration cardboard recycling program** for small businesses.

KRC partnered with the National Association of Plastic Container Recyclers (NAPRCOR) to demonstrate PET plastic recycling using **reverse-vending machines**.

1997: KRC began **aluminum can recycling** at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

KRC began **aluminum can recycling service** to area businesses after Ronald McDonald House dropped their aluminum can recycling program.

KRC's **website** came online.

KRC converts the recycling center at the Co-op to a **center specializing in hard-to-recycle items**, such as Styrofoam peanuts and egg cartons.

1998: KRC opened the **Waste Exchange**, a program that accepted and redistributed reusable but non-recyclable materials from local businesses. EPA funds were utilized to start this program. This program ran 1998 until 2001, when the program ended due to lack of funding.

1999: KRC saw the creation of the now famous **Purple Paper Eater**, which is our purple truck that goes around town to collect paper for recycling. This big purple truck has painted eyes and teeth and is recognized all over the area as a recycling symbol.

KRC began assisting with **Earth Fest**, Knoxville's Earth Day celebration.

2000: KRC collected and submitted petitions to the Knoxville City Council for support of **curbside recycling**.

2004: KRC began **plastic recycling program** at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

2005: KRC conducted the first **Homeowner Confidential Paper Collection Event**.

KRC hired its first **Community Program Manager**.

KRC held its **open house event** at the new office on Sutherland Avenue.

2006: KRC introduced its **newly redesigned website** which contains the comprehensive recycling information for Knoxville and the surrounding area found.

KRC publishes its first ever **Annual Recycling Guide**, which provides comprehensive recycling information for residents.