

## **2021 NRCM Conservation Leadership Awards**

Thank you for those kind words. To say I'm honored is a huge understatement. As we all know - the NRCM has been leading the charge here in Maine, with their focus, vision, and effort - fighting for critical environmental protections with unmatched professionalism, integrity and energy. So to even be considered by this group of individuals whom I so admire, much less to receive this award - it's such an incredible honor.

First, I want to thank my family for supporting the GoGo dream. This business and this mission are certainly a family affair. And to the GoGo team - none of this would be possible without you.

Our motto here at GoGo is "Think big, Start small." We believe in the power of individual action to create change. Our refilling community has managed to refuse over 50K single-use plastic packages since we opened 2 years ago. But we know that in the face of the climate crisis we need a multi-pronged approach. We need the effort of individuals changing habits and creating the circular economy, but we also need regulation to hold corporations accountable for their impact. That's why working with Sarah Nichols and Chrissy Adamowicz on the EPR for packaging bill was such a privilege. They both are so impressive, so energetic, and always had an answer to my questions about the law - Would it go far enough? Would it be enforceable? Would it target the biggest offenders? So I want to say a huge well-done and thank you to the NRCM team for making Maine the first state to pass EPR for packaging. It still gives me goosebumps.

Congratulations to the other award recipients - I'm honored to be in such good company.

And lastly, I promise to take this award and use it to continue to do this work with enthusiasm, because - we're just getting started, there's just so much more to do. Thank you.

—Laura Marston, owner, GoGo Refill, South Portland, Maine