



## What is the Northeast Recycling Council?

The Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC) is a multi-state non-profit (501(c)(3)) organization that is committed to environmental and economic sustainability through responsible materials management. Our programs emphasize source reduction, reuse, recycling, organics management, environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), and decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream in the 11-state region comprised of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*NERC's vision is a world in which waste is minimized and natural resources are conserved.*

*Our mission is to minimize waste, conserve natural resources, and advance a sustainable economy through facilitated collaboration and action*

As an organization, NERC conducts projects that influence policy and effect change through research, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and education. We regularly implements innovative projects, frequently funded by federal and state grants. We also host and support several national and regional programs: the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse; the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse; the State Electronics Challenge; the EPPnet listserv; and the Organics Management listserv.

NERC's projects and staff often impact national dialogues, and contribute solutions to creating successful strategies for materials management.

### **DIVERSE MATERIALS STREAMS & AUDIENCES**

NERC is committed to the evolving landscape of environmental sustainability as it relates to materials management. As such, the topic areas in which NERC works are diverse, as are the stakeholders with whom it works. We deal with both traditional and unique material streams, and enjoy good working relationships with stakeholders and constituents as well as those new to materials management. Some examples of the diverse materials and constituents that NERC works with beyond traditional residential recycling streams include:

- Construction and demolition
- Electronics recycling and management
- Hospitality industry and waste reduction
- Institutional green procurement
- Organics management, including the farming community, manure management, green infrastructure, and composting
- Reuse and recycling jobs and the economy
- School waste diversion, recycling and organics
- Special waste recycling, including tires, paint and mattresses

## Activities

- Provides direct technical assistance, information, research capabilities, and networking opportunities.
- Keeps members in the forefront of developing trends and funding opportunities.
- Invites members to participate in discussions about regional policy and program implementation.
- Maintains a dynamic website that includes a myriad of resources and tools in support of source reduction, reuse, organics management, EPP, and recycling.
- Annual conferences and workshops, as well as webinars, offer in-depth information exchange, and professional presentations and discussions about emerging issues.

**Why NERC?** Recycling, organics management, green job growth and retention, and achieving zero waste goals are not just local concerns. The realities play out in the market place on regional and national levels. Trash, organics, and recyclables cross state lines, and local economies are rarely self-sufficient. NERC provides critical and substantive support for state recycling agencies and the recycling industry as well, helping them communicate and collaborate on issues driven by these marketplace realities.

NERC's Board of Directors is composed of a representative from member state recycling agency and or authorities, along with two ex officio members from the private sector. NERC also welcomes Advisory Members to join as non-voting members, thereby giving interested organizations, businesses and associations the opportunity to participate in NERC.

## **NERC is a valuable resource to the business community.**

We provide a forum for information sharing on cutting-edge issues and regional collaboration, as well as the opportunity to speak with state and local policy makers and officials.

**NERC's staff** is a substantive resource on a myriad of topics in the recycling and economic development fields. Members frequently rely on NERC staff for timely research, project development and implementation, and information support.

## **Balanced & Non-Partisan**

NERC is a unique in its commitment to developing, nurturing, and maintaining dialogues and strategic alliances with stakeholders to advance an environmentally sustainable economy. The synergy created by NERC's diverse membership and committed staff enables the organization to consider multiple perspectives on a given issue, and undertake projects and activities that benefit the Northeast and, in many cases, the entire country.

For more information, see the NERC website at [www.nerc.org](http://www.nerc.org), or contact its Executive Director, Lynn Rubinstein at [lynn@nerc.org](mailto:lynn@nerc.org), 802-254-3636