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### **Textiles Reuse & Recycling—NERC is an Expert**

Collecting used textiles is a strategy that more and more communities are using to decrease the volume of their trash and save money on disposal fees. According to the U.S. EPA, every person in the country generates approximately 82 pounds of textiles per year. EPA also estimates that only 15% of the textiles are collected for reuse or recycling. This means that 85% of used textiles are reaching the landfills and incinerators, costing each of us money and wasting resources.

Which textiles are acceptable for reuse and recycling has drastically changed over the past ten years as the textile markets have grown domestically and internationally. Textiles that can be reused or recycled now include any clothing or accessory, bedding, curtains/draperies, decorative pillows, cloth napkins, slip covers, tablecloths and runners, pet beds and clothing, and stuffed animals. And none of them have to be in 'usable' condition.

Among the services that NERC offers to support textile reuse and recycling are:

- Organizing and presenting training on textiles reuse and recycling
- Organizing and facilitating multi-stakeholder discussions about developing textiles diversion programs
- Acting as liaison between entities interested in developing textiles diversion programs and the organizations and businesses that collect textiles for reuse and recycling
- Developing key components of a textiles diversion program
- Identifying potential textile collection vendors
- Developing strategies for the placement of textiles collection bins (e.g., town ordinance)
- Identifying public and private partners to promote textile collection programs
- Developing promotional materials

For more information about what NERC's expertise in textiles reuse and recycling, contact [Mary Ann Remolador](mailto:maryann@nerc.org) ([maryann@nerc.org](mailto:maryann@nerc.org)), NERC's Assistant Director.