

ANNUAL REPORT FY2023

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



11 STATES UNITED



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LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

JOSH KELLY, VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NERC Community,

This past year was one of transitions. Sustainable materials management is becoming more recognized for its environmental impact in the space of climate. To lead the organization during a time of recycling, industry change, technological advancement, and ramping up in policy development, NERC's Board welcomed a new Executive Director, Megan Fontes.

After leading NERC for over 25 years, Lynn Rubinstein retired. She left behind a legacy of growth, connectedness between governments and industry, and substantial impact in sustainable economic development. Megan Fontes came on board in October 2022 and dove into building upon the foundation Lynn established. During her first year, she led the team through its streamlining of operations, expanding its workforce, and the launch of new events, resources, committees, partnerships, and programs. She continues to guide the team towards new opportunities to increase NERC's impact in enacting system change throughout the region and bringing diverse voices to the table.

For over 30 years, NERC ran its operations from an office in Brattleboro, VT. In June 2023, NERC closed the doors to its office to become an entirely remotely-run organization to better support its constituents across eleven states and strengthen its impact more broadly across the United States.

As we look forward, NERC will continue to explore avenues for growth and deeper impact. We are thrilled to continue to serve as a uniting force for 11 states and for organizations throughout the industry to help address recycling and sustainability challenges and achieve environmental goals for the Northeast region of the U.S.

"I am proud of the work NERC has accomplished this past year. It's through our team's strong knowledge-base and passion for promoting environmentally sustainable practices and solutions, and our robust network of industry actors, that we are able to advance conversations on critical issues in the recycling industry."

MEGAN
FONTES
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

AN OVERVIEW



PURPOSE

NERC believes in a world in which waste is minimized and natural resources are conserved. NERC works directly with state, regional, and local agencies, the private sector, trade associations, and others to help address sustainability challenges and achieve environmental goals for the Northeast region of the U.S.

APPROACH

Our goal is to bridge informational gaps and propel innovation and action forward in the spaces of technology, economic development, and policy. We do this in two ways:

1. Through our dynamic committees comprised of individuals that represent the public and private sectors, and through other projects, NERC develops valuable resources and events that provide tools and education on a variety of topics in sustainable materials management. These are produced to serve a wide range of constituents that include actors across the value chain and are made available to the public at no cost.
2. We preserve a platform for collaboration and learning across sectors through committees and conferences to advance conversations on critical issues and enact system change.

**Educational
Events**



**Cross-Sector
Collaboration**



Resources



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



NERC held 15 educational webinars spanning topics from recycling market development to food waste mitigation strategies, EPR, and automating material recovery facilities (MRFs). Over 3,000 unique individuals attended the webinars, which are provided at no cost to the public. Recordings are posted to NERC's website for others to watch. The highest number of registrants for a single webinar was 835 with the highest number of attendees, 498 (60% of registrants). The average number of registrants was 543 with an average of 303 attendees across all webinars.

| Webinar | Co-Sponsor/Host | Date |
|---|---|------------|
| NextCycle: A Model for Recycling Market Development | RRS | 8/10/2022 |
| Material Reuse Deep Dive Forum #1 | CT DEEP | 9/7/2022 |
| Solar Panel Recycling & EPR | NEWMOA | 9/20/22 |
| Plastic Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content Model Legislation | NEWMOA | 11/3/2022 |
| Material Reuse Deep Dive Forum #2 | CT DEEP | 12/6/2022 |
| Rubber Modified Asphalt Workshop | US Tire Manufacturing Association; NEWMOA | 12/8/2022 |
| Strategies for Residential Food Waste Reduction & Composting | NEWMOA | 12/13/2022 |
| Ground Glass Pozzolans | NEWMOA | 12/14/2022 |
| Gypsum Wallboard Webinar 1: Problems, Recommendations, & The Current State of Recycling | NEWMOA | 1/9/2023 |
| Gypsum Wallboard Webinar 2: Opportunities to Increase Recycling | NEWMOA | 1/24/2023 |
| Collaborative Solutions to Automate MRFs | NEWMOA | 3/16/2023 |
| EPR for Carpets | RRS | 3/28/2023 |
| Material Reuse Deep Dive Forum #3 | CT DEEP | 4/11/2023 |
| EPR for Packaging & Bottle Bill Programs: How Can They Coexist? | NEWMOA | 4/13/2023 |
| Properly Managing E-Cigarettes & Vaping Waste Streams | NEWMOA | 4/27/2023 |

RESOURCES



REPORTS

Northeast Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) Commodity Values Report

Four quarterly [Northeast MRF Commodity Values Reports](#) were released to map fluctuations in the value of commodities processed by the region's MRFs: July 2022, November 2022, February 2023, and May 2023. The educational tool is valuable for promoting improved residential recycling and participation and provides useful data for recyclers, MRFs, municipalities, and state agencies.

Recycled Glass Used as Alternative Daily Cover in the Northeast US & Quebec Report

NERC published a report developed with the NERC Glass Committee during FY2023 that reveals data about post-consumer recycled glass containers being used at landfills in the Northeast states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont) and Quebec. The purpose of the [Recycled Glass Used as Alternative Daily Cover in the Northeast US & Quebec Report](#) was to get a better understanding of the volume of recycled glass containers coming out of Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) that never reach manufacturers for making new products, but are instead used as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)—cover material placed on the surface of the active face of a municipal solid waste landfill at the end of each operating day.

RESOURCES



MODEL LEGISLATION

Minimum Postconsumer Recycled Content for Plastic Products and Packaging

NERC in collaboration with the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA) convened a working group comprised of state recycling officials from the northeast to develop a Model Minimum Postconsumer Recycled Content Requirements for Plastic Products and Packaging Legislation. The model was published in August 2022 and includes suggestions received from 36 organizations and individuals during a public comment period. The intention of the model is to serve as a tool for interested organizations and legislators to consider when examining opportunities for the use of minimum postconsumer recycled content legislation and implementation for plastics.

Minimum Postconsumer Recycled Content for Glass

In February 2023, a revised version of the Glass Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content Model Legislation was published. The purpose of the model legislation is to develop markets for post-consumer glass containers and increase the use of post-consumer glass containers in the manufacture of new beverage and food containers and fiberglass insulation. The Glass Model Legislation Work Group included brands, glass container manufacturers, fiberglass insulation manufacturers, glass recyclers/beneficiators, industry associations, distributors/retailers, haulers/material recovery facility operators, state environmental agencies, state recycling organizations, and environmental advocacy groups.

RESOURCES



PROJECTS

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Regulatory and Community Engagement Guides & Roadmap

NERC continued its work in partnership with the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA), Clean & Healthy New York, and the Connecticut Coalition for Economic and Environmental Justice on the two-year anaerobic digestion (AD) project— Developing Solutions to Regulatory Challenges and Engaging Community Support to Expand Diversion of Food Waste to Anaerobic Digestion in the Northeast. The US EPA-funded project will develop guidance and training on environmental justice engagement and regulatory compliance to support AD in communities.

Resources for Promoting & Supporting Municipal Glass Recycling Programs

In September 2022, Resources for Promoting & Supporting Municipal Glass Recycling Programs were published on NERC's website and disseminated. The resources were developed for a project funded by the USDA Solid Waste Management grant that included provision of technical assistance for two regional recycling centers in Maine. The resources include videos of the glass collection programs, marketing materials (press releases, glass recycling signs and handouts), glass collection safety posters, and safety guides.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION



BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCES

100% of survey

respondents reported that they made **new connections**

Fall 2022 Conference: The Next Frontier for the 3Rs

NERC held its Fall 2022 Conference in person on November 2-3 in Rock Hill, CT. The Conference, The Next Frontier for the 3Rs, brought together over 150 individuals from across the US and Canada to hear from speakers on topics that included food waste reduction strategies, reusable packaging systems, growing the reuse economy, repurposing materials, construction materials reuse, recycling market development, and increasing the supply of post-consumer plastics. 100% of survey respondents reported that they made new connections, and many stated the excellent quality of speakers and found the diversity of attendees and speakers most valuable. Of note, one individual specified that they found the conference focused on solutions as opposed to theory.

Spring 2023 Conference: Building a Diverse Workforce for Sustainable Materials Management

"I very much enjoyed the breakout groups where we could hear from other attendees and discuss ideas, challenges, and react to what we heard, learned, and appreciated. All the sessions were comprised of excellent speakers and Q&A discussion. The keynote was also amazing."

SPRING 2023
CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

The Spring 2023 Conference was focused on Building a Diverse Workforce for Sustainable Materials Management. The NERC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Committee developed the program for the event. Topics spanned applying equity and inclusion to hiring practices, clearing career pathways for underrepresented individuals, and creating retention strategies for an inclusive workplace. 100% found the sessions to be valuable. Survey respondents reported that they learned a lot, obtained valuable resources, and gained new contacts through virtual networking – 100% reported that the sessions were valuable.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION



COMMITTEES

NERC facilitates six active substantive committees that are comprised of state member representatives and advisory member organizations: bottle bill; chemical recycling; and diversity, equity, and inclusion; glass markets; regional recycling markets; and supply side policy.

Bottle Bill: The committee provides an opportunity for information exchange, updates on efforts to improve/expand bottle bills, the nexus between EPR and bottle bills and issues this may present, as well as other related topics. The committee will not be developing model legislation nor advocating on behalf of NERC for any specific position.

Chemical Recycling: The committee was launched in September 2022 in collaboration with NEWMOA to provide information to primarily state agency representatives about emerging chemical recycling technologies, efficacy and impact, relevant terminology, and its relationship to mechanical recycling. The goal for the committee is to learn from experts in the field and from existing resources to better assess how to move forward with related state policies and regulations.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I): The committee was convened by the NERC Board to work formally and actively to embed DE&I into its operations, mission, and values. The first charge was to develop a mission statement. The second was to develop the program for the NERC Spring 2023 Conference.

Glass: The goal of the committee is to better understand the recycled glass value chain and gaps in the region, and to promote greater diversion of glass containers to the highest-value end uses. Some of the recent projects conducted by the Glass Committee include the development of a minimum recycled content model legislation and a recycled glass used as alternative daily cover in the Northeast & Quebec report.

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION



“NERC is a proven champion for stronger recycling systems in the Northeast and that's why we are a proud member. From market analyst to events to commodity-specific work, we look to NERC to have the finger on the pulse of what matters in the region.”

Keefe Harrison
CEO, The Recycling Partnership

COMMITTEES

Regional Recycling Market Development: This NERC and NEWMOA joint committee pursues a number of projects to support and expand recycling markets in the NERC 11-state region. The Chair, Chaz Miller, Ex Officio on NERC’s Board, authors and presents a monthly Markets Report that is available to NERC members. The report charts historical pricing for eight materials: OCC, RMP, nHDPE, cHDPE, PET, PP, aluminum cans, and steel cans—providing an analysis that describes the probable causes for trends. The report also includes the following components: revenue updates for hauler and recycling organizations; new recycled content capacity; paper and plastic export trends; and paper and plastic outlooks and projections.

Supply Side Policy: convened in January 2023 with the goal to increase the supply of post-consumer residential recyclables to the marketplace by exploring different supply-side strategies and to compose a policy guide. The policy guide is intended to be a resource tool and a complementary document to the Glass Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content Model Legislation and the Minimum Postconsumer Plastic Recycled Content Model Legislation. The Committee is Chaired by Shannon Crawford, Director Recycling & Environmental Policy, WM.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS



NERC recognizes leaders in environmental sustainability every year. In its sixth awards ceremony in fall 2022, NERC honored five organizations for their dedication to NERC's mission as Benefactor Members, one individual with a lifetime achievement award, and one organization for its impact in organics recycling.

Impact in Organics Recycling: Vanguard Renewables

Through its network of hauling partners, anaerobic digesters, food waste partners, family farms and Organics Recycling Facilities, Vanguard Renewables has enabled hundreds of businesses across New England to recycle over 600,000 tons of organic waste into valuable, renewable fuel source for local communities.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Terri Goldberg, Executive Director, NEWMOA

Terri Goldberg was awarded for her outstanding leadership and contributions to recycling and materials management, as well as for her significant collaboration with NERC.

Benefactor Awards

The Benefactor Awards were distributed to organizations who have demonstrated their commitment to NERC's mission through their support and membership.

Coca-Cola

Consumer Technology Association (CTA)

Panasonic

Samsung

WM

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)

NERC and [NEWMOA](#) operate in similar geographic regions and involve many of the same state agencies. Both organizations develop and implement sustainable materials management and pollution prevention strategies. A [Joint Strategic Action Plan](#) was established for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, outlining priorities for both organizations as well as collaboration opportunities. Implementation activities focused on grants coordination, food recovery workgroup, improving markets for recyclables, increasing the use of recycled content in products, extended producer responsibility (EPR) network, climate change & materials management workgroup, emerging contaminants in the solid waste stream, household hazardous waste (HHW) workgroup, chemical recycling committee, construction & demolition (C&D) materials workgroup, and more.

National Center for Recycling Electronics (NCER)

NERC has partnered with the [NCER](#) to serve as the fiscal agent for the [Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse \(ERCC\)](#), providing administrative and financial management support. ERCC provides a forum for information exchange among state agencies implementing electronics recycling laws and all impacted stakeholders. NCER administers ERCC programs.

Vermont E-Waste Recycling Program

NERC continues to serve as the in-state administrator for the [Vermont state E-Waste Recycling Program](#), facilitated by NCER.

RecycleCT

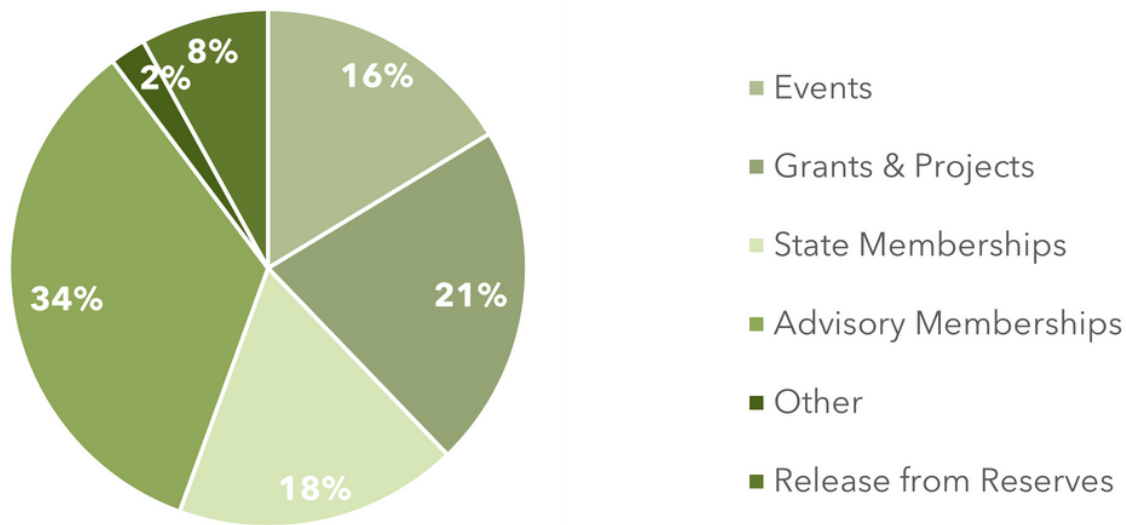
NERC renewed its contract with RecycleCT Foundation to serve as its fiscal agent and Board Secretary, and provide assistance in ensuring state requirements are met.

FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

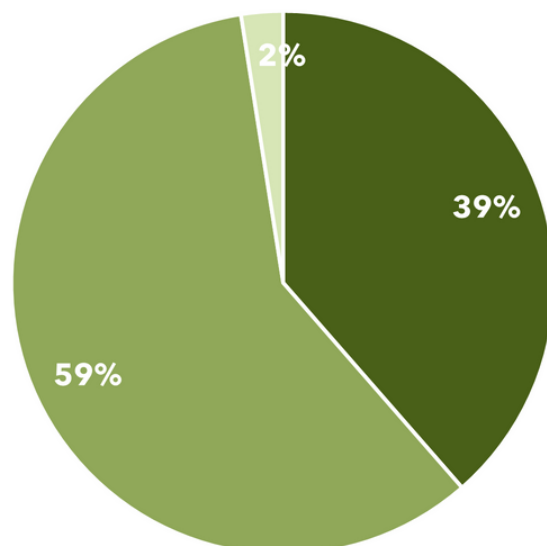
REVENUES

Cash was released from reserves to cover the cost of the executive search and recruitment of a new Executive Director.



EXPENSES

- Administration
- Programs
- Fundraising



BOARD

Executive Committee

- Josh Kelly, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
President
- Megan Mansfield-Pryor, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Vice President
- Richard Watson, Delaware Solid Waste Authority
Treasurer
- Megan Fontes, Executive Director
Secretary

Directors

- Chris Nelson, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- Bradley Baker, Maryland Department of the Environment
- Brooke Nash, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Erin Jensen, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Michael Nork, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- Jared Rhodes, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

Ex-Officio Directors

- Resa Dimino, Resource Recycling Systems
- Chip Foley
- Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority
- Chaz Miller, Maryland Recycling Network

To view our current Board of Directors, visit Nerc.org/About-Nerc/Board.

TEAM



Lynn Rubinstein
Executive Director



Megan Fontes
Executive Director



Mary Ann Remolador
Assistant Director
& Event Organizer



Robert Kropp
Office Manager
& Bookkeeper

NERC's programs are supported and delivered by a dedicated team of professionals. To view our current team, visit Nerc.org/About-Nerc/Team.

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Our members make up a large, diverse community that believes in a world in which waste is minimized and natural resources are conserved. Members are key to shaping NERC's events and priorities for discussion, training, and projects.

Addison County Solid Waste Management District
Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS)
Ag Container Recycling Council
American Beverage (Association)
American Iron & Steel Institute (AISI)
AMP Robotics
BioCycle
Blount Fine Foods
BlueTriton Brands
Bright Feeds
Carpet America Recovery Effort
Carton Council
Casella Resource Solutions
Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority
Chittenden Solid Waste District
Circular Polymers
City of Salem, MA
Coca-Cola
Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, Inc
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Container Recycling Institute
CSG/Eastern Regional Conference
Dart Containers
Delaware River & Bay Authority
Eco Products
ecomaine
EFS-plastics
Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF)
Fibre Box Association
Fire Rover, LLC
Foamcycle
GDB International
Good Point Recycling
Henkel Corporation
Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority
HW Green Company

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.(ISRI)
International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)
International Sleep Product Association
Keurig Dr. Pepper
Machinex Technologies Inc.
Maine Resource Recovery Association
Materials Innovation & Recycling Authority (MIRA)
Mattress Recycling Council
MRM
MSW Consultants
National Center for Electronics Recycling
Nestle USA
New England Biosolids & Residuals Assoc. (NEBRA)
Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA)
Northern Virginia Waste Management Board
Novamont
NYSAR3
PaintCare
Panasonic
Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center
Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS)
Pratt Industries
Product Stewardship Institute
Professional Recyclers of PA (PROP)
Quantum Biopower
RECYC-QUÉBEC
Republic Services
Resource Recycling
Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)
Responsible Purchasing Network
Re-Trac
Reverse Logistics Group (RLG)
Revolution
Rockland County Solid Waste Management
Safety Management Systems, Inc. (SMS360)
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Samsung
Scrapp
Serlin Haley
Sims Municipal Recycling
Sonoco Recycling
Southern CT Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRRA)
Strategic Materials
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI)
Sustainable Packaging Coalition (GreenBlue)
Tetra Tech
The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR)
The Recycling Partnership
TOMRA
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Urban Mining Industries LLC
US Composting Council / Composting Council Research & Education Foundation
Vanguard Renewables
Waste Management (WM)
WasteCap Resource Solutions
Yale



To view current advisory members, visit:

Nerc.org/Advisory-Members

STATE & ADVISORY MEMBERS

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

Northeast State Members

| | Bottle Bill | Chemical | DE&I | Glass | Reg. Recycling Markets | Supply Side Policies |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Connecticut (CT DEEP) |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Delaware (DSWA) | |  |  |  |  | |
| Maine (ME DEP) | |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maryland (MDE) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Hampshire (NH DES) |  |  | | |  | |
| New Jersey (NJ DEP) |  |  | |  |  |  |
| New York (NY DEC) |  | | |  |  |  |
| Rhode Island (RIRRC) |  |  | | |  | |
| Vermont (VT DEC) |  |  |  |  |  | |

STATE & ADVISORY MEMBERS

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

Advisory Members: Non-Profit, Government, and Academia

| | Bottle Bill | Chemical | DE&I | Glass | Reg. Recycling Markets | Supply Side Policies |
|--|-------------|----------|------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Addison County Solid Waste District | | | ● | | | |
| Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority | | | | | ● | ● |
| Chittenden Solid Waste District | | ● | | | ● | ● |
| City of Salem | ● | | | | | |
| Environmental Research and Education Foundation | | ● | | | | |
| GreenBlue | | ● | | ● | ● | |
| Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority | | ● | | ● | ● | |
| Northeast Resource Recovery Association | | | | ● | ● | |
| Northeast Waste Management Officials Association | | ● | | | ● | |
| RECYC-QUEBEC | ● | | | ● | ● | |
| SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry | | | | ● | ● | |
| The Recycling Partnership | | | ● | ● | | ● |
| University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | | | | | ● | |
| Yale Office of Sustainability | | | | | | ● |

STATE & ADVISORY MEMBERS

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

Advisory Members: Corporations and Associations

| | Bottle Bill | Chemical | DE&I | Glass | Reg. Recycling Markets | Supply Side Policies |
|---|-------------|----------|------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ag Container Recycling Council | | ● | | | ● | |
| American Beverage | ● | | | | | |
| Blue Triton Brands | ● | | | | | |
| Casella | ● | | | | ● | |
| Coca Cola | ● | | | | | |
| Coca Cola Beverages Northeast | | | ● | | | |
| Consumer Technology Association | | | | | ● | |
| Container Recycling Institute | ● | | | ● | | |
| EcoMaine | | | ● | | | |
| EFS Plastics | ● | | | | ● | ● |
| Fibre Box Association | | | | | ● | |
| Good Point Recycling | | | ● | | | |
| Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Keep America Beautiful | ● | | ● | | | |
| Keurig Dr. Pepper | | | | | ● | |

STATE & ADVISORY MEMBERS

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

Advisory Members: Corporations and Associations

| | Bottle Bill | Chemical | DE&I | Glass | Reg. Recycling Markets | Supply Side Policies |
|--|-------------|----------|------|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| National Waste and Recycling Association | ● | | | | | |
| Plastics Industry Association | ● | | ● | | ● | |
| Republic Services | ● | | | | ● | ● |
| Reverse Logistics Group | ● | | ● | | ● | |
| Revolution | | | ● | | | |
| Resource Recycling Systems | | | | | ● | ● |
| Strategic Materials | | | | ● | | ● |
| The Association of Plastic Recyclers | | ● | | | ● | ● |
| TOMRA | ● | | | ● | ● | ● |
| U.S. Nestle | | | | | ● | ● |
| Urban Mining | | | | ● | | |
| Vanguard Renewables | | | ● | | | |
| WM | | | | | ● | ● |

ENGAGE WITH NERC

We invite you to engage with Northeast Recycling Council in a number of ways and join our community.

Register for upcoming events at [nerc.org](https://www.nerc.org)

Sign up to receive our [monthly newsletter](#) and hear about state and industry news

Learn about what is to be a [NERC Advisory Member](#)

Follow us on social media!



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@NErecycling



@Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.



@Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)

