



139 Main Street, Suite 401 • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-2800  
802.254.3636 • 802.254.5870 fax • [www.nerc.org](http://www.nerc.org) • [info@nerc.org](mailto:info@nerc.org)

## **FY15 Annual Report**

### **July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**



*NERC's mission is to advance an environmentally sustainable economy by promoting source and toxicity reduction, recycling, and the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.*

NERC is an equal opportunity employer & provider.

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## Introduction

This fiscal year was particularly intensive for NERC as it continued to implement recommendations from the strategic planning process completed in fiscal year 2014. This included: addition of a new staff position in an associated effort to work more closely with our Advisory Members and to expand membership; the Board formed a new Development Committee and added two Ex Officio Board members; new sources of funding were explored; and, new inter-organization efforts explored. And, staff was actively engaged in the development and implementation of projects in furtherance of NERC's mission.

Staff accomplishments included:

- Completion of IL
- Completion of USDA grant
- Completion of SEC Great Lakes
- Planned and held two conferences
- Published xxx (Roy A Hunt) and secured a one-year extension
- Increased the number and status of Advisory Members
- Submitted a successful grant application to the USDA Rural Utilities Service to work in Vermont to promote food scrap reduction, recovery, and diversion
- Secured a contract with the Bennington County Regional Commission to develop recommendations for compliance with changes in the Vermont solid waste management laws, including whether to form a district or an alliance, and assistance in the development of a 5-year solid waste implementation plan.

## Organization

### ***Board of Directors***

NERC is led by a Board of Directors with representatives from the dues-paying member northeastern states, as well as two Ex Officio members. The Board is a dynamic force that guides the organization and shepherds its success.

In FY 2015 NERC's Board members were:

**Connecticut:** Robert Isner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

**Delaware:** Rick Watson, Delaware Solid Waste Authority

**Maine:** George MacDonald, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

**Massachusetts:** Greg Cooper, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**New Hampshire:** Sharon Yergeau, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

**New Jersey:** Guy Watson, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**New York:** Tom Lynch & Peter Pettit, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

**Rhode Island:** Sarah Kite-Reeves, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

**Vermont:** Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

**Ex Officio:** Chip Foley

**Ex Officio:** Chaz Miller

### ***Officers of NERC***

NERC's officers constitute the Executive Committee, which has general administrative oversight for the management of NERC and may act in lieu of the full Board of Directors between meetings. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Secretary is a non-elected position held by NERC's Executive Director.

**President** – Rick Watson, Delaware Solid Waste Authority

**Vice President** – Guy Watson, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**Treasurer** – Sarah Kite-Reeves, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

**Secretary** - Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director, NERC

### ***Staff***

NERC staff is responsible for project development and implementation, providing member services, organizing conferences, workshops, and Board Meetings, grant writing and fundraising, and the daily operation of the organization. During FY 2015, NERC staffing grew to six with the addition of a new position. Four of these positions were full-time<sup>1</sup>:

- Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director
- Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director
- Frank Hoffman, Director of Advisory Member Services & Development
- Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager
- Patricia Dillon, Program Manager
- Robert Kropp, Bookkeeper

### ***Advisory Members***

NERC encourages the public and private sectors to become involved in the organization and offers the opportunity to join as non-voting Advisory Members. The result is a broadened and strengthened organization.

During FY 2015, there were 58 Advisory Members; a 9% increase from FY 2014. A highlight was the addition of NERC's third Distinguished Benefactor Member; the Consumer Electronics Association. Overall Advisory Membership included three Distinguished Benefactors, 25 Sustaining Members, and 30 Supporting Members.

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Dillon and Mr. Kropp were part-time, hourly employees.

As is reflected in the section below about the *Implementation of the Strategic Plan*, a new full-time position was created in FY 2015 to focus on enhancing NERC's relationship to Advisory Members and expanding the number and type of Members: The Director of Advisory Member Services and Development. A Development Committee was also formed that worked closely with the Executive Director and the position of Director of Advisory Member Services to guide these efforts.

Mid-fiscal year, the benefits for each class of membership was updated, and a significant new benefit for Benefactor and Sustaining level members was introduced: Member Spotlights.

In 2015, Member Spotlights were published in the NERC Email Bulletin, website home page, and published and archived on the dedicated Advisory Member Spotlight page of the website for:

- [American Chemistry Council](#)
- [Casella Resource Solutions](#)
- [Consumer Electronics Association \(CEA\)](#)
- [ECOvanta](#)
- [Electronic Recyclers International® \(ERI\)](#)
- [Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.](#)
- [Metech Recycling](#)
- [MRM - The Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company](#)
- [Trex](#)
- [UNICOR](#)
- [UNTHA America](#)

Benefactors and Sustaining Members contribute at a higher dollar level than do Supporting Members, with Benefactors supporting NERC at the highest level. [Appendix C](#) details fiscal year 2015 Advisory Members.

## Projects & Programs

The projects and programs developed and implemented by NERC promote the mission and vision of the organization and are principally funded in four ways:

- Grants from state and federal agencies
- Dues paid by State and Advisory Members, donations from organizations and individuals, and contributions from Individual Supporters
- Contracts with entities that hire NERC to do work on their behalf – NERC's 'fee for service' program
- Program sponsorship

NERC staff are responsible for grant and project development, including project and grant submittals, responses to RFPs, and outreach for potential fee for service projects. In FY 2015, NERC staff worked on six contracts and sponsor funded projects, and five grant funded projects. Five of these projects were completed in the fiscal year, three are ongoing, and three began and will continue in future fiscal year(s).

## Fee for Service, Contract & Sponsor Funded Projects & Programs

### ***Bennington County Regional Commission Solid Waste Management Planning***

NERC was hired by the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) to work on two projects. The first was developing organizational options for implementing a 12-town Solid Waste Implementation Plan. In addition, NERC was hired to assist with an evaluation of BCRC's with draft Solid Waste Implementation Plan to assess its compliance with the Vermont Materials Management Plan and to provide an estimate for implementation costs.

**Project Manager:** [Lynn Rubinstein](#)

**Funding:** Bennington County Regional Commission

**Timeframe:** September – December 2014

### ***Best Operating Practices for Drop-Off Recycling Sites Manual & PowerPoint Presentation***

[The Illinois Recycling Association](#) with funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, awarded a contract to NERC to create a 'Best Operational Practices for Recycling Drop-off Operations' guidance document. This new resource provides information on best management practices for collecting traditional and nontraditional materials, site design recommendations, staffing options, fencing and surveillance, among other things specifically for recycling drop-off sites. The intent is to showcase a range of best management practices applicable to drop-off operations, and provide lessons and examples from which everyone can learn.

NERC also created a PowerPoint presentation and script based on the guidance document for use at trainings.

**Project Manager:** [Athena Lee Bradley](#)

**Funding:** Illinois Recycling Association

**Timeframe:** December 2013 – January 2015

### ***Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC)***

The ERCC is a forum for coordination and information exchange among the state agencies that are implementing electronics recycling laws, as well as impacted stakeholders. NERC provides administrative and financial management support, while the National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER) manages programs and the [website](#).



[Membership](#) in the ERCC consists of both voting members, who are state governments that are implementing electronics recycling laws or affiliate, and non-voting members, consisting of industry and other organizations. Membership in fiscal year 2015 included 18 state voting members, an increase of two from the previous fiscal year, and 26 Affiliate Members, an increase of four from the previous fiscal year.

#### *ERCC Program Accomplishments*

ERCC took on several significant projects during the fiscal year. These were implemented by the NCER on behalf of the ERCC:

- Hosting of a successful workshop on “*Ensuring Transparency and Sustainability under State Electronics Recycling Law Programs*” at the E-Scrap 2014 conference with approximately 60 attendees. Here we held a workshop and panel discussion covering downstream transparency and accountability. We also covered the state e-cycling laws and their sustainability.
- Continued administration of the [eCycleRegistration](#) site.  
This website enables manufacturers to register the common information on their covered products in one place, instead of separately in each state. There are currently eight states allowing the use of eCycleRegistration website for their registrations. More than 200 manufacturers have registered their information in the system.
- Held a productive ERCC Member Meeting during the E-Scrap Conference.  
Approximately 25 attendees in the room and online heard about recent activities and helped prioritize activities for the coming year.
- Represented ERCC at various conferences and meetings, including:
  - EPA Sustainable Materials Management Electronics Summit, September 2014
  - Pennsylvania CRT Summit, September 2014
  - Consumer Electronics Show, January 2015
- Executed consumer awareness surveys among several participating states. The goal of the survey was to find out what barriers, if any, consumers had with recycling, how far they were willing to travel to recycle, and what they typically do with their old electronics. The results of the surveys will be summarized in a report in FY 2016.
- Continued market share data reports program that provides discounted market research data and analysis for 14 different states on covered electronics for implementation of state law targets and registration fee levels.

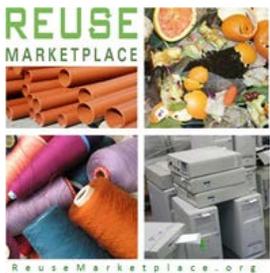
**Project Managers:** [Lynn Rubinstein](#), NERC and [Jason Linnell](#), NCER

**Funding:** ERCC Membership dues

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

## **Reuse Marketplace**

NERC launched the [Reuse Marketplace \(www.reusemarketplace.org\)](http://www.reusemarketplace.org), a regional materials exchange, in



November 2012. For two years, the site promoted reuse among businesses, government, non-profits, and institutions in the seven participant states—Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. In 2014, the participant states decided to discontinue funding for the website, as such NERC’s involvement with the site ended on December 31, 2014. Ownership of the site was then transferred to iWasteNot Systems. iWasteNot intends to upgrade the site’s software in 2016.

Accomplishments in FY 2015 included:

- Working closely with the Advisory Committee to discuss the future of the site. This resulted in the decision to discontinue funding effective December 31, 2014.
- Working closely with *iWasteNot Systems* to figure out the next steps for managing the website.
- Transitioning the website to *iWasteNot Systems* so it could take over the ownership and management of the site.

**Project Manager:** [Mary Ann Remolador](#)

**Funding:** State governments and private sector sponsors

**Timeframe:** November 2012 – December 31, 2014

### ***Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse***

NERC continued to provide administration and staffing of the [Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse \(TPCH\)](#). TPCH is a membership organization with nine state members: California, Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington. Industry Advisory Members include the Steel Recycling Institute, American Chemistry Council, and the Glass Packaging Institute.



TPCH provides outreach and technical support services to member states, coordinates implementation of state toxics in packaging programs to ensure consistency among states, and serves as the central point of contact for the regulated community. TPCH also provides research support on toxics in packaging to assist member states in assessing compliance with state laws, and provide direction for the development of outreach materials.

Beyond its core mission and administration, some highlights for TPCH in FY 2015 included:

- Launching its fifth compliance screening project using x-ray fluorescent (XRF) technology. This project focused on PVC packaging and glass bottles. Research Bulletins on the project results will be available in fall 2015.
- Redesigning its website to create a fresh look, increase navigability, add content, and improve search engine optimization.
- Creating a new logo for use on the website and other communication vehicles.
- Convened its Annual Membership Meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota.

**Project Manager:** [Patricia Dillon](#)

**Funding:** Membership dues, grants, Supplemental Environmental Projects from member states

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

## **Grant Funded Projects**

### ***Creating Healthy Communities through Food Recovery & Composting in Vermont***

The focus of this project is to work with restaurants and sports venues to implement sustainable food reduction, recovery, and composting. NERC worked to recruit and secure Jay Peak Resort in Vermont to participate in the project, and collaborated with Black Dirt Farm in Northwest Vermont to provide trainings of chefs and staff at five of the resort's restaurants. NERC held a follow-up meeting with Jay Peak staff to offer troubleshooting assistance and to discuss steps forward. A report on the program, along with recommendations for expanding the compost collection to additional restaurants and the resort condominiums and cottages was submitted to the Jay Peak administrators.

In addition, NERC began promotion of the EPA Food Recovery Challenge to Vermont haulers, solid waste districts, and hospitality establishments in order to foster recruitment in the program. NERC is also worked

with a Stowe area compost operation to recruit hospitality businesses in the area to participate in food scrap composting.

Several NERC Email Bulletins and Blogs were published about the project:

- [NERC Receives EPA Healthy Communities Grant](#)
- [Vermont Resort Implements Food Scrap Composting](#)
- Blog - [USDA Delivers on Ways to Prevent Food Waste](#) promoted USDA/EPA Food Waste Challenge
- Blog - [International Compost Week](#) provided an overview of the Food Recovery Challenge benefits and a hyperlink to the website.

**Project Manager:** Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

**Funding source:** U.S. EPA Region 1 (New England)

**Timeframe:** October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016

### ***Rural and Small Town Organics Management***

This project focused on implementation of best management practices for organics and disaster debris in rural and small towns and solid waste districts in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont to develop strategies for better managing organics, from reduction to composting. The project ended in September 2014.

A guidance document was written: [Organic Materials Management and Composting for Rural, Small, and Tribal Communities](#). The guide is designed to assist decision makers, solid waste staff, citizen activists and others to develop and expand yard debris, food scrap, and other organics management strategies.

Seven case studies were completed and posted on the NERC website:

- Residential, commercial, and school food scrap composting has been successfully implemented throughout the [Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District](#).
- [Hamilton](#), Massachusetts implemented successful curbside food scrap collection; collecting trash every other week and recyclables and compost on a weekly basis.
- [Franklin County Solid Waste District](#) manages four municipal organics drop-off programs at transfer stations collecting food scraps and soiled paper. The District also provides technical assistance for organics composting at schools and special events.
- [Irvington](#), New York "Your Leaves: Love 'Em and Leave 'Em" is a highly successful ongoing public education and outreach program for homeowners, landscape business owners and work crews, and municipal personnel adopted throughout Westchester County.
- The [Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District](#) provides a comprehensive approach for managing and processing yard trimmings and brush, bringing economies of scale to benefit its member counties and residents.
- Brush and yard trimmings grinding and composting in [Berkeley County, West Virginia](#) presents a viable regional model for organics management.
- [Northwood](#), a case study on emergency response for handling debris.

### *Trainings*

NERC completed six organics management trainings in four states, with 255 participants. NERC staff worked with Advisory Committee members (including representatives from State Departments of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Districts, and town representatives in participating states) to plan logistics, make guest

speaker arrangements, and develop the agenda for each workshop. NERC developed promotional materials, including fliers and press releases for the trainings. All workshops featured a range of guest speakers, a roundtable discussion between workshop attendees and speakers, and a networking lunch. NERC provided onsite set-up assistance at the workshops, as well as site-specific presentations. Reviews of the trainings were overwhelmingly positive.

#### *Technical Assistance*

NERC staff conducted research and had numerous email/phone conversations with project partners in order to ascertain technical assistance needs. Onsite technical assistance was provided to six communities. Assistance consisted of a wide range of services, including conducting resident surveys, meetings with business representatives, conducting workshops, and onsite technical assistance at town leaf “dumps.”

#### *Webinars*

Three webinars were offered in fiscal year 2015:

- *Organic Amendments—How to Tell if Compost is Right for Your Needs?* - September 3, 2014

#### *Presenters:*

- Jean Bonhotal, Director, Cornell Waste Management Institute, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
- Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, Northeast Recycling Council

There were 61 attendees on the webinar.

Webinar recording: [Choosing Organic Amendments Webinar](#)

- *Universal Recycling and Food Scrap Diversion Webinar for Vermont Schools* - September 10, 2014

#### *Presenters:*

- Josh Kelly and Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Solid Waste Program
- Gwen Lyons, School Program Manager, Central VT Solid Waste District
- Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, Northeast Recycling Council

There were 52 participants on the webinar.

Webinar recording: [Universal Recycling and Food Scrap Diversion Webinar for Vermont Schools](#)

- *Community Composting—Lessons from New York City & Beyond* - September 16, 2014

#### *Presenters and Topics:*

- *Community Composting—a Model for any Community*  
Brenda Platt, Co-Director, [Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#), Director, Composting Makes \$en\$e Project, & lead author of the new report [Growing Local Fertility: Guide to Community Composting](#)
- *Growing Organics Collections in NYC: The Evolution of the GrowNYC Food Scrap Collection Program & More*  
David Hurd, Director, Office of Recycling Outreach & Education, [GrowNYC](#)
- *Community Composting in Action*  
Christine Datz-Romero, Executive Director, [Lower East Side Ecology Center](#)

This webinar was jointly sponsored by NERC, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It was developed and facilitated by NERC staff. There were 108 people who participated in the webinar.

Webinar recording: [Community Composting Webinar](#)

#### *Promotion*

Three NERC Email Bulletin articles were published this fiscal year:

- o [Free Upcoming Organics Management Webinars in September](#)
- o [New Organics Management Documents Posted](#)
- o [Organic Materials Management Guide Available](#)

**Project Manager:** [Athena Lee Bradley](#)

**Funding:** USDA Rural Utilities Solid Waste Management Grant program

**Timeframe:** October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2014

### ***Innovative Strategies & Best Management Practices for Implementing Reuse Programs in Rural Communities in New York State & the St. Regis Mohawk Nation***

This project focuses on the development and implementation of innovative reuse programs in New York State. NERC has worked with the Development Authority of the North Country, representatives from Jefferson County, St. Lawrence County, and Lewis County, along with rural and small towns in New York's North Country and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe representatives in the implementation of this project.

#### *Trainings*

NERC completed three trainings in fiscal year 2015. The first was held in December 2014 in Watertown and had 24 participants. The second was held in April 2015 with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (Akwesasne) in Hogsburg; seven people attended. The third, for St. Lawrence County, was also held in April 2015 in the Village of Canton; 30 people participated.

NERC staff worked with project partners to develop logistics, guest speaker arrangements, training agendas and promotional materials. Project partners assisted with logistics and participated in onsite logistics with NERC staff.

The trainings presented an overview about best management practices for implementation of reuse programs. Guest speakers, a roundtable discussion, and a networking lunch were included in each. Topics addressed programs and event design and implementation; regional and tribal-specific topics included textile recovery and thrift store and other local reuse opportunities; tool lending libraries, repair cafes, reuse on campus was explored, and, establishing a reuse center. Each participant was given a flash drive with NERC's draft *Reuse Guide*, project documents, training PowerPoint presentations, and hundreds of documents gathered by NERC on reuse.

#### *Technical Assistance*

NERC staff worked with project partners to identify and implement a reuse program or event which would best meet the needs of their towns, and to develop and distribute promotional materials, arrange logistics, and complete other tasks for the events. Guidance documents, including volunteer information, "how to"

information, acceptable items lists, and more were completed. NERC staff also provided onsite staffing and assistance.

Technical assistance was provided in Jefferson County to organize a “*Holiday Toy Swap*” in December 2014 in Watertown. Toys, books, games, children’s winter clothing and more were exchanged at the event. More than 50 people participated as donors, “shoppers” or both. The Toy Swap was deemed a success for a first time event by organizers and participants. Remaining items were donated to the Impossible Dream Mission Store in Watertown. New, packaged toys were donated to the Toys for Tots program.

In April 2015, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Solid Waste Management Program held its first ever Tribal-wide Swap Meet. The indoor event was planned as part of the Program’s Earth Day activities. Tribal members were invited to sell, exchange, barter, give away and/or purchase usable housewares, toys, sports equipment, clothing, electronics, and more. Fifteen vendors (including several family vendors with multiple tables) participated. Throughout the day a steady crowd, estimated to be as many as 400, flowed through the event, to mingle and shop. Vendors and shoppers alike were pleased with the event.

Three ‘College Move Out’ events were held in St. Lawrence County in the spring 2015. Working with the Clarkson University Campus Sustainability committee, a campus-wide “Take it or Leave it” move out event was initiated. “Take it or Leave it” was designed to encourage students to donate unwanted, usable items both for other students who may need clothing and other items, as well as for donation to area charities.

Two other universities in St. Lawrence County were also provided assistance by NERC and the St. Lawrence County Reuse Committee—St. Lawrence University and SUNY Potsdam. St. Lawrence University has a long established move out event, so participated in the project in order to expand their textile collection. At SUNY Potsdam, university staff coordinated the event and collection of usable items. Reuse collection bins for all three campuses were provided by St. Lawrence County Solid Waste, with collected material, not redistributed on campus, picked-up by the Rescue Mission.

NERC Email Bulletin articles published were:

- [NERC Awarded USDA Grant to Promote Reuse](#)
- [Reuse Training and Toy Swap Event in New York State](#)
- [Reuse in the Holiday Spirit - Toy Swap](#)
- [Reuse Training & Event in the Saint Regis Mohawk Nation](#)
- [Reuse Training & Events in New York’s North Country](#)
- [Akwesasne Reuse Swap Meet](#)
- [St. Lawrence County College Move Out Events.](#)

NERC Blog articles posted were:

- [Plan Now for Reuse! Part 1!](#)
- [Plan Now for Reuse...Part 2](#)
- [Textile Recovery—a Local & Global Trade](#)
- [College Move Out Success!](#)
- [College Move Out Success, Part 2](#)

Several news articles resulting from press releases were published in North Country newspapers: April 15, [Daily Courier-Observer](#) & [Watertown Daily Times](#)—*St. Lawrence County plans reuse training and Campus*

*Move Out Reuse events.* During the SRMT Swap Meet, a camera crew and reporter from [Indian Time](#) were on hand to interview participants and shoot photos. An article was published on April 23—*Akwesasne Community Reuse Swap Meet*.

A guidance document entitled *Innovative Strategies & Best Management Practices for Implementing Reuse* is being developed.

**Project Manager:** [Athena Lee Bradley](#)

**Funding:** USDA Rural Utilities Solid Waste Management Grant program

**Timeframe:** October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016

### ***Simplifying Environmentally Preferable Purchasing by Public Sector Agencies***

NERC used funding provided by the Roy A. Hunt Foundation to develop model environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) specifications for three common products that purchasers find challenging to buy “in green.” The project also includes forming a working group of EPP experts to develop the model specifications, and promoting the specifications and EPP.

Accomplishments in FY 2015 included:

- Worked extensively with the three expert teams to develop the model EPP specifications and Guidelines for Printing and Writing Paper, Monochrome Toner Cartridges, and Office Supplies.
- Completed model EPP Specifications and Guidelines:
  - [Paper EPP Specs](#)
  - [Toner Cartridge EPP Specs](#)
  - [Office Supplies EPP Specs](#)
- Completed fact sheets about the model EPP Specifications and Guidelines:
  - [Paper EPP Specs Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Toner Cartridges EPP Specs Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Office Supplies EPP Specs Fact Sheet](#)
- Wrote and distributed press releases about each of the EPP purchasing specs and a fourth about all the specs.
  - [Press Release on Model EPP Purchasing Specs](#)
  - [Press Release on EPP Paper Specs](#)
  - [Press Release on EPP Toner Cartridges Specs](#)
  - [Press Release on EPP Office Supplies Specs](#)
- [Completed a listing of EPP specs available on the Internet](#)
- Posted all project resources on NERC’s website
- Created a PowerPoint presentation about the project and the resources developed.
  - [PowerPoint presentation](#)
- Presented the project resources at the Resource Recycling Annual Conference in September, 2014 (50 session attendees)
- Organized and presented a [national webinar](#) (recording) about the EPP Specs in July 2014.
- In addition to NERC staff, the other presenters included five of the Expert Team members. The webinar included a brief overview of the EPP Specs, the lessons learned about each product category, and comments made by the Specs Expert Teams about how the EPP Specs could be used.
- Published articles about the project in NERC’s Email Bulletin:

- [Webinar Scheduled to Discuss NERC’s Model EPP Purchasing Specs](#)
- [NERC Completes Model EPP Specs & Purchasing Guidelines](#)
- [NERC Completes Green Purchasing Project](#)
- Received a project extension from the funding entity
- Submitted an annual report on project activities and deliverables
- Researched EPP activities in ten Northeast States
- Explored a relationship with the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) to promote the EPP specs
- Participated in a national NASPO webinar to present and promote the use of NERC’s EPP specs
- Explored the possibility of holding a joint webinar about EPP toner cartridges and the use of NERC’s EPP specs with the Golisano Institute

**Project Manager:** [Mary Ann Remolador](#)

**Funding:** Roy A. Hunt Foundation

**Timeframe:** January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2015

### ***State Electronics Challenge***



[The State Electronics Challenge \(SEC\)](#) is a voluntary program that works with state, regional, tribal, and local government entities—‘Partners’—to decrease the environmental footprint of electronic office equipment. The SEC promotes:

- Environmentally preferable purchasing of electronics using the Electronics Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT<sup>®</sup>)
- Improved operations and maintenance of equipment (e.g., power

management)

- Paper use reduction
- Reuse and donation
- Responsible recycling of electronic office equipment.

During FY 2015 several milestones were achieved:

- Number of Partners increased from 134 to 149 – an 11% increase over FY 2014
- Number of employees participating in program exceeded 194,000 – a growth of 14%
- One (1) in person presentation was made to 50 people
- Four (4) national introductory webinars were presented to more than 150 individuals
- Two (2) ‘Partner-only’ webinars
- Three (3) additional webinars were developed and delivered for targeted audiences
- Worked closely with the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut to develop a paper use reduction program for Town Hall. This included developing an online survey as well as a recorded PowerPoint presentation. A Partner-only webinar was developed to promote the case study to other State Electronics Challenge participants. A recording of the webinar is available: [Paper Reduction Case Study, Mansfield, Connecticut.](#)

A complete list of Partners can be found at: [http://stateelectronicschallenge.net/current\\_partners.html](http://stateelectronicschallenge.net/current_partners.html).

The ‘Partner-only’ webinars were:

- [Data Center Energy Efficiency Opportunities](#) – February 2015
- [Paper Reduction Case Study, Mansfield, Connecticut](#) – April 2015

In its seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) full year of this program (January 2008 – December 2014), 36 entities reported on their accomplishments in calendar year 2014. An individualized environmental benefits report was prepared for each reporting Partner, and the data totaled and posted on the [State Electronics Challenge](#) website.

The SEC recognized 12 Partners for their accomplishments in calendar 2014. SEC Partners were eligible for one of three recognition levels – Bronze, Silver, or Gold – based on completion of SEC program requirements.

Thirteen (13) Email Bulletin articles were published in NERC's monthly bulletin about the SEC.

**Project Managers:** [Lynn Rubinstein](#) and [Patricia Dillon](#)

**Funding:** The State Electronics Challenge was supported by both a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant from EPA Region 5, and private sponsors: Samsung, Panasonic, Consumer Electronics Association, and, the ISRI R2/RIOS program. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant concluded in September 2014.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

### ***Vermont School Recycling & Composting***

NERC completed a Universal Recycling School Grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Waste Management and Prevention Division in which NERC worked with four schools to expand recycling and implement food scrap composting. During the school year, NERC held stakeholder meetings with school administrators, facility directors, custodians, cafeteria staff, and other key individuals to plan and implement the project. NERC provided trainings in food scrap collection at each school and onsite technical assistance in program implementation.

The project ended successfully, with all the schools composting food scraps five days per week. School food scrap tonnages vary from about 90 pounds of food scraps collected weekly at Arlington Memorial to 250 pounds of food scraps collected each week at Flood Brook. Compost generated at the Arlington schools is being used in their school garden plot. Materials collected by TAM are sold to subsidize their operational expenses.

At Arlington Memorial High School/Middle School NERC worked with a group of environmentally interested students to serve as cafeteria and compost monitors. The school is composting onsite. With NERC's guidance, Fisher Elementary in Arlington established a very visible, centralized "Recycle Zone" to encourage greater participation. Collected cafeteria food scraps are transported to Arlington High School/Middle School for composting.

NERC worked with staff the Londonderry Solid Waste Group and parent volunteers to implement food scrap diversion at Flood Brook School. Cafeteria staff help monitor the collection bins and transport the collected food scraps to outside carts for storage prior to pick-up by TAM Organics to their compost operation in Bennington.

The principal and head custodian worked with NERC to implement food scrap collection and improve recycling at Monument Elementary in Bennington. All classes at Monument now have recycling bins and compost buckets. Collected food scraps hauled by TAM Organics.

All four schools have dedicated staff to continue on the program without NERC's assistance. Mechanisms are in place or are being discussed for integrating new students into the food scrap collection next year.

School waste assessment and program recommendations reports were completed for each school, along with additional resources specific for each school.

NERC Email Bulletin Articles and other newsletter articles:

- [NERC Receives Grant for Vermont School Recycling and Composting](#)
- [Arlington Vermont Schools Compost](#)
- [School Recycling and Composting in Bennington](#)
- [Reading, Arithmetic, & Food Scrap Composting in Vermont](#)
- [School Composting in Bennington, Vermont](#)
- Bennington County Regional Commission and two school newsletters

Several press releases were distributed and two articles were posted in the Bennington Banner

- Four Schools take Advantage of Compost Consultant
- Monument Kicks-off Recycling Program

**Project Manager:** [Athena Lee Bradley](#)

**Funding:** Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

**Timeframe:** May 20, 2014 – May 31, 2015

## Ongoing Projects & Events

In addition to contract and grant funded projects, many ongoing programs and projects support NERC's mission and provide value to NERC members and the Northeast region. A number of these are highlighted below:

### ***Conferences, Webinars, & Board Meetings***

NERC's conferences and workshops are unique in the region. They focus on emerging issues and are designed for professionals in the fields of reuse, recycling, recycling market development, and materials management. These gatherings offer in-depth information exchange and professional presentations, as well as networking opportunities. Archives of previously held event agendas and presentations are available on the [NERC website](#).

The theme of the Fall 2014 Conference was *The New Era of Recycling*. The theme of the Spring 2015 Conference was *Own the Future - Creative Options to Sustainable Materials Management*. The agendas can be found in Appendix A & Appendix B, as well as in the [Conference and Workshop Archives](#) on the NERC website. Both events were well attended by a diverse audience of state and municipal recycling officials, recycling trade associations, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and consultants.

NERC's Board of Directors held two Board meetings. Minutes from the [November 2014](#) and [April 2015](#) meetings are posted on the website. The Board also meets, from time to time, by telephone.

**Project Manager:** [Mary Ann Remolador](#)

### ***Email Bulletin***

NERC's Email Bulletin (Bulletin) is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides regular updates on NERC's activities and publications as well as State and Advisory Member developments. It has approximately 842 subscribers. The Bulletin is posted and [archived](#) on the NERC website.

**Project Manager:** [Lynn Rubinstein](#)

### ***Environmentally Preferable Products Listserv (EPPnet)***

In 1998, NERC established [EPPnet](#), the Environmentally Preferable Products Listserv. EPPnet is the only national listserv dedicated to the topic of environmentally preferable purchasing. EPPnet enables users to easily and immediately share product specifications, vendors, prices, strategies for achieving green product procurement goals, and federal procurement policies. There are 182 members of the listserv; a 6% increase over this time last year. EPPnet is promoted through NERC presentations about the organization, as well as an occasional Email Bulletin article.

**Project Manager:** [Athena Lee Bradley](#)

### ***Organics Management Listserv***

NERC's [Listserv for Advancing Organics Management in the Northeast](#) was launched in the spring of 2015. The listserv presents an opportunity to share information about what's happening with organics management. The listserv is unique in that it is open to anyone interested in advancing organics diversion in the Northeast through promotion of the organics management hierarchy (i.e., reduction, recovery, recycling [composting], anaerobic digestion). The Organics Management Listserv is promoted through NERC presentations about the organization, as well as an occasional Email Bulletin article. There are currently 41 members, a 32% increase over its first year.

**Project Manager:** [Athena Lee Bradley](#)

### ***Social Media Program***

#### ***Blog***

[NERC's Blog](#) presents articles on a wide range of topics; from reuse to composting—and lots in between. We offer insights into current happenings, notable projects and lessons learned, ideas worth repeating, and more. Some of our blog articles are instructive, while others tend toward opinion pieces. We have guest blogger posts from time to time as well. Each month a "NERC Blog Worth Repeating" is posted in the NERC Email Bulletin. The blogs are posted weekly.

#### ***Facebook & Twitter***

NERC has both a [Facebook page](#) and is on Twitter: @NERecycling. There are now 319 Facebook followers and 565 Twitter followers. This represents a 40% increase in the number of Facebook followers and a 30% increase in Twitter followers.

## ***Technical Assistance & Information Clearinghouse***

On an ongoing basis, NERC staff responds to requests for information and guidance from Board Members, Advisory Members, federal agencies, and the general public on issues related to source reduction, reuse, recycling, decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream, composting, and recycling market development. Providing appropriate responses to these queries is an important element of the multi-faceted support provided by NERC.

## ***Website***

The NERC website is one of our primary resources to promote public education and action in support of sustainable materials management. Website update and maintenance, including publishing new documents and resources, and updates to them, is an ongoing focus of staff efforts. During FY 2015, NERC averaged almost 3,000 visits per month and over 6,000 page views per month.

NERC maintains three websites: the [NERC website](#), the [State Electronics Challenge website](#), and the [Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse website](#). The Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse website was re-designed in FY 2015.

## **Additional Activities**

### ***Implementation of the Strategic Plan***

This was the first full year of implementation of the strategic planning results from FY 2014. Among the efforts was the addition of two Ex Officio members to the Board and the addition of a new staff position to focus on Advisory Members, the formation of a Development Committee, getting Advisory Members more involved in the development and implementation of conferences and workshops, and expanding the scope of NERC's relationships with other organizations.

### **Ex Officio Board Members**

Two outstanding representatives of the recycling community were appointed to the NERC Board as Ex Officio members, and they have contributed greatly to NERC's efforts and opportunities. The new Board members are: Chip Foley, formerly of the Steel Recycling Institute; and Chaz Miller, of the National Solid Waste Management Association.

### **New Staff Position**

The Board of Directors worked closely with the Executive Director to develop a job description, design a search process, and ultimately to interview finalists for the position of Director of Advisory Member Services & Development. NERC received in excess of 125 applications. The position was ultimately offered to Frank Hoffman who began work in early December 2014.

### **Development Committee**

Among the by-law revisions made in 2014 as a result of the strategic planning process was the formation of a new standing committee of the Board: the Development Committee. This Committee, chaired by Bryn Oakleaf, worked closely with the Executive Director and the Director of Advisory Member Services to expand NERC's membership efforts and to promote NERC's national visibility and standing.

### Advisory Member Participation in Event Development & Implementation

A process has been instituted to seek to actively engage Advisory Members in event planning and implementation. For example, for the Fall Conference held in Amherst, MA, Advisory Members were invited to organize individual sessions and identified the appropriate speakers. For the Spring Conference held in Wilmington, DE, event evaluation forms for the Fall Conference were emailed to Advisory Members and included an invitation to help NERC plan the Spring Conference. As a result, Advisory Members worked closely with Board Members to develop the event agendas.

### Expansion of NERC's Relationship with Peer Organizations

Increasing NERC's national visibility and stature, as well as networking opportunities, is an important component of establishing a stable future with significant actions in support of NERC's mission. To this end, the Executive Director sought to establish new relationships with national organizations that have a mission that reflects shared goals and perspectives.

- **Ceres Coalition.** [Ceres](#) is a non-profit organization advocating for sustainability leadership. It mobilizes a powerful network of investors, companies and public interest groups to accelerate and expand the adoption of sustainable business practices and solutions to build a healthy global economy. Recently, NERC was accepted as a member of the [Ceres Coalition](#).

"The Ceres Coalition comprises [more than 130 institutional and socially responsible investors, environmental and social advocacy groups and other public interest organizations](#).

The Ceres Coalition works to promote sustainability by moving companies, policy makers and other market players to incorporate environmental and social factors into their decision-making and to mobilize investor and business leadership to build a thriving, sustainable global economy."

- **National Recycling Coalition (NRC).** NERC has been attempting, for several years, to establish an exchange of memberships between [NRC](#) and NERC. It appears that in early FY 2016 this will take place, with NERC becoming a non-profit member of NRC, and NRC becoming a Supporting Member of NERC.
- **Northeast Waste Management Officials Association (NEWMOA).** The Boards of NERC and [NEWMOA](#) voted to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that created a foundation for collaboration and mutual membership. As a result, NERC and NEWMOA Executive Directors have been having regular phone calls and information exchange, and NEWMOA is recognized as a Sustaining Member of NERC.
- **New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR3).** Following a meeting in FY 2014 between NERC staff the NYSAR3 Board of Directors, the organizations entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to support each other's efforts and to exchange memberships. NYSAR3 is now a Supporting Member of NERC and Athena Lee Bradley is an active participant on their Organics Committee.
- **Product Stewardship Institute PSI.** Efforts to develop a mutually agreeable Memorandum of Understanding did not succeed, but an exchange of memberships was agreed to. PSI is now a Supporting Member of NERC.
- **American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC).** The [ASBC](#) is a non-profit organization involved on the national stage working with businesses and the federal government to implement public policies that build a

sustainable economy, including sustainable materials management concerns. NERC recently became a member of this organization.

### ***Revision of Advisory Membership Program***

The strategic planning process highlighted the importance of Advisory Members to NERC and as such important changes were instituted this year to bring more Advisory Members into NERC and also to find ways to enhance the ways in which Members engage with the organization. Key changes that were implemented include:

- Revision to the Membership structure with increased benefits
- New brochure describing NERC and its value to Advisory Members
- Enhanced opportunities for promoting Member news via social media
- Seeking to have Members actively part of the process of planning and implementing conferences and workshops
- Reaching out to more organizations and companies to introduce NERC and its activities.

### ***EPEAT Standards for Servers & Computers***

NERC's Executive Director continues as a voting member of two standard development efforts: the NSF Joint Committee on Environmental Leadership Standard for Servers; and the IEEE 1680.1 Working Group (updated EPEAT standard for computers and monitors). She is participating in committees in both standards with a focus on material content and end-of-life management.

Both of these efforts have regular phone calls and occasional face-to-face meetings. These efforts will continue in FY 2016.

### ***NSF Sustainable Carpet Standard***

Mary Ann Remolador, NERC's Assistant Director served on the NSF Joint Committee (JC) on Sustainable Carpet Standards and the Carpet Recyclability Sub-committee. NSF developed the Carpet JC to review and update the NSF/ANSI 140 Carpet Standard.

### ***Golisano Institute at Rochester Institute of Technology Webinars***

NERC collaborated with the Golisano Institute to host a webinar about online resources for businesses that can make their supply chains less costly and more sustainable—the Sustainable Supply Chain Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse was developed by the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), and is a central location for gaining information about supply chain sustainability and how to find assistance to implement different strategies.

In addition, NERC worked with representatives from the Golisano Institute to present a webinar in April 2015 entitled "Food Scrap Management: Models for Replication" The free webinar presented an in-depth look at two programs initiated by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, along with other food scrap management tools and models. The webinar was attended by 115 people. A recording is available: [Food Scrap Management Models Webinar](#).

*Webinar topics/presenters:*

**Improving the Carbon Footprint at Wegmans Markets—an Analysis of Food Scrap Management Options**

Brian Hilton, Senior Research Engineer, Golisano Institute for Sustainability at Rochester Institute of Technology discussed a project the Institute did for Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. to evaluate alternatives which improve the greenhouse gas (GHG) or carbon footprint of their food waste disposal.

### **Organic Resource Locator: Facilitating Sustainable Pathways of Organic Wastes**

Ava Labuzetta, Pollution Prevention Engineer, Rochester Institute of Technology presented on the Institute's Organic Resource Locator, a geographical, web-based tool to provide information on waste resources and waste conversion pathways in New York State.

### **Additional tools and models**

Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, Northeast Recycling Council discussed other food scrap diversion models including the Vermont Food System Atlas; Massachusetts Supermarket Recycling Certification Program, and the US Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Challenge.

### ***NYSAR Organics Council***

Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, serves on the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>) Organics Council. The Organics Recycling and Composting Council is a group of NYSAR<sup>3</sup> members who share a common interest to promote an understanding of the importance of recovering food waste and other organics from the waste stream through policies and programs for a more sustainable use.

### ***State Recycling Leaders Group***

In April 2015, the Recycling Partnership, in collaboration with NERC and the Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC), formed a "*State Recycling Leaders Group*". This free peer network, which is led by the Recycling Partnership, is a forum for state recycling leaders to discuss important topics, issues and initiatives. In addition, the group will help The Recycling Partnership remain on point when developing free resources designed to support you and your communities. This inaugural group has held conference calls and is planning an in-person meeting at the annual Resource Recycling Conference.

### ***Presentations***

Staff regularly make presentations about NERC's projects and resources, either as part of a project being undertaken by NERC, speaking at an event on a NERC project, or presenting on a concept or activity that NERC has been involved with. This year, staff made 25 presentations, nine of which were "in person" events. A list of presentations can be found in [Appendix D](#).

## **Other**

### ***Comments on Executive Order 13693's Impact on Green Procurement and Responsible Recycling of Electronics***

In March 2015, President Obama issued a new Executive Order entitled *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the next Decade* that had significant implications for green procurement and responsible recycling of electronics. NERC joined other national leadership organizations in writing a letter to the Federal Environmental Executive expressing our concerns and hopes for clarifications in the—at that time, pending—implementing instructions. Fortunately, those instructions did address all of our concerns and we now feel

confident that green procurement and responsible recycling remain priorities for the federal government. Letter is attached as Appendix E.

### ***EPA's SMM Electronics Forum***

In September 2014, NERC Executive Director Lynn Rubinstein was invited to participate in an EPA forum on electronics management. The two-day event took place in Washington, D.C. and was the first EPA stakeholder discussion specific to sustainable end-of-life management of electronics in almost 10 years. Including EPA representatives, there were approximately 60 invitees that provided EPA with recommendations and observations about the challenges facing end-of-life management of electronics and how EPA might play a productive role in furthering responsible reuse and recycling.

### ***Green Electronics Catalyst Award***

The Green Electronics Council launched a new award program to recognize electronics and related infrastructures' positive impact on the circular economy, where circular economy is defined as "an economic system that is safe and restorative by intention and seeks to eradicate waste through the careful design, manufacture, use and handling of products and components." The Green Electronics Catalyst Awards seek to inspire creative solutions in the greening of electronics. This global program celebrates innovative solutions and tangible environmental accomplishments throughout the lifecycle of electronic technologies. Lynn Rubinstein, NERC Executive Director, was selected as one of the judges for the 2015 competition. The winners will be announced at the Green Electronics Council's Emerging Green Conference in September 2015.

### ***NERC in the News***

NERC and its programs were recognized in many national and regional publications in fiscal year 2015. These were chronicled on the NERC [website](#).

### ***NRC Sustainable Materials Management Summit Advisory Committee & Event***

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) and Syracuse Center for Sustainable Community Solutions (CSCS) held a Summit in Washington, DC in May 2015 focused on the sustainable management of discarded materials in the United States. The Summit aimed to enrich the value and role of Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) initiatives in communities across the United States, and to identify what can be done at the national level to foster those initiatives. The ultimate goal of the Summit was to assist in the acceleration of SMM as a method of choice for managing discarded materials.

NERC's Executive Director, Lynn Rubinstein, participated on the Advisory Committee for the SMM Summit, and attended the event.

### ***Sustainable Electronics Recycling Initiative (SERI)***

NERC Executive Director Lynn Rubinstein volunteers on the Board of Directors for the Sustainable Electronics Recycling Initiative (SERI), a non-profit that houses the Responsible Recycling (R2) Standard for electronics recycling and promotes the importance of using certified electronics recyclers. She was elected, for the fourth year, to serve as Chair of the Board for a term of one year.

## **Conclusion**

NERC staff continued to demonstrate their commitment and passion for the organization and its programs through their outstanding and successful work and diligence. Likewise, the dedication and enthusiasm of the Board of Directors and Advisory Members have been critically important to NERC's success. At a time when other organizations have strained to support missions and budgets, NERC has continued to demonstrate strength and benefit from the commitment of the reuse, recycling, organics, and environmentally preferable purchasing communities.

**NERC Budget vs. Actuals <sup>23</sup>**

**Financials  
CASH BASIS<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>FY 2015 Budget</b>	<b>Actual – Cash Basis</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Conference Sponsorship	\$18,000	\$19,500
Grants/Consulting	\$190,234	\$214,931
Interest	\$3,300	\$2,180
State Membership Dues	\$74,000	\$67,786
Advisory Membership Dues	\$90,000	\$64,400
Registrations	\$50,000	\$62,135
State Travel Accounts	\$4,720	\$4,720
Reimbursed Expenses	\$2,000	\$935
Release from Cash Reserves	\$82,194	\$19,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$514,448</b>	<b>\$436,587</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising	\$2,000	\$1,945
Bank Service Charges	\$3,000	\$3,144
Contract Services	\$24,000	\$6,526
Equipment Purchases	\$5,000	\$1,341
Equipment Repairs	\$2,000	\$3,222
Gifts & Awards Given	\$500	\$698
Insurance	\$3,000	\$5,432
Internet	\$2,000	\$1,827
State Travel Costs	\$3,500	\$6,285
Office Supplies	\$750	\$1,166
Permits	\$1,750	\$1,002
Personnel	\$422,131	\$382,268
Postage	\$150	\$116
Printing (copying)	\$800	\$1,009
Professional Services	\$17,000	\$15,435
Meeting Expenses	\$20,000	\$22,743
Registrations	\$3,000	\$4,755
Rent	\$13,000	\$12,847
Subscriptions and Memberships	\$3,500	\$6,144
Telephone	\$3,350	\$3,001
Travel	\$47,074	\$28,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$577,505</b>	<b>\$509,267</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(\$63,057)</b>	<b>(\$72,680)</b>
<b>Released from restricted (cash on hand, reflected in previous budgets)</b>	<b>\$63,057</b>	<b>\$84,693</b>
<b>NET for fiscal year</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$12,013</b>

<sup>2</sup> Cash on hand June 30, 2015: \$639,072. Of those funds, \$187,328 is restricted.

<sup>3</sup> The FY 2015 budget does not appear in the form that the Board approved on March 29, 2015: A) there was a math error under expenses. The correct total should have been \$577,505. The travel cell was omitted in the formula, accounting for the error. B) When accounting for this, in order to have a balanced budget, the amount of released from cash reserves was increased to the amount above - \$82,194, rather than the \$35,120 presented to the Board. C) The auditor asked the presentation of the budget be re-arranged; moving the “released from restricted” from revenues and adding it below “Total” under Expenses. In addition, a Net Loss row is added, with the released from restricted following that. For the purposes of budgeting, it is then reflected as negating the net loss.

<sup>4</sup> The budget to actual is based on a cash basis of accounting while the audit is accrual basis. Beginning in FY16 the budget to actual will also be tracked in the accrual form of accounting. The auditor has been consulted and there is agreement that the disparities in figures between the budget to actual and audit are an accurate reflection of the difference in accounting methods.

## Audit

A note about the audit: The above chart of 'budget versus actuals' is only for NERC's activities in FY 15 and is cash basis. The audit, by contrast, is accrual basis. In addition, the information above does not reflect or include the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH), and the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC) programs; both of which are administered by NERC. The finances of these two individual programs are, however, included with NERC's finances, and as such are reflected in the NERC FY 2015 audit.

The FY15 audit is [available online](#).

## Appendices

[A. Fall Conference Agenda](#)

[B. Spring Workshop Agenda](#)

[C. Advisory Members](#)

[D. Staff Presentations](#)

## Appendix A – Fall Conference Agenda



### The New Era of Recycling Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst, Massachusetts November 6 – 7, 2014

#### Thursday, November 6, 2014 – Dickinson Ballroom

8:30 **Registration & Coffee**

9:00 **Welcoming Remarks:** Rick Watson, Chief Executive Officer, [Delaware Solid Waste Authority](#); President, NERC Board of Directors

9:15 **Keynote:** Chaz Miller, Director Policy/Advocacy, [National Waste & Recycling Association](#) & Dylan de Thomas, Editor, [Resource Recycling, Inc.](#)

10:45 **Networking Break**

11:00 **New Resources**

- Rick Penner, President, [Emerge Knowledge Designs](#)
- Keefe Harrison, Executive Director, [Curbside Value Partnership](#)

12:00 **Lunch**

**Advisory Member Lunch - By Invitation Only**

1:00 **Networking with Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors**

1:30 **Concurrent Sessions**

**What's Happening with Paper? (Samuel Fowler Room)**

**Session Facilitator:** Fran McPoland, Washington Representative, [Paper Recycling Coalition](#) (PRC)

**Speakers**

- Myles Cohen, President, Recycling Division, [Pratt Industries](#)
- Johnny Gold, Senior Vice-president, Recycled Fibers Division, [The Newark Group](#)

**What's Happening with Plastics? (Emily Room)**

**Session Facilitator:** Stephen Sikra, Section Head, Renewables & Environment, [Procter & Gamble](#)

**Speakers**

- Liz Bedard, Director, Rigid Plastics Program, [Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recycling](#) (APR)
- Shari Jackson, Director, Film Recycling, [American Chemistry Council Flexible Film Recycling Group](#)
- Resa Dimino, Director of Public Policy, [National Association for PET Container Resources](#) (NAPCOR)
- Lynn Dyer, President, [Foodservice Packaging Institute](#)

3:00 **Networking Break**

3:15 **Concurrent Sessions**

**What's Happening with Glass? (Samuel Fowler Room)**

**Session Facilitator:** Joe Cattaneo, Principal, Packaging & Recycling Communication Resources

**Speakers**

- David Hudson, Vice President, Regional Manager, [Strategic Materials](#)
- Cynthia Andela, Partner, [Ruby Lake Glass](#)

**What's Happening with Tires? (Emily Room)**

**Session Facilitator:** Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, NERC

**Speakers**

- John Sheerin, Director, End of Life Tires, [Rubber Manufacturers Association](#)
- Dan McVicker, Owner, [Edge Rubber](#)
- Allan Olbur, Visionary, [PelletPatch](#)

4:45 **Adjourn & Pothole Patching Demonstration** (Boltwood Ave. – in front of the Lord Jeffery Inn)

**Friday, November 7, 2014**

8:45 **Registration & Coffee**

9:15 **Welcoming Remarks:** Guy Watson, Chief, Bureau of Recycling & Planning, [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#); Vice-president, NERC Board of Directors

**Concurrent Sessions**

**What's Happening with Electronics? (Samuel Fowler Room)**

**Session Facilitator:** Eric Harris, Director, Government & International Affairs, Corporate Counsel, [Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries](#) (ISRI)

**Panelists**

- Anthony Magistrelli, National Business Manager, [Regency Technologies](#)
- Mark Latham, Environmental Analyst, [Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection](#) (CTDEEP)
- Walter Alcorn, Vice-president, [Consumer Electronics Association](#) (CEA)

**What's Happening with Steel? (Amherst Boardroom)**

**Session Facilitator:** Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director, [NERC](#)

**Session Speakers**

- Ron Krupitzer, Vice-president, Automotive Applications, [Steel Market Development Institute](#)
- Greg Crawford, Executive Director, [Steel Recycling Institute](#)
- Andy Goenka, President, [Steelbro International](#)

**What's Happening with Organics? (Emily Room)**

**Session Facilitator:** Norma McDonald, North American Sales Manager, [Organic Waste Systems](#)

**Session Speakers**

- Ned Beecher, Executive Director, [North East Biosolids and Residuals Association](#) (NEBRA)
- Brian Houghton, Vice-president, [Mass Food Association](#)
- Rhodes Yepsen, Marketing Manager, [Novamont North America](#)

10:45 **Networking Break**

11:00 **Facilitated Discussion on How Government & Industry Can Respond to Future Changes in Recycling**

**Session Facilitators**

- Chaz Miller, Director of Policy/Advocacy, [National Waste & Recycling Association](#)
- Dylan de Thomas, Editorial Director, [Resource Recycling, Inc.](#)

12:00 **Adjourn**

**Platinum Sponsors**



**Silver Sponsors**



## Appendix B - Spring Conference Agenda



Own the Future - Creative Options to Sustainable Materials Management Conference  
April 7 – 8, 2015

In Partnership with



### Conference Agenda

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015	
8:30	Registration & Continental Breakfast (provided)
9:00	<i>Conference Opening</i> - Rick Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Delaware Solid Waste Authority; President, NERC Board of Directors
9:15	<i>Welcoming Remarks &amp; Delaware's Universal Recycling Law</i> - Secretary David Small, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
9:25	<i>Keynote: Moving Towards a Circular Economy &amp; How it Relates to Sustainable Materials Management</i> - Nina Goodrich, Executive Director, GreenBlue
10:05	<i>Recycling's Role in Moving Towards Sustainable Materials Management</i> - Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, US EPA
10:15	Networking Break with Exhibitors
10:30	<i>Extended Producer Responsibility: Progress, Pitfalls, &amp; Prospects</i> - Reid Lifset, Research Scholar, Resident Fellow in Industrial Ecology, and Associate Director of the Industrial Environmental Management Program, Yale University
10:55	<i>How Does Product Stewardship Affect Recycling?</i> Session Moderator: Jerry Powell, Executive Editor, Resource Recycling, Inc. Session Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Cassel, Executive Director, Product Stewardship Institute</li> <li>• Susan Robinson, Public Affairs Director, Waste Management</li> <li>• Laura Rowell, Global Sustainability Manager, Consumer Packaging, Sonoco Products Company</li> <li>• Neil Seldman, Senior Staff on Waste to Wealth Initiative, Institute for Local Self-Reliance</li> <li>• Melissa Walsh Innes, President, Innes &amp; Company</li> </ul>
12:15	Lunch (provided) Advisory Member Lunch ( <i>by invitation only</i> ) Sponsored  by  
1:00	Networking with Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors
1:30	<i>Emerging Product Stewardship Strategies and Approaches</i> Session Moderator: Jerry Powell, Executive Editor, Resource Recycling, Inc.

	<p>Session Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Paint Industry</i> - Marie Clarke, Counsel, Legislative Advocate Team, PaintCare</li> <li>• <i>Carpet Industry</i> - Bob Peoples, Executive Director, CARE</li> <li>• <i>Mattress Industry</i> - Chris Hudgins, Vice President for Industry &amp; External Affairs, Mattress Recycling Council</li> </ul>
3:00	Networking Break with Exhibitors
3:15	<p><i>Impacts of Single Stream Recycling</i></p> <p>Session Moderator: Liz Bedard, Director, APR Rigid Plastics Recycling Program &amp; Technical Advisor, The Recycling Partnership</p> <p>Session Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Challenges to the Evolving Recycling Stream</i> - Eric Harris, Director, Government &amp; International Affairs, Corporate Counsel, ISRI</li> <li>• <i>Single Stream in Philadelphia</i> - Phil Bresee, Recycling Director, City of Philadelphia</li> <li>• <i>Delaware's Single Stream Program</i> - Robert Anderson, Regional Business Development Manager, ReCommunity</li> </ul>
4:45	<i>The New Definition of Solid Waste and Sustainable Materials Management – EPA's Perspective – Rick Rogers, Associate Director, Land and Chemicals Division, EPA Region III</i>
5:15	Adjourn for day
<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015</b>	
8:30	Registration & Continental Breakfast (provided)
9:00	Welcoming Remarks - Guy Watson, Chief, Bureau of Recycling & Planning, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Vice-president, NERC Board of Directors
9:15	<p><i>Dirty MRFs – Are They a Viable Option for Diverting Materials?</i></p> <p>Session Moderator: Guy Watson, Chief, Bureau of Recycling &amp; Planning, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Session Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Overview of Dirty MRFs in US</i> - Eileen Berenyi, President, Governmental Advisory Associates Inc.</li> <li>• <i>History of Dirty MRFs in Delaware</i> - Rick Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Delaware Solid Waste Authority</li> <li>• <i>Economics of Dirty MRFs</i> - Michael Timpane, Affiliate Vice President, RRS</li> </ul>
10:45	Networking Break with Exhibitors
11:00	<p><i>Dirty MRFs Panel Discussion - Different Perspectives</i></p> <p>Session Moderator: Guy Watson, Chief, Bureau of Recycling &amp; Planning, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Session Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pro-Dirty MRF Perspective</i> - Kyle Mowitz, CEO, Infinitus Energy</li> <li>• <i>Anti-Dirty MRF Perspective</i> - Fran McPoland, Washington Representative, Paper Recycling Coalition</li> </ul>
12:15	Adjourn

## Platinum Sponsors



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## Appendix C - Advisory Members

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- [Centre County Solid Waste Authority](#)
- [City of Lowell, Massachusetts](#)
- [Connecticut Recyclers Coalition](#)
- [Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority](#)
- [Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference](#)
- [Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority](#)
- [Maine Resource Recovery Association \(MRRRA\)](#)
- [National Center for Electronics Recycling \(NCER\)](#)
- [New England Biosolids & Residuals Association \(NEBRA\)](#)
- [New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling \(NYSAR3\)](#)
- [New York State Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management](#)
- [Newspaper Association of America \(NAA\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#)
- [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania \(PROP\)](#)
- [Resource Recycling Magazine](#)
- [Responsible Purchasing Network](#)
- [Rock and Recycling Solutions](#)
- [Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority](#)
- [Southeastern CT Regional Resource Recovery Authority \(SCRRA\)](#)
- [Sustainable Electronics Recycling International \(SERI\)](#)
- [TechSoup Global GreenTech Program](#)
- [WasteCap Resource Solutions](#)
- [Yellowbook](#)

## Appendix D – Staff Presentations

Event	Topic	Staff Member
<b>July 2014</b>		
City of Dallas Green Team	State Electronics Challenge Webinar	Lynn Rubinstein
Maryland Green Purchasing Conference	State Electronics Challenge Webinar	Lynn Rubinstein
NERC National Webinar	Model EPP Specs & Purchasing Guidelines	Mary Ann Remolador
<b>August 2014</b>		
RPN Green Electronics National Webinar	State Electronics Challenge	Lynn Rubinstein
<b>September 2014</b>		
State Electronics Challenge Introductory Webinar	Greening the Lifecycle of Office Electronics: The State Electronics Challenge	Patty Dillon
New Mexico Recycling & Solid Waste Conference	The State Electronics Challenge: Roadmap for Responsible Management of Office Electronics	Patty Dillon
NERC Organics Management Webinar Series/SWANA Webinar	Community Composting Lessons from New York City & Beyond (facilitator)	Athena Lee Bradley
NERC Organics Management Webinar Series	Universal Recycling and Food Scrap Diversion Webinar for Vermont Schools	Athena Lee Bradley
NERC Organics Management Webinar Series	Organic Amendments: How to Tell if Compost is Right for Your Needs?	Athena Lee Bradley
Western Massachusetts Farm to Table radio show	Food Scrap Reduction, Recovery, and Composting	Athena Lee Bradley
Resource Recycling Annual Conference	EPP Purchasing Specs & Purchasing Guidelines	Mary Ann Remolador
<b>October 2014</b>		
Bennington County Regional Commission	Planning results/recommendations for formation of a District or Alliance	Lynn Rubinstein
State Electronics Challenge Introductory Webinar	Greening the Lifecycle of Office Electronics: The State Electronics Challenge	Patty Dillon
BioCycle East	Achieving Maximum Participation in Food Scraps Collection	Athena Lee Bradley
<b>December 2014</b>		
State Electronics Challenge Introductory Webinar	Greening the Lifecycle of Office Electronics: The State Electronics Challenge	Patty Dillon
NERC Training: North Country Reuse Training	Take a Closer Look at Reuse Programs	Athena Lee Bradley
<b>January 2015</b>		
State Electronics Challenge Partner-only Webinar	Green Purchasing of Office Electronics & Recycling Services	Patty Dillon
<b>February 2015</b>		
State Electronics Challenge Partner-only Webinar	Data Center Efficiency 101: What You Should Know	Lynn Rubinstein, Facilitator

<b>March 2015</b>		
Massachusetts 2015 R3 Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show	Innovative Reuse Programs and Strategies	Athena Lee Bradley
<b>April 2015</b>		
ISRI Annual Conference & Convention	Product Stewardship & Electronics Recycling	Lynn Rubinstein, Facilitator
State Electronics Challenge Partner-only Webinar	Case Study: Paper Reduction	Lynn Rubinstein, Facilitator
Massachusetts 2015 R3 Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show	Innovative Reuse Programs & Strategies	Athena Lee Bradley
St. Lawrence County Reuse Training	Take a Closer Look at Reuse	Athena Lee Bradley
Food Scrap Management: Models for Replication Webinar	Tools and Models	Athena Lee Bradley
<b>May 2015</b>		
State Electronics Challenge Introductory Webinar	Greening the Lifecycle of Office Electronics: The State Electronics Challenge	Patty Dillon

## ***Appendix E - Comments on Executive Order 13693's Impact on Green Procurement and Responsible Recycling of Electronics***



139 Main Street, Suite 401 • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-2800  
802.254.3636 • 802.254.5870 fax • www.nerc.org • info@nerc.org

May 1, 2015

The Honorable Kate Brandt  
Federal Environmental Executive  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, MC 1600  
Washington, DC 20406

### **RE: Executive Order 13693's impact on green procurement and responsible recycling of electronics**

Dear Ms. Brandt:

The Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC) is a regional non-profit organization that is committed to environmental and economic sustainability through responsible solid waste management. Its programs emphasize source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), and decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream.

We are writing to request that the new Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, be amended. **Specifically, at a minimum we encourage you to add specific reference to EPEAT into the implementing instructions that will be drafted in accordance with the Executive Order. This is an important step that will allow the federal government to continue using its purchasing power to encourage greener electronics and ensure the responsible recycling of its equipment.** Our concerns with the Executive Order as currently drafted focus on the detrimental impact that it will have on environmentally preferable purchasing, the environment, responsible end-of-life management of electronics, and on the U.S.'s achievements in sustainability.

NERC is among the groups that created the original EPEAT® (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) standard for computers, monitors, and is now participating in standard development for small and large servers. We also host the State Electronics Challenge, a highly successful program that was originally developed with federal funding. It is modeled on the Federal Electronics Challenge – now sunsetted. The State Electronics Challenge promotes the purchase of EPEAT equipment by non-federal governmental entities, school, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations. We do this because EPEAT equipment meets a high environmental standard that addresses several essential criteria. These are:

- Responsible end-of-life management of electronics through the use of a third- party certified electronics recycler;
- Elimination of toxics in products;
- Use of recycled content;

- Decreased energy usage;
- Minimization of packaging;
- Extending the life of equipment; and
- Corporate responsibility.

As a result of these initiatives, the State Electronics Challenge Partners have avoided the generation of more than 75,000 metric tons of carbon equivalents, as well as avoided the use of almost 20,000 pounds of toxic chemicals (equivalent to the weight of 4,400 bricks), and avoided the generation of almost 2 million pounds of hazardous waste (equivalent to the weight of 7,300 refrigerators).

Executive Order 13693 (Executive Order) has the unintended consequence of undermining the United States' international leadership in environmental stewardship for electronic devices. By eliminating the long-standing federal requirement that its agencies procure EPEAT qualified equipment, the Executive Order opens the door to purchasing equipment that no longer meets these high standards. We commend the Executive Order for its focus on consensus-based standards, but without defining the required elements of such standards, the result risks a step backward from the high level of success that the federal government has achieved.

Further, the new Executive Order contradicts the *National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship* released in 2011, and the accomplishments of which were highlighted in *Moving Sustainable Electronics Forward: An Update to the National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship*, August 2014 (Update). The National Strategy promotes the use of EPEAT by federal agencies, and its use is highlighted a key accomplishment noted in the Update.<sup>5</sup>

We understand the reluctance to specifically reference EPEAT as it is a proprietary standard. The first EPEAT standard for computers and monitors, as you likely know, was a U.S. EPA project. Since then, the development of EPEAT standards through IEEE and NSF has included considerable participation and leadership by federal agencies. The concern about the proprietary status of the EPEAT name could be resolved by stating that federal purchasing is required to be either of EPEAT qualified products or products that meet a consensus-based standard that satisfies or exceeds the same criteria as EPEAT.

The Executive Order references several other standards (all government developed), but aside from the energy/GHG-focused programs, none of these standards address electronics issues in any significant way. There are no electronics included in the Safer Choice program, even though the electronics industry is one of the most chemically intensive industries in the world. In addition, despite a large use of plastics in electronics, only four cell phone covers have been certified under the Bio-Preferred program. In addition, EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program looks only at alternatives for ozone depleting cleaners (solvents) in electronics. By contrast, the EPEAT standard requires the elimination of the use of hazardous materials by requiring that products meet the European RoHS Directive, in addition to the elimination of other heavy metals and certain (known to be toxic) flame retardants.

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<sup>5</sup> Page 6.

With the elimination of Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, another important federal sustainability program and accomplishment was eliminated – the requirement that 95% or more of federal procurement of eligible products be EPEAT qualified. This requirement resulted in important environmental incentives to electronics manufacturers, and has motivated change in their sustainability priorities. The Update highlighted the federal government’s success in meeting this requirement:

Federal purchasers are currently required to buy EPEAT registered products, and the EPA has trained federal purchasers on how to buy these greener products with great success. In 2012, 80 percent of reporting agencies met the 95 percent threshold for EPEAT® registered purchases\*, contributing to reduced negative public health and environmental impacts. The EPA launched the greener products website to help purchasers find greener products, including greener electronics. This work has impacted domestic and international electronics procurement.

\*Agencies 2013 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans.

Another consequence--perhaps unanticipated—of the elimination of the EPEAT requirement and a shift to consensus-based standards without any criteria for their adequacy, is to undermine the required use of third-party certification for end-of-life management of electronics. EPEAT offers purchasers of EPEAT registered products access to qualified electronics recyclers for end-of-life management. Because the federal government has not required that its electronics be handled by certified electronics recyclers (although there have been policy discussions to this effect for several years), EPEAT offered a route to that end point. However, without the EPEAT requirement, or the requirement that a replacement consensus-based standard include requirements for certification, there is a real risk that there will be a decrease in the amount of federal electronics properly managed at the end-of-life. This could lead to health, safety, and environmental detriments to the U.S. and other nations.

Again, at a minimum, we encourage you to add specific reference to EPEAT into the implementing instructions that will be drafted in accordance with the Executive Order. This is an important step that will allow the federal government to continue using its purchasing power to encourage greener electronics and ensure the responsible recycling of its equipment.

We don’t believe that this Administration intended to undermine existing, highly effective, federal programs and initiatives that have significantly benefited long-term environmental and economic sustainability in the United States, as well as worker health and safety. As such, we urge you to either revise the Executive Order or compensate for these consequences with the implementing instructions.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about this important issue. I can be reached via email at [lynn@nerc.org](mailto:lynn@nerc.org) or via phone at 802-254-3636.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Lynn Rubinstein  
Executive Director  
Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.

Cc:

- Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. EPA
- Jim Jones, Deputy Assistant Administrator
- U.S. EPA Barbara Cunningham, Deputy Office Director U.S. EPA
- Josh Silverman, Director, Office of Sustainability Support, U.S. DOE
- The Honorable Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senate
- The Honorable Peter Welch, U.S. House of Representatives
- The Honorable Patrick Leahy, U.S. House of Representatives