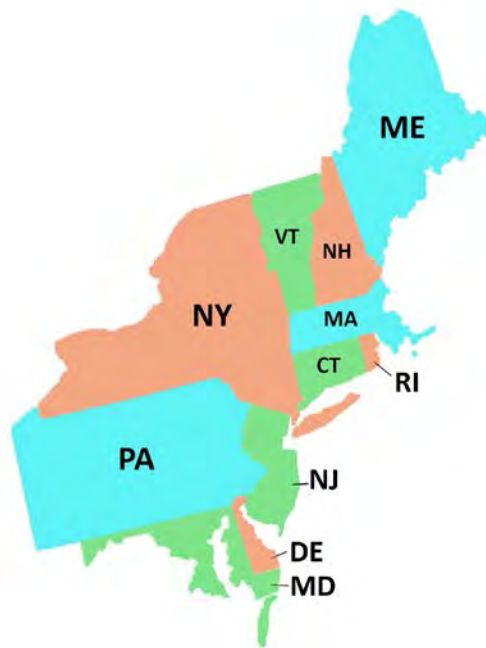




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FY17 Annual Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017



NERC's mission is to promote sustainable materials management by supporting traditional and innovative solid waste best practices, focusing on waste prevention, toxics reduction, reuse, recycling and organics recovery.

NERC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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Introduction

Fiscal year 2017 was a very active year for NERC staff, Board and Advisory members. It included a special effort to honor NERC's 30th Anniversary, including the formation of a 30th Anniversary Advisory Committee, and the development of an awards program.

Among the significant staff accomplishments were:

- Increased the number of Advisory Members and the benefits of Advisory Membership
- Joint NERC-NEWMOA Strategic Action Plan adopted
- Received a Google Ad grant
- Formed a 30th Anniversary Planning Committee and created awards program
- Planned and held two conferences, including first time venues in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Burlington, Vermont
- Awarded contracts for consulting work from the Bennington (Vermont) County Regional Commission, Consumer Technology Association, and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- The Board of Directors began a "visioning process" for the organization.

Organization

Board of Directors

NERC is led by a Board of Directors (Board) 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 2017 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

Maryland: Kaley Laleker, Maryland Department of the Environment

Massachusetts: Greg Cooper, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

New Hampshire: Todd Moore, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

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

New York: Peter Pettit, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

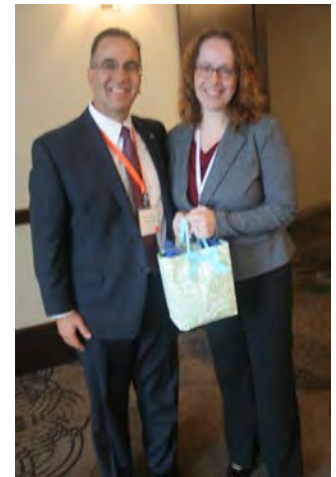
Rhode Island: Mike O'Conner, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

Vermont: Bryn Oakleaf and Cathy Jamieson, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Ex Officio: Chip Foley

Ex Officio: Chaz Miller

Sarah Reeves, who had represented the state of Rhode Island and served on the NERC Executive Committee for several years, left the Board in June 2016 when she transitioned to a new job in Vermont. Her contribution to the Board was recognized at the Fall 2016 Conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.



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: Robert Isner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Vice President: Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Treasurer: George MacDonald, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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. At the beginning of the fiscal year there were five positions:



- Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director (far left of picture)
- Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director (next)
- Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager (next)
- Patricia Dillon, Program Manager (not

pictured)

- Robert Kropp, Bookkeeper/Office Manager (far right of picture)

In August 2016, Patricia Dillon left her position which had included staffing of the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse. That position was changed to contractor status and filled by a nationally recognized expert in product stewardship and multi-stakeholder initiatives, Melissa Walsh Innes. Thus, NERC staffing decreased to four full-time positions.

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. One of the benefits to Advisory Members are “Advisory Members Only Luncheons” held in conjunction with conferences. These discussions are always informative, interesting, far reaching, and include important recommendations for NERC.



During FY 2017, there were 79 Advisory Members; a 7% increase from FY 2016. Overall Advisory Membership included 3 Distinguished Benefactors, 25 Sustaining Members, and 51 Supporting Members. Membership benefits were enhanced this year to include free consulting services (hours vary by membership level) as well as opportunities to form and lead subcommittees.

Another method of engaging Advisory Members is by recognizing significant contributions to support the longevity of NERC. Distinguished Benefactors are honored with awards for their ongoing support. Samsung was honored at the Fall Conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The award was presented (photo left) by Robert Isner, President of the NERC Board (left) and accepted by Mark Newton, Director, Regulatory and Environmental Affairs, Samsung (right).



Also receiving a NERC Leadership Award was ISRI. The award was accepted by Terri Cirone, Vice President, Safety, ISRI (photo right)

Sustaining and Benefactor level memberships also have a Member Spotlight published in the NERC Bulletin about their organization. In FY 2017, Member Spotlights highlighted:

- [Keurig Green Mountain](#)
- [Strategic Materials](#)
- [BAG TO EARTH](#)
- [Sony](#)
- [BHS-Sonthofen](#)

- [Good Point Recycling](#)



The Member Spotlights are included in the Email Bulletin, on the NERC home page, and archived on the Member Spotlight section of the [NERC website](#).

For the first time this year, Advisory members were mailed holiday cards. In the past this has been done electronically, but members indicated that a physical mailing would be preferred.

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 2017 Advisory Members.

30th Anniversary & Anniversary Committee

NERC launched the celebration of its 30th anniversary in January 2017. A special committee was formed to help plan how best to honor the occasion. Committee members were:

- Al Sabino, Casella Resource Solutions
- Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- Christine Cassidy, Dart
- David Aldridge, Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority
- Debra Darby, Organix
- George MacDonald, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Jaclyn Hochreiter, Addison County Solid Waste Management District
- Joanne Shafer, Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority
- Matt Krug, hibu
- Peter Schirk, BHS-Sonothern
- Robert Isner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Among the activities is a new awards program, monthly Email Bulletin articles about NERC's history and the celebration, soliciting quotes for publication on the newly updated [history page](#) of NERC's website and in Email Bulletin articles, designing a display board for the celebration, seeking and securing event sponsors, and inviting people from NERC's past to join us for the special occasion.

Development Committee

The Development Committee, made up of members of the Board and staff, continued its efforts to consider policies, strategies, and systems to promote NERC and its benefits, and to ensure the sustainability and viability of the organization. The work of the Committee transitioned to the 30th Anniversary Committee for the second half of the fiscal year. Rick Watson, Delaware, was the Chair of the Development Committee in fiscal year 2017.

Awards & Recognition

NERC, and its programs and staff received three awards in fiscal year 2017, recognizing both NERC's depth and breadth of accomplishments.

State Electronics Challenge Receives 2017 Sustainable Purchasing Visionary Award

The Green Electronics Council has honored the [State Electronics Challenge](#) - a NERC program - with the 2017 Sustainable Purchasing Visionary Award. The Challenge was recognized for its 10-year contribution to promoting the use of the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT). Since 2008, the State Electronics Challenge has enabled state, tribal, regional, and local governments, including schools and other public entities, to purchase and manage IT products in an environmentally sound manner. The State Electronics Challenge currently has 167 partner organizations who purchase EPEAT-registered IT products.



NERC Recognized by Green Electronics Council as Leader in Sustainable Procurement of Electronics

The Green Electronics Council (GEC), managers of the EPEAT ecolabel, presented 37 organizations with a 2017 EPEAT Purchaser Award in recognition of their leadership in the procurement of sustainable IT products. When combined, the 2017 EPEAT Purchaser Award winners realized cost savings of more than \$33.8 million across the lifetime of their purchased products. Along with significant cost savings, the 37 EPEAT Purchaser Award winners also recognized considerable environmental benefits from their purchasing decisions including combined greenhouse gas reductions equivalent to removing more than 40,000 passenger cars from the road for a year; a reduction of nearly 769 metric tons of hazardous waste; solid waste savings equivalent to that produced by 2,078 average U.S. households each year; a reduction in energy usage by 327.5 million kWh; and avoidance of 513.8 metric tons of water pollutant emissions.



Large scale public and private sector purchasers globally rely on the EPEAT Registry, the leading online rating system of sustainable IT products, to identify and purchase sustainable IT products. "The EPEAT ecolabel was established to provide large-scale purchasers a way to identify credible sustainable IT products," said Melanie Bower, Director of EPEAT. "The EPEAT Purchaser Awards allows us to recognize those organizations who chose to realize significant cost savings and positive environmental benefits by making informed decisions about the IT products they purchased."

The State Electronics Challenge was recognized for its success in encouraging public agencies and non-profits to use EPEAT as a procurement requirement.

EPA Recognizes NERC as an Outstanding Food Recovery Challenge Endorser



Left to right: Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources/NERC Board Vice-President; Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director, NERC; George MacDonald, Maine Department of Environmental Protection/NERC Board Treasurer; Chris Beling, US Environmental Protection Agency; Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, NERC; Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director, NERC; Robert Isner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection/NERC Board President.

In November 2016 EPA announced its recognition of NERC as the Outstanding Food Recovery Challenge Endorser for 2016. NERC was one of 13 organizations and businesses being recognized. NERC was recognized for its accomplishments in encouraging businesses to join the EPA Food Recovery Challenge, and for the education and technical assistance it has provided to businesses throughout New England to decrease food waste and increase food recovery.

“The waste reduction efforts of this year’s award winners, as well as all Food Recovery Challenge participants and endorsers, are leading the way for the United States to meet the national goal to cut food loss and waste in half by 2030,” said Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Land and Emergency Management. “These Food Recovery Challenge award winners are reducing food loss and waste within their communities to make America a healthier, more sustainable nation. They are leading by example and have reduced their climate footprint, helped communities and achieved cost savings by taking actions based on EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy and sustainable materials management best practices.”

To reduce their food waste, Food Recovery Challenge participants use creative practices such as:

- Recovering food from farmers’ markets
- Creating food waste volunteer programs in high schools
- Giving college students the option to choose what goes on their plates
- Using tools to improve portion control and meal forecasting
- Adding infrastructure to more efficiently distribute perishable produce

NERC was recognized as a "narrative award winner".

NERC in the News

NERC and its programs were recognized in many national and regional publications throughout fiscal year 2017. A total of 20 news stories featuring NERC were posted in the “NERC in the News” section of the [website](#) during the fiscal year.

June, 2017

- [Northeast associations partner to advance sustainable materials management.](#) NERC partners with Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association (NEWMOA) to address solid waste management issues in the northeast US.

May, 2017

- [NERC updates resource detailing mandatory recycling laws.](#) Originally compiled by NERC in 2011, the resource has been updated for the first time since then.
- [Corvallis honored for sustainable technology efforts.](#) Corvallis, the only city in Oregon to partner with the State Electronics Challenge, is honored by the program for the fifth consecutive year.

April, 2017

- [Assessing the ROI of EPR.](#) The success of Connecticut's electronics EPR program, based on a model developed by NERC, is analyzed.
- [State Electronics Challenge reaches 166 participants.](#) Administered by NERC, the State Electronics Challenge reached 166 participants in 2016.

- [ISTC Earns Gold Level Recognition from State Electronics Challenge for Third Year in a Row.](#) The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center is recognized again for its accomplishments in green purchasing, energy conservation, and responsible recycling of electronic office equipment.
- [NERC issues call for papers for fall conference.](#) The Conference will be held in Amherst, Massachusetts on November 13-14, and will include the celebration of NERC's 30th anniversary.

March, 2017

- [E-Waste Not, E-Want Not: Reducing, Reusing and Recycling Our Electronic Castoffs.](#) Lynn Rubinstein, NERC's Executive Director, is among those interviewed about the state of e-cycling in Vermont and New Hampshire.

February, 2017

- [Northeast Recycling Council turns 30, takes on new tasks.](#) NERC staff reflect upon three decades of challenges and success, and discuss plans and hopes for the future.

January, 2017

- [A Reboot Through Reuse.](#) NERC's Athena Lee Bradley writes that extending product life cycles can bring big benefits to communities of all sizes.

December, 2016

- [Report: Raising NYC recycling rates could create thousands of new jobs.](#) The Transform Don't Trash coalition estimates that 3,300 jobs could be added if New York City increased recycling rates.

November, 2016

- [Vermont-based group honored by EPA for diverting food waste.](#) NERC wins the agency's 2016 National Food Recovery Challenge Endorser Award for its food recovery outreach and technical assistance efforts to New England businesses.
- [EPA Recognizes Outstanding Food Recovery Challenge Participants.](#) NERC is recognized by EPA for its food scrap management work.
- [Talkin' Trash: Quotes on climate change, profitability and changing consumer habits.](#) "We don't need to repeat the mistakes that recycling made. We don't need to pretend that this is free," Casella Resource Solutions Sustainability Manager Abbie Webb said during the Northeast Recycling Council's fall conference.
- [Northeast recyclers: Organics collection is not recycling — and it is not free.](#) At NERC's annual Fall Conference, panelists from government and industry discuss the costs of organics collection.
- [Repair and reuse may be future of e-waste, but CRTs are unwelcome reminder of past.](#) Cathode ray tube (CRT) units comprise 70-80% of the recycled electronics received by local programs, but the cost of managing the leaded glass outweighs its value.

October, 2016

- [Trash Tutorial: Clothing, even shoes, are wanted by recyclers.](#) NERC Conference attendee learns that almost all used textiles can be recycled.

September, 2016

- [NERC offers business assistance guide for Northeast recyclers.](#) The free "Recycling Business Assistance Guide for the Northeast States" provides state-by-state information and contacts.

- [New Leadership Elected for the Northeast Recycling Council.](#) Northeast Recycling Council announces new appointees to the Executive Committee of its Board of Directors.
- [NERC adds two members to board.](#) Todd Moore (New Hampshire) and Mike OConnell (Rhode Island) have joined the Northeast Recycling Council's board of directors.

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 consultant services program
- Program sponsorship

NERC staff is responsible for grant and project development, including project and grant submittals, responses to RFPs, and outreach for potential consulting service projects. In FY 2017, NERC staff worked on eight contracts and sponsor funded projects, and three grant funded projects. One of the grant funded projects was completed in the fiscal year: Innovative Strategies & Best Management Practices for Implementing Reuse Programs in Rural Communities in New York State & the St. Regis Mohawk Nation.

Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC)

The Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (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 or local governments that are implementing electronics recycling laws, or affiliate and non-voting members, consisting of industry and other organizations. Membership in fiscal year 2017 included 17 state voting members¹, unchanged from the previous fiscal year, and 27 Affiliate Members, an increase of one 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 state law implementation at the E-Scrap 2016 conference held in New Orleans with approximately 70 attendees. Three major topics were covered, including changes to state laws, the future of the e-scrap stream, and CRTs and other problematic materials. Each topic included productive discussions for moving forward with a wide range of stakeholders.

¹ California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington DC, and Wisconsin

- 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 260 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 shared recent updates and helped prioritize activities for the coming year.
- Represented ERCC at various conferences and meetings, including:
 - Electronics Goes Green Conference, September 2016
 - NERC Fall Conference, October 2016
 - Waste Expo, June 2017
 - Consumer Electronics Show, January 2017
- Kicked off a project to develop an online Compliance Calendar to list major tasks and requirements under state electronics recycling laws for stakeholders to view and track.
- Continued market share data reports program. That report 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, Executive Director, NERC and Jason Linnell, NCER

Funding: ERCC Membership dues

Timeframe: Ongoing

Bennington County Regional Commission

In April 2017, NERC was awarded a contract by Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) to provide training, technical assistance, and outreach in support of its Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP); required by Vermont state law. The project, conducted on behalf of BCRC for the [Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance](#) (BCSWA), focused on raising awareness about the recycling, food waste diversion, and toxics requirements under [Vermont's Universal Recycling Law](#).

BCSWA has 13 member towns located in southwest Vermont: Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland and Woodford.

To assist BCSWA in the implementation of its SWIP that was adopted in 2015, NERC conducted waste assessment surveys of targeted schools, businesses, and institutions, and provided training, technical assistance, and resource development in recycling, as well as food waste reduction, recovery, and composting.

Project Manager: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Funding: Bennington County Regional Commission, Vermont

Timeframe: Ongoing

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 with Jay Peak Resort in Vermont to establish pre-consumer and post-consumer food scraps and soiled paper at their five, full-service restaurants; this fiscal year the restaurants recycled 63.86 tons. NERC also provided assistance to the Lake Monsters Minor League

Baseball Team in the start-up for food scrap collection for composting, resulting in approximately 6 tons of food scraps and soiled paper collected for composting.

Working in conjunction Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District on their Sustainable Solutions Business Program, NERC assisted in waste assessments at eight businesses in Stowe and contributed to data collection and reports and recommendations for food scrap reduction, recovery, and diversion tailored for each business and provided additional research and assistance as requested. NERC also conducted four onsite training visits with Windham Solid Waste Management District and presented at the District's Food Recovery Hierarchy workshop for businesses.

In addition, NERC has worked on promoting the EPA Food Recovery Challenge (FRC) to Vermont haulers, solid waste districts, and hospitality establishments in order to foster recruitment in the program. NERC has successfully recruited 12 businesses (18 venues) to become FRC partners. Altogether these new FRC partners diverted more than 248 tons of food scraps through food donation, food to livestock, and/or composting or anaerobic digestion.

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

- [Partnering to Promote Recycling & Composting](#)
- [EPA Recognizes NERC as an Outstanding Food Recovery Challenge Endorser](#)
- [Food Recovery Hierarchy in Action](#)
- [The Challenge & Game Day Diversions](#)

Additional activities:

NERC was recognized by EPA for its food scrap management work - EPA Recognizes Outstanding Food Recovery Challenge Participants.

NERC staff discussed their food recovery hierarchy & Food Recovery Challenge activities on an EPA Solid Waste Group conference call in February.

NERC presented at BioCycle East 2017 in April on "Community Solutions in Food Scrap Management." The presentation discussed Jay Peak and also promoted the FRC & other partners; 50 people were in attendance.

NERC presented at the Vermont Grocers and Retailers Conference & Expo in April on wasted food reduction and the FRC; 24 people were in attendance.

Project Manager: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Funding source: U.S. EPA Region 1

Timeframe: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2017

Implementing the Food Recovery Hierarchy in Rural Vermont Communities

NERC worked with communities in Vermont to reduce food scraps, work to promote food recovery and donation options, and to divert food scraps to composting. The project: provided onsite technical assistance for implementing and/or expanding and promoting food scrap reduction, recovery, and composting by residents, schools, businesses, and towns; developed town-specific resources about the Food Recovery

Hierarchy; provided training sessions and educational resources, including a Food Recovery Hierarchy Case Studies Compendium; and organized three national webinars presenting lessons learned and Food Recovery Hierarchy models.

Project partners include the Bennington County Regional Commission, the Londonderry Group, and the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District.

Technical Assistance

NERC worked with Bennington County, the town of Shaftsbury, and TAM Organics (hauler) to develop promotional materials to initiate food scraps collection at the town transfer station. The collection kick-off was in early July 2016, with NERC staff providing onsite outreach and promotion; town staff sold kitchen collection containers. NERC provided follow-up onsite outreach two additional times.

NERC worked with the Londonderry recycling coordinator and administrators at Flood Brook School to establish a “share table” for students to leave or take unopened food items during the lunch period.

NERC worked with the Composting Association of Vermont and the Vermont Community Garden Network to start a pilot community composting project in Vermont.

Trainings

NERC organized a “Reducing Wasted Food is Patriotic” educational event in Londonderry in conjunction with Independence Day events; approximately 60 people were reached. A similar educational event—“Wasted Food Awareness Day”—was held at the regional farmers market in Londonderry in August 2016; approximately 40 people were reached.

NERC assisted in organizing a town of Bennington business training, “Materials Management – a New Way to Look at Waste.” Nineteen people attended. NERC staff worked with a representative from the town of Bennington to plan the workshops and develop outreach materials, including a PowerPoint presentation about [Food Scrap Composting at Home](#), and a [Basic Home Composting Recipe](#) handout.

NERC provided two food recovery hierarchy presentations for 60 middle school students at Flood Brook School in Londonderry.

NERC delivered a home compost training in May 2017 in Bennington with 26 attendees.

NERC worked with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (New Hampshire) to organize a compost operators training to be held in August 2017.

Webinars

Two webinars were held for the project:

- [Food Recovery: Food Rescue Innovative Strategies](#); 108 people participated in the webinar, including representatives from 21 states, Washington D.C., and one Canadian province.
- [Building Resiliency in Food Recovery](#); there were 165 participants from 35 states, the District of Columbia, and London, England.

Related NERC Email Bulletin articles published were:

- [NERC Presents in Canada](#)
- [New Resource to Reduce Wasted Food](#)
- [Increasing Wasted Food Awareness in Vermont](#)
- [Free Webinar - Food Recovery = Food Rescue - Innovative Strategies](#)

Related NERC blogs were:

- [Being Thankful for Leftovers!](#)
- [Troubling Donations](#)
- [Building Resiliency in Food Recovery – Free Webinar](#)
- [Fresh Produce Recovery Models](#)
- [International Compost Awareness Week](#)
- [The Compost Story.](#)

Two news articles resulted from a press release:

- Vermont News Guide, [West River Farmers Market to Host Wasted Food Awareness Day](#)
- Waste Today—[NERC partners to provide compost operator training.](#)

Additional activities:

A “[Reduce Wasted Food! Tip Sheet](#)” was developed and distributed. And, Athena Lee Bradley presented at BioCycle East 2017 in April on “*Community Solutions in Food Scrap Management.*” The presentation included examples from the project, including Shaftsbury and Londonderry; 50 people were in attendance.

Project Manager: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Funding: USDA Rural Utilities Solid Waste Management Grant program

Timeframe: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2017

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

This project focused on the development and implementation of innovative reuse programs in New York State. NERC 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. The grant ended September 30, 2016.

Project summary:

- Four trainings were conducted, with a total of 71 participants
- Four technical assistance sites visits and four ongoing reuse programs were implemented, including

- formation of the St. Lawrence Region Reuse Partnership and ongoing “college clean-out events”
- Four national reuse webinars completed, with 541 people participating
 - “[Reuse Explorations Guide](#)” completed and posted on the NERC website

Through the course of the project, 21 NERC Email Bulletin articles were published, including two this fiscal year:

- [Reuse Explorations Guide: Innovative Programs & Strategies](#)
- [NERC Blog Worth Repeating: Our Clothing Problem](#)

Thirteen NERC Blog articles were posted for the project, including four posted this fiscal year:

- [Our Clothing Problem](#)
- [Why Reuse?](#)
- [Sharing Economy](#)
- [Sharing Economy, Part 2](#)

NERC wrote an article—[A Reboot through Reuse](#)—published in Resource Recycling magazine in September.

Project Manager: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Funding: USDA Rural Utilities Solid Waste Management Grant program

Timeframe: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016

Nebraska Capacity Building Projects

NERC has two projects in Nebraska, both with funding from the Consumer Technology Association (CTA). The projects focus on building expanded opportunities for consumer electronics recycling and electronics recyclers’ capacity building.

Efforts have begun for expanded consumer electronics recycling opportunities, but were put on hold with the realization that there are no certified electronics recyclers in Nebraska. The decision was made that until there are certified recyclers, it would be best to suspend this specific effort. To that end another project began, with an emphasis on promoting certification of in-state electronics recyclers. This project includes a competitive grant program to support efforts to become certified.

To date, there has been outreach to recyclers and potential collection sites, as well as delivering a webinar about the importance of certification that was hosted by WasteCap Nebraska. A recording of the webinar is available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a9NFWqAfAc>. There have also been supporting documents created and plans for future educational presentations.

Project Manager: Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director

Funding: Consumer Technology Association (CTA)

Timeframe: January 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

Solid Waste Operator Trainings – New Hampshire

NERC was invited to present three trainings for Solid Waste Operators in New Hampshire. These were delivered in March and April, 2017. Each was a 3-hour substantive presentation with PowerPoint and handouts. The PowerPoints are available on the NERC website and a recording of the second training (held April 6) will be available online in the near future.

- March 28, 2017: [Overview of the Electronics Recycling Industry](#)

This training was “sold out” with 140 participants and a waiting list of another 15 individuals.

- April 6, 2017: [Best Management Practices for Collecting Electronics for Recycling](#)

There were 75 participants at this training.

Lynn Rubinstein, NERC Executive Director, developed and presented the workshops.

- June 13, 2017: [Beyond the Basics - Food Scrap & Organics Composting](#)

There were 29 participants in the training.

Athena Lee Bradley, NERC Projects Manager, developed and presented the training, which included an onsite tour of an active compost operation.

NERC Staff: Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director, and Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Funding: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Timeframe: January 1 – June 30, 2017

State Electronics Challenge

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a voluntary program that encourages state, tribal, regional, and local governments, including schools, colleges, universities, other public entities, and non-profit organizations to:

- Purchase greener electronic office equipment
- Reduce the impacts during use through energy and paper conservation
- Manage obsolete electronic office equipment in an environmentally safe way.



Government entities and organizations participate as "Partners" in the program. The SEC provides Partners with free resources and technical assistance for improving electronics management practices and offers annual recognition to Partners that have achieved specific goals. To date, 167 government entities—representing more than 223,000 employees, in 39 states, have signed on as SEC Partners.








This reflects a 5% increase in the number of Partners and 4% increase in the number of employees as compared to FY16. There was also an expansion in the number of represented states by two.

The State Electronics Challenge recently was awarded the *2017 Sustainable Purchasing Visionary Award* by the Green Electronics Council.

In addition, the annual sustainability report and recognition program for calendar year 2016 was completed. 31 State Electronics Challenge Partners submitted annual reporting data and received individualized sustainability reports. And, 17 Partners are being recognized for their achievements with awards. The cumulative results were among the most impressive ever.

Calendar Year 2016 Partner Environmental Benefits

		Purchasing EPEAT® Products	Use	Reuse & Recycling	TOTAL BENEFITS	
	Reduction In	How Much?			How Much?	Equivalent To
	Energy use	12,502,622 kWh	81,156,552 kWh	55,248,211 kWh	148,907,385 kWh	Electricity to power 13,722 U.S. households/ year
	Greenhouse gas emissions	15,183 metric tons of carbon equivalents	198,124 metric tons of carbon equivalents	5,891 metric tons of carbon equivalent	219,198 metric tons of carbon equivalents	Removing 171,006 cars from the road/year
	Toxic materials, including lead & mercury	56 lbs.	7 lbs.	32 lbs.	95 lbs.	Weight of 21 bricks
	Municipal solid waste	245,237 lbs.	1,584,415 lbs.	2,349,840 lbs.	4,179,492 lbs.	Waste generated by 1,007 households/year
	Hazardous waste	66,002 lbs.	30,673 lbs.	504,429 lbs.	601,104 lbs.	Weight of 2,120 refrigerators

Calendar Year 2016 Award Winners

SEC Partner	Recognition	Lifecycle Phases
Borough of State College, Pennsylvania	Gold	Purchasing, Use, & End-of-Life Management
Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority, Pennsylvania	Gold	Purchasing, Use, & End-of-Life Management
City of Corvallis, Oregon	Gold	Purchasing, Use, & End-of-Life Management
City of Fort Collins, Colorado	Gold	Purchasing, Use, & End-of-Life Management
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin	Gold	Purchasing Use, & End-of-Life Management
City of Providence, Rhode Island, School Department	Gold	Purchasing, Use, & End-of-Life Management
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC)	Gold	Purchasing, Use, & End-of-Life Management
Ball State University (Indiana)	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
Chewonki Foundation, Maine	Silver	Use & End-of-Life Management
City & County of Denver, Colorado	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
City of Columbia, South Carolina	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
Maryland Department of Transportation	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
Upper Merion Township, Pennsylvania	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources	Silver	Purchasing & End-of-Life Management
City of Durango (Colorado)	Bronze	Purchasing
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Bronze	Purchasing

Partners are offered press releases to announce their awards, and this year 10 organizations were provided with these. Here is an example of how a press release is used by an award winner:

<http://wp.istc.illinois.edu/blog/2017/04/04/state-electronics-challenge-recognizes-illinois-sustainable-technology-center-as-a-2016-gold-award-winner/>

Project Manager: Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director

Funding: Sponsorship from Samsung

Timeframe: Ongoing

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 direction for the development of outreach materials.

Beyond its core mission and administration, some highlights for TPCH in FY 2017 included:

- Finalization of a multi-year research project on PVC and packaging. The project included extensive outreach to companies involved in PVC packaging. The TPCH PVC Bulletin will be published in the first quarter of FY18.
- 18,357 visitors accessed the TPCH website in FY17, an average of 1,669 visitors per month.
- TPCH received and responded to 28 general inquiries by telephone and email, an average of 2-3 per month.
- TPCH presentation to the Recycling Organization Council (ROC) highlighting the support TPCH provides to member states, affiliate members and companies regarding member state toxics in packaging (“tip”) laws.
- Convened a two-day Annual Membership Meeting hosted by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

In early fiscal year 2017, long-time Project Manager Patricia Dillon left the program and after a national search Melissa Walsh Innes of Maine was hired as the new Project Manager.

Project Managers: Patricia Dillon & Melissa Walsh Innes, Consultant

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

Timeframe: Ongoing

Vermont Green Business Program

Since October 2016, NERC has been the Coordinator of the Vermont Green Business Program (VT GBP). The VT GBP is a free recognition program for Vermont businesses that incorporate environmental stewardship in their operations. Among its responsibilities, NERC has:

- Reorganized the overall application process and revised the application criteria for each of the five business sectors included in the program
- Recommended website and brochure revisions
- Distributed brochures at several events and to individual businesses
- Developed and maintained a database of more than 80 potential new members
- Maintained a database of 240 existing members
- Contacted dozens of potential new member businesses

- Provided input on the annual survey for members
- Contacted members that didn't submit the survey
- Conducted 11 walk-through assessments of applicant businesses
- Provided technical assistance to 10 applicants to assist them with completing the application
- Conducted research on green cleaning products
- Recommended strategies for future marketing of the program
- Wrote and distributed a press release
- Partnered with two other non-profits that are well-known for their work with businesses to promote the program
- Reviewed fourteen governor's environmental excellence awards applications and recommended the highest rating to the Vermont environmental assistance office (VT EAO)
- Maintained regular communication with the VT EAO
- Completed and submitted NERC's Green Business application to the VT EAO for approval. The work required to comply with the program requirements included: working with the landlord to get his approval to cover the costs of replacing a light fixture to an LED version; replacing the toilet with a low-flow version; installing a low-flow aerator on the bathroom faucet; and getting his approval that green cleaners be used in our bathroom. To replace the light fixture, Efficiency Vermont was contacted to identify an appropriate light for the space and then shopping for the light fixture at a local electrical supply company. To initiate the use of green cleaners in the bathroom, green cleaners were purchased and contact made with the building janitor to review their use. Further contact was also made with the janitor to review any of her questions and concerns with the new cleaners.

Project Manager: Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director

Funding: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Timeframe: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

Vermont State Standard Plan for E-Scrap Management

NERC is a subcontractor to the National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER) in the implementation of the Vermont "State Standard Plan" for the collection and recycling of e-scrap under the State electronics take-back law. NERC's primary roles were to: manage the request process for pick-ups from collection points; work with the state of Vermont to update educational materials; provide collection site operator training; and do witnessed waste sorts at the participant recyclers. Seven trainings took place this fiscal year, with more than 80 participants. A recording of one of the webinar trainings is available [online](#).

In addition, NERC collaborates with NCER in program administration and relations with the state agency administering the program. The contract with the state was renewed for another year, through December 31, 2018.

Project Manager: Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director

Funding: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Timeframe: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Ongoing Projects & Programs

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 well-attended and acclaimed for offering a unique forum. They focus on emerging issues and host timely conversation designed for professionals in the fields of reuse, recycling, recycling market development, food scrap management, difficult to recycle materials management, and sustainability. 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 Fall 2016 Conference—*New Voices, New Solutions*—focused on presenting new topics by speakers that had never spoken at a NERC Conference. A young professional speaker was included in each session, which was a new strategy for NERC. The sessions presented included: achievable recovery or recycling rates; happenings with sustainable packaging; the changing face of electronics recycling—reuse, safety in recycling—collections and operations; a changing roadmap for food scrap management; emerging and experienced professionals tackle food scrap collection; and food scrap processing successes. The Conference was held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a first-time venue for NERC.

The Spring 2017 Conference—*Full Speed Ahead*—focused on recycling market pressures and the impact on government and business. The topics discussed included: state of recycling markets; economics of the current marketplace; market impacts on sustainable materials management; impact of markets on brand owners' decisions; and riding out the market lows. The Conference was held in another first-time venue for NERC's Conferences—Burlington, Vermont. Despite the fact that "Winter Storm Stella" (the second largest snow storm on record for Burlington) dumped more than 30 inches of snow the night before and first day of the Conference, the attendance level was very good. For those that weren't able to travel, NERC offered the sessions via GoToWebinar.



The agendas and presentations are posted on [NERC's website](#). The agendas can also be found in Appendix A and Appendix B of this document. Both events were well attended by state and municipal recycling officials, recycling trade associations, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and consultants.

NERC's Board held two meetings; one at each conference. Minutes from the [November 2016](#) and [April 2017](#) meetings are posted on the website. The Board also meets by teleconference and through email exchange.

Project Managers:

Conferences & Workshops - Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director
Board Meetings – Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director

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 2,000 subscribers – an increase of 53% over the previous fiscal year. The Bulletin is posted and [archived](#) on the NERC website.

Project Manager: Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director

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 185 members of the listserv. EPPnet is promoted through NERC presentations about the organization, as well as an occasional Email Bulletin article.

Project Manager: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Information Clearinghouse & Technical Assistance

One of NERC's most important roles is educating its constituents about source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, environmentally preferable purchasing, and decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream. All of its projects and programs contribute to these efforts. In addition, NERC is regularly contacted—by phone and email—with questions and requests for assistance. NERC's staff makes every effort to respond to these requests as fully as possible. It is important to note that NERC has and continues to allow broad access to our website as a matter of public service and a prudent practice to carry out the mission of the organization.

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, composting, and 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 55 members, up 8% from the previous fiscal year.

Project Manager: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager

Press Releases

In January 2017 a new initiative was launched to publish at least one press release about NERC each month. As a component of this effort, a [new page](#) was added to the website and a design secured for the press release “blasts”. The press releases are archived on the NERC website for one year.

The press releases distributed between January and June, 2017 were:

- January 3, 2017

[New Partners for Vermont’s Green Business Program](#)

- February 21, 2017

[FULL SPEED AHEAD – A Regional Sustainable Materials Management Conference](#)

- March 14, 2017

[Green Electronics Council Honors NERC as a Leader in Sustainable Procurement of Electronics](#)

- April 14, 2017

[State Electronics Challenge Receives 2017 Sustainable Purchasing Visionary Award from Green Electronics Council](#)

- May 12, 2017

[National Compendium of State Disposal Bans & Mandatory Recycling Laws Released](#)

- May 19, 2017

[NERC Announces 30th Anniversary Sustainable Materials Management Award Competition](#)

- June 16, 2017

[Massachusetts Construction & Demolition Market Study Published](#)

- June 26, 2017

[The Northeast Recycling Council \(NERC\) & Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association \(NEWMOA\) Agree to Jointly Address Solid Waste Challenges](#)

Project Staff: All staff

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, replicable project ideas, and more. Some of our blog articles are instructive, while others tend toward opinion pieces. We have guest blogger posts as well. Each month a “NERC Blog Worth Repeating” is posted in the NERC Email Bulletin. The blogs are posted weekly.

Facebook, Twitter, & YouTube

NERC has an active [Facebook page](#) and is on [Twitter](#). There are now 447 Facebook followers and 2,700 Twitter followers. This represents a 10% increase in the number of Facebook followers and a 273% increase in Twitter followers. NERC also added a [YouTube](#) account.

LinkedIn

NERC launched a [LinkedIn page](#) and continues to add to its “follower” base.

Project Staff: Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager (blog, Facebook, You Tube); Robert Kropp, Office Manager (Twitter); Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director (LinkedIn)

Website

The NERC website is one of NERC's primary resources for promoting public education and action in support of sustainable materials management. Website update and maintenance, including publishing new documents and resources, and keeping them updated, is an ongoing focus of staff efforts. During FY 2017, NERC averaged more than 3,500 visits per month - an increase over 17% over the previous fiscal year; and almost 6,200 page views per month, an increase of 24% from the previous year.

In March 2017, NERC became the recipient of a Google Ad Grant with a value of \$10,000/month. We have begun working with a specialist to help us take the greatest advantage of this opportunity. And, while it has only been a month, the results are extremely impressive. We have seen the amount of traffic to the NERC website doubled, and we're told by the consultants that the "click through" rate of 4.38% is over quadruple the industry average of 1%.

Several documents and resources on the website were updated or added during the year. These include:

- [Disposal Bans and Mandatory Recycling in the United States](#)
- [Advisory Membership brochure](#)
- Minutes Board of Directors Meeting [November 2016](#)
- Minutes Board of Directors Meeting [April 2017](#)
- [FY 2016 Annual Report](#)
- [FY 2018 Operating Plan](#)
- [Reduce Wasted Food - Tip Sheet for Residents](#)
- [Reuse Explorations Guide - Innovative Programs and Strategies](#)

NERC maintains three websites: the [NERC website](#), the [State Electronics Challenge website](#), and the [Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse website](#).

Program Staff: All NERC staff update and maintain the website.

Additional Staff Activities

Ameripen

In early fiscal year 2017 NERC was accepted as a Technical Assistance Committee member of Ameripen. Lynn Rubinstein has been active in the Food Waste & Packaging Committee. Ameripen is a membership organization committed to leading the packaging industry through advocacy based on science, and enhancing the understanding of the role packaging plays in a more sustainable society, economy, and environment.

EPA Region 3 Electronics Recycling Webinar Series



NERC and ERCC collaborated with EPA Region 3 to host an Electronics Recycling Webinar Series that began in spring 2016. To date, there have been five webinars with hundreds of participants. In Fiscal Year 2017, the following webinars took place:

- Optimizing RFP's for Electronics Recycling, October 2016
- Eco-Fees & Electronics - Are They a Match? February 2017

EPA Purchasing Guidelines Pilot

Mary Ann Remolador served on EPA's Pilot Guidelines for Flooring Panel. The Panel reviewed and updated EPA's Guidelines for Environmental Performance Standards & Ecolabels for Federal Procurement of Flooring. The Guidelines are being used for EPA's Interim Recommendations for the procurement of environmentally preferable products by federal agencies.

EPEAT Standards for Servers & Computers

NERC's Executive Director continues as a voting member of four standard development efforts: the NSF Joint Committee on Environmental Leadership Standard for Servers; the IEEE 1680.1 Working Group (updated EPEAT standard for computers and monitors); and IEEE 1680.2 and .3 (imaging equipment and televisions) end-of-life revisions. Each of these efforts have regular phone calls and occasional face-to-face meetings. These efforts will continue in FY 2018.

Glass Recycling Coalition

NERC worked with the [Glass Recycling Coalition](#) to plan and facilitate a webinar— *Partnerships to Make Glass Recycling Work*. This effort was intended to continue the dialogue about glass recycling that NERC began at its [2015 Glass Forum](#) and to present examples of communities that have engaged in partnerships to make glass recycling work. The webinar [recording](#) is available on the Glass Recycling Coalition's website.

NYSAR Organics Council

Athena Lee Bradley serves on the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR³) Organics Council and chairs the Council's *End Products & Marketing Work Group*. The Organics Recycling and Composting Council is a group of NYSAR³ members who share a common interest to promote an understanding of the importance of recovering food scraps and other organics from the waste stream through policies and programs for a more sustainable use.

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, of which 80% were in person. Total attendees were 1,386. A list of presentations can be found in [Appendix D](#).

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 is also the Board representative to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Conclusion

Fiscal year 2017 was an exciting year with substantive projects, a landmark agreement entered into with NEWMOA, a chance to reflect on our history – including going through our files – in preparation for the 30th anniversary celebration, and an expanded membership base. NERC staff continued to demonstrate their commitment and passion for the organization 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 ongoing successes. 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.

Finances

An overview of budget to actual for each of the NERC programs follows on the next page. The NERC Audit FY 2017 is available [online](#).

	NERC			ERCC			TPCH			Combined		
	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	% of Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue												
Conference Sponsorship	\$12,000	\$24,500	204%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$12,000	\$24,500	204%
Grants/Consulting	\$247,635	\$220,750	89%	\$163,500	\$178,785	109%	\$0	\$0		\$411,135	\$399,535	97%
Interest	\$3,000	\$1,984	66%	\$150	\$311	208%	\$35	\$38	107%	\$3,185	\$2,333	73%
State Membership Dues	\$68,508	\$85,275	124%	\$102,000	\$71,250	70%	\$27,000	\$41,000	152%	\$197,508	\$197,525	100%
Advisory Membership Dues	\$90,000	\$94,825	105%	\$58,000	\$86,850	150%	\$11,000	\$7,000	64%	\$159,000	\$188,675	119%
Registrations	\$47,490	\$56,348	119%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$47,490	\$56,348	119%
State Travel Accounts	\$4,720	\$6,900	146%	\$0	-\$1,500		\$0	\$0		\$4,720	\$5,400	114%
Contributions	\$0	\$50,230		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$50,230	
Total Revenues	\$473,353	\$540,811	114%	\$323,650	\$335,697	104%	\$38,035	\$48,038	126%	\$835,038	\$924,545	111%
Released from Cash Reserves	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$7,122	\$0	0%	\$7,122	\$0	0%
Total	\$473,353	\$540,811	114%	\$323,650	\$335,697	104%	\$45,157	\$48,038	106%	\$842,160	\$924,545	110%
Expenses												
Advertising	\$500	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$500	\$0	0%
Bank Service Charges	\$3,500	\$3,532	101%	\$300	\$784	261%	\$0	\$0		\$3,800	\$4,316	114%
Contract Services	\$16,580	\$4,062	24%	\$18,000	\$19,380	108%	\$335	\$0	0%	\$34,915	\$23,442	67%
Equipment Purchases	\$12,000	\$2,515	21%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$12,000	\$2,515	21%
Equipment Repairs	\$1,500	\$1,025	68%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$1,500	\$1,025	68%
Gifts & Awards Given	\$2,075	\$2,094	101%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$2,075	\$2,094	101%
Insurance	\$4,000	\$3,233	81%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$4,000	\$3,233	81%
Internet	\$1,925	\$1,886	98%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$1,925	\$1,886	98%
State Travel Costs	\$6,500	\$4,201	65%	\$0	\$1,078		\$0	\$0		\$6,500	\$5,279	81%
Office Supplies	\$1,400	\$1,056	75%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$1,400	\$1,056	75%
Permits	\$1,200	\$1,239	103%	\$0	\$246		\$0	\$0		\$1,200	\$1,485	124%
Personnel expenses	\$400,000	\$318,358	80%	\$0	\$0		\$32,322	\$21,678	67%	\$432,322	\$340,036	79%
Raise/bonus fund	\$10,000	\$6,398	64%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$10,000	\$6,398	64%
Postage	\$340	\$197	58%	\$0	\$16		\$100	\$51	51%	\$440	\$265	60%
Printing (copying)	\$900	\$1,010	112%	\$0	\$1		\$100	\$36	36%	\$1,000	\$1,047	105%
Professional Services	\$12,000	\$52,218	435%	\$258,820	\$231,962	90%	\$0	\$0		\$270,820	\$284,180	105%
Promotion & Marketing	\$1,200	\$985	82%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$1,200	\$985	82%
Program - Meeting Expenses	\$22,792	\$30,277	133%	\$24,000	\$24,000	100%	\$15,000	\$13,524	90%	\$61,792	\$67,801	110%
Registrations	\$3,000	\$1,991	66%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$3,000	\$1,991	66%
Rent	\$13,000	\$12,648	97%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0		\$13,000	\$12,648	97%
Subscriptions & Memberships	\$5,250	\$3,652	70%	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$250		\$5,250	\$3,902	74%
Telephone	\$2,800	\$3,311	118%	\$0	\$12		\$300	\$328	109%	\$3,100	\$3,651	118%
Travel	\$13,812	\$19,606	142%	\$15,000	\$7,979	53%	\$1,000	\$527	53%	\$29,812	\$28,112	94%
Total Expenses	\$536,274	\$475,493	89%	\$316,120	\$285,457	90%	\$49,157	\$36,394	74%	\$901,551	\$797,345	88%
Release from Restricted	-\$65,985	-\$16,785	25%	\$0	\$0		-\$4,000	-\$2,550	64%	\$73,107	-\$16,785	-23%
Subtotal	\$470,289	\$458,708	98%	\$316,120	\$285,457	90%	\$45,157	\$33,844	75%	\$974,658	\$780,559	80%
NET budget for fiscal year	\$3,064	\$82,103	2680%	\$7,530	\$50,239	667%	\$0	\$14,193		\$10,594	\$146,535	1,383%

Appendices

[A. Fall Conference Agenda](#)

[B. Spring Conference Agenda](#)

[C. Advisory Members](#)

[D. Staff Presentations](#)

Appendix A – Fall Conference Agenda

AGENDA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast (provided)

9:00 **Welcome & Introductions** – Robert Isner, Director, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection & President, NERC's Board of Directors

9:10 **Keynote Panel Discussion - What recovery or recycling rate is achievable and how?**
The session will explore different perspectives on realistic recycling rates and how they can be achieved. **Session Facilitator:** Robert Isner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection & President, NERC's Board of Directors

Panelists

- **Technical Recycling Issues** - JD Lindeberg, President, RRS (Resource Recycling Systems)
- **The Role of Zero Waste** - Kate Bailey, Director, Eco-Cycle Solutions Project
- **Increasing Recycling in the Country's Most Populated City—NYC** - Christina Salvi, Assistant Director, Office of Recycling Outreach & Education, GrowNYC

Questions to be Addressed by the Panelists

- What are the critical factors that determine a community's recovery or recycling rate?
- Is it possible for communities to increase their rate? If so, how?
- Is it financially viable for a community to increase its recycling rate?

10:35 **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

10:50 Happenings with Sustainable Packaging
Different strategies being used to promote and support sustainable packaging efforts will be introduced in the session. **Session Facilitator:** Elizabeth Bedard, Director, APR Rigid Plastics Recycling Program, Association of Plastics Recyclers

Speakers

- **Efforts to Reduce Toxics in Packaging by the TPCH** (Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse) – John Gilkeson, TPCH Chair & Resource Management and Assistance Division, MN Pollution Control Agency
- **McDonald's Journey Towards Sustainable Packaging** – Jennifer McCrackin, Director, Sustainability, Packaging, Havi Group
- **Plastics Packaging Design for Recycling** - Kristina Hansen, Technical Director, Plastics Forming Enterprises LLC

Questions to Be Addressed by the Speakers

- How has the movement towards greater sustainability impacted the packaging industries?
- What sustainable packaging developments have occurred?
- What are the projected changes for packaging in the US?

12:15 Lunch (*provided – Harbor's Edge*)
Advisory Member Lunch (by invitation only - Prescott Room)

1:45 **Concurrent Sessions**

Session 1 – The Changing Face of Electronics Recycling—Reuse!

The session will illustrate reuse as the new business model for used electronics. **Session**

Facilitator: Jason Linnell, Executive Director, National Center for Electronics Recycling

Speakers

- Rohi Sukhia, President, Tradeloop Corporation
- Luke Soules, Co-Founder, iFixit

Questions to Be Addressed by the Speakers

- What role does electronics reuse play in electronics diversion?
- Why is the electronics reuse industry growing so rapidly?
- Where are the markets for reusable electronics?
- What is the projected growth for electronics reuse?

Session 2 - Safety in Recycling

Operational and hauling safety issues for the recycling hauling and processing will be highlighted in the session. **Session Facilitator:** Sarah Reeves, General Manager, Chittenden Solid Waste District

Speakers

- National Hauling Perspective - David Biderman, Executive Director, SWANA
- MRF Operations Perspective - Bob Cappadona, Vice President, Casella Recycling, LLC.
- **Municipal Recycling Center Perspective** - Therese Cirone, Vice President of Safety, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
- Hearing Testing Protocols - Rob Wirtanen, Assistant Sales Manager, Industrial Hearing Testing

Questions to be Addressed by the Speakers

- What are the primary safety concerns in the recycling industry?
- Which safety measures work the best and are most economical?
- What are some of the most creative approaches being used to address safety concerns?

3:15 **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

3:45 **Electronics Fix-it Demonstration** – Luke Soules of iFixit, with the help of Robert Isner of CTDEEP, will demonstrate how to fix an electronic appliance that wasn't made to be fixed.

4:15 **Open Discussion** - Conference attendees will be given the opportunity to share information about emerging developments in their work.

5:00 **Wrap Up** – Robert Isner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

5:30 **Social Hour** at the Thirsty Moose, sponsored by



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016

8:00 **Continental Breakfast (provided)**

8:30 **Welcoming Remarks** – Bryn Oakleaf, Environmental Analyst, Solid Waste Management Program, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources & Vice-President, NERC's Board of Directors

8:35 **A Changing Roadmap for Food Scrap Management**

The session will include a look at the Roadmap to reducing food scraps by 20% through reduction, recovery, and diversion. **Session Facilitator:** Ted Siegler, President, DSM Environmental Services

Speakers

- ReFED Report – Nathan Clark, Program Manager, ReFED
- Current and planned food scraps management policies, programs, barriers, markets, and more around the Northeast.
 - Robert Isner, Director, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
 - Mike Parkowski, Chief of Business & Governmental Services Delaware Solid Waste Authority
 - George MacDonald, Director Sustainability Division, Maine Department of Environment Protection
 - Kaley Laleker, Acting Deputy Director, Maryland Department of the Environment
 - Greg Cooper, Division Director - BAW Business Compliance & Recycling, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 - Todd Moore, Administrator Solid Waste Management Bureau, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
 - Wayne Bowen, Recycling Program Manager, Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center
 - Marcel Lussier, Business Manager Materials Recycling Facility, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
 - Bryn Oakleaf, Environmental Analyst, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Questions to Be Addressed by the Speakers

- What are the funding options for implementing the action steps in ReFED?
- What is the capacity for composting and AD of food scraps in the Northeast States?
- What will it take to incentivize increased wasted food reduction and recovery?

9:50 **Emerging & Experienced Professionals Tackle Food Scrap Collection**

Collecting food scraps presents multiple challenges. Learn from young entrepreneurs and veteran haulers how they are managing collection, vehicles and carts, customer service, and more in this session. **Session Facilitator:** Greg Cooper, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Speakers

- Tyler Frank, Founder, Garbage to Garden
- Andrew Brooks, Founder, Bootstrap Compost

- Abbie Webb, Sustainability Director, Casella Resource Solutions

Questions to Be Addressed by the Speakers

- How do you deal with customers that have contaminants in their food scraps?
- What tips would you give to haulers considering food scrap collection?
- What do you see as the biggest opportunity and challenge for your company?

11:05 Networking Break with Exhibitors

11:20 Food Scrap Processing Success

The session will include the newest thinking about food scrap processing, the latest composting and anaerobic digestion technologies, technical and process limitations, keys to success, and overcoming challenge. **Session Facilitator:** Debra Darby, Organix Solutions

Speakers

- **Food Scrap Composting Success** - Athena Lee Bradley, Projects Manager, NERC; & George MacDonald, Director Sustainability Division, Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Treasurer, NERC's Board of Directors
- **AD Solutions for Food Scrap Management** - Daniel Bell, General Manager & Greg Williams, Director of Sales; Agri-Cycle Energy, Stonyvale Inc.

12:20 Wrap Up - Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

12:30 Annual Board Meeting/Lunch

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Good Point
Recycling



The Association of
Plastic Recyclers

Spring Conference: March 15-16

Full Speed Ahead



AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

9:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast (provided)

10:00 **Introductions** - Robert Isner, Director, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and President, NERC's Board of Directors

10:10 **Welcoming Remarks** - Julie Moore, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

10:20 **Keynote: Importance of Partnerships for Sustainable Materials Management** - Bridget Croke, External Affairs, Closed Loop Fund The Closed Loop Fund (CLF) aims to invest \$100 million to increase the recycling of products and packaging and divert more than 20 million tons of waste from landfills. Ms. Croke will present how partnerships can be used to leverage resources for reaching sustainable materials management goals.

Questions to Be Addressed by Keynote Speaker

- What are the criteria used by the CLF for identifying potential partners?
- What steps does the CLF take to keep its partnerships viable?
- How does the CLF measure the effectiveness of its partnerships in achieving increased sustainable materials management?

11:10 **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

11:40 **Packaging Changes and Impacts on Recycling and Composting** - A range of perspectives addressing changes in packaging and the impact of those changes on recycling and composting goals of communities.

Presenters

- Sarah Reeves, General Manager, Chittenden Solid Waste District
- Alex Danovitch, Vice President of Policy and Research, Eureka Recycling
- Derrick Lawrence, Director of Packaging Development, Seventh Generation
- Rhodes Yepsen, Executive Director, Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) – Go To Webinar

Questions to Be Addressed By the Presenters

- What are the most recent changes in packaging?
- What are the most common challenges to recycling associated with packaging changes?
- How do certified compostable products differ from biodegradable plastics; how can recycling facilities identify them; and how can they be processed in existing commercial composting operations?
- What are the opportunities for new packaging to be sorted and processed by recycling and

composting systems?

1:10 Lunch (provided)

Advisory Member Lunch (by invitation only)

2:40 **Hitting the Contamination Problem** - Topics to be discussed in this session will be contending with inbound scrap specifications, creating education, outreach, and enforcement programs, and determining whether single stream is right for every community.

Session Facilitator: Peter Engel, Senior Consultant, Kessler Consulting

Presenters

- Jonathon Levy, Director of Member Services, ISRI – Go To Webinar
- Janice Paré, Municipal Recycling Analyst, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Cynthia Mitchell, Senior Project Manager, MSW Consultants & Joanne Shafer, Deputy Director/Recycling Coordinator, Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority – Go To Webinar

Questions to Be Addressed by Presenters

- How will the inbound scrap specs reduce contamination?
- What is required for an average materials recovery facility (MRF) to meet the spec requirements?
- How can community education and outreach reduce contamination?
- How can the effects of education and outreach be measured?
- What enforcement programs work to decrease contamination?
- How can a community determine if single stream is a viable strategy for producing marketable recyclables?

4:10 **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

4:40 **Flash Panel About Different Efforts to Decrease Contamination** - A series of quick and concise presentations describing specific strategies to reduce contamination.

Session Facilitator: Dave Keeling, Director, Recycling, Steel Recycling Institute

Presenters

- Gunther Wellenstein, Recycling Coordinator, City of Lowell, Massachusetts
- Lisa Wolff, Communications Manager, ecomaine – Go to Webinar
- Jennifer A. Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Questions to Be Addressed by the Panelists:

- How are their programs addressing contamination?
- Are they using a carrot, a stick, or both to get positive results?
- How are they measuring the results of their efforts?
- What have they learned?

5:10 **Open Discussion** - Attendees are invited to share new initiatives.

Session Facilitator: Dave Keeling, Director, Recycling, Steel Recycling Institute

5:30 **Wrap Up** - Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Networking with Exhibitors



5:30 **Social Hour - sponsored by**

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017

8:00 Continental Breakfast (provided)

8:30 **Welcoming Remarks** - Bryn Oakleaf, Environmental Analyst, Solid Waste Management Program, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Vice-President, NERC's Board of Directors

8:45 **Contracting for Success in an Unpredictable World** - Lessons learned about successful contracting for Material Recovery Facilities, electronics recycling, and organics collection services.

Session Facilitator: Susan Bush, Senior Consultant, RSE USA

Presenters

- Ann Fordock, Recycling Operations Manager, OCRRA
- Cindy Jessop, Director of Community Outreach & Programs, Sunnking, Inc.
- Krysten Desmond, Institutional Account Manager, Casella Waste Systems

Questions to be Addressed by the Presenters

- What are the most important details to be included in successful contracts?
- What are the most valuable lessons learned from your mistakes in contracting?
- How has contracting changed in the past 10 years?
- What contingencies are included in today's contracts to address market fluctuations?

10:15 **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

10:45 **What Else High Performing Communities Can Do** - Examples of increased efficiencies and next steps towards reaching higher recycling/diversion rates will be discussed in this session.

Session Facilitator: Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Presenters

- Lisa Skumatz, Principal, Skumatz Economic Research Associates – Go To Webinar
- Sarah Edwards, Senior Consultant, Eunomia

Questions to Be Addressed by the Presenters

- What strategies have proven to be most effective for increasing a community's recycling/diversion rate?
- Are some strategies better for rural or urban areas to use?
- How resource-intensive are the different strategies?
- How can a community identify the strategies that will work best for them?

12:15 **Wrap Up** - Bryn Oakleaf, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

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Appendix C - Advisory Members in FY 2017

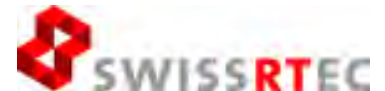
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- [American Coatings Association](#)
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- [BioCycle](#)
- [Call2Recycle](#)
- [Can Manufacturers Institute](#)
- [Carpet America Recovery Effort \(CARE\)](#)
- [Carton Council](#)
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- [Local Search Association](#)
- [Maine Resource Recovery Association \(MRRA\)](#)
- [Materials Innovation & Recycling Authority \(MIRA\)](#)
- [Mott MacDonald](#)
- [MSW Consultants](#)
- [National Center for Electronics Recycling \(NCER\)](#)
- [National Recycling Coalition \(NRC\)](#)
- [New England Biosolids & Residuals Association \(NEBRA\)](#)
- [New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling \(NYSAR3\)](#)
- [News Media Alliance](#)
- [Organix Solutions](#)
- [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center \(RMC\)](#)
- [Product Stewardship Institute \(PSI\)](#)
- [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania \(PROP\)](#)
- [RSE USA](#)
- [Resource Recycling Magazine](#)
- [Responsible Purchasing Network](#)
- [Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority](#)
- [Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority \(SCRRRA\)](#)
- [Sustainable Electronics Recycling International \(SERI\)](#)
- [Sustainable Packaging Coalition \(SPC\)](#)
- [TechSoup Global GreenTech Program](#)
- [WasteCap Resource Solutions](#)

Appendix D – Staff Presentations

Event	Topic	Staff Member	In person/ Webinar	Number of Attendees/Participants
September 2016				
ERCC Workshop at E-Scrap Conference, New Orleans	Impact of CRTs on State Programs	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	100
Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste District, Lyndonville, VT	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	22
NYSAR3/NYDEC Compost Operator Training	Compost Quality & Marketing	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	45
Canadian Composting Council Conference	Food Recovery Hierarchy in Rural and Small Town Communities	Athena Lee Bradley	In Person	60
October 2016				
Rutland County Solid Waste District, Rutland, VT	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	13
November 2016				
Introduction to State Electronics Challenge	Introduction to State Electronics Challenge	Lynn Rubinstein	Webinar	36
Implementing the Food Recovery Hierarchy In Rural Vermont Communities	Innovative Food Rescue Models	Athena Lee Bradley	Webinar	108
January 2017				
Rutland County Solid Waste District, Rutland, VT	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	9
Connecticut Recycling Conference	Food Scrap Management	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	100

February 2017				
University of Vermont, Ecotourism Class	Vermont Green Business Program Overview	Mary Ann Remolador	Skype presentation	30
March 2017				
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Operator Training	Overview of the Electronics Recycling Industry	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	140
Nebraska WasteCap	Becoming a Certified Nebraska Recycler	Lynn Rubinstein	Webinar	19
Windham Solid Waste Management District Business Food Waste Hierarchy Workshop	Food Scrap Reduction BMPs	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	24
Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance Business/Institution Materials Management Training	Food Scrap Management BMPs	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	19
Implementing the Food Recovery Hierarchy In Rural Vermont Communities	Building Resiliency in Food Recovery	Athena Lee Bradley	Webinar	165
April 2017				
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Solid Waste Operator Training	Best Management Practices for Collecting Electronics for Recycling	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	75
Berlin, VT	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	8
Vermont Retail and Grocers Association Expo	Act 148 BMPs For Retailers & Grocers	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	27
BioCycle Northeast	Community Solutions in Food Scrap Management	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	45
Maine Resource Recovery Association Conference	Food Recovery Hierarchy Policies - A regional Look	Athena Lee Bradley	In person	39
May 2017				
Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District, Georgia, VT	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	6
Vermont Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator Meeting, Berlin, VT	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	In person	13
June 2017				
Vermont State Standard Plan webinar	Vermont State Standard Plan E-scrap Collector Training	Lynn Rubinstein	Webinar	4
Connecticut Solid & Hazardous Waste Committees Joint Meeting	Mandatory Recycling & MSW Disposal Restrictions/Prohibitions in Connecticut	Lynn Rubinstein	Remote presentation	250
New Hampshire Solid Waste Facility Operator Training	Beyond the Basics - Food Scrap & Organics Composting	Athena Lee Bradley	In Person	29

Total presentations: 25

Percent in person: 80%

Total attendees: 1,386