



Annual Report

NERC-NEWMOA Joint Strategic Accomplishments

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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Introduction

In June 2017, the NERC and NEWMOA Boards of Directors entered into a [Joint Strategic Action Plan](#) to further action on matters of mutual concern. This first-of-its kind effort received national attention and commendation, including an in-depth article in *Resource Recycling* magazine. We are pleased to share the remarkable progress that has been made in the second year of the initiative.

Priorities for Action

The Joint Strategic Action Plan identified five key areas of shared interest:

- Food scrap reduction, recovery, and management
- Recyclables collection strategies and impacts on manufacturing/end-users
- Product stewardship
- Climate change and impacts on the recycling and solid waste infrastructure
- Construction and demolition (C&D) materials

This collaborative initiative has opened unexpected doors and opportunities for both organizations. In the past two years, we've taken on several significant programs with substantive results, advancing our missions and benefiting the industry.

Kaley Laleker, Maryland Department of the Environment

The Plan includes short and long-term strategies for each of these important challenges. A summary of second-year accomplishments under each topic area are provided below.

Food Scrap Reduction, Recovery, & Management

Task: Support a Joint Food Waste Workgroup.

Accomplishments:

- Held three Joint Workgroup calls and prepared meeting notes.
- Held a webinar on NEWMOA and NERC food scrap reduction and diversion projects (~80 participants). A recording and PowerPoint presentations are available on both organizations' websites.
- Held a webinar on Edible Food for Donation (~143 participants). A recording and PowerPoint presentations are available on both organizations' websites.

Lead organization: NEWMOA

Recyclables Collection Strategies & Impacts on Manufacturing/End-users

Task: Support information sharing on emerging technologies to enhance material processing at Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and improve quality of output.

Accomplishments: NERC and NEWMOA participated in two national initiatives to develop unified messaging about recycling. The initiatives were led by Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA). The NWRA effort prioritized messaging to improve MRF safety. Their final product is a poster titled [*Think Twice*](#).

Lead organization: NERC

Task: Form and support a Joint Regional Recycling Markets Committee.

Accomplishments:

- Formed the Committee and held 10 monthly calls, prepared and shared notes.
- Published an article in *Resource Recycling* about the Committee.
- Developed a survey tool to determine the average commodity value of residential recycling materials in the 11-state region and conducted a pilot of the tool (quarterly surveying, with analysis, will begin in July 2019).
- Developed a proposal and budget for a regional recycling markets database.
- Compiled information on state economic development agency contacts and had calls with representatives from Rhode Island and Massachusetts to learn about what type of assistance would improve state recycling economic development support.

Lead organization: NERC

This working relationship has brought together two great organizations that will continue to distinguish the northeast as materials management leaders and help address our common regional and national issues.

Peter Pettit, New York State
Department of Environmental
Conservation

Task: Hold a Regional Best Management Practices for Recycling Workshop.

Accomplishments: Collaborated with The Recycling Partnership to develop and present a 2-day workshop for recycling coordinators (~90 attendees).

Lead organization: NERC

Task: Hold a joint NERC-NEWMOA Board call to discuss impacts of China National Sword restrictions on imports of paper and plastics for recycling.

Accomplishments: Held a productive call with information exchange and suggestions for further action (suggestions by the Boards have been incorporated into the FY 2020 workplan for this joint initiative).

Lead organization: NEWMOA

Product Stewardship

Task: Support a network of state officials involved with implementation of state extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws, state Product Stewardship Councils, and other EPR leaders in the region.

Accomplishments:

- Held five regional conference calls of the Northeast EPR Network to share information and experiences in implementing product stewardship programs and collaborate on potential future efforts and prepared meeting notes.
- Developed a write-up on the Network's goals and membership structure.
- Discussed packaging EPR proposals as a regional priority.
- Provided updates and information to the Northeast Committee on the Environment (NECOE) on the status of EPR legislation and programs in the region.

Lead organization: NEWMOA

Climate Change & Impacts on the Recycling & Solid Waste Infrastructure

Task: Support a regional working group to discuss Climate and Materials Management strategies.

Accomplishments:

- Held calls in November and April and prepared notes.
- Published a fact sheet about [What Can We Do As Consumers About Climate Change](#), issued press announcements, and posted a [blog](#) on the NERC website.

Lead organization: NEWMOA

Task: Share information with the West Coast Climate and Materials Forum.

Accomplishments: Held a joint call with the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum to share ideas and information.

Lead organization: NEWMOA

Construction & Demolition (C&D) Materials

Task: Promote information sharing.

Accomplishments:

- Posted a list on both websites of C&D materials resources that NEWMOA and NERC compiled.
- Organized and presented a one-day workshop (more than 50 participants) on the use of recycled content materials in road and infrastructure projects. The PowerPoint presentations from the workshop are available on both organizations' websites.

Lead organization: NEWMOA

Summary of Accomplishments

NEWMOA and NERC's overall achievements during the second year of our Joint Strategic Plan included:

- Two well-attended regional workshops on important recycling topics
- Two successful wasted food reduction webinars
- Publication of a unique fact sheet and blog on climate and the relationship to consumption
- Posting of useful resources on construction and demolition materials management
- Engagement with other groups in the U.S. on messaging around common recyclables and promoting proper recycling
- Regular reports for each groups' Board on the status of activities under the Joint Plan, in addition to an Annual Report
- Regular, at least monthly calls of the NEWMOA and NERC Executive Directors to coordinate and plan activities
- A survey of the NERC and NEWMOA Boards to help inform the content for a FY 2020 workplan that includes new joint priorities
- Joint conference call of the organizations' Boards and an updated Joint Strategic Action Plan that will be published in FY 2020 based on the survey results and Board discussions

In FY 2019, NERC and NEWMOA built on the momentum that began in 2018 under the Joint Strategic Action Plan. We organized two important regional workshops focused on promoting proper recycling. Jointly planning these workshops resulted in unique and important educational opportunities. We will continue to plan and hold joint workshops in FY 2020.

The publication of a joint handout and an online information resource were also firsts in FY 2019, and both organizations look forward to continuing to publish groundbreaking information resources on critical issues related to climate change, consumption and other topics.

None of the work outlined above would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the NEWMOA and NERC Joint Workgroup members, including the Food Waste Workgroup, the Regional Recycling Markets Committee, the Climate and Materials Working Group, and the Regional EPR Network. Their engagement is critical to the success of these initiatives, and we appreciate their ideas and hard work.

Throughout the year, NERC and NEWMOA also assisted key national solid waste organizations with public outreach and education campaigns related to recycling right efforts. These campaigns should be launched and widely promoted in the U.S. over the coming year.

NEWMOA and NERC's successful partnership enhanced the ability of both organizations to address critical regional environmental issues, including the challenges in the markets for recycled materials, increasing diversion of food scraps, and climate change. The results have exceeded expectations. We look forward to continuing and growing this important collaboration.

Ron Gagnon, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

The Boards of both organizations have been highly supportive of this joint effort. They continue to be impressed with the breadth of the activities and the creativity associated with the joint strategies and projects.