



# NERC | Northeast Recycling Council

Ten states united for environmentally sustainable materials management



## NERC E-Mail Bulletin – September 2007

### Sustaining Members



[Canon USA](#)



[Newspaper Association of America \(NAA\)](#)



[Public Service Enterprise Group \(PSEG\)](#)



[American Chemistry Council](#)



[Electronic Industries Alliance](#)



[UNICOR](#)



[WeRecycle!](#)



[Curbside Value Partnership](#)



[Metal Management, Inc.](#)



[Sharp Electronics](#)



[Steel Recycling Institute](#)



[Tandus US, Inc.](#)



[Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments](#)

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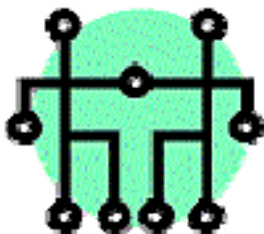
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NERC's mission is to advance an environmentally sustainable economy by promoting source and toxicity reduction, recycling, and the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.

*State and Advisory Member Updates are provided as submissions to NERC and may not reflect the policy or position of the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.*

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## TOPICS



### MEMBERSHIP

We are very pleased to share with you the following Renewing Sustaining Members

- [Public Service Enterprise Group \(PSEG\)](#)
- [Sharp Electronics](#)

## Renewing Supporting Members

- [Maine Resource Recovery Association](#)
- [Pennsylvania Recycling Market Center](#)

### ***Thank you!***

It is through the active participation and support of its Advisory Members that NERC is able to provide the strength of multi-stakeholder involvement and problem solving.

To see a listing of Advisory Members and the benefits of membership, visit the [NERC Advisory Membership web page](#).

It is the broad spectrum of interests represented by NERC's Advisory Members and Board Members and their willingness to participate that significantly contributes to the unique and important role that NERC plays in recycling in the region.

## NERC NEWS

### **NERC's FALL CONFERENCE IS APPROACHING FAST – [REGISTER NOW!](#)**

October 16 and 17 will be two days full of engaging discussion and networking opportunities. The following industry experts will be presenting at the Conference.

- Bill Heenan of the [Steel Recycling Institute](#) on global recycling markets
- Phyllis Harris of [Wal-Mart Stores](#) on large retailers' environmental strategies
- Nora Goldstein of [BioCycle](#) on Barriers to Food Waste Composting in the Northeast
- Jennifer Griffith of [NEWMOA](#) and Hans Arnold of the [Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority](#) on the movement of recyclable materials across state lines.
- Rona Cohen of the [Council of State Governments](#) and Mark Reiter of [ISRI](#) on legislative updates
- Dobbin Callahan of [Tandus](#) and Bob Peoples of [CARE](#) on the growing carpet markets in the Northeast
- Brenda Grober of the [New York Environmental Services Unit](#) and Bob Bylone of the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) on expanding glass markets.

Exhibitors to be featured at the Conference include: [Enernoc, Inc.](#); [Got Books?](#); and [WeRecycle!](#) Don't miss the chance to talk with the company reps and learn about their products and services.

Go to NERC's website for the complete [agenda](#).

Companies interested in exhibiting at the Conference should go NERC's website for [details](#).

The Conference will be held at the historic [Hotel Northampton](#) in Northampton, Massachusetts.

For additional information, contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#), NERC's Assistant Director & Conference Organizer.

### **New Website Launched**

If you haven't been to the [NERC home page](#) recently, please take a look! It has been totally redesigned and reorganized. We think that you'll find it much more "user friendly," and documents will definitely download faster than they used to. Because it's new, there may yet be some kinks. If you find any problems or links that aren't working, please [let us know](#) so that it can be fixed as promptly as possible.

### **NERC FY 08 Operating Plan Available**

NERC's Fiscal Year 2008 Operating Plan was approved by the NERC Board of Directors at its Summer Planning Meeting in July. The [Operating Plan](#) is available on line. For more information, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

### **Calculating the Benefits of Purchasing, Reusing, & Recycling Computers - A Free Teleconference**

Please join the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. for a free teleconference on calculating the benefits of purchasing environmentally preferable computers, as well as reusing and recycling computers.

#### **Thursday, September 6, 1 – 2 p.m. (Eastern)**

Presented by Patty Dillon, co-developer of the Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator

#### **Pre-registration by September 4 is required. See below for details.**

This teleconference will demonstrate:

- How to use the new Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator developed with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Calculator is available online and at no cost.
- The environmental benefits of purchasing EPEAT® - registered products including savings in greenhouse gas emissions, energy, toxic material use, and hazardous waste generation.

EPEAT® is an easy-to-use rating system to help purchasers identify and select environmentally preferable - "green" - computer products. The searchable EPEAT® products database now contains almost 600 products offered by 20 manufacturers. To learn more about EPEAT®, visit [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).

- The environmental benefits of reusing and recycling desktops, monitors, and laptop computers.

***Registration is Required – Register by September 4, 2007!***

**How to register:**

Send the following information, by [email](#) or fax (802-254-5870):

- Name
- Affiliation
- Email address
- Phone number
- City & State

**Confirmation will be sent by email** to all registered participants along with the teleconference number and access code. A web address will be provided for participants to access the PowerPoint presentation and other resources for the teleconference.

This teleconference is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a grant to NERC. For more information, please contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

**Grant - Diverting Special Event Food Waste to Commercial Composting**

NERC has been awarded an EPA New England Resource Conservation Challenge Grant to conduct food waste composting pilots at special waste events. The three year project, to begin this October, will involve one pilot in each of four states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The pilots will be implemented at special events of different types and sizes. Each pilot will demonstrate different methodologies for designing and implementing food waste diversion programs. Materials to be diverted will include pre- and post-consumer food, as well as compostable flatware, plates, packaging, and napkins.

This unique undertaking will involve the participation of NERC staff, State representatives, special event organizers, haulers, and compost processors. The results of the pilots will be analyzed and documented in a Guidance Document; thereby presenting a unique technical resource for future special events to implement food waste diversion programs.

For additional information contact [Athena Lee Bradley](#), Projects Manager.

**NERC Town & Business Recycling Project is Underway**

NERC staff are busy working on the USDA funded project — Increasing Reuse and Recycling by Municipalities and Businesses in Rural Communities. This multi-faceted project entails working with State members from Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont, along with town representatives from 22 towns in those states. The goal is to promote recycling and reuse by municipal offices, businesses, and schools.

NERC is working with project advisory members to set-up two or more workshops in each participating state. The workshops — Recycling Makes Sen\$e — will focus on how to implement or expand recycling in municipal, school, and business facilities, along with providing information on available local, regional and national recycling resources. Each workshop attendee will be given a Recycling Kit containing detailed recycling program information. Additionally, three entities in each participant town will receive free, direct technical assistance on beginning or expanding their recycling programs.

Workshops are scheduled in September in the towns of Sherman and Sharon, Connecticut; and Barton and Greensboro, Vermont. The Sherman workshop is being held in conjunction with the Housatonic Resource Recovery Association's Regional Recycling Task Force. It will involve a walk-through waste audit of a local high school. The Sharon workshop is being held at The Hotchkiss School, an independent boarding school. Following the workshops, NERC staff will begin its technical assistance, to include working with municipal buildings and a school in Sherman, and the Sharon Hospital and a long-term care facility in Sharon.

For more information contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#).

### **NERC Awarded EPA Grant to Create a National Reuse Marketplace: A Search Engine Uniting Materials Exchanges**

NERC has been awarded an Innovative Solid Waste Management grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant will be used to develop an innovative web-based search engine that will link the databases of products available for reuse from eight Materials Exchanges throughout the eastern United States. Participating in the project are the following Exchanges:

- [Massachusetts Materials Exchange](#)
- [Maine Materials Exchange](#)
- [North Carolina WasteTrader](#)
- [ReCONNstruction Center \(Connecticut\)](#)
- [Rhode Island Resource Xchange](#)
- [Southern Waste Information eXchange \(Florida\)](#)
- [Tennessee Materials Exchange](#)
- [Vermont Business Materials Exchange](#)

This project will result in a website that will enable the user to go to one location to research and identify the materials available from all participating Material Exchanges, rather than having to go to each of their websites. In addition, the new website will provide informational resources and links about reuse and Material Exchanges. In order to develop the unique search engine and website, a consultant will be hired. A [Request for Proposals](#) has been released. See the following article for details.

Once the search engine has been developed, tested, and the website launched, additional Materials Exchanges will be encouraged to become part of the search feature. The intention is to develop a sustainable program that can be expanded and supported nationally. For more information, contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#).

### **Request for Proposals - DESIGN & IMPLEMENT INTERNET SEARCH FEATURES**

NERC has released an [RFP](#) for the development of a search engine that will integrate the databases of multiple Materials Exchanges. Responses are due October 15, 5 p.m. Eastern. A pre-submittal informational call will take place September 20, 11 a.m., Eastern. For more information, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

### **Northeast State Electronics Challenge – Launching October 1**

The Northeast State Electronics Challenge (NSEC) is poised at an exciting moment: The Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference has adopted a resolution endorsing the NSEC –

**WHEREAS**, by joining as an NSEC Partner and implementing environmentally sound life-cycle practices, state, regional, and local government can make a significant contribution to the environmental health and integrity of the region and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, through their voluntary actions, state, local, and regional governments can demonstrate leadership and promote behavior change by their constituents.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee supports the NSEC and encourages state, regional, and local governments to become NSEC Partners and to implement one or more life-cycle practices that improve the environmental impact of computers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CSG/ERC Energy & Environment Committee encourages state, regional and local governments participating in the NSEC to work together with their counterparts in the Eastern Canadian provinces to harmonize the NSEC programs with current and future provincial programs.

- The NSEC dedicated website is expected to be launched by October 1st – enabling Partners to register online, and providing resources and information about life cycle management for computers.



- Presentation at the National Recycling Coalition Congress in September.

For more information contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#). The NSEC is a project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Resource Conservation Challenge grant.

### **Recycling Economic Information Study Update – It's a Go!**

In 2000, NERC released the first [Recycling Economic Information Study](#) in the U.S. It focused on the 10 NERC states. It was later followed by a national study prepared by the National Recycling Coalition, based on the methodology developed in the NERC study. Several NERC states have decided that it's time to update the Study and to get a new perspective on the economic vitality of the recycling and reuse industries. Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania have committed to participating in – and funding - the updated study. DSM Environmental has been selected as the consultant for the update. The updated report will be released by September 2008. For more information, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

### **New Rhode Island Board Member**

[Sarah Kite](#) of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) has joined the NERC Board of Directors. She replaces John Trevor, who left the NERC Board in January as the result of a career change. Sarah is the new RIRRC Recycling Department Manager. Sarah's responsibilities include overseeing all municipal and commercial recycling programs, grant making, and MRF operations. Before joining RIRRC she was the Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Smithfield, RI, and previous to her stint in Smithfield, was an Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club. We are delighted to welcome her to the Board.

## **STATE UPDATES**

### **MAINE**



### **Compact Florescent Lamp Recycling Program Initiated**

Efficiency Maine, a program through the Maine Public Utilities Commission, has launched a statewide compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) recycling program. Mainers can now bring used (unbroken) CFL bulbs to any participating store for free recycling. For information on participating stores, visit: <http://www.energymaine.com/> CFL bulbs must be recycled and cannot be disposed of in the trash because they contain

small amounts of mercury. A number of municipal recycling programs also accept these bulbs for recycling. For more information, contact [George MacDonald](#).

### **A Big Day for the Town Of Ogunquit**

It seemed like the whole town turned out for the dedication of the new transfer station (see accompanying photos). With selectmen and planning committee members to receive keys from the contractor and designer, a crowd of about 100 assembled for speeches, the ribbon cutting, and a lunch. The community (1,200 off-season and over 50,000 in the summer) invested more than a million dollars for what is obviously a state-of-the-art facility. Complete with all new buildings linked together by beautifully paved approaches, the crowd wandered about before and after joining the buffet line of foods donated by business in town. Staff was obviously proud of their new facility as they fielded complements thrown at them by guests and their own citizens. For more information, contact [Bruce White](#).

**New**

**Old**



## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **MassDEP is Lead Sponsor of Statewide Paper Campaign**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) estimates that 1.5 million tons of recyclable paper is thrown away each year in Massachusetts. Municipalities, businesses and state agencies pay more than \$100 million annually to dispose of this paper. This paper also represents an estimated \$75-\$100 million in potential revenue from sale of the material.

MassDEP, in conjunction with MassRecycle, Inc., the state's non-profit recycling coalition, is inviting municipalities and businesses to join in a new statewide initiative to recycle an additional 1 million tons of paper a year.

The ***Mass Recycles Paper!*** campaign, a public/private partnership, calls on citizens and businesses throughout the state to keep paper out of landfills and incinerators. MassDEP provided a \$25,000 start-up grant to MassRecycle which in turn has garnered

an additional \$65,000 from diverse private and public resources, including the U.S. EPA Waste Wise Communities Campaign (Region 1) and recycling and solid waste industry leaders.

MassDEP and MassRecycle have produced the “Grassroots Guide to Recycling More Paper” and are providing it to municipalities that join the campaign. The guide containing low and no-cost outreach strategies (sample press releases, public service announcements, and other materials) to help communicate the importance of recycling paper. Municipalities are also asked to adopt a resolution that signals their commitment to increasing paper recycling with the ***Mass Recycles Paper!*** campaign.

The campaign is being directed by a Steering Committee with representatives from MassDEP, EPA Region 1, MassRecycle, Inc, the Springfield MRF Advisory Board, municipal officials, and members of the solid waste/recycling industry.

A kick-off event for the campaign is being planned for September at a Massachusetts recycled paper mill. Visit the campaign website at [www.massrecyclespaper.com](http://www.massrecyclespaper.com) for more information, a list of sponsoring organizations and the “paper recycling quiz”.

### **Municipal Waste Reduction Outreach Toolkit Published**

MassDEP recently produced its first Municipal Waste Reduction Toolkit. The Toolkit was distributed to 60 Massachusetts municipalities through MassDEP’s FY2007 Municipal Waste Reduction grant program. The Toolkit features five strategies, or “modules”, each with a different approach to increasing recycling and reducing waste. Each module contains a step-by-step guide, case studies and templates for outreach materials and more. The five modules in The Toolkit are: Working with the Media, Using Mandatory Recycling to Reduce Disposal Costs, Hosting Community Reuse Events, Promoting Recycling to Local Businesses, and Zero Waste. Two additional sections, Graphics and Additional Resources help to address other outreach needs. All of the materials have been put on a CD, so communities can customize the materials for their needs. The Toolkit is featured again this year on MassDEP’s [FY2008 Municipal Sustainability Grant Application](#). For more information on the Municipal Waste Reduction Outreach Toolkit, contact [Regan Clover](#).

### **Upcoming Climate Change Conference**

MassDEP and CMRA have partnered with the Mass Chapter of SWANA for their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Solid Waste & Recycling Conference and Trade Show, being held September 25 & 26 in Marlborough, MA. Topics to be presented include climate change, gasification technology, renewable energy credits, single stream recycling, landfill gas to energy, mercury management, C&D management, and zero waste. The second day includes free tours of two local C&D processing facilities. For more information contact Alissa Bilfield.

## ADVISORY MEMBER NEWS

### Ewaste Bill Passes!

Connecticut Recyclers Coalition members worked hard this year in cooperation with many other organizations to create and pass Public Act 07-189, An Act Concerning the Collection and Recycling of Covered Electronic Devices. Governor Rell publicly signed the bill into law on August 6 at a signing ceremony at the Glastonbury Transfer Station. Many CRC members were in attendance to thank the Governor and celebrate its passage.

The law goes into effect on October 1, 2007; however, it will be implemented on a step by step basis over the next two years. Starting January 1, 2009, municipalities must provide for the free recycling of covered electronic devices (CEDs) and manufacturers must participate in a program to finance the collection, transportation and recycling of these CEDs. CEDs include computers and televisions with screens larger than four inches in diameter and central processing units. Over the next two years, DEP must create and implement a registration program for manufacturers and regulations. Retailers will not be allowed to sell products from manufactures not in compliance with the law.

The full text of the law can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/PA/2007PA-00189-R00HB-07249-PA.htm>.

This law puts Connecticut at the forefront of electronics recycling by offering a comprehensive manufacturer responsibility for electronics. Stay tuned for more details as the DEP works through the regulation process.

## OF GENERAL INTEREST



### Carpet Recycling is Here

Carpet recyclings' time has come, *the myth*: It cost more money to recycle carpets than it does to throw it away. *That's absolutely not true!* ERCS, a Massachusetts based company, is a leader in the collection and recycling of post consumer carpet and carpet padding.

**ERCS** can recycle carpets and pads for less than the cost of disposal and we *guarantee it!*

**ERCS** provides a solution for the removal, collection, and recycling of carpet. This service applies to all brands of residential and commercial broadlooms and carpet tiles. **ERCS**-Boston has a fleet of roll-off enclosed carpet collection containers and trailers in a variety of sizes. Carpet also can be dropped off at the facility in Wilmington, Massachusetts, Monday - Friday 7:30AM to 4:30PM

The **ERCS** Network was established by [Paul Ashman](#), a founding member of Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). A voluntary national organization, CARE is made up of carpet industry and government representatives along with private entrepreneurs. CARE'S initiative is to prevent carpet, over 6-Billion pounds a year from burdening our landfills. Learn more about CARE at: <http://www.carpetrecovery.org/>