



NERC | Northeast Recycling Council

Ten states united for environmentally sustainable materials management



NERC E-Bulletin – October 2007

Sustaining Members



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

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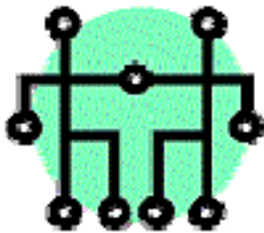
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NERC's mission is to advance an environmentally sustainable economy by promoting source and toxicity reduction, recycling, and the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.

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.

TOPICS

MEMBERSHIP



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

- [Metal Management](#)
- [Tandus](#)
- [UNICOR](#)

Renewing Supporting Members

- [Colling, Swift & Hynes](#)

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 Just Around the Corner - Have You Registered Yet?

Join us in Northampton, Massachusetts on October 16 and 17 to discuss some of the recycling industry's most important issues. The conference will feature the following experts:

- Bill Heenan of the [Steel Recycling Institute](#) on Global Recycling Markets
- Phyllis Harris of [Wal-Mart Stores](#) and Jesse Larose of [Home Depot](#) on Large Retailers' Environmental Strategies
- Nora Goldstein of [BioCycle](#) on Barriers to Food Waste Composting in the Northeast
- Jason Farren on the Effect of Materials Management on Climate Change
- 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
- Phil Bailey of SustainAbility and Bob Peoples of [Carpet America Recovery Effort \(CARE\)](#) 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 are [Enernoc, Inc.](#), [Got Books?](#), [WeRecycle!](#), [CARE](#), [UNICOR](#), [Andela Products](#), [Innov-x Systems](#), and [iWasteNot Systems](#). Don't miss the chance to speak with the company representatives and learn about their products and services.

Visit NERC's Web site for the complete [agenda](#) and [registration](#).

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

For additional information, contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#), NERC's Assistant Director and conference organizer.

Northeast State Electronics Challenge Launched - Turn Your Computer Green

As of October 1, state, regional, and local governments across the Northeast are invited to become "Partners" in an innovative new program targeting computers and other electronic devices that will lead to significant savings in energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and solid waste generation.

The Northeast State Electronics Challenge (NSEC) will provide Partners with effective, proven tools and resources to purchase computers and other electronic devices that contain fewer toxins, minimize their energy usage, and recycle them in an environmentally sound manner. By joining as a Partner, governmental entities will demonstrate environmental leadership in their state and region — as well as across the nation.

NSEC's [web site](#) offers online Partner registration and a myriad of resources to help participants take advantage of these potential savings.

In August, the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference, Energy and Environment Committee, issued a resolution commending the NSEC and encouraging 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.

Collectively, state and local governments purchase more than \$35 billion worth of technology equipment annually, and have the opportunity to provide leadership in the environmentally sound and cost-effective management of electronic assets. The NSEC will help state, local, and regional government, schools and agencies to become leaders and face the new challenges posed by this waste stream. And it's a great opportunity to get teachers and students involved in environmental action.

The NSEC was developed by the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc., with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont contributed to its development.

State of New Hampshire Signs Up as First NSEC Partner

Even before the NSEC was officially launched on October 1, New Hampshire Governor John H. Lynch, committed the entire state of New Hampshire as the first NSEC Partner. Governor Lynch noted that “the elements of the Challenge are consistent with my Executive Order: An Order for State Government to Lead by Example in Energy Efficiency and with other New Hampshire initiatives to reduce energy usage, state expenditures, and greenhouse gas emissions.”

By joining as the first NSEC Partner, New Hampshire has effectively “challenged” the other Northeast states to step-up and commit to improving life cycle management of their electronics by joining the NSEC.

For more information on the NSEC, visit its [Web site](#), or contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

State Electronics Challenge – Introductory PowerPoint Available

A PowerPoint that introduces the [State Electronics Challenge](#) – what it is, how it works, the benefits of becoming a Partner, and the environmental and cost benefits of joining are detailed.

Calculating the Benefits of Purchasing, Reusing, & Recycling Computers Teleconference - Digital Recording Available

Did you know that for every 1,000 EPEAT®-registered computers purchased and discarded units recycled¹:

- Energy use is decreased by 1.2 million kWh = electricity to power 101 households annually
- Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 90 MTCE = removing 71 passenger cars from the road per year
- Municipal solid waste is decreased by 34.7 metric tons = waste generated by 18 households annually
- Hazardous waste generation is decreased by 17 metric tons, and
- Toxic material generation, including lead and mercury, is decreased by 340 pounds?

Learn how to generate calculations like this on your own.

The teleconference that was presented by NERC on September 6, 2007 is now available by digital recording at any time.

Just call 973-341-3080, conference code 9192865, and at the same time [visit the companion PowerPoint](#).

This project is made possible with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

¹Based on the purchase of 1,000 EPEAT® Silver registered CPUs with LCD monitors, and the recycling of 1,000 CPUs with CRT monitors; estimates were calculated using the U.S. EPA-funded Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (version 1.1, dated 4-18-07).

Recycling Makes Sen\$e

On September 6 in the Town of Sherman, Connecticut, NERC staff held its first workshop for the USDA Town and Business Project. It was attended by 35 people from around the region, including town representatives from the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) Recycling Task Force, selectmen from several towns (including Sherman and Brookfield), the Mayor of New Milford, State Representative Mary Ann Carson, and several school board, and conservation commission members, transfer station attendants, and public works departments employees.

Workshop attendees first stopped at the Sherman School to speak with third graders about their goals for expanding the school's recycling program. The school is in the process of adding beverage container recycling bins in the cafeteria and outdoor playing fields. It was an opportunity for students, workshop attendees, and NERC staff to discuss options for implementing and expanding reuse and recycling in schools.

The remainder of the workshop was held in the Sherman Town Hall. NERC staff presented information about conducting a waste assessment and recycling program

design. Cheryl Ready, Director of [HRRA](#), was on hand to answer specific questions about recycling and collection options in the region. Myron Hirschman presented a short overview of the New Milford Farms compost operation. And Dave Seegers, with Hudson Valley Preservation, featured his newly designed outdoor beverage container bins, which will be used at the school. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection staff was also available to answer questions.

All workshop attendees received a free toolkit, containing a recycling and waste prevention guide, state and local resources, web resource listings, and more. The toolkit will be available for download on the [NERC](#) Web site in October. Many thanks to Ruth Byrnes, with the Town of Sherman, and Cheryl Ready, HRRA, for their assistance with outreach and promotion for the workshop.

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

STATE UPDATES

CONNECTICUT

Solid Waste Includes Disaster Debris

No one can be sure when it will happen, but the experts predict that southern New England is due for a major hurricane. Connecticut has experienced four Category 3 hurricanes over the past century, the 1938 hurricane being the most destructive. According to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), hurricanes have the greatest destructive potential of all natural disasters in the state. In fact, a Category 3 hurricane hitting Connecticut would generate an estimated 5.5 million to 20 millions tons of debris. To give you an idea of just how much that is, Connecticut generates 5 million tons of solid waste annually!

How would we manage that debris? At the May meeting of the State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, Frank Gagliardo of CT DEP's Recycling Unit told the group that CT DEP has been working with DEMHS, other state agencies, U.S. EPA, FEMA, and Connecticut municipalities to prepare the State in the event of a major hurricane or other natural disaster. This includes the draft Disaster Debris Management Plan, which establishes a framework for state agencies and municipalities to manage debris generated by a natural disaster.

The Debris Plan has two main objectives: (1) to assist other state agencies and municipalities in their disaster debris management planning and (2) to establish emergency waste management practices that are consistent with the state's Solid Waste Management Plan. Connecticut's approach to managing disaster debris will be to recycle and compost as much of it as possible; to use our in-state waste disposal capacity efficiently; to utilize temporary debris staging areas; and to rely upon transfer stations and volume reduction facilities to move the remaining wastes out-of-state.

Gagliardo indicated that the state is also preparing requests for proposals (RFPs) to address debris removal and monitoring. Debris monitors will provide documentation of the cleanup effort, which is necessary for FEMA public assistance funding. The plan and the RFPs will be finalized shortly. Next steps include coordinating the state plan with municipal emergency plans. For more information, contact [Frank Gagliardo](#) or visit the CT DEP's Web site for [State Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee updates](#).

Electronics Recycling

Public Act 07-189 establishes a recycling program for electronics, such as computers and televisions. Beginning January 1, 2009, Connecticut municipalities will provide for the collection of unwanted electronics, which may contain toxic chemicals such as lead and mercury. The electronics will then be properly recycled and the manufacturers will cover the cost of the program. See [an Act concerning the collection and recycling of covered electronic devices](#).

Teaching Grown-ups about the 3 R's

It is sometimes depressing to read about all the things that are wrong with our environment. That's how fourth graders in Jennifer Law's language arts enrichment class in Salisbury Central School felt after reading about global warming, hazardous waste and other environmental problems in their lesson called "Earth Patrol."

As part of the lesson, Ms. Law took the nine students in the class to the local transfer station, operated by the towns of Salisbury and Sharon, to see how solid waste is managed. Larry Beck, manager of the facility, took the students on a tour. The students were so impressed and heartened by what they saw there that they wanted everyone to know about what their town was doing to protect the earth.

Most people in town had probably made their way to the transfer station to drop off their weekly garbage, but the students thought that too few people were aware of all the opportunities there were to reduce, reuse, and recycle (the 3 Rs). So they developed a "tour" of the transfer station in booklet form, cleverly entitled, *It's Not A Dump*. The full color, 5 x 8 booklet contains a map of the transfer station and descriptions of each item collected, such as electronics, clothing, leaves, and wood. Also included are details of yearly disposal costs, tonnage collected and how the materials are processed and by whom for each item. Along with all these meticulously researched details, each student offered his or her own pithy thoughts about recycling and waste reduction.

With the exception of printing the covers, the students were involved in every aspect of putting 350 copies of the booklet together, including taking time from recesses and lunches to collate and bind them. One copy went home to each family at the school. Copies were also distributed to town officials and employees, and to members of the Solid Waste Commission. Financing came from the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

The reaction to the booklets has been overwhelmingly positive and the students learned that each of us can do our part by helping to reduce our waste and managing it the right way. In recognition of their efforts, CT DEP presented the school with a GreenCircle Award on June 15. As one of the students said, "Even if you do the smallest thing to help our earth you can still make a difference..."

See the [It's Not a Dump book](#) on line or contact Jennifer Law, Salisbury Central School at 860 435-9871, Extension 131. Also available on line is information on [CT DEP's GreenCircle Award Program](#).

A Pot to Plant In

Calling all gardeners! Whether you plant flowers, herbs, vegetables or fruits, there's a new type of pot to start your plants in, one that's environmentally friendly, made in Connecticut, sold locally and said to grow bigger, better plants: CowPots™!



CowPots™ are made of cow manure and can be planted directly into the soil with the plant. They were invented by brothers Matt and Ben Freund, dairy farmers in the northwest hills of Connecticut, and are now being sold at a number of locations including Freund's Farm in North Canaan and the Connecticut Creative Store in Hartford.

At Freund's Farm, over 250 cows roam the grounds and leave behind a lot of manure. While farmers and gardeners have always considered cow manure a good soil amendment for their gardens, the packaged manure that backyard gardeners buy does not come close to depleting the great loads piling up on dairy farms. The nitrogen and phosphorus in that manure can negatively impact waterways, especially the Housatonic River, a water source for many Connecticut communities, which is located not too far from the Freund farm.

Matt and Ben started working on their unique pots back in the late 1990s as a way to manage the manure in an environmentally sound manner. CowPots™ were actually created right in Matt's kitchen where he began by gluing the manure fibers together and drying the pots in his toaster oven. After many trials and tribulations, the brothers found

a process in which they can mass-produce pots of limitless sizes and shapes at an economical cost. These pots can withstand months in the greenhouse, but within four weeks of being planted in the ground they dissolve and continue to feed the plant.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farm Reinvestment Grant Program recently awarded the Freund's \$40,000 for a facility to allow an increase in the production of the CowPots™. This grant program is designed to strengthen the economic viability of Connecticut's agricultural producers through long-term capital-fixed-asset and diversification projects. This year, only 18 producers are being awarded the matching grants, which will be used to expand or improve existing farms in accordance with a 10-year business plan.

CowPots™ can be used in place of plastic or peat pots. The manufacture of plastic pots creates pollution and since this plastic is not recycled, it also contributes to our solid waste problem. Peat pots have their own set of environmental issues mainly that the large-scale removal of peat from bogs is destroying precious wildlife habitats and it takes centuries for a peat bog to regenerate. CowPots™ are helping a local farmer reduce the nutrient load on the farm and the resulting run-off, which directly contributes to a better and cleaner environment. These pots have the added bonus of having built-in fertilizer and also allow for better root penetration.

For more information, please visit [CowPots™](#) or the [Farm Reinvestment Grant Program](#).

MASSACHUSETTS

MassDEP Waste Reduction Job Opportunities

MassDEP is accepting applications for five positions with its Bureau of Waste Prevention – Consumer Programs Unit. This Unit promotes environmental citizenship by working with municipalities and commercial entities to advance programs focused on protecting the Commonwealth's air, water, and land and other natural resources. The Unit offers grants, technical assistance and educational programs in waste prevention, recycling, toxicity reduction, air quality, water conservation, and sustainability. For specific position descriptions and information on how to apply, please visit [MassDEP Jobs](#). Upon entering the Vacancy Announcements section, search under Department of Environmental Protection. The five positions include:

Contract RP III	-	Commercial Waste Planner
Contract RP III	-	Market Development Planner
Contract RP III	-	Municipal Grants Planner
Contract RP III	-	Municipal Waste Planner
Contract RP II	-	Commercial Waste Planner

Staff Comings & Goings

Jordan Macy joins the commercial waste branch at DEP. Jordan comes to the program from the DEP's Inspection and Maintenance Program. Jordan will be working with the commercial sector on a variety of waste reduction issues including helping to implement the Massachusetts Mercury Management Act.

Regan Clover assumes a new position at DEP. Regan will also be working on implementation of the Massachusetts Mercury Act in her new role with the municipal waste branch. Regan will continue in her role coordinating outreach and assist on a variety of grant related programs.

John Crisley leaves DEP. After 11 years, John has departed for a new position at the Division of Capital Asset Management, where he will be an Energy Planner promoting sustainable design at new and existing state facilities, and planning, developing and implementing energy efficiency projects.

The Green Team Administrator Selected

DEP signed a new contract with Applied Proactive Technologies to administer **The Green Team**, DEP's school environmental education program. Six highly competitive vendors submitted proposals for this contract, which runs for 3 years, with 6 option years.

ADVISORY MEMBER NEWS

E-Waste Collection Collects 18,000 Pounds

On Saturday, August 25, WeRecycle! Inc. partnered with Hewlett Packard (HP) and the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to run a free Consumer Electronics Recycling event at Montgomery Park, in Baltimore, Maryland, that kept more than 9 tons of electronics from going to landfills.

Residents came to the collection event during a three-hour period to drop off their used computers, copiers, fax machines, and other household electronics. HP representatives were on site to answer questions from residents about Hewlett Packard's consumer electronics take back program. Representatives from the MDE came in support of the event and WeRecycle! personnel handed out educational material on recycling and prizes to residents for coming to the event.

More than nine tons of material was collected at the Baltimore, Maryland event. To divert the same amount of green house gasses from our atmosphere 80 passenger cars would have to stay off the road for one year, and the amount of energy saved is the same amount it would take to power 113 U.S. households for one year!

OF GENERAL INTEREST

3rd Asphalt Shingle Recycling Forum, November 1 & 2 – Chicago

The Forum will bring together national and international experts to discuss the latest research, advance the technology and further develop markets for recycled asphalt shingles.

Millions of tons of “tear-off” asphalt roofing shingles are generated each year in the U.S. and Canada from re-roofing and demolition projects. The majority of “tear-off” shingles are disposed of in landfills at a high cost since tipping fees at disposal facilities are weight-based. Recycling asphalt roofing shingles has been increasing in recent years due to a number of environmental and economic factors. Elevated prices for liquid asphalt are driving hot mix asphalt plants to consider using recycled asphalt shingles, as liquid asphalt is readily recoverable from shingles. In addition, environmentally-conscious homeowners and “green building” ordinances and policies are forcing contractors to consider alternatives to disposal.

The latest recycling techniques and markets for asphalt shingles will be presented at the 3rd Asphalt Shingle Recycling Forum, to be held in Chicago on November 1 and 2. The forum, to be convened by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration and the Construction Materials Recycling Association, will address questions on topics exclusively related to recycled tear-off asphalt shingles, including:

- What is happening at the national and local levels with policies and specifications?
- What research has been completed and what research is needed to move the use of tear-off shingles forward?
- What is the latest technology and engineering used in recovering the liquid asphalt from tear-off shingles?
- What modifications are needed to mix designs when incorporating recycled asphalt shingles into hot mix asphalt?
- What are the environmental issues and worker health and safety
- Considerations shingle recyclers and state officials are working together to address?
- What are the economic benefits to recyclers and end market users?
- And what are the expanding market developments in recycled asphalt shingles?
- How can you get involved in recycling asphalt shingles?

For additional information, contact [Wayne Gjerde](#).