

A RESOURCEFUL FUTURE ^{FOR} Sustainable Materials Mgmt



FALL CONFERENCE
Hotel Providence | Providence, Rhode Island

NOV 1+2, 2023

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ABOUT NERC



NERC's mission is to minimize waste, conserve natural resources, and advance a sustainable economy through facilitated collaboration and action. Since 1985, NERC has led projects that influence policy and affect change through research, technical assistance, and education. Our goal is to foster a DE&I culture that recognizes and values people from all communities.

Our programs emphasize source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, environmentally preferable purchasing, and decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream in the 11-state region comprised of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. NERC's members extend beyond member states to 100+ organizations dedicated to achieving an environmentally sustainable economy.

nerc.org



AGENDA

Wednesday

7:30 **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:30 **Conference Introduction**

- ▶ Megan Fontes, Executive Director, Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)

8:40 **Welcome Remarks**

- ▶ Brett Smiley, Mayor of Providence

8:55 **Keynote Address**

- ▶ "Eco-modulation: Restoring the incentives for eco-design in extended producer responsibility?": Reid Lifset, Research Scholar and Resident Fellow in Industrial Ecology, Yale School of the Environment, Yale University

9:40 **Implementation Progress of State**

Packaging EPR Laws: A status update of existing packaging EPR laws in four states.

Moderator: Resa Dimino, Managing Partner, Signalfire Group & Ex Officio Board Member, NERC

Presenters:

- ▶ Darla Arians, EPR Program Lead, Colorado Dept of Public Health & Environment
- ▶ Jessica Nadeau, Environmental Specialist, Maine Dept of Environmental Protection
- ▶ Karen Kayfetz, Branch Chief, Product Stewardship Branch, CalRecycle
- ▶ Rachel Perlman, Consultant, RRS



AGENDA

Wednesday

11:00 **Networking Break** // Sponsor Exhibit Hall

11:20 **EPR for Hard to Recycle Materials:** EPR for dealing with used electronics, batteries, and household hazardous waste.

Moderator: Ally Peck, Senior Manager, Environmental Issues and Sustainability, Consumer Technology Association

Presenters:

- ▶ "Illinois & South Carolina's Electronic Stewardship Legislation": Naomi Manahan, Senior Operations Program Manager, Reverse Logistics Group
- ▶ "DC's Battery Producer Responsibility Law": Carin Stuart, Steward Relations Manager, Call2Recycle
- ▶ "Household Hazardous Waste EPR Program": Josh Kelly, Solid Waste Program Manager, Vermont Dept of Environmental Conservation

12:30 **Lunch**

- ▶ **Advisory Member Lunch** (Members Only)
- ▶ **Emerging Professionals Roundtable**

2:00 **New Approaches to Recycling Market**

Development: Exploring different approaches to increasing supply and demand of post-consumer recycled feedstock.



AGENDA

Wednesday

Moderator: Bradley Baker, Program Manager, Resource Management Program, Maryland Department of the Environment

Presenters:

- ▶ “Partnership for Zero Waste Projects in New York State”: Kate Walker, Executive Director, SUNY Center for Sustainable Materials Management
- ▶ “Diverse Stakeholder Recycling Market Development Workgroup for State Plan”: Sean Sylver, Recycling Planner, Massachusetts Dept of Environmental Protection
- ▶ “Attributes of Recycled Content Certificates for New Revenue Streams and More Resilient Markets”: Ross Bergman, Director of Recycled Material Standard, GreenBlue Institute

3:15 **Networking Break** // Sponsor Exhibit Hall

3:45 **Media Literacy As It Pertains to Recycling:**

From casual conversation with friends to discussions with industry stakeholders, methods to increase transparency and accurate knowledge for all.

Moderator: Shannon Crawford Gay, Director of Recycling & Environmental Policy, WM

Panelists:

- ▶ “Creating and Sharing the Story”: Gretchen



AGENDA

Wednesday

Carey, Sustainability Manager of New England Region, Republic Services & President, MassRecycle

- ▶ “Increasing Awareness and Dispelling Myths about Textile Recycling”: Alex Husted, Co-founder and CIO, Helpsy
- ▶ “Digital Platform for Increasing Recycling Rate”: JoAnn Gemenden, Executive Director, New Jersey Clean Communities

5:00 **Adjourn**

5:30 **Social Event & Leadership Awards Ceremony**



AGENDA

Thursday

7:30 **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:30 **Welcome Remarks**

- ▶ Megan Pryor, Environmental Specialist, Maine Dept of Environmental Protection & Vice President, NERC

8:40 **Scaling New Recycling & Composting Programs in Environmental Justice Communities:**

Developing new recycling programs that increase accessibility to all community members.

Moderator: Megan Pryor, Environmental Specialist, Maine Department of Environmental Protection & Vice President, NERC

Presenters:

- ▶ Chris Gaynor, Climate Justice Specialist, Rhode Island Dept of Environmental Management
- ▶ Amelia Rose, Executive Director, Groundwork Rhode Island

9:25 **Networking Break** // Sponsor Exhibit Hall

9:55 **Policies and Regulations to Encourage Organics Programs:** Navigating policies, programs, and messaging for organics diversion.

Moderator: Chaz Miller, Ex Officio Board Member, NERC



AGENDA

Thursday

Presenters:

- ▶ “Assessing Food Waste Policies”: Heather Billings, Green Business Specialist, Center for EcoTechnology
- ▶ “Pivoting Organics Diversion Messaging to a Rodent Control Measure”: Michael Orr, Recycling Director, City of Cambridge Dept of Public Works
- ▶ “Creating Sustainable and Equitable Programs”: Shannon McDonald, Natural Resource Planner, Maryland Dept of the Environment

11:15 **Forum**

12:00 **Adjourn**

12:15 **NERC Board Meeting** // Lunch Provided



SPEAKERS



Darla Arians

EPR Program Lead, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Darla serves as the technical expert for the implementation and oversight of Colorado's first of its kind producer

responsibility program. Darla co-founded the Colorado Product Stewardship Council in 2012 and helped lead the statewide initiative which led to the passage of the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act in 2014. She has first-hand experience implementing EPR at the local level, as well as 18 years of public sector operational and managerial experience in the solid waste industry with a focus on zero waste.



Ross Bergman

Director of Recycled Material Standard, GreenBlue Institute

Ross leads the RMS program at GreenBlue with 15 years of experience in designing and manufacturing products

with sustainable and circular principles. He helps all participants in the recycled material value chain derive benefits from chain-of-custody certification. He has managed internal corporate sustainability programs in a diverse range of fields, designing net-positive impacts with a lifecycle-based mindset. With a background in human-centered design, he engages wide-ranging groups of stakeholders to ensure mutual benefits to sustainable challenges.



SPEAKERS



Heather Billings

Senior Waste Reduction Consultant, Center for EcoTechnology

Heather is a TRUE Zero Waste Advisor and makes practical waste diversion recommendations to businesses and institutions. She specializes in assisting with reducing, donating, and diverting wasted food. She has a degree in Mechanical Engineering, an MBA in Sustainability, and over 30 years of experience in the waste and recycling field.



Gretchen Carey

Sustainability Manager of New England Region, Republic Services; President, MassRecycle

Gretchen provides training and education on recycling for both municipalities and commercial customers while helping to build the organics infrastructure in New England. Gretchen has also previously worked as a volunteer and municipal recycling coordinator. She is a LEED Green Associate, a Zero Waste TRUE Advisor, and co-founder of GreenLabs Recycling, the hyperlocal company for plastics recycling.



SPEAKERS



Chris Gaynor

Climate Justice Specialist, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Prior to joining RI DEM, Chris served in the Peace Corps in Tanzania and AmeriCorps in Vermont. It was while serving with rural communities that Chris came to fully appreciate the importance of community resilience. After living in communities both abroad and domestically, Chris has been dedicated to serve and thoughtfully participate in implementing effective, positive change within his communities.



JoAnn Gemenden

Executive Director, New Jersey Clean Communities

JoAnn implements New Jersey's statewide outreach and education program for the single use plastics law and supplies 500,000 reusable bags to the state's seven food banks. Prior, JoAnn served as the Bureau Chief of Recycling in Union County for 35 years where she was both Recycling and Clean Communities Coordinator. She has vast experience in environmental education and works to promote behavior change when it comes to keeping New Jersey litter free and reducing reliance on plastic.



SPEAKERS



Alex Husted

Co-Founder and CIO, Helpsy

Alex builds the systems that drive operations and secures funding to support growth and acquisitions. Alex spent 15 years at Edmund Optics, a global manufacturer and distributor of precision optics. He has trash-to-treasure in his blood and holds a Villanova MBA, a RISD BFA. He also chairs the Board of Philadelphia Stories.



Karen Kayfetz

*Product Stewardship Branch Chief,
CalRecycle*

Karen leads a dedicated team of environmental scientists in the pursuit of a more sustainable circular economy for California, by implementing legislation that holds businesses accountable for their product recycling. In her fifteen-year career in environmental stewardship, she has dedicated herself to fostering transparency and inclusiveness in government processes, distilling complex scientific concepts for diverse audiences, and developing science-based policies to further environmental conservation and protection goals. Karen earned a Master's in Marine Biology from San Francisco State University and a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Environmental Biology from Brown University.



SPEAKERS



Josh Kelly

*Solid Waste Program Manager,
Vermont Department of Environmental
Conservation*

Josh oversees laws, regulations, and the State's materials management

plan that covers waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, hauling, facility management, disposal, salvage yards, and producer responsibility programs. Josh has over 20 years of environmental experience.



Reid Lifset

*Research Scholar and Resident Fellow
in Industrial Ecology, Yale School of the
Environment*

Reid is the founder and an editor of the *Journal of Industrial Ecology*, an international peer-reviewed scientific journal. His research focuses on the application of industrial ecology to novel problems and research areas, the evolution of extended producer responsibility (EPR), resource and material efficiency, the environmental impact of the digital economy, and the circular economy. He is a member of the UN's International Resource Panel, the governing council of the International Society for Industrial Ecology, and the editorial board of the journal, *Waste and Biomass Valorization*.



SPEAKERS



Naomi Manahan

*Senior Operations Program Manager,
Reverse Logistics Group*

Naomi works with cities and counties in many states to help them understand their capabilities within e-waste

compliance laws and plans many e-waste collection events in coordination with community leaders, state authorities, and local e-waste recyclers. She also is the head of sustainability for RLG's US division and does assessments on supplier emissions, public outreach in underserved areas, and recycler sustainability policies. Naomi holds a Master's in Sustainability Management from Columbia University.



Shannon McDonald

*Natural Resource Planner, Maryland Dept
of the Environment, Waste Diversion Div.*

Shannon supports the Food Residual Diversion Law and Recycling Markets Development. She has a B.S. in

Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech and Professional Landscape Design from George Washington University. Her professional experience includes industrial construction field engineer, design engineer for municipal water and sewer, and industrial storm water and wastewater permit engineer.



SPEAKERS



Jessica Nadeau

*Environmental Specialist, Maine
Department of Environmental Protection*

Jessica's work is focused on implementing Maine's Stewardship Program for Packaging. She transferred a decade of professional education experience along with expertise in biological, chemical, and horticultural sciences when she joined Maine DEP.



Michael Orr

Recycling Director, City of Cambridge

Michael oversees all waste diversion programs, with the goal of reducing trash 80% by 2050, with 2008 as a baseline. With a \$1 million budget, he oversaw the expansion of curbside composting to 25,000 households in 2018. He has also implemented the City's Zero Waste Master Plan, the plastic bag and polystyrene ordinances, mattress recycling and expanded commercial recycling and composting. Before joining the City in 2015, he served as the sustainability coordinator for Lesley University. He is a Board member of the nonprofit, MassRecycle.



SPEAKERS



Rachel Perlman

Consultant, SignalFire Group

Rachel conducts research and technical analysis on recycling; waste management; climate mitigation; environmental policy; program

assessment, design, and implementation; and extended producer responsibility. She has a Ph.D. in Engineering Systems from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a M.S. in Technology and Policy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a B.S. in Science of Natural and Environmental Systems from Cornell University.



Amelia Rose

Executive Director, Groundwork Rhode Island

Amelia oversees environmental job training and employment, brownfield redevelopment, stormwater management, composting, and youth

engagement. Amelia formerly worked at the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island for six years. She also helped to create Providence's first Sustainability Action Plan. Amelia has also worked for the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Washington Interfaith Network in Washington, D.C., and Toxics Action Center in Boston. She has a B.A. in Anthropology from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia.



SPEAKERS



Carin Stuart

Steward Relations Manager, Call2Recycle

Carin has spent 25 years working in government affairs and compliance within the electronics and battery industry. She worked for Energizer

Holdings for 11 years overseeing their compliance and safety programs for batteries and electronic devices. In early 2022, she joined Call2Recycle as the Steward Relations Manager overseeing the steward program as well as government relations. She has an undergraduate degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University.



Sean Sylver

*Recycling Planner, Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection*

Sean has worked for MassDEP's Commercial Waste Reduction branch for 15 years. During his time with the

Department, Sean has contributed to a number of solid waste and recycling initiatives, most recently the drafting and implementation of the Recycling Market Development Action Plan. He is a graduate of Stonehill College and Tufts University.



SPEAKERS



Kate Walker

Executive Director, New York State Center for SMM, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry

Kate has almost 20 years of experience working in environmental educator and program management roles. She has worked for and with government agencies, universities and non-profits. Kate is an active board member for the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling as well as the New York State Product Stewardship Council. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from St. Lawrence University.



AWARDEES



Outstanding Member

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Accepted by Jen Heaton-Jones, Executive Director

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA), a regional, governmental, waste management and recycling authority serving fourteen municipalities in western Connecticut and a population of over 266,000 people. HRRRA municipalities include: Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Weston, Wilton.

The goal of this project is to create a self-sustaining closed loop composting system for transforming residential food waste into an end-product for



AWARDEES

Outstanding Member

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

community and agricultural use. This innovative project demonstrates that municipalities can manage food waste locally, reduce the carbon footprint of offsite disposal and contribute to the waste diversion goals of the state. This project uses an “Aerated Static Pile (ASP) Composting” process. This project increases access to compost for residents, community garden groups, and local farmers for use as an alternative to synthetic fertilizers. It also provides the municipality with readily available compost for storm water management and erosion control.

“I am proud of what we have accomplished in the HRRRA region, starting with the first organics drop-off program of its kind in 2014 to building a self-sustaining composting system in Ridgefield in 2021-22. I look forward to duplicating the system across the region to advance organics recycling at the municipal level.”

— Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA Executive Director



AWARDEES



Outstanding Organization

Inner City Green Team

Accepted by Bridgette Charlton-Vicenty, Founder

Inner City Green Team (ICGT) is a nonprofit environmental organization focused on poverty alleviation and community development. Our mission is to protect the environment and help transform the lives of residents living in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments through recycling outreach/education, job training, and paid work that can lead to a lifetime of employment and civic engagement. To achieve this end, we are working to create an effective, sustainable, and replicable recycling infrastructure at NYCHA with job creation and community revitalization at its core.



AWARDEES

Outstanding Organization
Inner City Green Team

“ICGT has not only developed a solution to help divert more materials from the waste stream at NYCHA developments, but also in the process, created needed living-wage green collar jobs in the communities where it’s needed the most. As a life-long steward of Mother Earth, I have been compelled to form what I call my “green ministry” to shed a bright light on one of the many environmental injustices plaguing my community”

– Brigitte Charlton-Vicenty Founder/CEO



AWARDEES



In 2022, PGCPs also began participating in a pilot composting program. Eleven schools and the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center were awarded a grant to begin working with students to learn the value of composting their food scraps. In October, November, and December of 2022 when collections began, 12.94 tons of compostable waste were collected.



RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION



Outstanding Municipality

Prince George's County

Accepted by Jessica Moore, Recycling Section Manager

Prince George's County established a 250-acre organic compost facility, one of the largest facilities on the East Coast. In 2013, the County Council passed legislation mandating the piloting of food composting. In 2017, a pilot curbside food waste collection program was introduced. The Public-School Food Scrap Diversion Program, in parallel, covers 11 public schools and the William Schmidt Center. The County collects and transports the food waste to its organic facility for conversion into compost, which is later returned to the schools for use in gardening. The program



AWARDEES

Outstanding Municipality **Prince George's County**

has generated significant benefits to the County in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting food waste from the County's landfill, reducing transportation costs, and influencing parents to be food waste diversion advocates. The program puts emphasis on education as the key to sustain it and to ensure that the benefits redound to the local populace and the environment.

“With the support of key staff, children at local schools are learning about the composting process. Some are “Compost Monitors” in the school, with a mission to collect organic waste; supervise the school compost bins; and inform the wider school community about the benefits of composting.”



AWARDEES

Distinguished Benefactor Award

Consumer Technology Association

Accepted by Ally Peck, Senior Manager

Benefactor Awards

The Coca-Cola Company

Samsung

*Accepted by Cassie Smith, Senior Manager,
Corporate Sustainability*

Waste Management

*Accepted by Shannon Crawford Gay, Director,
Recycling & Environmental Policy*



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Advisory Member Program

As an Advisory Member, you have the opportunity to help shape conferences, workshops, webinars, and events, as well as to identify projects and priorities.

- ▶ Members are invited to **participate on committees**, and to engage in open discussion with the NERC Board and staff.
- ▶ All of our members receive the monthly **Email Bulletin** with information about upcoming programs and events, as well as industry and member news and trends.
- ▶ **Special events** for Advisory Members provide a way to learn and connect with NERC and industry professionals.

Members also:

- ▶ **receive recognition on the NERC website**
- ▶ **have articles published in the Bulletin**
- ▶ **receive free consulting services**
- ▶ **receive discounted conference and workshop registrations.**

For membership inquiries please contact Sophie Leone at sophie@nerc.org or (802)-490-9854.



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- ▶ Ag Container Recycling Council
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- ▶ Bright Feeds
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- ▶ Carton Council
- ▶ Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority, Pennsylvania
- ▶ Chittenden Solid Waste District, Vermont
- ▶ Circular Polymers
- ▶ City of Salem, Massachusetts
- ▶ Connecticut Junk Removal, LLC
- ▶ Container Recycling Institute
- ▶ Delaware River & Bay Authority
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- ▶ EFS-plastics
- ▶ Environmental Education & Research Foundation (EREF)
- ▶ Fibre Box Association
- ▶ Good Point Recycling
- ▶ Harvard University
- ▶ Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, Connecticut
- ▶ HW Green Company Inc.
- ▶ International Sleep Products Association
- ▶ Machinex Technologies
- ▶ Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA)



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- ▶ New York City Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability
- ▶ New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3)
- ▶ Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA)
- ▶ Northern Virginia Waste Management Board
- ▶ Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (RMC)
- ▶ Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)
- ▶ Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP)
- ▶ Quantum Biopower
- ▶ RECYC-QUÉBEC
- ▶ Resource Recycling Magazine
- ▶ Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)
- ▶ Responsible Purchasing Network
- ▶ Rockland Green
- ▶ Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- ▶ Safety Management Systems, Inc.
- ▶ Scrapp Recycling
- ▶ Southern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA)
- ▶ SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)
- ▶ Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI)



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