Vermont-based group honored by EPA for diverting food waste

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MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The federal Environmental Protection Agency is recognizing a Vermont-based nonprofit group for its efforts to keep food waste out of landfills and incinerators.

The EPA announced Wednesday that The Northeast Recycling Council had won the agency’s 2016 National Food Recovery Challenge Endorser Award for the organization food recovery outreach and technical assistance efforts in New England businesses.

The EPA is also issuing “Food Recovery Challenge Regional Achievement Certificates” to 24 organizations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources also received an award.

The EPA says food waste makes up 21 percent of the waste stream in the United States. Since 2011, Food Recovery Challenge participants have reportedly diverted nearly 2.2 million tons of food through a variety of activities.

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