



What is the Northeast Recycling Council?

NERC's mission is to promote sustainable materials management by supporting traditional and innovative solid waste best practices, focusing on waste prevention, toxics reduction, reuse, recycling and organics recovery

The Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC) is a multi-state non-profit organization that is committed to environmental and economic sustainability through responsible materials management. Its programs emphasize source reduction, reuse, recycling, organics management, environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), and decreasing the toxicity of the solid waste stream in the 11-state region comprised of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

As an organization, NERC conducts projects that influence policy and effect change through research, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and education. Now in its 30th year, NERC continues to be a dynamic and diverse organization, committed to all aspects of recycling market development through environmental and economic sustainability. NERC regularly implements innovative projects, generally funded by federal and state grants. It hosts and supports several national and regional programs: the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse; the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse; the State Electronics Challenge; the EPPnet listserv; and the Organics Management listserv. NERC has also played a leadership role in identifying and implementing systems for collecting and destroying outdated and unused pharmaceuticals.

NERC's projects and staff often impact national dialogues, and contribute solutions to creating an environmentally sustainable economy.

DIVERSE MATERIALS STREAMS & AUDIENCES

NERC is committed to the evolving landscape of environmental sustainability as it relates to materials management. As such, the topic areas in which NERC works are diverse, as are the stakeholders with whom it works. NERC deals with both traditional and unique material streams, and enjoys good working relationships with stakeholders and constituents as well as those new to materials management. Some examples of the diverse materials and constituents that NERC works with, beyond traditional residential and recycling streams, include:

- Organics management, including the farming community, manure management & composting
- Electronics recycling & management
- Institutions & green procurement
- Hospitality industry & waste reduction
- Construction & zero waste
- Marinas & recycling shrink wrap
- School waste diversion, recycling & organics
- Reuse & recycling jobs & the economy
- Newspapers & recycled content newsprint

Connecticut · Delaware · Maine · Maryland · Massachusetts · New Hampshire
New Jersey · New York · Pennsylvania · Rhode Island · Vermont

NERC is an equal opportunity employer & provider.

ACTIVITIES

- Provides direct technical assistance, information, research capabilities, and networking opportunities.
- Leverages state, regional, and local financial resources, allowing members to participate in projects which require greater funding than they could sustain on their own.
- Keeps members in the forefront of developing trends and funding opportunities.
- Allows members to join in discussions on regional policy and program implementation concerns.
- Maintains a dynamic website which includes a myriad of resources and tools in support of source reduction, reuse, organics management, EPP, and recycling.
- Annual conferences & workshops, as well as webinars, offer in-depth information exchange, and professional presentations and discussions about emerging issues.

Why NERC? Recycling, organics management, green job growth and retention, and achieving zero waste goals are not just local concerns. The realities play out in the market-place on regional and national levels. Trash, organics, and recyclables cross state lines, and local economies are rarely self-sufficient. NERC provides critical and substantive support for state recycling agencies and the recycling industry as well, helping them communicate and collaborate on issues driven by these marketplace realities.

NERC's Board of Directors represents industry experts and state recycling agencies and authorities. NERC also welcomes Advisory Members to join as non-voting members, thereby giving interested organizations, businesses and associations the opportunity to participate in NERC.

NERC is a critical player in supporting state recycling programs by increasing efficiencies, decreasing costs, and promoting cooperative and coordinated multi-state policies and programs.

For more information, see the NERC website at www.nerc.org, or contact its Executive Director, Lynn Rubinstein at lynn@nerc.org, 802-254-3636

NERC is a valuable resource to the business community. It provides a forum for information sharing on cutting-edge issues and regional collaboration, as well as the opportunity to speak with state and local policy makers and officials.

NERC's staff is a substantive resource on a myriad of topics in the recycling and economic development fields. Members frequently rely on NERC staff for timely research, project development and implementation, and information support.

NERC is fully responsible for the administration and implementation of projects and programs. This responsibility includes proposal development, fundraising, administration, and implementation. NERC leverages resources to minimize state costs and to maximize results and benefits.

Current initiatives

NERC provides a set of core services for members, including serving as a source of information and guidance, a substantive website with unique resources, offering conferences, workshops & webinars, a monthly newsletter, weekly blog, and other social media, developing and distributing research reports. Other ongoing initiatives include managing programs such as the EPPnet and Organics Management listservs, the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse, the State Electronics Challenge, and the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse.

Current grant-funded projects include reuse program development, working with hotels and sporting venues on organics management, and promoting sustainable lifecycle management of electronic office equipment. New projects are continuously being sought and developed.

Balanced & Non-Partisan

NERC is unique in its commitment to developing, nurturing, and maintaining dialogues and strategic alliances with stakeholders to advance an environmentally sustainable economy. The synergy created by NERC's diverse membership and committed staff enables the organization to consider multiple perspectives on a given issue, and undertake projects and activities that benefit the northeast and, in many cases, the entire country.