



NERC | Northeast Recycling Council

Ten states united for environmentally sustainable materials management



NERC Email Bulletin – December 2007

Sustaining Members



[Canon USA](#)



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[American Chemistry Council](#)



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[Metal Management, Inc.](#)



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

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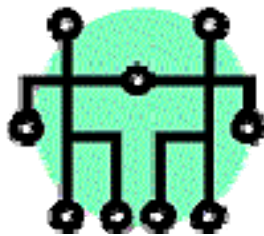
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NERC's mission is to advance an environmentally sustainable economy by promoting source and toxicity reduction, recycling, and the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.

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 Member [Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference](#), and
**Renewing Supporting Members [DSM Environmental](#)
and [Interstate Refrigerant Recovery](#).****

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

Find out about the State Electronics Challenge – Free Teleconference

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a voluntary program that encourages state, regional, and local governments, including schools and other public entities, to:

- Purchase greener computer products.
- Reduce the impacts of computers during use.
- Manage obsolete computers in an environmentally safe way.

Government agencies and organizations participate as "Partners" in the program. The SEC provides Partners with resources and technical assistance for improving electronics management practices, and offers annual recognition to Partners that have achieved specific goals.

The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont all participated in the development of the SEC – Northeast Pilot.

A free information teleconference will take place on **Wednesday, December 5, 1 p.m. Eastern**. The teleconference will explain how the SEC works and what it has to offer Partners. Please plan on joining us to learn more about this new opportunity. No pre-registration is necessary.

Wednesday, December 5, 1 p.m. Eastern
Dial in number: 706-758-0702
Pass code: 153783#

In the meantime, a PowerPoint that presents an overview the SEC is available at <http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/index.html>.

For more information, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

New Jersey DEP & Vermont ANR are the Newest SEC Partners

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources have joined the State of New Hampshire as State Electronics Challenge Partners. Welcome!

By registering as Partners, these organizations have committed to changing the way they purchase, use, and dispose of their computers, resulting in a “greener” footprint and demonstrating environmental leadership. And, they will receive free technical assistance and support in these efforts thanks to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant to NERC.

For more information about the SEC and becoming a Partner, visit the [SEC Web site](#), and join us for the informational teleconference on December 5. See details in the previous article.

Debris Management for Households & Small Businesses

NERC was recently awarded a one-year contract with EPA to develop a resource guide for individuals and small businesses about managing waste after a natural disaster.

Natural disasters generate large amounts of solid waste debris, such as furniture, appliances, carpeting, and wood. For impacted communities, as well as residents and small businesses, this debris raises urgent management issues. Often those affected need to find their own solutions and during times of crisis may not have ready access to the answers they need. Town offices are inevitably inundated with calls from frantic residents and businesses.

Although it will be designed as a resource for town officials, individuals, and small businesses in New Hampshire, the guide will serve as a model for other states, regions, and municipalities. The information will be presented in a simple format, organized by material type (such as furniture, computers, carpet, books, paint, etc.). Depending on the material type, there will be brief guidance on “pre-disaster” preparedness, such as proper storage of potentially hazardous materials, turning off appliances prior to a storm, etc. Steps for immediate action (such as how to clean mold off floors or preserving books that have been exposed to the weather) will be presented. For items that cannot be restored, tips on the importance of keeping materials segregated for recycling (e.g., metal appliances and

computer monitors), for mulching (clean wood and yard debris), or for hazardous materials collection (paint, solvents, etc.) will be included. For damaged items that cannot be recycled, safe disposal options will be presented. There will also be references to Web resources and where to call for additional information. The completed guide is expected to be available in the summer of 2008.

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

The Greening of NERC's Conferences

Since NERC has been regularly holding its semi-annual conferences at the [Hotel Northampton](#) in Northampton, Massachusetts, we have been working to green our events there. The Hotel proactively recycles beverage containers and cardboard. They are also interested in expanding their recycling program to capture more materials.

Over the years, NERC has worked with the Hotel staff to replace paper napkins with cloth ones, use china coffee mugs instead of tea cups to cut down on the number of cups used and needing to be washed, and make recycling bins for beverage containers available in the conference room. This past Fall Conference, the Hotel also allowed NERC staff to collect the food waste from our event so it could be composted.

Food waste is a material that the Hotel is interested in diverting from the waste stream and is in the process of deciding out how to make it work throughout their facility — banquet rooms, two kitchens, and two bar areas. Based on the success of the food waste collection at the Fall Conference (approximately 50 pounds), NERC staff will continue to work with the Hotel on this issue.

Contact [Athena Lee Bradley](#), NERC's Projects Manager, if you have any questions about the conference composting effort. Contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#) NERC's Assistant Director, if you have additional ideas for helping NERC to further green our events.

NERC to Celebrate its 20th Anniversary

NERC's Spring '08 Conference will commemorate NERC's 20th Anniversary. Join us in the celebrations at the [Hotel Northampton](#), Northampton, Massachusetts on March 18 and 19. Mark your calendar now

and keep an eye out for the preliminary Conference agenda, which will be posted on NERC's [Web site](#) later this month.

Contact [Mary Ann Remolador](#), NERC's Conference Organizer and Assistant Director, if you have any questions regarding this event.

STATE UPDATES

MAINE

Recycle! Give Your Stuff A Second Chance

Recycling: What better thing can you do with that old newspaper or milk jug? When you recycle it, you give it a second chance. Around the globe – from Maine to Malaysia - manufacturers rely on recycling to supply valuable materials. Recycling builds a stronger economy and a cleaner environment. So next time, recycle those newspapers and milk jugs. After all, everything deserves a second chance.

This is the message of *Maine Recycles*, a new statewide promotional campaign designed to re-energize Maine's recycling efforts. While Mainers continue to recycle more each year, recycling has not kept pace with the growth of the state's waste.

The campaign, which provides posters, public service announcements, ads, brochures and more, encourages Mainers who are not aware of the ease and convenience of recycling. For example, old newspapers can be recycled in just about every town in the state and are used to make cereal boxes and many other paper products. Paper recycling alone, if captured, could help Maine achieve its 50% recycling goal. Another valuable item, the plastic milk jug, is frequently mistaken as non-recyclable because unlike other beverage containers, plastic milk jugs don't require a deposit in Maine. However, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) the plastic used to make milk jugs represents a highly desirable commodity for recyclers.

The *Maine Recycles!* Campaign is overseen by a steering committee of representatives of local government agencies and the recycling industry. The State Planning Office will use the campaign materials in statewide promotional events. Local recycling programs can tailor the campaign materials for their own communities.

More information is available on the Web at www.mainerecycles.com.

Kick-Off for New Statewide Recycling Promotion Campaign

On October 22, the State Planning Office's waste management staff joined the Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) to kick-off a statewide recycling promotion campaign aimed at boosting recycling, especially among young people. Martha Freeman unveiled the new message, *Everything Deserves a Second Chance*. She recognized MRRA for their recycling ethic and dedication to creating a viable recycling economy in Maine. The MRRA markets recyclables and provides education and training for its member communities.

The kick-off received good press and even got picked up by the AP wire. Here is a sampling of the news articles that appeared that week:

- *Recycling? It's rad*, October 23, 2007, [Kennebec Journal](#)
- *Campaign encourages a new look at recycling*, October 22, 2007, [Portland Press Herald](#)
- *State to promote new effort to encourage Mainers to recycle more*, October 22, 2007, [Morning Sentinel](#)
- [State KicksOff Recycling Promotional Campaign](#), October 22, 2007, WMTW TV

To view the website created for this campaign, and to view the ads and aids available, please visit www.mainerecycles.com. For more information, contact [Jetta Antonakos](#).



From Children to Adults, the Maine Recycles Week 2007 Celebration Continues

Schools and communities across the state found numerous and varied ways to celebrate their successes with recycling and shared their activities with Waste Management and Recycling program at the State Planning Office (SPO).

In addition to distributing press releases, collecting newspaper articles and participating in print and radio interviews, the staff also got out and about meeting with schools, communities and businesses. Bruce White, MRW Coordinator, congratulated the Readfield Elementary School students for

their successes in an assembly and then watched the ribbon cutting of their new recycling shed. Bruce also joined Bank of America representatives in Belfast, and by phone those employees in Orono, to talk about recycling in Maine. The entire SPO staff was at the University of Southern Maine to support the first *ecomaine* Green Expo.

While the week ended on November 15th, which is also America Recycles Day, it is hoped that the coming months will be filled with the messages created and shared during this week. It is hoped that the efforts will assist the state in reaching the 50% recycling goal, and the tenth year of Maine Recycles Week will share in that success. We all can be proud of what we have accomplished, but, as we know, we have to do better. Support your local recycling facility!! For more information contact [Bruce White](#) or visit www.recyclemaine.com.

MASSACHUSETTS

SAVE THE DATE! 8th Massachusetts Organics Recycling Summit: “The Changing Climate of Composting”

Join MassDEP for a professional conference and vendor exhibition focused on organics waste reduction in Massachusetts. A second day includes a compost training session. Last year the Summit attracted over 200 professionals from 14 states.

When: Tuesday, March 4, 2008 from 8:00 - 4:00 (conference & exhibit hall) and Wednesday, March 5, 2008 (training session).

Where: [Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel](#) in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Who should attend: Businesses, institutions and state and municipal governments seeking innovative solutions and cost-saving opportunities for managing organic materials such as commercially generated food waste and residential leaf and yard waste.

For more information including exhibitor opportunities, contact [Morgan Harriman](#), MassDEP.

MassDEP Issues Disaster Debris Management Plan Checklist

In October, MassDEP released a second planning tool to help local communities in managing disaster debris. The new document *Massachusetts Local Disaster Debris Management Plan Checklist* is

posted on [MassDEP's website](#), along with the guidance document, *Disaster Debris Management Planning: An Introduction for Local Government Officials*.

Purpose of Checklist: The checklist is designed to help local governments formulate disaster debris plans to meet the criteria for the [FEMA \(Federal Emergency Management Agency\) Public Assistance Pilot Program](#) (PAPP). Under the Pilot Program, local governments may qualify for an increased federal reimbursement share of 80 percent (instead of the usual 75 percent) in the event of a disaster, if they do the following:

- ❑ Complete a disaster debris management plan
- ❑ Have the plan approved by MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) and FEMA
- ❑ Identify two pre-qualified debris contractors
- ❑ Complete these steps before the end of 2008.

These planning tools are part of a more comprehensive effort by MEMA and MassDEP to support and implement improved planning for disaster debris management. MassDEP and MEMA will continue working with local and regional government officials on disaster debris management planning through technical assistance and training sessions over the coming year. Also, we expect to issue a revised state Disaster Debris Management Plan in the next few months.

Comments or questions regarding the MassDEP guidance and other Massachusetts work on disaster debris planning should be directed to MassDEP officials, [Gretchen Brewer](#) and [John Fischer](#) and MEMA official, [Mike Philbin](#).

Second Annual Regional Construction & Demolition Debris Summit

MassDEP will be one of several co-hosts to the [Environmental Business Council's 2008 C&D Summit](#) being held on January 25 in Westborough, MA. The C&D Summit has been expanded to address C&D issues from throughout the Northeast, provides generators of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris and other interested parties with information about new regulatory structures, current management options, and new or emerging management trends for C&D management. This summit will continue a dialogue among construction contractors, architects, waste haulers, C&D processors and regulatory officials about the most effective

ways to manage C&D Debris. For more information contact [Dan Moon](#), [EBC](#).

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Launches New “Green Hospitality & Tourism Certification” Program

On November 1, 2007, the Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association (RIHTA) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced the “Green Hospitality & Tourism Certification” program.

Launching officially on January 1, 2008, the Green Hospitality and Tourism Certification is a self-certification program developed through a partnership with RIHTA, DEM, Rhode Island Division of Tourism, Providence Warwick CVB, Newport County CVB, Warwick Division of Tourism, Culture and Development, Rhode Island Airport Corporation, Rhode Island Resource Recovery, the Procaccianti Group, and Newport Harbor Corporation.

The new program charts a road map for hospitality and tourism businesses to employ green business practices with a focus on energy conservation, water conservation, waste minimization and recycling, and sustainable operating and purchasing practices. To participate, businesses will be required complete a workbook created by the DEM that measures business policies and practices. Upon completion of the workbook, DEM will review and score the business. Businesses that score above 100 on the assessment will receive DEM Green certification.

The program kicks off in January 2008 with training and education, conducted by the DEM, specific to the hotel and lodging segment of the industry. Training for the restaurant and foodservice segments will begin in February, followed by the transportation, venues and events segments in March. DEM expects to announce the first green certified businesses in conjunction with Earth Day 2008 (April), with rolling certifications after that.

For more information, contact [Ron Gagnon](#) of DEM's Office of Technical and Customer Assistance.

VERMONT

Mercury Thermostat Recycling

Vermont has put the chill on mercury pollution during the months of October and November. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and local hardware stores began offering Vermonters an incentive to turn in mercury containing thermostats for recycling. By bringing a mercury-containing thermostat into Aubuchon, ACE, True Value, Do it Best, and other participating independent hardware stores the customer will receive \$5.00 in-store credit per thermostat with a limit of three per customer. Since thermostats are banned from landfill disposal, this offers the consumer not only free recycling, but an incentive to recycle. The Agency believes this provides yet another opportunity to educate Vermonters about mercury and also potentially encourage replacement of existing mercury thermostats with other possible energy efficient or non-mercury alternatives. At the same time, the Agency will be evaluating the effectiveness of financial incentives in increasing thermostat recycling rates. For more information visit <http://www.mercvt.org/> or contact [Karen Knaebel](#).

ADVISORY MEMBER NEWS

Connecticut Recyclers Coalition Votes on NRC Affiliation & Bottle Bills, Single Stream Addressed

At its November 7 annual meeting, the CRC addressed three “bombshell” issues. In a straw poll, members let the CRC leadership know that they wished to remain a state affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition (NRC). Members also voiced strong support for existing deposit legislation as well as expansion legislation. Guest speakers covered the controversial topic of single stream recycling.

Because of recent controversy surrounding alleged actions by NRC leadership against bottle bills, some CRC members had voiced an interest in disaffiliating with the NRC. The November 7 straw poll indicated that the large majority of CRC members present wished to remain affiliated. To confirm its historical stance in favor of deposit legislation on beverage containers, a straw poll was conducted on this subject as well. Members showed similar enthusiasm for maintaining the pro-bottle bill stance, both in terms of defending Connecticut’s current deposit law as well as expanding it. Comments showed significant interest in seeking the un-recovered deposits (escheats) as well as boosting the current deposit to 10 cents from 5 cents. These suggestions were put forth as being more important than expanding the current program to include water and other containers.

Sean Duffy of FCR and Fran McPoland of the Paper Recycling Coalition presented perspectives on single stream recycling. CRC members left the meeting better informed on the subject, but, with many and varied opinions.

For further information contact [CJ May](#), CRC president, at.

WeRecycle!, Inc. Now a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher

WeRecycle!, Inc. has become a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR). WeRecycle! can now install Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Office XP on computers that are donated by businesses to eligible recipients.

WeRecycle! has committed to supplying computers each year to charities, schools, or families. Through this program, WeRecycle! serves as a conduit for their customers to allocate equipment to various non-profits through a secure process. The program assures no risk for liability and allows the donating company to gain recognition for their contributions.

“The MAR program coincides with our mission of providing the highest level of service and environmentally responsible management of obsolete equipment,” said Mick Schum, P.E., President of WeRecycle! “We are excited for the opportunity to give back to the community and assist families and organizations in need of this valuable equipment. Our corporate clients are eager to participate in this program. We insure data destruction and complete testing, guaranteeing that only fully working units are donated.”

To view the full document on WeRecycle!’s Web site, click [here](#). To contact WeRecycle!, click [here](#).