



# NERC | Northeast Recycling Council

Ten states united for environmentally sustainable materials management



## NERC Email Bulletin – January 2008 – *Happy New Year!*

### *Sustaining Members*



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

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- [Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority](#)
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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.*

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## **TOPICS**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We are delighted to welcome [Castle Ink Cartridges](#) as a new Supporting Member of NERC.

Joining [Castle Ink Cartridges](#) are renewing Supporting Members:

- [Center for Integrated Waste Management, University at Buffalo](#)
- [Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority](#)
- [Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority](#)
- [New York State Legislative Commission on Solid Waste](#)
- [Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania](#)

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.

## **A LETTER FROM NERC'S PRESIDENT**

### **NERC is Turning 20!**

Can you believe it? The Northeast Recycling Council is 20-years-old!

And what better way to kick off a celebration of this great milestone than to incorporate several commemorative activities into the agenda of NERC's Spring Conference on March 18 and 19, 2008 in Northampton, MA.

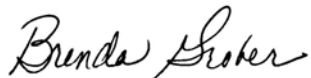
Starting with an historic overview by well-known *Resource Recycling* Executive Editor Jerry Powell, on the first day of the conference attendees will have the opportunity to think back to where waste prevention and recycling were in 1988 and hear first-hand the progress that's been made and NERC's significant role toward accomplishing it. Later in the day, National Recycling Coalition (NRC) Executive Director Kate Krebs has been invited to tell us about NRC's Rebranding Recycling program.

Day Two's keynote is expected to be former NERC and NRC leader, Will Ferretti. Today, Will serves as Vice President at the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). He will tell everyone about the Exchange's innovative and voluntary national carbon reduction program.

One overriding theme in their comments will be NERC's strong and positive influence along the way. Over the past 20 years, so many NERC members, officers, and professional staff have played key roles in moving the environmental industry to where it is today and assuring the success of recycling and sustainable business development. From early negotiations with the newspaper publishers to use more recycled content in their papers, to taking the lead and initiating recycling investment forums, to its work on the groundbreaking and important model legislation for electronics recycling, NERC is a leader and the time has come to help celebrate its accomplishments.

Please consider joining past and present staff and members of the Northeast Recycling Council as we get together to remember the past, influence the present, and look toward to the future! For more information about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, visit NERC's Web site at [www.nerc.org](http://www.nerc.org) or call Mary Ann Remolador at (802) 254-3636.

I know I plan to be there!



Brenda Grober  
Empire State Development  
NERC Board President

## **NERC NEWS**

### **NERC's Spring Conference & 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

NERC staff is very excited to invite you to commemorate NERC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Spring Conference, March 18 and 19, 2008. The Conference will be held at the [Hotel Northampton](#) in Northampton, Massachusetts. This event will give us an opportunity to gain perspective on the progress made in recycling while discussing the latest topics pertinent to the industry.

#### **Preliminary Agenda**

- Evolution of Recycling Over the Past Twenty Years (Jerry Powell)
- National Recycling Coalition's Rebranding Recycling Campaign (Kate Krebs - invited)
- Electronics
  - Progress of the Green Purchasing Initiative - Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT<sup>®</sup>)
  - Introduction of Manufacturers Recycling Management (MRM), a corporation formed by Sharp, Toshiba, and Panasonic to assist manufacturers with electronics legislation issues
- Carbon credit trading and the role of recycling (Will Ferretti, Chicago Climate Exchange – invited)
- Sorting and Processing Technological Changes and Improvements that Affect Materials Management
- Deconstruction Materials Markets

Mark your new calendars and [register](#) now!

A limited number of exhibitor tables will be available. [Exhibitors - register](#) early to claim your space.

### **Maine Joins as State Electronics Challenge Partner**

The State of Maine has signed on as the newest State Electronics Challenge Partner, joining the State of New Hampshire, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

The State Electronics Challenge is a voluntary program that encourages and helps state, regional, and local governments, including schools, colleges, universities, and other public entities, to:

- Purchase greener computers.
- Reduce power consumption of computers during use.
- Manage obsolete computer products 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.

It's free to join, and the benefits are ample. For more information, visit the [State Electronics Challenge Web site](#), or contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

### **Carpet Recycling Market Development in the Northeast – a Special Session**

NERC will be hosting a special “by invitation only” discussion between NERC Board members, state representatives that work with carpet recycling issues, and members of the carpet recycling infrastructure in the Northeast – including collectors, haulers, processors, and end-markets, to identify strategies to enhance carpet recycling markets in the Northeast. This special meeting will take place on March 20, 2008.

The goal of the session is to identify ways that the 10 Northeast state governments and NERC can help promote more carpet recycling in the Northeast through the creation and expansion of the carpet recycling marketplace, including the collection, transportation, processing, and use of recovered materials in new products.

Bob Peoples, Executive Director of Carpet America Recycling Effort (CARE), will present an overview of carpet recycling market activities in Northeast. There will then be a facilitated discussion between industry representatives and state officials about

- The existing carpet recycling markets infrastructure in the region.
- The “gaps” in the regional marketplace.
- What state governments can do to help fill these gaps.
- What NERC can do to help promote and develop carpet recycling market infrastructure in the region.

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

## **STATE UPDATES**

### **CONNECTICUT**

#### **General Permit Issued for Municipal Transfer Stations**

In an effort to better serve the Connecticut municipalities, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed and issued on November 29, 2007, a general permit for the operation of municipal transfer stations and recycling centers. An estimated 100 municipal transfer stations and 30 municipal recycling facilities will be eligible for the Municipal Transfer Station General Permit. An estimated ten towns that are operating transfer stations will be ineligible due to excess size of the operations.

This General Permit (GP) authorizes municipalities only to construct and operate a municipal transfer station and recycling center subject to the following:

- (1) A maximum processing capacity of up to 120 tons per day of solid waste; and
- (2) Transfer with limited opportunities to process: municipal solid waste; construction and demolition waste; furniture, mattresses, rugs, and carpets; metal, including appliances containing chlorofluorocarbons (Freon); propane tanks; used oil and waste anti-freeze; used oil filters; paper and cardboard; clean wood (brush, stumps, logs, pallets, and woodchips); treated wood (painted, creosote etc.); tires; food, beverage, and plastic containers; leaves and grass clippings; food scraps; lead-acid and mixed batteries; used electronics; mercury-containing lamps; mercury-containing thermometers and thermostats; capacitors and fluorescent light ballasts; paints and stains; household

items for reuse; textiles and shoes; and other recyclables if approved by DEP.

Programmatic Benefits of the GP will result because the GP will:

- Clarify the requirements for operations and management to transfer station managers and their staff, resulting in more compliant facilities, with fewer discharges to the environment.
- replace the highly detailed application required for an individual solid waste permit;
- provide standardized operating conditions for municipal transfer stations, which will result in more efficient enforcement;
- streamline the permit process and standardize operations of similar facilities;
- Result in a reduction in cost to the towns when the cost of permit preparation for this general permit is compared to the cost of the individual permit.

Municipal Benefits to the eligible towns:

- Eligible municipalities will benefit by the simplified application requirements and by the expedited application process.
- Facility operators will benefit by the clarified operating requirements.
- Eligible municipalities will be authorized to manage any of the waste streams covered by the general permit without additional administrative review by DEP.
- Some permitted transfer station sites have two permits: an individual solid waste permit and a recycling general permit; this general permit will allow management of both solid waste and recyclables under a single general permit.

For more information, please contact CT DEP Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, 860-424-3366. The general permit and related documents can be downloaded from the DEP [Permits and Licenses Web page](#).

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **\$494,100 Awarded in Recycling & Technical Assistance Grants**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) awarded \$494,100 in Recycling Grants that devote either direct funds (\$365,300) for projects or in-kind technical assistance (\$128,500) to 76 communities across the state.

Among the projects to be funded are: a re-use center for building-materials in Lawrence, a public education campaign to increase recycling participation in New Bedford, and a regional household hazardous waste (HHW) facility that will serve Paxton and six surrounding communities. Other HHW facilities that will receive direct funding are located in Devens (serving 11 communities) and Brookline. Four communities will receive funds for mandatory recycling enforcement coordinators.

The in-kind assistance grants, where a municipality receives a designated number of hours from a MassDEP regional municipal assistance coordinator, will target a specific recycling or waste reduction program for implementation in dozens of communities. In all, 3,680 hours of assistance, valued at \$128,800 will be delivered to 48 cities and towns between now and June 2008.

"By targeting specific programs, these grants encourage communities to develop local solutions and then seek assistance from the state to help bring those ideas to fruition," said MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt. "MassDEP's review of these applications shows that there are many creative ideas percolating are out there locally, and there are also several instances of regional cooperation that warrant our support."

Among the projects in which MassDEP will be providing in-kind technical assistance are: a recycling plan for schools in Medford, coordination of regional recycling collection services for six Merrimack Valley communities, and planning and evaluation for pay-as-you-throw programs in 16 communities.

Disbursements for this round of direct funding will be made over the remaining months of Fiscal Year 2008 (\$215,300) and then, subject to funding, the remainder (\$150,000) will be disbursed in Fiscal Year 2009. A full description of each project can be found at [MassDEP's Web site](#).

### **MassRecycle Plans to Increase Paper Recycling by 1m Tons**

On November 15, 2007, MassRecycle announced a campaign to increase paper recycling in Massachusetts by one million tons. The [Mass Recycles Paper](#) campaign is a statewide paper recycling initiative that has already received support from 132 municipalities across the Commonwealth.

MassRecycle is a broad-based coalition with a 20-year history of advocating for and educating the public and policy makers about recycling.

“More than a million tons of recyclable paper is thrown away in Massachusetts every year, at a disposal cost of more than \$100 million,” said Laurie Burt, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) at the announcement news conference. “If we can divert that paper from trash cans to recycling bins, we could add \$75 to \$100 million to the state’s economy from the sale of recycled paper. We will also reduce the amount of destructive greenhouse gases that are emitted into the air. I urge residents and businesses to step up their paper recycling efforts and support Mass Recycles Paper.”

More than 60 dignitaries, industry leaders, government officials, and members of the public attended the campaign announcement at the state-owned Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield, marking America Recycles Day.

The Mass Recycles Paper campaign is a public/private partnership funded primarily by the MassDEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the solid waste and recycling industries. The funds are earmarked for educational efforts including a [Web site](#), a toolkit for municipal officials, brochures and posters, and special recycling events.

“We are thrilled that more than 132 municipal leaders have already committed to the campaign by formally pledging to support the campaign and intensifying their local efforts to increase paper recycling,” said Claire Sullivan, president of MassRecycle. “We need public participation and continued financial support of our efforts in order to reach our million-ton goal. It’s certainly achievable with effort and education.”

Paper recycling generates millions of dollars of revenue for cities, towns, and businesses in Massachusetts. Nearly 19,000 people are employed in recycling industry jobs, and the combined annual payroll is estimated at \$557 million. In addition to the financial benefits, recycling an additional million tons of paper would leave about 17 millions trees uncut; save 380 million gallons of fuel, reduce greenhouse gasses by 910,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3.3 million tons.

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility is a successful public-private partnership between Massachusetts, 78 western Massachusetts communities and private industry. In 2006, the MRF recycled 44,461 tons of paper.

### **WasteWise Awards**

At the November 29 WasteWise Forum at Dunkin' Brands in Canton, the MassDEP presented Staples Inc. and Whole Foods Market with WasteWise Leadership Awards in recognition of the companies' efforts to promote waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship. Whole Foods Market was a charter participant in the state's voluntary Supermarket Recycling Program Certification (SRPC), and already has certified that 16 of its 18 stores in Massachusetts recycle and compost a wide range of materials -- from cardboard, plastic stretch film, and waxed cardboard to organic wastes such as spoiled fruits, vegetables, floral and deli wastes -- and participate in local food donation programs. Staples offers nearly 3,000 recycled products for sale and provides in-store recycling services for a wide range of used electronics and office equipment: computers and office technology products, ink and toner cartridges, cell phones and other personal electronics, and rechargeable batteries. The full press release is located at [MassDEP's Web site](#).

### **NEW JERSEY**

#### **New Waste Reduction & Recycling Best Management Practices Guide for the Business Sector**

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network has released a new *Waste Reduction & Recycling Best Management Practices Guide for the Business Sector*. This guide is one of the major outputs resulting from the Department's Reinvigorating Recycling Initiative, which was begun in 2005. The guide was developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with representatives from New Jersey's business sector (particularly PSEG Services Corporation), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network and will be made available on a CD-ROM.

### **NEW YORK**

#### **2008 NYS Solid Waste Federation Conference**

The Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations will hold its annual Solid Waste & Recycling Conference with Trade Show May 4 - 7, 2008, at the Sagamore resort in Lake George. It will offer 2 ½ days of

presentations, 90 technical sessions, and 100 exhibitors. Once again, it's expected to be the largest gathering of public and private sector recycling and solid waste professionals in the region.

### **Dental Amalgam Separator Installation Deadline Looming**

New York State mandates the statewide installation of dental amalgam separators under 6NYCRR Subpart 374-4, Standards for the Management of Elemental Mercury and Dental Amalgam Wastes at Dental Facilities. This regulation will require the approximately 15,000 New York State dentists to install amalgam separators at their facilities by May 12, 2008. The [regulation is available on line](#).

Separators are required to be certified by an accredited certification body and operate at 99% removal efficiency. After installation, dental facilities are required to submit a Notice of Dental Amalgam Separation to their publicly owned treatment works (POTW), the facility that treats their sewage discharge. This [form is available in PDF format](#). Links to additional information concerning separator installation, separator manufacturers, and mercury recyclers are addressed on the [Department of Environmental Conservation Dental Amalgam, Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) Web page](#).

### **Zero-Waste Event**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Conservation Day Picnic was attended by **430** DEC staff and family. In the past, this event generated a large amount of waste including: waste food, plates, utensils, cups, napkins, etc. This year we proposed and implemented a zero-waste event. In order to make this a zero-waste event, we took the following steps:

The caterer was requested to bring all foods and drinks in either reusable or recyclable containers. The caterer compliance to this request was good. We did request that condiments be in dispensers, not individual packets. However, we needed to be more specific and request the containers be #1 or #2 plastics. The ketchup and mustard containers were #4 plastic and, therefore, not recyclable.

We promoted reuse by requesting the staff bring their own plates, utensils and cup. In order to encourage more participation, the Commissioner sent out a notice to all staff two days before the event. Staff who complied were

entered in a drawing to win a backyard composter. This was very successful; it is estimated that over half of the staff brought their own plates, cups, and utensils.

We provided biodegradable plates, utensils, and cups and recycled content napkins to staff who did not bring reusable items.

A summary of the wastes generated at this event is provided in the table below and the adjacent chart.

Compostable Materials	285 pounds
Corrugated Cardboard	46 pounds
Various Recyclables	24 pounds
Garbage	52 pounds

Recycling/composting rate was 85%!

The biodegradable leaf bags worked well in the collection of the compostable materials. We located liquid collection containers near the leaf bags to prevent the bags from becoming saturated with the liquid waste (leftover beer, soda, and wine).

A dish washing station was provided to allow staff to clean their own plates, cup, and utensils. We also provided plastic bags and an area to store the plates until staff were ready to leave. Comments from staff were very positive on the dish washing station; they didn't have to cart around dirty dishes.

For the 2008 Conservation Day Picnic, we recommend the following:

- **Better coordination with the caterer.** The contract needs specific language requiring the caterer to:
  - Separate compostables, recyclables, and garbage.
  - Provide condiments (mustard, ketchup, etc.) in #1 or #2 plastics.
  - Transport foods in reusable or recyclable containers.

- **Better signs for the prep area.** This will improve participation by the catering staff and reduce the need for us to further separate materials.
- **Pre-meeting with the caterer.** A pre-meeting to provide training and facilitate coordination would be very useful.

For more information about this event, contact [Debbie Jackson](#), DEC.

### **Compost Training**

On November 14 and 15, 2007, 35 people participated in a compost workshop in Cooperstown. The workshop was sponsored by the New York State Association of Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3), Cornell Waste Management Institute (CWMI), and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Attendees included supermarket personnel, municipal recycling coordinators, state officials, and educators. Participants were treated to presentations by two of the most knowledgeable compost educators in New York State, Jean Bonhotal of CWMI and Dr. Bob Rynk of SUNY Cobleskill.

Workshop sessions included principles and methods of composting, siting and management, compost sampling and evaluation, regulations and trouble-shooting. Attendees applied their new found knowledge in a compost jeopardy game. This was followed by “an evening with a compost sample.” Participants broke into small groups, were given a compost sample and were charged with developing a way to market their compost. The groups used previously collected data as well as results of a maturity test that they conducted. After brainstorming, each group developed their marketing plans. The workshop wrapped up with presentations of experienced composters around the state.

Judging by the workshop evaluations, even experienced composters came out of the course with a lot of useful information.

For more information, contact [Gary Feinland](#), DEC.