

NERC | Northeast Recycling Council

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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.

WHAT NERC DOES FOR ITS MEMBERS

As a regional organization working directly with state agencies, NERC is unique in the Northeast. It is the only forum for cooperative research, collaborative action, and networking on market and business development issues that link recycling and economic development.

NERC

- Provides members with direct technical assistance, information, research capabilities, and networking opportunities.
- Leverages members financial resources, allowing you to participate in projects which require greater funding than you could sustain on your own.
- Keeps members on the forefront of developing trends and funding opportunities.
- Allows members to join in discussions on regional policy and program implementation concerns.

The bottom line: NERC saves members money and staff time, delivers services and programs that add value to your agency, and leverages achievements that states often find difficult to accomplish on their own.

Why NERC? Recycling and economic development are not just local concerns. The realities of recycling and economic development play out in the marketplace on regional and national levels. Trash and recyclables are more likely than ever to cross state lines, and local economies are rarely self-sufficient. NERC provides critical and substantive support for state recycling and economic development agencies, helping them communicate and collaborate on issues driven by these marketplace realities.

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

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

“Being a small state, Delaware’s available resources for recycling and waste diversion are limited. However, our membership in the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) has been invaluable in terms of the networking opportunities, technical information available via NERC’s website, conferences and webinars, and technical assistance available via NERC’s dedicated and experienced staff. Delaware’s increase in diversion from 12% to over 32% over the past several years can, in part, be directly attributed to our membership in NERC.”

— James D. Short,
Environmental Scientist,
Delaware Department of
Natural Resources &
Environmental Control

NERC’s conferences offer in-depth information exchange and professional presentations and discussions about emerging issues in the recycling and economic development fields.

NERC's staff is a substantive resource on a myriad of topics in the recycling and economic development fields. Member states frequently rely on NERC 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 conferences, webinars, newsletters, developing, and distributing research reports, managing the EPPnet listserv, the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse, and the State Electronics Challenge.

In addition, NERC staff aggressively develops ideas and funding sources for special projects deemed important by the membership. Projects in 2009 include: increasing reuse through material exchanges, environmentally preferable purchasing by state government, green computer procurement, use, and life-cycle management, toxics in packaging, and the marketing of compost.

To repeat the bottom line: NERC saves members money and staff time, delivers services and programs that add value to your agency, and leverages achievements that states often find difficult to accomplish on their own.

"The Steel Recycling Institute (a business unit of the American Iron and Steel Institute) has drastically cut back on budget over the past year because of the current economic situation. We dropped most of our participation with regional and national state organizations because of poor market conditions within the industry several years ago. However, we have made a few exceptions. We continue and will continue to participate and contribute to the Northeast Recycling Council. NERC is truly a one of a kind organization that affords industry "one stop shopping" to interact with state officials and our industry counter parts to enhance the markets for products and materials with recycled content. The steel industry recycling rate last year was over 70% and our finished product always contains recycled content. While we anticipate a lower number this year because of current economic conditions, we are expecting those conditions to improve. With annual production of new steel at approximately 100 million tons, (prior to the down-turn) a regional state-industry cooperative approach to market development is extremely useful to us and NERC is the only such organization that we are aware of that fills that role. It is very important for all of the states in the Northeast to continue to actively participate. We think that membership in NERC is money well spent—not only by industry, but by the states."

—Chip Foley, Vice President,
Government Relations