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STATE PERSON

***STATE NAME/NORTHEAST RECYCLING & RE-USE INDUSTRY – SIGNIFICANT
PLAYER IN REGIONAL ECONOMY***

Most people in the Northeast understand that recycling saves resources, conserves energy and reduces the need for landfills and incinerators. But few Northeasterners/State name know that their efforts help fuel a \$44 billion industry with 13,000 recycling and re-use business establishments employing over 206,000 and paying wages in excess of \$6.8 billion. These numbers help reveal the largely hidden side of this highly visible environmental endeavor that has quietly captured the attention of entrepreneurs, financiers and economic developers throughout the region.

"The recycling and re-use industries are incredibly diverse," according to FILL IN A STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERSON. "They include long-established sectors like paper and steel making, but have also spawned new entrepreneurial ventures in composting, plastic and rubber product manufacturing such as plastic lumber, rubber mats, and playground material, as well as computer re-manufacturing and wood re-use."

According to a recent study by the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC), 5,759 businesses are the suppliers of recycled raw materials to manufacturers and employ nearly 40,000 Northeasterners in the process. An even greater number of people are involved in the manufacturing of new products with recycled materials. Using very conservative methods to estimate the amount of manufacturing employment directly attributable to recycling, it is estimated that 1,870 recycled product manufacturers employ 136,094, in the ten Northeastern states. That is approximately 4% of overall manufacturing employment in the region.

The re-use industry, for example businesses that refurbish and sell used materials, represent an additional 5,005 employers, 27,514 jobs, and gross revenues of almost \$3 billion. "This is an emerging sector and one with great future potential," STATE PERSON commented.

These statistics are of great significance to entrepreneurs, business owners, financiers, government recycling and economic development officials and environmental advocates," according to STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERSON "We believe this data clearly demonstrates that recycling and re-use are mainstream components of the region's economy and that recycling and re-use are essential to an overall objective of building a more environmentally sustainable future" s/he added.

Although the findings are presented concisely in an Executive Summary, the study provides a thorough and well documented economic analysis of these industries. The report is available for sale through NERC. It is also available on their website at www.nerc.org.

The National Recycling Coalition has launched an effort to expand the study to the remainder of the nation. This expanded study should be completed by this summer.

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