

NERC

Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.

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WHAT NERC DOES FOR CONNECTICUT

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 regulatory, market and business development issues that link recycling and economic development.

NERC

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

The Bottom Line: NERC saves Connecticut 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.

“The Con Edison Recycling Attraction Team (RAT) has found NERC a valuable comprehensive resource on a host of recycling related topics. NERC is the type of organization that is consistently on the forefront of issues, providing research and coordinating with its 10 Northeast region member states. The RAT assists start-up and expanding recycling businesses that use recycling feedstock's to produce new products, and materials with recycled content. Such successful efforts keep recyclables out of the waste stream, and contribute to a cleaner environment. The RAT has relied on NERC for assistance recognizing that NERC is the only regional organization providing a forum for comparative research and assistance on business development issues involving recycling.” *John Manak, Con Edison*

NERC helps businesses to use recycled material, to manage waste efficiently, and to be more viable and profitable.

hazardous waste management, greenhouse gas emission and energy saving, and EPP procurement.

"The Steel Recycling Institute (a business unit of the American Iron and Steel Institute) has been drastically cutting back on budget and staff over the past several years because of market downturns. As a result we have

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 of projects and programs:

This responsibility includes proposal development, fund-raising, management of contractors, final reporting and other administrative duties. NERC leverages resources to minimize state costs and to maximize results and benefits.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

NERC provides a set of core services for members, i.e. organizing conferences, publishing two newsletters, developing and distributing research reports, managing the EPPNet, and facilitating membership networks on specific topics and areas of concern.

In addition, NERC staff aggressively develops ideas and funding sources for special projects deemed important by the membership. Specific areas of focus for the near term include: electronics recycling, mercury, small business

NERC's MISSION is to minimize the amount of materials requiring disposal by promoting the environmental and economic benefits of recycling and source reduction in the Northeast. Recycling and source reduction include re-use, re-manufacture, composting, and any other activity that decreases the amount and toxicity of material in the solid waste stream requiring disposal.

NERC's GOALS are: to increase demand for recyclable materials and recycled content products; increase the supply of high-quality secondary materials; maximize the overall efficiency of the recycling infrastructure; and further recycling-related job development in the collection, processing and manufacturing sectors.

ANTICIPATED PROJECTS FY 2004

Following is a list of anticipated projects for the period of July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004. They are presented in two categories: dues dependent, outside funding dependent.

Dues Dependent

1. Two three-day conferences (member meetings) on substantive topics of interest and concern to member states. These meetings strategies for regional collaboration to promote recycling market development and address problems being experienced in member states.
2. EPPNet – provide only national listserver addressing environmentally preferable procurement for the public sector, including the new searchable archive feature.
3. Information and research clearinghouse to members and the general public.
4. Email Bulletin –monthly outreach to more than 400 individuals, agencies, and companies on NERC news and projects, general topics of interest and state updates.
5. Recycling Economic Development Bulletin – twice a year publication highlighting the benefits of recycling business to the regional economy.
6. Technical assistance to businesses on securing sources of materials and markets for recycling.
7. Participate in Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) Subcommittee on market development.
8. Update recycling market development support tools and post on NERC website:
 - Material Exchanges in the Northeast

- State Program Contacts
- Northeast States Recycling Assistance Business Guide
- Recycling Industry Resource List
- Solid Waste Master Plans in the Northeast
- Overview Of Web Tools And Resources Relating to Product Stewardship & Reuse
- State Recycling Organizations in the Northeast

9. Monitor and support of the Northeast Newspaper Publishers Agreement, and provide an annual report.

10. Maintain and update the NERC web site, providing state-specific information on recycling at the direction of state members as well as access to NERC materials and links to other related Internet resources.

11. Hold regional America Recycles Day (ARD) discussions for ARD Coordinators.

12. Attend meetings, conferences and events in order to fully support state member programs, to stay informed on current or relevant information, to develop partnerships and working relationships, to promote NERC projects and education tools, and to represent NERC and its interests.

13. Develop regional policies and collaborations to promote the recycling market development interests of the region.

14. Develop active partnerships and coalitions with other organizations.

15. Support and develop member task forces and the Executive Committee and Planning Committee by scheduling conference calls, producing task force correspondence, minutes and memoranda, and performing research and arranging task force presentations at member meetings as required.

16. Write grants and seek funding support for NERC, developing project proposals and budgets

17. Provide fiscal and administrative management of the office and organization.

Outside Funding Dependent

1. Develop and implement pilot small business hazardous waste management programs.

2. Produce and distribute resource guide for small business hazardous waste management.

3. Develop negotiated performance standards for removing mercury from vehicles at their end-of-life.

4. Stakeholder in National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI) (representing the market development interests of the Northeast), including participating in the infrastructure and government subcommittees.
5. Publicize and promote the results of NERC's recent regional *Used Electronics Market Study*.
6. Work with national energy credit negotiating non-profit (Resolve, Inc.) to introduce source reduction, recycling and use of secondary products as a tool for energy savings into negotiations.
7. Work with the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. to promote the use of green products and recycled content material by public purchasing officials.
8. Grant funded market development projects. This funding has traditionally come from the federal government. We continue our efforts to receive such funding and to look for other opportunities as well.
9. Provide business plan review for start-up or expansion recycling companies.
10. Develop a "how to" resource directory for starting a recycling, including commodity specific information.
11. Train recycling businesses on how to make an effective presentation to a potential investor.
12. Develop and implement regional State Recycling Organizations meetings.