

2025 Annual Report

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



**Northeast
Recycling
NERC COUNCIL**

11 States United to

- minimize waste
- conserve natural resources
- advance a sustainable economy

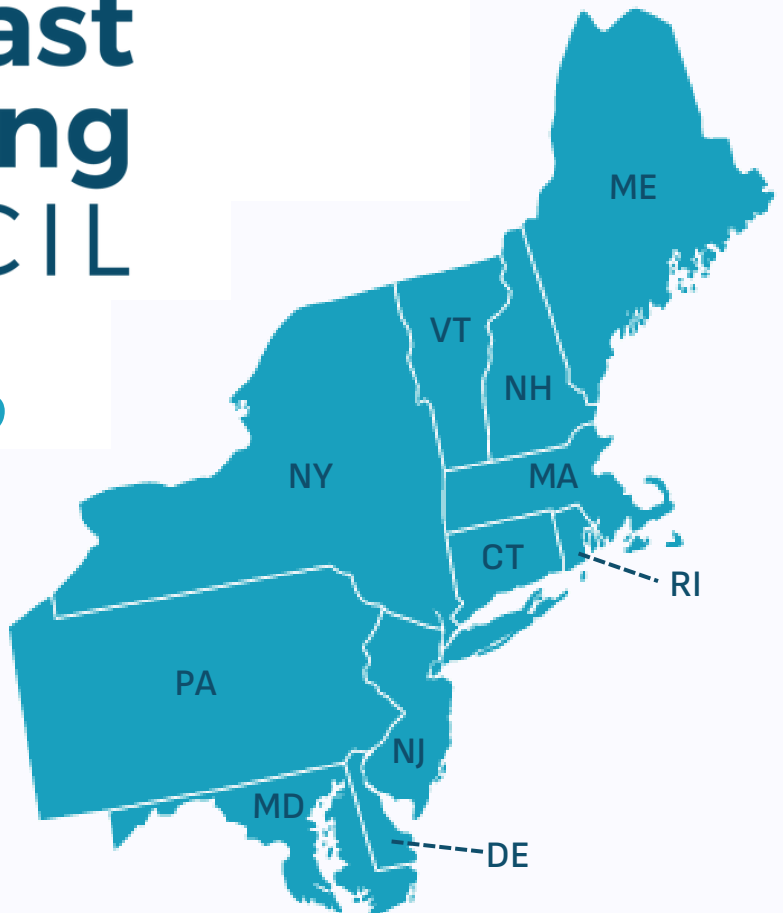


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“I am proud of the NERC team for delivering timely, impactful content that has advanced the sustainable materials management ecosystem over the past year. Through creative partnerships and targeted programs, we expanded our reach at the Rethink Resource Use Conference, hosted additional high-quality webinars and forums, and published new resources that will help guide the Northeast in its resource use and materials management.”



Megan Schulz-Fontes
Executive Director



Our Impact

96%

of survey participants reported webinars
and forums to be valuable

700 unique individuals participating across 15
educational webinars and forums

137

individuals participated on NERC
Committees, 32% on two or more

representing 69 state and advisory member
organizations

98%

of RRU Conference attendees reported
all sessions to be valuable

90% reported the Conference to be very
informative and engaging

Words from the President

Dear NERC Community,

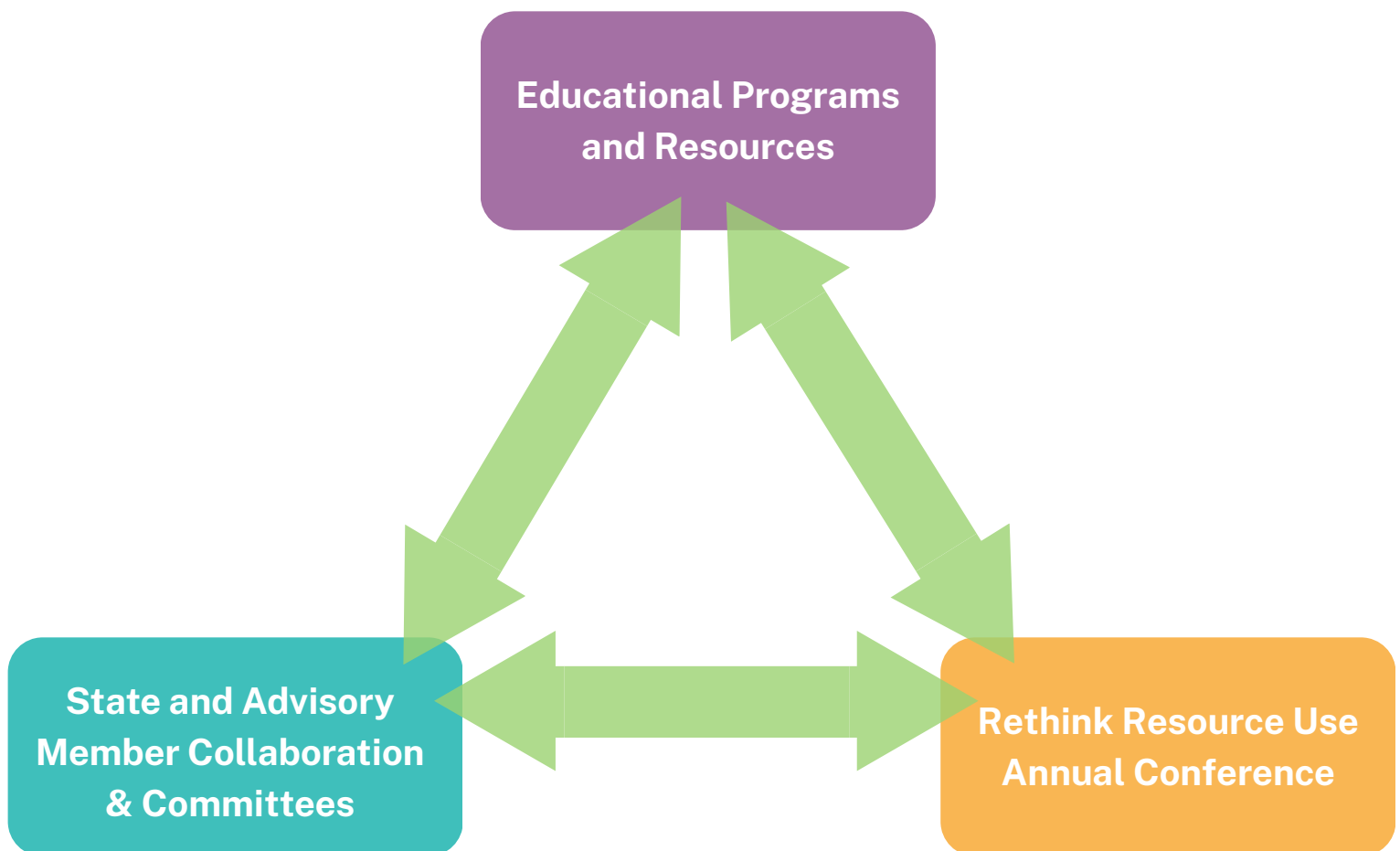
I'd like to thank you for your support and engagement in our shared mission to minimize waste, conserve natural resources, and advance a sustainable economy through facilitated action and collaboration. Collaboration is in NERC's DNA, and the past year's accomplishments demonstrate that. I invite you to explore the highlights below and throughout this report.

- Through a dedicated, primarily state-member subcommittee, NERC developed a Chemical Recycling Policy Position to guide environmentally-responsible chemical recycling of plastics.
- In collaboration with the Center for Sustainable Materials Management (CSMM) at SUNY ESF, the team was able to execute the first of its kind, three-day Conference, with 193 attendees.
- NERC held 15 webinars and forums with over 700 individual participants, focused on topics such as artificial intelligence in the waste stream, bio-medical plastics recycling, the lifecycle of textiles, plastic and organics waste in industrial food production, battery embedded devices, and material reuse.
- NERC engaged additional material recovery facilities (MRFs) across the region in the quarterly MRF survey and report, expanding the state representation from 10 to 12.
- A new Committee was launched to address the growing food and organics waste stream, bringing new stakeholders into a regional conversation on ways to advance sustainable organics management.

I am excited to see what's to come as the NERC team develops new resources and establishes new partnerships to support material sustainability.

Michael Nork
President, NERC Board
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

NERC believes in a world in which waste is minimized and natural resources are conserved. NERC works directly with state, regional, and local agencies, the private sector, trade associations, and others to help address sustainability challenges and achieve environmental goals for the Northeast region of the U.S. NERC accomplishes this by fostering a platform for collaboration across states and industry sectors and producing educational programs and resources to support advancing sustainable materials management programs and operations.



Programs and Resources

Educational Webinars and Forums

NERC held 15 webinars and forums with 1,888 unique individuals registering for multiple events. Of those unique individuals, over 700 participating during the events, while an estimated 500 users visited our [webinar](#) and [material reuse forum](#) libraries. Of survey respondents, 96% reported valuable events.

Webinars

[The Lifecycle and Future of Battery Embedded Devices](#) (May 2025)

Material Reuse Forums

Material reuse forums are planned by the Material Reuse Forum Group volunteers, which includes representatives from Finger Lakes Reuse, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Reuse Minnesota, Reuse Worx, and Zero Waste Washington.

[MR Forum 6: Online Materials Exchange: Challenges, Viability and Reach](#)
September 2024

[MR Forum 7: Unpacking Reverse Logistics](#)
December 2024

[MR Forum 8: Online Resale Business Models](#)
March 2025

[MR Forum 9: How to Make Reuse Centers Economically Viable](#)
June 2025

Programs and Resources

Webinar and Forum Series

[Examining and Identifying Solutions for Plastic and Organic Waste in Industrial Food Production, in collaboration with the Center for Biological Diversity](#)

April 2025

- Part 1: Addressing Impacts of Plastic in Industrial Food Production
- Part 2: Strategies for Addressing Waste in Animal Agriculture

[Benefits of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the Waste Stream](#)

December 2024

- Part 1: Optimizing Waste Stream with Machine Learning
- Part 2: Innovations in Recycling Processes

[Reducing and Diverting Plastic Waste in Bio-Medical Laboratories and Facilities](#)

September - October 2024

- Part 1: Challenges and Opportunities in Biopharma and Medical Institutions
- Part 2: Diverse Solutions to Meet the Supply of Bio-Med Plastic Waste

[Extending the Life Cycle of Textiles Forum Series](#)

September 2024

- Forum 1: Community Planning
- Forum 2: Policy Landscape
- Forum 3: Corporate Strategy, Case Studies
- Forum 4: Technological Advancement

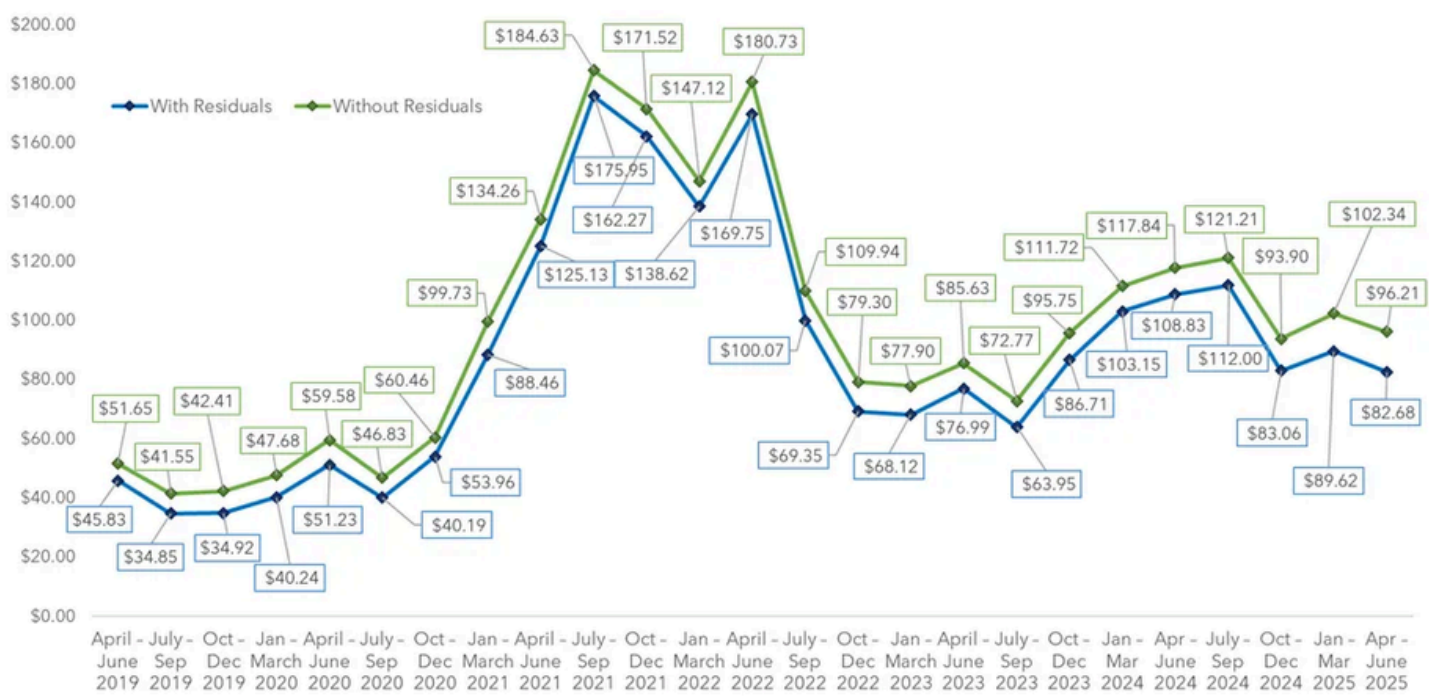
Programs and Resources

Northeast Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) Commodity Values Quarterly Reports

Four quarterly Northeast MRF Commodity Values Reports were released to map fluctuations in the value of commodities processed by the region’s MRFs: Q2 2024, Q3 2024, Q4 2024, and Q1 2025.

This past fiscal year, we grew the number of participating MRFs from 14 to 19, adding five and expanding states represented from 10 to 12. These states include all eleven NERC states with the addition of Virginia.

The educational tool is valuable for promoting improved residential recycling and participation and provides useful data for recyclers, MRFs, municipalities, and state agencies. [Learn more and download the reports.](#)



Programs and Resources

Chemical Recycling Policy Position

The Chemical Recycling Committee, which was established to better understand processes that fall under the umbrella term ‘chemical recycling’ and their environmental impacts to make informed policy decisions.

This past year, a subcommittee was formed for the purpose of developing a policy statement that would articulate guiding principles for environmentally responsible chemical recycling of plastics. Subcommittee members included Committee Chair Tom Metzner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP); Claudine Ellyin, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP); John Fay, Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA); Anthony Fontana, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Retired; Michael Fowler, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP); Timothy Kerr, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Left MDE; Shannon McDonald, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); Chaz Miller, Ex-Officio, NERC Board; Elizabeth Moore, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP); Marc Moran, Pennsylvania Department Of Environmental Protection; Michael Nork, New Hampshire Department Of Environmental Services; Megan Schulz-Fontes, Northeast Recycling Council (NERC); and Richard Watson, Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA).

The Policy was adopted by the NERC Board in May 2025. View the Policy Statement here: nerc.org/chemical-recycling.

Rethink Resource Use Conference 2024

NERC's Fall 2024 Conference took place October 28–30 at SUNY ESF in Syracuse, New York, bringing together 193 attendees from across the U.S. and Canada. Of survey participants, 98% reported valuable sessions, and 90% reported the event was engaging and informative. The event was hosted in partnership with the Center for Sustainable Materials Management at SUNY ESF and in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainability Engagement at Syracuse University.

This year's program featured two keynote speakers: Dr. Gary Cooper, CEO and Co-Founder of Rheaply, and Erin Simon, Vice President and Head of Plastic Waste and Business at the World Wildlife Fund. Over two and a half days, participants engaged with expert speakers covering a wide range of topics, including extended producer responsibility (EPR), organics, reuse, sustainable procurement, and more.

You can view Conference presentations, speaker biographies, the attendee list, and photo albums [here](#).



“As an emerging professional in this field, it is very valuable to hear about the paths that other states and organizations have taken. I have a newfound sense of the role that public-private partnerships plays and I met some very well networked people, and it was a major contribution to meet so many experts from across the region.” - Fall 2024 Conference Attendee

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State & Advisory Membership

NERC is an eleven state member organization. In addition to our state members, we have nearly 100 advisory member organizations that represent recycling organizations, collectors and haulers, material recovery facilities, processors, brand owners, industry trade associations, and much more. You can view a complete [member directory](#).

All members are eligible to participate on committees, receive discounts to courses, the annual Rethink Resource Use, receive exclusive monthly regional recycling market updates produced by Chaz Miller, Ex Officio Director, NERC, and [much more](#).

Committees foster valuable connections, ideas, and resource development. The work accomplished during FY2025 is described below. Committee members included 137 individuals representing 69 organizations, 32% of which participate on two or more committees.

Bottle Bill

Chair: Gary Feinland, New York State DEC

The Committee discussed opportunities for improving and enhancing regulation and system effectiveness. A state-only meeting was also held to discuss best practices and opportunities for improved systems.

Chemical Recycling (State & Approved Advisory Members Only)

Chair: Tom Metzner, Connecticut DEEP

The Committee learned about life cycle analyses of chemical recycling processes, policy considerations, and facility operations.

A subcommittee was formed to develop the [NERC Chemical Recycling Policy Position](#), which was adopted by the NERC Board in May 2025.

State & Advisory Membership

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Chair: Jessica Levine, The Recycling Partnership

The Committee began developing an inclusive recruitment and retention guidebook for the industry, reinforcing NERC's commitment to inclusivity. Members also supported the expansion of the Emerging Professionals Program.

Glass Markets

Chair: Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

The Committee welcomed presentations from glass processors to better understand the dynamics of the value chain regionally and discussed developing new resources. The Committee reviewed the Flow of Glass in the Northeast Report which should be published in Fiscal Year 2026 with the goal of improving glass collection while supporting policy measures that encourage sustainable glass recycling.

Organics Management

Chair: Debra Darby, Tetra Tech

The Committee, newly launched this past year, began planning a webinar series focused on food waste management, sourcing case studies to feature at the 2026 RRU Conference, and building an outline for a diverting food waste guide to share with schools and municipalities. Additionally, members welcomed guest speakers from across the value chain to discuss key topics.

State & Advisory Membership

Regional Recycling Markets

Chair: Chaz Miller, Maryland Recycling Network

The Committee heard from ten guest speakers on varying topics including technological advancements in MRFs, commodity market trends, end market development case studies, and interactive material flow maps. Chaz Miller, the Chair, authored 12 monthly market reports.

Supply Side Policies

Chair: Bradley Baker, Maryland DE

The Committee's goal is to increase the supply of post-consumer plastics, glass, and paper to the marketplace by exploring different supply-side strategies. New case study authors of the Guide to Increasing Recycling Supply were invited to present. The Guide was developed as a complimentary resource to existing minimum post-consumer recycled content model legislations.

This past year, a new case study was added to the Guide - the first in the brand and manufacturer category of the value chain. This case study was submitted by Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast and focuses on enhancing the recyclability of plastic packaging by transitioning from green PET bottles to clear PET bottles. [Read it here.](#)

The full Guide and individual case studies can be viewed at:
[nerc.org/supply-side-guide.](http://nerc.org/supply-side-guide)

Environmental Leadership Awards



NERC recognizes leaders in environmental sustainability every year. In its eighth awards ceremony in fall 2024, NERC honored four organizations for their dedication to NERC's mission and outstanding leadership in our industry. [Learn more about the 2024 Awardees.](#)



8th Annual Environmental Leadership Awardees

Outstanding Member: [Good Point Recycling](#)

Founded in Vermont and Massachusetts 25 years ago, the company has championed reuse, fair trade recycling, and global integrity, ensuring valuable electronics are refurbished and responsibly managed.

Outstanding Organization: [Helpsy](#)

Helpsy collects hundreds of thousands of pounds of clothes per day in cooperation with 1,500 communities, businesses, and nonprofits. The certified B-corporation supplies environmentally sound used goods to thousands of thrift stores, resellers, sorting companies, and consumers worldwide.

Environmental Leadership Awards



Outstanding Municipality: **Town of Woodbury**

The Town of Woodbury reduced and diverted waste by 45% from 2022 after entering a pilot program funded by Connecticut DEEP for trash and food scrap collection. As of Fall 2024, they had collected 139,000 pounds of food scrap since February 2023.

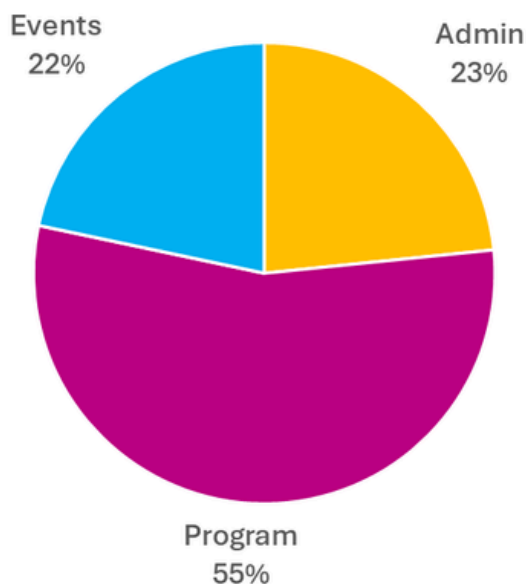
Outstanding Program: **Chittenden Solid Waste District**

CSWD collaborated with Astronomers Without Borders to collect, sort, and reuse more than 115,000 solar eclipse glasses, shining a spotlight on the power of local communities and their unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship.



Financials

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

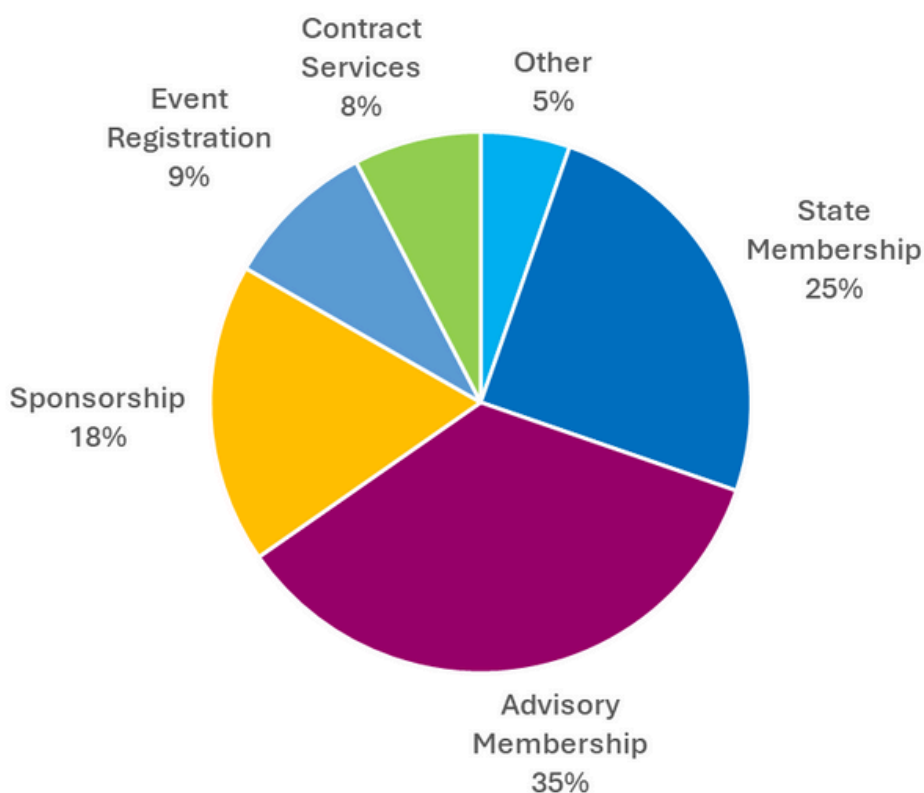


Expenses

The majority of NERC funds are spent on programming, which includes planning and execution of webinars and forums, resource development, outreach, state and advisory member services, and support for members and non-members.

Revenue

State and advisory member dues make up half of NERC's revenue. Remaining funds to support NERC programs and operations are derived from event registration and sponsorships, as well as contract services and other sources such as interest on financial assets or reimbursed expenses.



Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President

Josh Kelly, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Vice President

Michael Nork, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Treasurer

Richard Watson, Delaware Solid Waste Authority



Directors

- Chris Nelson, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- Brian Beneski, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Bradley Baker, Maryland Department of the Environment
- John Fischer, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Erin Jensen, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Jared Rhodes, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
- Jeff Bednar, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Ex- Officio Directors

- Resa Dimino, Resource Recycling Systems
- Chip Foley
- Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority
- Chaz Miller, Maryland Recycling Network

To view our current Board of Directors, visit: nerc.org/board

NERC Team

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



Megan Schulz-Fontes
Executive Director



Mariane Medeiros
Senior Project Manager



Sophie Leone
Development and Program
Manager



Justin Giddings
Sustainability and Data
Management Intern

NERC's programs are supported and delivered by a dedicated team of professionals. To view our current team, visit: [nerc.org/staff](https://www.nerc.org/staff)

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Advisory Members

Our members make up a large, diverse community that believes in a world in which waste is minimized and natural resources are conserved. Members are key to shaping NERC's events and priorities for discussion, training, and projects.

Addison County Solid Waste Management District	Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF)
Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS)	Fibre Box Association
Ag Container Recycling Council	Fire Rover, LLC
American Beverage Association	GDB International
Association of Plastic Recyclers	Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)
Balcones Recycling	Good Point Recycling
BioCycle	Harvard
Blount Fine Foods	Henkel Corporation
Primo Brands	Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA)
Bright feeds	HW Green Company
Bulk Handling Systems	International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)
Capitol Region of Governments	International Sleep product Association
Carpet America Recovery Effort	Interstate Refrigerant Recovery
Carton Council	Keurig Dr. Pepper
Casella	Machinex Technologies Inc.
Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority	Maine Resource Recovery Association
CET	Mattress Recycling Council
Chittenden Solid Waste District	MRM (Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company)
Circular Polymers	MSW Consltants
City of Salem	National Center for Electronic Recycling (NCER)
CLYNK	National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA)
Coca-Cola	Nestle USA
Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast	North East Biosolids & Residuals Association
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)	Northeast Resource Recovery Association
Container Recycling Institute	Northern Virginia Waste Management Board
CSG/Eastern Regional Conference	NYC Department of Sanitation
Delaware River & Bay Authority	PaintCare
Employers Association of the NorthEast (EANE)	Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (PARMC)
Eastman	Plastics Industry Association
Eco Products	Pozzotive
Ecomaine	Product Stewardship Institute
ECONWARD TECH	Professional Recyclers of PA (PROP)
EFS-Plastics Inc.	

Advisory Members

Quantum Biopower
Recycled Materials Association (ReMa)
RecycleMe
RECYC-QUEBEC
Republic Services
Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)
Responsible Purchasing Network
Re-Trac
Reverse Logistics Group (RLG)
Revlution
Rezzi
River Bend Molding
Rockland County Solid Waste Management -
Rockland Green
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Samsung
Serlin Haley
Sonoco Recycling

South Carolina Department of Commerce
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Southern CT Regional Resource Recovery Authority
Strategic Materials
SUNY College of Environmental Science and
Forestry
Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council
Tetra Tech
The Recycling Partnership
TOMRA Systems USA
Tough Stuff Recycling
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Massachusetts Lowell Innovation Hub
US Composting Council
Vanguard Renewables
Viably
Waste Management (WM)
Yale Office of Sustainability

State Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
Connecticut (CT DEEP)							
Delaware (DSWA)							
Maine (ME DEP)							
Maryland (MDE)							
Massachusetts (MA DEP)							
New Hampshire (NH DES)							
New Jersey (NJ DEP)							
New York (NY DEC)							
Pennsylvania (PA DEP)							
Rhode Island (RIRRC)							
Vermont (VT DEC)							

Advisory Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
ACSWMD							
Ag Container Recycling Council							
American Beverage Assoc.							
APR							
BioCycle							
Blount Fine Foods							
Bright Feeds							
Carton Council							

Advisory Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
Casella							
SUNY ESF							
CCRRA							
CET							
CSWD							
Circular Services							
City of Salem							
CLYNK							

Advisory Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
Coca Cola							
Eco-Products							
EFS-Plastics							
EREF							
Eunomia							
GPI							
GreenBlue							
Harvard							

Advisory Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
HRRA							
Keurig Dr. Pepper							
MRRA							
NH Recycles							
NYSAR3							
PA RMC							
PLASTICS							
Pozzotive							

Advisory Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
Primo Brands							
ReMA							
RECYC-QUEBEC							
Republic Services							
RRS							
Reverse Logistics							
Revolution							
SC Dept. of Commerce							

Advisory Members

REPRESENTED ON NERC COMMITTEES

	Bottle Bill	Chemical Recycling	DE&I	Glass	Regional Recycling Markets	Supply Side Policy	Organics
Sibelco							
Tetra Tech							
Container Recycling Institute							
The Recycling Partnership							
TOMRA							
WM							
Yale							

Engage with NERC

We welcome you to connect with the Northeast Recycling Council in various ways and become part of our community.

Register for upcoming events at [nerc.org](https://www.nerc.org).

Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter and hear about state and industry news

Learn about becoming a NERC Advisory Member

Follow us on social media!



@northeastrecycling



@NErecycling



@Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.



@Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)

Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.
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