

2019 Annual Report



NORTHEAST RESOURCE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION

NRRA | MISSION

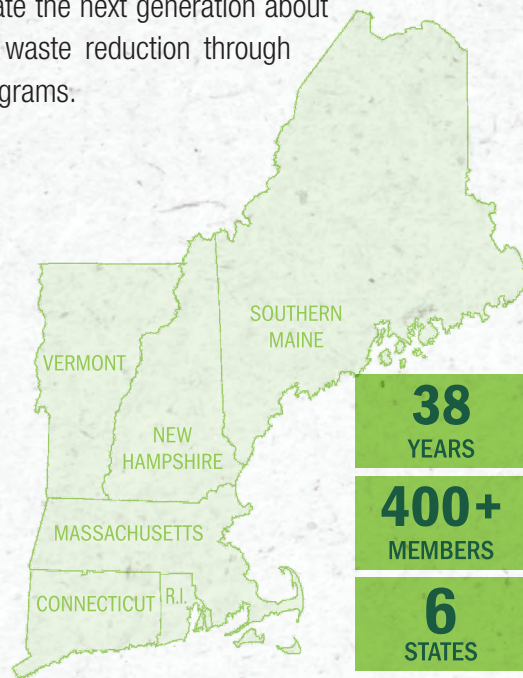
“ Partnering to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions. ”

The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (“NRRA”) is a nonprofit cooperative that enables both small rural and large urban communities to manage their own recycling programs. NRRA is one of only a handful of nonprofits in the country that operates a recyclables marketing cooperative, which means that we directly connect sellers of recyclable commodities to purchasers of those commodities. NRRA has a deep

expertise in the recycling markets, and in partnership with our members, we share that information through education and technical assistance, as well as networking opportunities. We also educate the next generation about recycling and waste reduction through our school programs.

NRRA | HISTORY

In 1981, four New Hampshire municipalities founded the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, then called the New Hampshire Resource Recovery Association, to provide a clearinghouse for current, up-to-date information and a source of technical and marketing assistance in the general areas of waste reduction and recycling. Since then, membership in NRRA has grown to include over 400 municipalities, individuals, and businesses in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island.



NRRA | STAFF

Reagan Bissonnette

Executive Director

Paula Dow

Finance & HR Manager

Stacey Morrison

Administrative Manager

Bonnie Bethune

Member Services Manager

Heather Herring

Education Manager

Liz Duncan

Finance Assistant

Marilyn Weir

Finance Assistant

Gwen Erley

Programs Coordinator

Lindsay Dow

Administrative Assistant

MJ Poch

Volunteer



I believe that effective waste management—including source reduction, recycling, and composting—is one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time.”

– Reagan Bissonnette, NRRA Executive Director

NRRA | BOARD OFFICERS

Duncan Watson

President

Paul Tomasi

Co-Vice President

John Hurd

Co-Vice President

Lisa Stevens

Treasurer

Brian Bartram

Secretary

NRRA | BOARD TRUSTEES

Joan Cudworth

John Halstead

Brian Patnoe

Michael Faller

David Hartman

Dennis Patnoe

Roger Guzowski

James Manzolini

Mark Richardson



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[f /NRRAreycles](https://www.facebook.com/NRRAreycles)

In June 2019, Mike Dufor retired as Executive Director of NRRA. During his decade-long leadership, NRRA increased support for member services, technical support programs, and education for citizens and professionals. Mike directed the start of a monthly newsletter for members, updated market pricing, renegotiated marketing contracts, and added single-stream recycling and municipal solid waste as programs offered by NRRA.



Reagan Bissonnette and Mike Dufor

NRRA's new Executive Director, Reagan Bissonnette, joins NRRA with a strong background in non-profit management and the law. "I am deeply honored to be leading NRRA into the future as our members face considerable challenges concerning how to recover our valuable resources. I look forward to working with our members throughout the Northeast to help meet these challenges, which I believe present opportunities for growth and innovation." – Reagan Bissonnette, NRRA Executive Director

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**Northeast Resource
Recovery Association**

(800)223-0150

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Members Helping Members

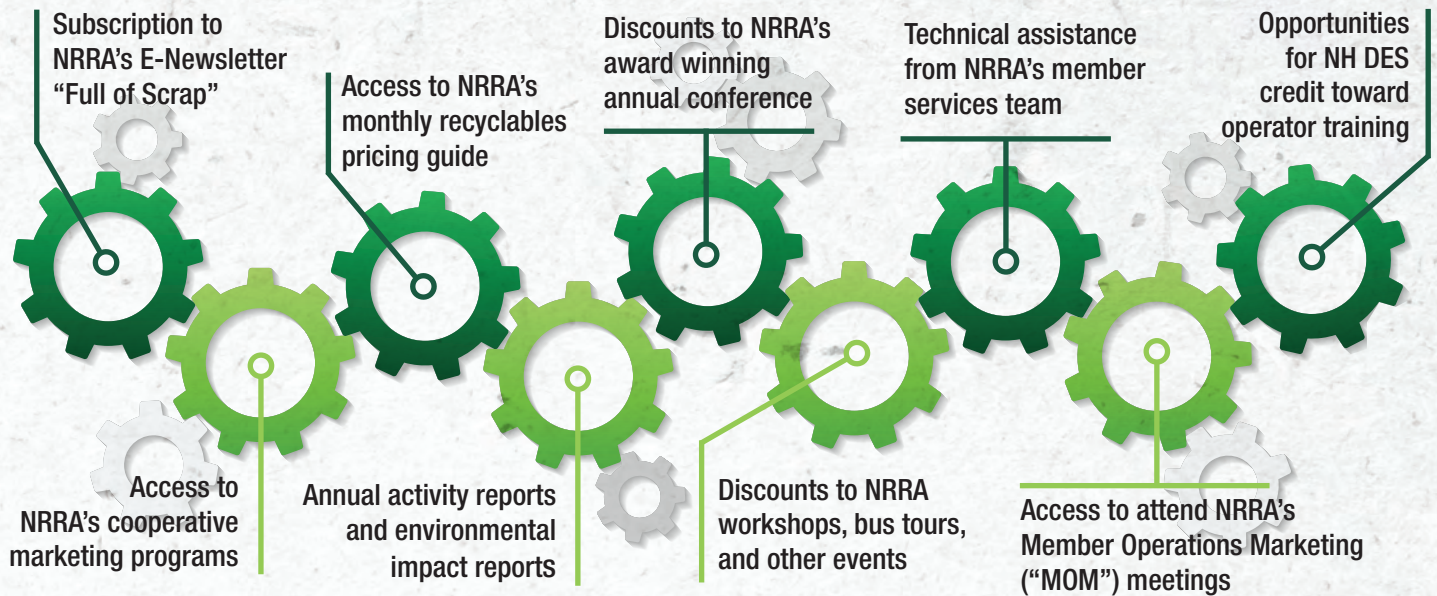


I think you guys are doing a wonderful job! Wonderful Facebook page!
Love the Full of Scrap and love the changes that are going on!
Thank you guys for all your dedication and hard work!"

– **NRRA member**, feedback received through Facebook

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

HOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORKS FOR YOU.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NRRA

1 BECOME A MEMBER

BECOME A MEMBER: Our members include municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, trade associations, nonprofits, and individuals (including students). Join us!

2 JOIN OUR CO-OP MARKETING PROGRAM

JOIN OUR COOPERATIVE MARKETING PROGRAM: Let NRRA be your one-stop-shop for your waste management needs. Our cooperative marketing programs provide consistent movement for all recyclables and the entire waste stream, including municipal solid waste.

3 HOST AN EVENT

HOST AN EVENT: Hosting a MOM meeting or other workshop or field trip at your facility helps other members learn from each other in a tangible, hands on way.

4 SERVE AS A BOARD TRUSTEE

CONSIDER SERVING ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: NRRA is a member driven organization whose programs are designed and overseen by the members we serve. Our Board of Trustees sets the strategic mission of the organization.

5 DONATE

DONATE: NRRA is a nonprofit organization and donations are a direct way to support NRRA's work to assist communities and schools throughout the Northeast with recycling and waste reduction.

NEW HAMPSHIRE THE BEAUTIFUL SUPPORTS NH MUNICIPALITIES & SCHOOLS

New Hampshire the Beautiful is a non-profit 501(c)(3) supported by members of the NH Soft Drink Association, the Beverage Distributors of New Hampshire Association and the New Hampshire Grocers Association. This collaborative effort by food and beverage companies has developed comprehensive programs to address litter issues, recycling challenges, environmental awareness and education.



NRRA would like to thank NH the Beautiful for its steadfast support of NRRA's programs, services, and members. In the past year NH the Beautiful has helped NRRA members in the following ways:

- Granted NRRA members **over \$33,000** to use toward recycling equipment to help improve their recycling programs at transfer stations/recycling centers
- Subsidized the cost of **528 curbside recycling bins** for NRRA member towns and schools
- Assisted 35 NRRA member towns by purchasing over **\$13,200 in signage** for their transfer stations/recycling centers
- Donated **507 cases of Litter Free Blue Bags** to over 50 NRRA member towns, communities and organizations which helped clean almost **650 miles of NH roadways** of litter and debris
- Provided over 10 NRRA member towns or schools with recycling assistance at local events through free use of their two Recyclemobiles
- Provided free School CLUB membership to all NH schools and provided discounts to those schools for school program fees and NRRA conference registrations

“Every community in this state has the potential to benefit from NRRA’s community advocacy, recycling initiatives and educational programs for all age groups. They annually deserve and receive our support for the environmental efforts they offer to their members and the schools in our state.”

— **John Dumais**, Chairman, NH the Beautiful

THE TOWN OF PIERMONT THANKS NH THE BEAUTIFUL

The Town of Piermont was awarded a NH the Beautiful equipment grant in the amount of \$3,647 to assist them with the purchase of a new recycling compactor and collection/storage box.

This compactor/box allows the staff at the recycling center to put all of the recyclables in a covered box which protects them from the elements and keeps the contents from blowing out. The compactor then condenses the material allowing them to put more material in the box which ultimately saves the town about \$5,000 – \$6,000 annually on trucking.



**A SPECIAL
THANKS**



NRRA thanks the hundreds of people who support our work each year through payroll contributions in workplace giving campaigns. NRRA is a member of EarthShare New England, a federation of New England's most respected environmental and conservation charities. To learn more about supporting NRRA through EarthShare New England, please visit <http://www.earthsharenewengland.org>.

GLASS RECYCLING WITH NRRA

In response to the challenges NRRA's members are facing with glass, NRRA offers two practical and low-cost options for our members to recycle or reuse glass and keep this valuable and heavy material out of the waste stream. Over 120 communities in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts are currently participating in these programs.

The PGA (Processed Glass Aggregate) program allows members to mix together all colors of glass jars and bottles as well as add other glass-like materials such as ceramics, Pyrex, and even porcelain sinks and toilets to later become crushed as an aggregate for municipal road base and other infrastructure projects in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts.



Francois Ierfino of 2M Ressources and NRRA Executive Director, Reagan Bissonnette at 2M Ressources' facility in Quebec.



Inspecting PGA produced at NRRA's host site in Rochester, NH.

NRRA's current PGA host sites are Dennis, MA, Littleton, NH, New London, NH, Waste Management TREE in Rochester, NH and Springfield, VT.

In addition, members can participate in NRRA's "Clean" Glass program, which allows only glass bottles and jars of all colors to be mixed together and consolidated in Keene, NH and Lebanon,

NRRA is a prime partner with the City of Keene and shares much of the responsibility for the success of our program over the past 25 years. The services of NRRA have saved the City hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years, and the reliability and integrity of NRRA simply cannot be matched.”

— **Duncan Watson**, Assistant Director of Public Works, City of Keene, NH & President of NRRA Board of Trustees

NRRA's glass is exceptional.”

— **Francois Ierfino**, Strategic Purchasing, Sourcing and Sales Manager, 2M Ressources

NH. This material is hauled to Quebec for processing, then is shipped back to the U.S. to be made into fiberglass insulation.

These programs help members save money while recycling or reusing this valuable resource. For example, Strafford, VT recently changed from paying \$121 per ton for comingled containers to paying \$35 per ton to take their separated glass to NRRA's Lebanon, NH host site for later recycling into fiberglass insulation by 2M Ressources.



“One of the biggest helpers we have in all this is NRRA.”

— **Ed Walsh**, Transfer Station Manager, Rollinsford, NH

For five years, Rollinsford, NH (population 2,527) embraced single stream recycling, ie. putting all recyclables, including aluminum cans, cardboard, glass jars and bottles, paper, plastics and steel cans, into one container and shipping them to market where they were separated back into their individual components for marketing.

As recycling markets continued to deteriorate and the cost per ton of single stream material exceeded the cost to throw it away, Rollinsford made the difficult decision to return to a source separated program. Rollinsford purchased a refurbished baler and, in July 2018, residents were called upon to once again begin separating their fibers and containers to create materials that the town could market and achieve revenue for.

NRRA has been privileged to work with Rollinsford throughout this transition from single stream recycling to shipping full tractor trailer loads of cardboard and mixed paper and truck loads of glass jars and bottles.

WHERE DO OUR MATERIALS GO?

Recently, NRRA surveyed its vendors and asked what end products are made from the recyclable material they purchase from NRRA's members. Some examples of items being manufactured include the following:

- Water bottles and milk jugs are formed into poly lumber for plastic furniture in Pennsylvania.
- Lead-acid batteries are broken down and made into new lead-acid batteries at smelters in South Carolina, Missouri and Indiana. The acid is neutralized or made into detergents.
- Steel cans are re-processed into solid slabs of steel and then cut into flat rolled steel coil. This can be used in the automotive, appliance and construction industries.



Ed Walsh, Transfer Station Manager for Rollinsford, NH, speaking to the NH Recycling & Solid Waste Study Committee about the challenges municipalities are facing with the current recycling markets.



“The Town of Meredith has been a member of NRRA for over 30 years... The best benefit is NRRA always finds a supplier to buy the material generated from our operation. It [NRRA] has done so with ease and is a “One-Stop-Shop” for Meredith... Start using NRRA to handle all of your community’s material.”

— **Mike Faller**, Director of Public Works, Town of Meredith, NH & Member of NRRA Board of Trustees

- Aluminum cans are shredded into smaller pieces and go through a process to remove the paint in the US and Ontario. The hot shreds are blown into a furnace and are made into new cans. This process can be done indefinitely, which is why aluminum cans are such a desirable material.
- Cardboard and mixed paper go to Vermont and are transformed into rolls of boxboard. Rolls are then sent to a folding plant in Quebec and shipped throughout North America.



MEMBER OPERATIONS MARKETING (MOM) MEETINGS

NRRA holds regular Member Operations Marketing (MOM) Meetings, which enable operators to gather and discuss the concerns of specific towns, learn about current market conditions and specifications for acceptable clean material, and to problem solve on a variety of topics, such as signage, traffic flow, equipment, and time management. New Hampshire solid waste operators can receive continuing education credits toward their license by attending. Starting in October 2019, about half of NRRA's monthly MOM meetings will be "on the road" at a member's facility, where meetings will be followed by a tour of the member's facility.



Brian Patnoe, Littleton Transfer Station Manager, leading a tour of his facility following a MOM Meeting.



M.O.M. meetings are one of many ways that NRRA provides support and guidance to help solid waste operators move material... The NRRA staff is incredibly knowledgeable and truly cares about you and the town you represent. The meetings are held at different facilities on the second Wednesday of each month."

—**Joan Cudworth**, Solid Waste Supervisor, Town of Hollis, NH & Member of NRRA Board of Trustees

YIMBY! - YES IN MY BACKYARD!

From October 2018 to September 2019, NRRA provided services and training to NRRA members through its YIMBY! Yes In My Backyard! grant. The primary ecological goal of **NRRA's YIMBY!** project (*funded by the Rural Utilities Services Solid Waste Technical Assistance Training grant program*) was to protect water resources, rebuild topsoil and reduce airborne contaminants. NRRA accomplished this goal by providing 118 community workshops and on-site technical assistance (staff trainings, waste audits and site assessments) in collaboration with constituents in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The focus of the trainings included connecting mid-scale food waste generators with organic waste facilities;

expanding **NRRA's TOLD (Trash On the Lawn Day)** technical assistance program for schools by creating A TOLD TO GO loan kit; and providing best management practices for rechargeable and single-use batteries.

The YIMBY! deliverables included

- **Six training modules** (four on organic waste management techniques, one on battery management and one for implementing waste audits).
- **Twenty-eight ESRI ArcGIS maps** depicting seven categories of mid-scale food waste generators in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.
- **One visually appealing, single-page story map** (Call for Compost) that outlines the start-to-finish process of organic waste disposal.
- **Closing the Food Loop at School:** A 90-page, on-site school composting guide.
- **A TOLD to GO loan kit** for institutions and businesses containing waste audit supplies, a step by step how-to-guide (with templates) and an 11-minute training video.



NRRA Grant Manager, Cindy Sterling, presenting a workshop training to teachers and staff in Berlin, NH.

THE NRRA SCHOOL CLUB

PROGRAMS COMPLETED F.Y. 2018-2019

5 Trash On the Lawn Days
("TOLDS") in NH

12 Workshops in NH + VT

17 Technical Assistance
in NH + VT

332
Total CLUB
Members
128,558 Students

1089
Students
Trained



AWARDS

The CLUB received another Gold Circle Award from the NH Partners in Education for their work with Hampstead Central School



TRASH ON THE LAWN (T.O.L.D.) DAY



“ Our students adapted quickly to new and improved waste habits after participating in TOLD (Trash On the Lawn Day); they’ve even begun policing the adults in the school when they see something that should be composted or recycled go into a trash can! ”

—Wendy Berkeley, Somersworth Farm to School Coordinator

PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN TOWNS AND SCHOOLS

Because of the **Outstanding Community Involvement** of Jessie Jennings, Manager of the Plymouth Recycling Center, a new recycling program was established at Mountain Village Charter School, our **School Rookie Recycler of the Year**.



Plymouth Recycling Center Manager Jessie Jennings accepts the Outstanding Community Involvement Award from NH the Beautiful Board Members Larry Melanson (left) and John Dumais (right).

Jessie was instrumental in helping the school get their recycling program started by assisting with discounted ClearStreams and bins through the NH the Beautiful school equipment program. He then took it upon himself to build them a recycling trailer using recycled materials from the Plymouth Transfer Station. Jessie transports the recyclables to the Transfer Station himself.

He also took the time to educate the students and staff about what the Transfer Station accepts, as well as how they benefit the environment by diverting recyclables from the landfill. This partnership between the town and the school exemplifies NRRA's Town & Gown initiative to bundle recyclables for the benefit of both. The new school recycling program also frees up much-needed funds for other programs.



Students from the Mountain Village Charter School accept the School Rookie Recycler of the Year Award, presented by NH the Beautiful Board Members Larry Melanson (left) and John Dumais (right).



Plymouth Transfer Station Manager Jessie Jennings discusses the importance of recycling with Mtn. Village Charter School students.

“ I support the work of the NRRA because the future of recycling and sustainability is with our young people, and through the NRRA's School Club programs, not only are our young people encouraged to think about their sustainable future, they are encouraged to participate in directing their future.”

— **Mark Richardson**, Retired Transfer Station Coordinator, Town of Hampton, NH & Member of NRRA Board of Trustees

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2019, NRRA returned over \$1.8 million to our members from the sale of their recyclables!

In spite of a very challenging year in the waste and recycling field, NRRA, through the diligence of its staff, and continued support of its members, finished the fiscal year with a modest surplus. Braced for the potential impact of the China's National Sword, NRRA was fortunate that revenues came in on target and balanced expenses were realized. The staff and Board of Trustees are committed to sustaining a sound reserve account along with a balanced budget to maintain a strong financial position for the organization so we may continue to support our members for years to come.








For the Year Ended September 30, 2019

| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | 2019 TOTAL |
|--|-------------------|
| SUPPORT: | |
| GRANTS | 140,193 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | 46,724 |
| MEMBERSHIP DUES | 88,730 |
| REVENUE: | |
| MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION FEES | 6,076,393 |
| CO-OP MANAGEMENT FEES | 511,221 |
| CONFERENCES, NET | 59,927 |
| SCHOOL CLUB | 34,450 |
| NH THE BEAUTIFUL CONTRACT | 24,996 |
| COMPOST BIN SALES | 21,592 |
| RENTAL INCOME | 39,704 |
| INVESTMENT EARNINGS | 9,015 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 7,581 |
| NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION | – |
| TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE | 7,060,526 |
| EXPENSES | |
| PROGRAM SERVICES: | |
| COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS | 6,076,393 |
| EDUCATION OUTREACH | 683,402 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES | 6,759,795 |
| GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE | 247,698 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 7,007,493 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 53,033 |
| NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR, AS RESTATED | 887,444 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | \$940,477 |

NRRA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Thanks to our Members for being such active recyclers!

Below please find information on the positive impact your recycling has had on our environment.

| RECYCLABLE MATERIAL | 2019 RECYCLED AMOUNTS | ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT! Here is only one benefit of recycling materials rather than manufacturing products from virgin resources |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| ALUMINUM CANS | 661,735 LBS. |  Conserved enough energy to run a television for 63,907,342 hours! |
| ELECTRONICS | 1,874,460 LBS. |  Conserved enough energy to power 240 houses for one year! |
| PAPER/OCC | 14,361 TONS |  Saved 244,192 trees! |
| PLASTICS | 2,206,857 LBS. |  Conserved 1,655,145 gallons of gasoline! |
| SCRAP METAL | 11,419 TONS |  Conserved 28,549,675 pounds of iron ore! |
| STEEL CANS | 351 GROSS TONS |  Conserved enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for 23,081,422 hours! |
| TIRES | 1,487 TONS |  Conserved 980 barrels of oil! |

AVOIDED EMISSIONS

Recycling uses much less energy than making products from virgin resources, and using less energy means fewer greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

By recycling the materials above, our members have avoided about **105,247 tons of carbon dioxide emissions**. This is the equivalent of **removing 22,393 passenger cars** from the road for **an entire year**.

2019 NRRA TONNAGES

In 2019, NRRA helped our members manage over **50,351 tons** of recyclables and solid waste. This number includes the information in our Environmental Impact Report as well as the tonnage numbers below.



2019
ONE YEAR

400+
MEMBERS

50,351
TONS OF RECYCLABLES &
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE



Northeast Resource Recovery Association

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Epsom, New Hampshire 03234

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 /NRRArecycles

Fax: 603-736-4402



Staff at URT Solutions and Bonnie Bethune, NRRA Member Services Manager, discuss electronics recycling.