

THE NORTHEAST RESOURCE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM USDA

EPSOM, NH – The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) has been awarded a \$186,924 grant by the Rural Development Office of the United States Department of Agriculture for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

The main purpose of NRRA's USDA funded program, "YIMBY! YES - in My Backyard!" is to improve the technical assistance to small and medium generators of organic waste with increased opportunities to divert more and more of that waste to composting operations, including residential backyards. This diversion will extend the life of the few remaining landfills in MA, NH, and VT. It will also to help reduce the ever-increasing budget line item for municipal trash. In its EPICURE grant from 2016/17, NRRA completed extensive research into composting infrastructure both in NH and VT and began work on three pilot programs in NH. NRRA has continued to support those efforts in 2017/2018 and now will be able to increase the progress begun with EPICURE and expand it into VT and MA.

In the "YIMBY" grant, the USDA funds will be targeted to assist a total of one hundred and eighty-four (184) towns within the nine (9) counties and three (3) states. The targeted towns will receive assistance from NRRA's direct technical assistance and outreach program and will be encouraged to increase cooperation in waste reduction and pollution prevention programs that benefit the entire community including schools.

"We are pleased to have received this invaluable grant. This will facilitate three critical initiatives in MA, NH, and VT. First, NRRA will provide technical assistance for stakeholders working on starting or improving their composting infrastructure. Secondly, "YIMBY" will train teachers and schools and provide them with starter kits so they can conduct the NRRA Trademark "TOLD" events - "Trash On the Lawn Day" programs. An integral part of the "TOLD" event is measuring the amount of material that can be diverted from the waste stream including recyclables and organic material. The third objective of the technical assistance trainings will be directed at proper and safe handling of batteries, especially lithium-ion, that have been causing fires at facilities nation-wide, and within the last three weeks, at least one in each of the three states to be served by this grant work. This USDA and NRRA funded work has historically been a great asset to the low-income rural communities of VT and NH, and NRRA is pleased to be able use the USDA grant funds to extend this important outreach effort into MA."

Mike Durfor, NRRA Executive Director.

About Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA)

Founded in 1981, NRRA provides 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. The NRRA is a member driven organization made up of over 400 municipalities, individuals, and businesses in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Southern Maine. NRRA is a non-profit 501(c) organization. NRRA's School Club assists schools in implementing, maintaining and improving recycling programs. To learn more visit www.nr-ra.net.

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