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NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE – 6/19/19

Stevens of Somersworth MS Awarded Best Composter at NRRA Conference

EPSOM, NH – New Hampshire the Beautiful, Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) and NRRA’s School Recycling CLUB presented John Stevens of Somersworth Middle School with the Best Composter Award at the 10th Annual School Recycling Conference on May 21, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel in Manchester, NH.

When a school decides to start a composting program, there are plenty of logistics to figure out and there are always skeptics. John Stevens admits that he was one of them.

After doing a waste audit, Somersworth Middle School students and teachers decided they could do better and found a readily available composter, Mr. Fox, just over the border in Maine. With the help of staff and student “directors” at every lunch block, and plenty of signage, the school became accustomed to the “new normal” of composting.

John was the first to notice the difference – trash bags were lighter and there was less mess. After a year of implementation, he only needs 5 or 6 bags for trash, down from 12 bags! He has become a leader, helping the students by making sure food, trash and recyclables get to the proper bin. He also promotes the ease and cost savings that composting can bring to other schools in the District.

John was nominated for his hard work, open-mindedness and positive attitude in implementing a composting program that saves money for the District, and diverts a valuable commodity from landfills into beneficial garden soils.

“Facilities staff are often the unsung heroes of school recycling,” said Duncan Watson, NRRA Board President. “The sustainability of any recycling program depends on them and we are proud to recognize John’s contribution to making composting the ‘new normal’ in his school district.”

A total of nine awards were given out. For nomination details on each recipient, visit The School Recycling CLUB website www.schoolrecycling.net and click on the [2019 Conference Awards](#) tab, or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/school.recycling>

About NRRA’s School Recycling CLUB

The School Recycling CLUB (The CLUB) is a non-profit group that assists K-12 schools in implementing, maintaining and improving recycling programs. The CLUB is managed by NRRA. CLUB membership offers school groups a chance to join a program that will help them promote or advance their efforts, network with other school groups, and stimulate school recycling, reducing waste and saving energy. To learn more, visit www.schoolrecycling.net

About New Hampshire the Beautiful

New Hampshire the Beautiful (NHtB) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Trust 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. To learn more, visit www.nhthebeautiful.org

About Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA)

Since 1981, NRRRA has acted 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. NRRRA is a member driven organization made up of over 400 municipalities, individuals, and businesses in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Southern Maine. NRRRA is a non-profit 501(c) organization.



John Stevens (center) of Somersworth Middle School in Somersworth, NH, receives Best Composter Award from NH the Beautiful Board Members Larry Melanson (left) and John Dumais (right) on May 21, 2019 in Manchester, NH.