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NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION



PRESS RELEASE – 6/18/19

Charter School Recognized as School Rookie Recycler of the Year at NRRA Conference

EPSOM, NH – New Hampshire the Beautiful, Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) and NRRA’s School Recycling CLUB recognized Mountain Village Charter School of Plymouth, NH as their School Rookie Recycler of the Year. The award was presented to students Sophie K. and Mae N. at the 10th Annual School Recycling Conference Awards Luncheon on May 21, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel in Manchester, NH.

Schools are constantly challenged with where best to spend their money. Teachers often pick up the slack when funds are tight. Mountain Village Charter School was no different. As a small, nature-based Montessori school, they did not have a facilities department. Staff, students and family volunteers took care of cleaning and maintenance. Teachers individually chose to take recyclables home until it became unsustainable.

With the support of a group of dedicated teachers, led by Kelsey Gadwah, the support of the Plymouth Transfer Station and funding through NH the Beautiful, MVCS was able to implement a school-wide recycling program. Upper elementary students run the program. They researched recycling, educated all classes, shoveled out the recycling trailer for pick-ups and worked to reduce waste throughout the school. This led the school to a new composting program and eliminating plastics by producing their own reusable shopping bags and utensil wraps from second-hand fabrics. What began as a simple recycling program has evolved into a school-wide consciousness of materials usage and their impact on the environment. The students have internalized these lessons and use them as inspiration for independent projects to promote awareness of reducing waste, reusing materials and recycling.

“Kelsey and her fellow teachers took their grass roots recycling program and, with some creative grant initiatives and help from the community, made it a school-wide initiative to help the environment by recycling everything they can,” said Michael Durfor, NRRA Executive Director. “It is encouraging to know that the students of Mountain Village Charter School will apply these lessons throughout their lives.”

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 (NRRA)

Since 1981, NRRA 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. 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.



Students of Mountain Village Charter School in Plymouth, NH, accept the School Rookie Recycler of the Year Award from NH the Beautiful Board Members (from left) Larry Melanson, Sophie K., Mae N. and John Dumais on May 21, 2019 in Manchester, NH.