



July/August 2005

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Our Web Site!  
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[recyclewithus.org](http://recyclewithus.org)**

*FULL CIRCLE* is published bi-monthly by the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, a nonprofit coalition of municipalities, individuals and businesses working together to promote environmentally and economically sound waste management practices.

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# FULL CIRCLE

Next Issue:  
Read about the  
"Recycler of the  
Year" Award!

M a k i n g R e c y c l i n g H a p p e n !

## An Amazing Victory... Swap Shop Success!

Do you cringe when you set foot in your facility's Swap Shop? Or, perhaps, you don't even run a Swap Shop because it seems like an endless labor pit, sapping the time and energy of your valuable staff!


Take heart! There are easy ways to provide a tidy, efficient Swap Shop to your residents. In fact, three of your fellow member towns have found one method that works very well for them. These towns don't run the program "in house". They found outside groups to manage the shops for them!

In Bedford, a private individual rents the Swap Shop space from the Town for a modest monthly fee and manages the shop himself. Steve Crean, Environmental Coordinator, says the arrangement works perfectly for everyone. "It's so simple for the town. It's win-win," he told Co-op Executive Director, Liz Bedard, on a recent site visit. The shop manager maintains the building and, residents couldn't be happier with the facility's appearance as well as the ease of use and the individual who runs the shop has a part-time retirement business.



The key, says Crean, is to treat the Swap Shop like a private business and not a volunteer operation. Bedford's shop keeps regular hours during which a Swap Shop staff member is available to help residents determine if their drop-off items are acceptable. This arrangement solves many of the problems associated with traditional Swap Shops: transfer station operators do not spend their valuable time dealing with the shop; it does not become a dumping ground for unacceptable transfer station items; and the facility is kept tidy and organized!

In Jaffrey, it is the Chamber of Commerce that has taken on the day-to-day task of Swap Shop operations while Meals-on-Wheels manages Alstead's shop. Both towns have found great success with this method of management. The towns are still able to offer the service to residents without the bother or mess of managing the shop themselves.

For more information about how to try this idea in your town or if you'd like to share your Swap Shop Success Story, please contact the Co-op at 603-798-5777. 





"Fostering cooperative solutions"



### **NRRA is YOUR Co-op!!!**

*As a member of the Co-op, you are entitled to **all** of the services we provide. If you need help locating a market for your product, comparing prices or help starting a new recycling program, **we can help you!***

## Member Services

The Co-op is a proactive nonprofit working with its membership to make their recycling programs strong, efficient and financially successful! Are YOU taking advantage of ALL the Co-op's services?

### Cooperative Marketing

- Cell Phones
- Paper
- Glass
- Tires
- Plastics
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Steel Cans
- Antifreeze
- Scrap Metal
- Propane Tanks
- Aluminum Cans
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Toner/Ink jet Cartridges
- Construction & Demo Waste

### Cooperative Purchasing

- Baling Wire
- Work Gloves
- Storage Trailers
- HHW "Wranglers"
- Backyard Compost Bins
- Equipment Maintenance
- "On the Ground" Storage Containers




School NEWS  
Recycling CLUB

## It's the Best of the best!

**Recycler of the Year: Kate Freeland, Librarian at Stephens High School in Claremont, NH**  
Ms. Freeland wanted to improve the school district's recycling program by renting an open top roll off container to collect recyclable paper from four facilities. In 25 weeks, the district has collected 33,900 pounds of paper, receiving revenue, rather than paying for disposal!

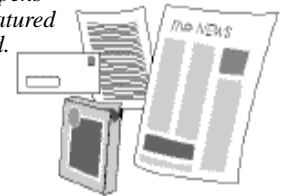
**STARS!!! Award: Samuel Morey Elementary School Fourth Graders in Fairlee, VT**  
This year the Samuel Morey fourth graders earned gold STARS!!! for their "Think Before You Throw" campaign. They wrote a skit and performed it

at school assemblies, and they created posters bearing the new motto for each classroom.

**Most Creative Recyclers: Plymouth Elementary School Student Council in Plymouth, NH**  
Not only do Plymouth Elementary students target ordinary recyclables such as paper, cans, plastics and ink cartridges, but they look for ways to recycle nontraditional items. This year they began recycling box tops in school and at the Plymouth Recycling Center. They have received \$540 for these box tops in addition to the \$600 they earned for ink cartridge recycling this year. 

### WHAT HAPPENS TO RECYCLED MATERIALS?

*Many Co-op members have expressed interest in learning what happens to their recycled materials. The end uses of a commodity will be featured in each newsletter. In this issue, fiber(paper) recycling is examined.*




## What Happens To Our Recycled Mixed Paper?

In 2004 Co-op members recycled almost **22 million pounds** of mixed paper through the Co-op. That's a lot of paper! Many of our members have wondered exactly what happens to that material once it leaves their transfer stations, especially since much of the material is not sorted. The process is very simple.

To obtain pulp from recycled fibers, the paper is mixed in a vat with a chemical solution which helps loosen the bonds between paper fibers and begins to lift off any remaining ink residue. Contaminants such as staples, rubber bands and paper clips are removed either by gravity or a screening process. Following this, some pulps are further deinked or bleached if necessary. From there, the recycled pulp is handled exactly like virgin pulp and joins the regular papermaking process.

Since its inception, the paper industry has worked with recycled fiber, and by the mid '80's, well before the explosive growth of municipal recycling programs, recycled fiber accounted for approximately 25% of the papermaking feedstock in our country.

In the past, recycled pulp was only used in lower end papers like cereal boxes, egg cartons and tissues. In recent years, however, technology advances, mounting political pressure, greater availability of low-cost materials and an increasing demand for recycled content papers have all resulted in wider spread use of recycled content. Consumers can now find envelopes, copy paper and even fine stationary with the "recycled content" stamp of approval.

Unfortunately, some businesses and personal consumers still worry that recycled content papers will not perform as well as papers made from virgin pulp. This is no longer true! The quality of recycled content papers has improved so dramatically that there is virtually no difference between products. So when you're shopping for your home or office, look for papers with post-consumer recycled content, the higher the percentage the better. If you're not buying recycled, you're not recycling! 

Source: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

## - 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Recycling Conference & Exposition - an Overwhelming Success



The reviews are in – attendees at our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference tell us they obtained a wealth of information and had a wonderful time to boot! “Love the conference and hope to come each year” says one attendee, a sentiment shared by most participants. Between the wealth of information offered in our many workshops and the variety of companies represented in our Exhibit Hall, this year’s event offered something for everyone.

There were also a variety of social activities including a mountain hike and golf on Sunday, a bike ride and yoga on Monday as well as the ever popular dinner and dancing on Monday night! This year’s Silent Auction was also a large draw and helped the Co-op raise over \$6,000, our highest total ever. Our time in Waterville Valley offered everyone a wonderful opportunity to network with recycling colleagues in a scenic and relaxed atmosphere.

Planning an event of this magnitude requires the assistance of many people. We could not have done it without the generous support of our Gold & Silver Sponsors, our Speakers, our Exhibitors, the NRRA Board of Trustees, our Silent Auction Donors and the many “little helpers” along the way. Your time and efforts on behalf of the Co-op are greatly appreciated!

Perhaps the most important part of the post-Conference work we do is to review all of the Conference Evaluations. We depend on these forms to help us plan for next year’s event. Each person’s feedback is carefully considered by our staff




and aids us in selecting speakers as well as with meal and activity planning. If you haven’t had a chance to offer your feedback it’s not too late. Please send us an e-mail with your suggestions: [nrra@tds.net](mailto:nrra@tds.net).

We hope to see each of you at next year’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference! Check our website at



[www.recyclewithus.org](http://www.recyclewithus.org), in the coming months for all the details including some exciting surprises.

**Remember:** Attendance at our Conference meets the NH Solid Waste Operator Training Requirement! Give us a call for your *Certificate of Attendance.* 



## Marketing Committee To Meet In MOULTONBOROUGH on Wed. August 10th!

The NRRA monthly Marketing Committee Meeting will meet at the **Moultonborough Transfer Station on Wed., August 10, 2005 at 9:30am.** Regular attendees of the Committee meetings suggested occasionally holding meetings at other Co-op member’s Transfer Stations to learn from their fellow members. Plan to attend this meeting as it will be a great learning opportunity.

**For directions,** visit our website at [www.recyclewithus.org](http://www.recyclewithus.org) and click on the *Breaking News* link in the left hand column.



## Phonebook Distribution Schedule



### Maine

Dover-Foxcroft: 8/2 to 8/19/2005  
Portland: 8/4 to 8/26/05

### New Hampshire

Portsmouth: 7/28 to 8/22/05

### Vermont

Burlington: 7/12 to 8/2/05

## Verizon Environmental Facts...

Verizon prints its telephone books on text paper that has a minimum of 40% recycled content. Also, comprehensive municipal recycling information is included in primary Verizon SuperPages Directories in selected territories, such as the northeastern part of the United States. This information is provided as a community service in the recycling pages section of the phone book and can be found in the back of each directory before the Zip Code section.



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Northeast Resource Recovery Association  
"A Recycling Cooperative"  
9 Bailey Road  
Chichester, NH 03258

## Calendar of Events & Announcements

**August 10:** NRRA Marketing Meeting\* at the Moultonboro Transfer Station, Moultonboro, NH 9:30am

**August 2:** Hazardous Waste Coordinator Certification, 8am-4:30pm at PSNH, Energy Park, 780 N. Commercial St., Manchester / Call Susan Francesco at 271-2967 for more information.

**August 24:** Transfer Station Design, New and Improved DES Operating Training Program, 9am-12pm, At the Littleton Learning Center, Union St., Littleton, NH / Call Donald E. Maurer at 271-2928 for more information.

**September 13:** Basic Fire Extinguisher Safety, 8:30am-3pm at Fire Standards & Training Bldg., 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord / Contact Don Maurer at 271-2928 for more information.

**Sept 14:** Trustee Meeting at 9:00 am at the Audubon Society and the NRRA Marketing Meeting\* at 9:30 am at the Local Government Center in Concord, NH.

**Sept 14:** NRRA PigNic! 11:30am at the Co-op Offices at 9 Bailey Rd in Chichester, NH! Featuring Gordon's famous Bar-B-Que Ribs!

\*These meetings are open to all Co-op members. Please join us for great discussions, networking and troubleshooting!



### Co-op PigNic September 14th

Directly after the NRRA September Marketing Committee meeting, the Co-op will again be hosting its "Recycling Pig-Nic" for members and vendors. The Pig-Nic will feature "finger-lickin grub (barbeque ribs, smoked turkey and all the fixins') prepared by the Co-op's very own Master Chef Gordon - *The Rib Man* - McCown. This is a wonderful opportunity for members and vendors to greet and eat!

**Reservations:** Please send \$5 per person and the names of people attending **by September 7th** to: NRRA, 9 Bailey Rd, Chichester, NH 03258

**See You There!**