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**NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION**



PRESS RELEASE

Mike Hartness (Keene NH) Receives NRRA's Sami Izzo "Recycler of the Year" Award

EPSOM, NH – The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) presented Mike Hartness, Solid Waste Operations Foreman for the City of Keene, with the Sami Izzo "Recycler of the Year Award." This award is given in honor of Sami Izzo, who was known for her contributions in the world of waste reduction and recycling.

The "Recycler of the Year" Award is given to an individual who best combines the qualities of commitment, leadership and enthusiasm in developing and sustaining an environmentally and financially sound solid waste management program.

"Mike is aware of the need to promote environmentally sound management practices coupled with fiscal responsibility," said Duncan Watson, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Keene. "Beyond the bottom line, however, is an attitude that seeks to maximize the public benefit to the citizens of Keene through services, information and education."

Mike Hartness has worked for the City of Keene, NH's transfer station since 1999. He started as a Recycler II on the processing line, and was then promoted to Recycling Foreman and later to Solid Waste Operations Foreman. Mr. Hartness has overseen 80,000 tons of recycled material processed at the Keene facility, which has generated over \$7 million dollars for the City of Keene.

The City of Keene has seen additional significant savings in energy costs through the Keene facility's energy generator, which Mr. Hartness oversees. As a result, Keene's program operates as a special revenue fund which means no tax dollars support the City's solid waste program.

Mr. Hartness helped establish a permanent Household Hazardous Waste facility in 1997. Since that time over 50,000 people from 25 communities have participated in collections that have seen hundreds of thousands of gallons of hazardous waste be properly disposed. In addition, he administers the backyard compost program that has sold over 1,000 compost bins at wholesale prices.

"While Mike is only one person, he demonstrates every day that one person can make a difference," said Watson.

This award was presented at NRRA's 35th Annual Northeast Recycling Conference and Expo, held May 16-17, 2016 in Nashua, NH. Attendees are town managers, transfer station managers and operators, industry leaders, teachers, school administration and students.

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. 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.nrra.net.

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Mike Durfor, Executive Director, Northeast Resource Recovery Association presents Mike Hartness of Keene with the 2016 Sami Izzo Recycler of the Year Award.