



For Immediate Release

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### NRRA Receives USDA Funding for Waste Administration Training and Educational Resources (W.A.T.E.R)

Epsom, NH, November 18, 2015, The Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) has been named the 2015/2016 recipient of USDA's Rural Utilities Service Technical Assistance Grant Program. School districts, municipalities, solid waste districts and regional planning agencies are invited to partake in the services offered through this grant program.

The funds are primarily targeted to help the rural communities of Carroll, Coos, and Grafton counties in NH, and Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, and Orleans counties in VT with obtaining long-term compliance with state solid waste regulations. Other communities throughout New England and the nation may also avail to take advantage of this opportunity. The goal is to help rural, low-income communities in the targeted regions reduce the contamination of their solid waste stream while increasing its value.

To do this, NRRA is developing a free on-site technical support program to do the following:

- Assess the municipal solid waste (MSW) streams
- Broaden hands-on professional development workshops to implement proven best practices for managing MSW
- Create and distribute comprehensive leadership manuals that provide educators, decision makers and operators of landfills and transfer stations with the safety and maintenance planning necessary to meet permit requirements, focusing on the revised solid waste rules in NH and the new Act 148 in VT

NRRA's W.A.T.E.R project is a collaborative between constituents, regional solid waste planning districts and school supervisory unions seeking to implement programs that actually reduce the volume and toxicity of their solid waste stream.

The USDA funds focus on expanding the training opportunities for rural communities in NH and VT by means of shining three of NRRA's powerful spotlights. The first spotlight illuminates the need for providing training workshops and webinars to educate municipal transfer station operators, waste haulers and others working in the waste management industry. This addresses the need to implement best management practices while remaining in compliance with unfunded state mandates. The second spotlight shines on evolving professional development workshops for in-service teachers, decision makers, and department professionals to multiply the effect of NRRA's outreach in schools, Supervisory Unions, and School Districts. The third spotlight shines on bringing hands-on lesson plans to educators burdened with meeting the

Common Core State Standard Initiatives while continuing to teach science and social studies in the classroom.

NRRA is seeking assistance from teachers and school administrators in the targeted regions with providing professional development workshops for in-service teachers, decision makers, and department professionals. NRRA is also interviewing retired teachers, graduate students and part-time educators for a part-time paid position to assist with updating nationally renowned curricula to align with the common core standards. The researchers, editors and pilot sites will be compensated for their expertise.

To learn more or discuss these initiatives or opportunities, contact NRRA's Grant Manager, Cindy Sterling, at [csterling@nrna.net](mailto:csterling@nrna.net) or call 603-736-4401 ext. 10.

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#### About Cindy Sterling

Cindy is an Adjunct Professor of Geography at Keene State College and the Geography Awareness Week (GAW) Coordinator for the New Hampshire Geographic Alliance. Cindy has been an educator and program director at the Windham Solid Waste District in VT, the Northeast Rural Community Assistance Program in MA and is a founding member of the Keene State College recycling program, established in the mid 1990s.

#### 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.nrra.net](http://www.nrra.net).

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