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**NORTHEAST RESOURCE
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION**



NHtB and NRRRA Hosts Forum to Address Growing Glass Recycling Issue

For more than four decades, recycling glass containers has been one of the most difficult materials to keep out of landfills and off roadsides as litter. Realizing this concern, New Hampshire the Beautiful (NHtB) and Northeast Resources Recovery Association (NRRRA) began addressing this issue more than thirty years ago. It remains a well known fact that returnable bottle bills were not the answer. They proved to be expensive to store, transport, and clean for reuse. The higher costs to distributors, retailers and bottlers were ultimately born by consumers in higher purchase prices.

NHtB partnered with NRRRA to create an alternative use for aftermarket glass. All processed glass is created from silica sand. The simplest solution was to convert glass containers back into crushed aggregate particles the size of silica sand. It can then be used as a base under paving products or mixed into concrete structures. To accomplish this, in the late 1980's, NHtB funded the

construction and deployment of the state's first glass crusher able to achieve the aggregate's requirement.

At the same time, NRRRA working with communities throughout the state identified locations willing and able to experiment is using this 'recycled' material. The first town selected for the project was New London, NH. The results were so successful, they have been using crushed glass for various projects ever sense. In addition, New London began accepting glass containers from surrounding communities in an effort to eliminate glass from those district's solid waste tipping fees or adding more material to their landfills.

In recent years, glass has found other sources of disposal. Primary among those was trucking glass to regional reprocessing plants. Those options have all but ceased; and today the abundance of used glass is being stockpiled locally. Some communities are even encouraging local governments to stop recycling glass and include this item to their solid waste deposal. However, that would be an expensive additional residential cost and not an ideal environmental solution.

In recent months NHtB and NRRRA became aware of a new glass-processing plant that is seeking glass containers to be reprocessed in fiberglass insulation. To facilitate further discussions, both organizations invited the international processor to an initial meeting following an NHtB Board meeting. Also invited to the meeting were representatives of the Governor's Office and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Following this meeting, NRRRA began focusing on and evaluating storage and transportation issues, as well as, the logistics needed to inform citizens of the procedures and benefits of continued glass recycling, rather than treating it as solid waste.

New Hampshire the Beautiful is a private non-profit charitable trust founded in 1983 and voluntarily-funded by the soft drink, malt beverage, and grocery industries of New Hampshire. NHtB is a unique organization offering municipal recycling grants, signs, anti-litter programs, and technical assistance to recycling programs. One of the newer initiatives is supporting NRRRA's School Education Program (the Club).

New Hampshire Resource Recovery Association 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. NRRRA offers cooperative purchasing programs, educational and networking opportunities, technical assistance, and cooperative marketing programs enabling small, rural and large urban communities to manage their recycling programs.

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