

# Recycling Online



## State recycling organizations review – part 2

by Roger Guttentag

results of four regional workshops, discussing strategies for maintaining or strengthening local access to recycling services. The report provides a synthesis of the common ideas or issues that were raised with respect to program needs, barriers to service providers and strategies for overcoming these barriers.

The group's site also has a short 2013 news item about a grant being administered by the NSRA to test a new application for mixed broken glass, called porous paving, developed by Filter Pave. Porous paving is a mix of broken glass and crushed granite held together by a BASF-developed resin binder that is permeable to water for the purpose of reducing storm runoff flows. Appropriate uses for porous paving include pedestrian and light traffic areas such as sidewalks, walking trails, driveways and outdoor plazas.

### New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC)

The NMRC is a great source of information on a number of recycling topics that are useful to materials diversion proponents in any state. An excellent starting point would be the rural recycling program information and resources that have been developed by this organization.

Low population densities make many collection practices, such as curbside collection, economically impractical, and on the marketing side, rural recycling programs have to contend with significant distances to industrial consumers or processors for the collected materials. In response to these challenges, the NMRC developed a Hub and Spoke Recycling system for rural communities with the support of the New Mexico Department of Energy.

According to a detailed discussion of the system, the spokes are drop-off collection points utilizing mobile equipment such as roll-offs or trailers. Collected materials are then directed to local hubs that are about 3,000 square feet in size with storage and baling capacity (glass is not part of the marketing mix). The hubs create loads

that are economical to ship and meet bale requirements of receiving markets.

The NMRC site also provides supplemental resources on such topics as drop-off attendant training and the R3 (Rural Resource Recycling) Marketing Cooperative program.

### New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3)

NYSAR3, in partnership with textile recycling industry associations, will be launching the "Clothes the Loop" campaign on America Recycles Day (Nov. 15). The effort aims to increase the recovery of clothing and textile discards and publicizes similar events being conducted by other organizations.

The site provides a list of the products that would be acceptable materials to textile recyclers and divides the area into several categories: clothing, footwear and fashion accessories, such as hats, gloves, or bags, linens and other consumer products (e.g. stuffed toys). NYSAR3 also provides profiles of companies that responded to its textile recycling survey as well as a directory of product take-back programs conducted by private companies and links to other information on textile recycling.

### Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR)

AOR is facilitating free access to an online course on organic waste management (OWM) that was developed by Green White Space and accessed on Compostory.org. The tool exists in versions that address either local governments or the agricultural sector. The course consists of eight lesson modules that are described on the home page in a syllabus overview and a 10-minute video. Full access to the course is by invitation, and that can be requested by completing an online application. Five of the lessons are already available for

This month I will be continuing my survey of useful information resources that can be found on state recycling organization (SRO) websites.

### Illinois Recycling Association (IRA)

The presentations from the IRA's 2014 conference are available online and can be accessed from the Documents menu on the organization's home page. There are 32 presentations covering a wide range of topics such as market updates, organics recovery, sustainability and electronics recycling. Of those, several are quite interesting. For example, among the e-scrap presentations, there was a discussion by CBI on the market situation for CRT glass with respect to current and projected quantities and processing capacity and another by Vintage Tech describing a pilot program for collecting electronic products on a curbside basis in Will County. In regard to organics recovery, Waste Management went over the challenges and lessons learned from implementing composting programs in multi-family buildings.

Another section of the IRA site is dedicated to hosting links to YouTube videos of Illinois-based recycling facilities such as the Groot Industries MRF in Elk Gove (near Chicago) as well as tutorials on backyard food scrap composting and other subjects.

### Nebraska State Recycling Association (NSRA)

In January 2012, the NSRA published the

download and cover issues such as the importance of OWM to sustainability, how source separation ensures material integrity, developing source separation collection systems and how development can be supported by appropriate policies and legislation.

## State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR)

A major program being implemented by STAR is the Texas Recycling Data Initiative (TRDI), an effort that will look to determine how much material is being recycled statewide and by which facilities. A one-page summary and a more detailed description of the TRDI can be downloaded from the STAR site (in addition, an article on this program, "Rounding Up the Data," was published in the June 2014 issue of *Resource Recycling* and is available at [tinyurl.com/TRDI-RR](http://tinyurl.com/TRDI-RR)). The genesis of the TRDI project was a series of meetings in 2010, during which stakeholders discussed the need for more accurate data on recycling that would be used for guiding market and infrastructure development as well as public education efforts. TRDI was conceived as a

## Web Address Directory

ARW Public Place Recycling	<a href="http://publicplacerecycling.org">publicplacerecycling.org</a>
Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin	<a href="http://arow-online.org">arow-online.org</a>
Association of Oregon Recyclers	<a href="http://aorr.org">aorr.org</a>
Compostory.org	<a href="http://compostory.org">compostory.org</a>
Illinois Recycling Association	<a href="http://illinoisrecycles.org">illinoisrecycles.org</a>
Nebraska State Recycling Association	<a href="http://recyclenebraska.org">recyclenebraska.org</a>
New Mexico Recycling Coalition	<a href="http://recyclenewmexico.com">recyclenewmexico.com</a>
New York State Association of Reduction, Reuse and Recycling	<a href="http://nysar3.org">nysar3.org</a>
State of Texas Alliance for Recycling	<a href="http://recyclingstar.org">recyclingstar.org</a>

voluntary, confidential survey that would act as an alternative to a mandatory reporting system. The goal is to collect the required information described in the project mission and publish it in time for the 2015 Texas legislative session.

## Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (ARW)

One of ARW's ongoing programs, dedicated to public-place recycling, has an extensive online reference library of recommendations, reports, case studies and links to other

resources that cover a wide range of public venues such as festivals or sporting events. Site information is well organized under seven horizontal tabs dedicated to topics such as venues, tools or case studies. Each tab section is further subdivided through the use of vertical menu tabs that clearly show what each section covers and makes navigating through the sub-topic content fairly easy.

## Final thoughts

Hopefully, this brief survey shows that even

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Reader service #56

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Reader service #22

if you are currently a member of your own state's SRO, it is a worthwhile investment of time to keep an eye on the work being done and reported by other SROs. In particular, due to the steady retrenchment of federal programs in support of municipal solid waste management, the role of SROs in promoting policy and program innovations has grown steadily.

It is for this reason that I have grown concerned about the trend of locking SRO site content behind a members-only access wall. While I do understand this as one way to provide an incentive to become a dues-paying member of an organization, the move needs to be balanced against the

value of making that information available, especially to out-of-state nonmembers, in order to enhance the dissemination of new ideas and solutions.

I would also suggest that SROs consider how cooperative information development can be accomplished to conserve organizational resources and make limited funding go further. For example, each SRO could focus on a specific policy, operational or educational issue and then share the group's area expertise through the Web and other information channels with other organizations, which could then add supplemental content that is specific to their own members. The work done by Northeast Re-

cycling Council and the Southeast Recycling Development Council are great examples of this approach.

A complete national listing of SROs can be found on [recyclingandreuse.com](http://recyclingandreuse.com).

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## Industry & Supplier News

Each month, *Resource Recycling* provides readers with a roundup of the announcements and updates from equipment, material and service suppliers. If your company or association has an upcoming announcement and would like to be considered for this section, send an email to [news@resource-recycling.com](mailto:news@resource-recycling.com).

**AMERIPEN**, the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment, has redesigned and re-launched its website. The new site aims to offer a cleaner, bolder, more comprehensive and easier-to-navigate experience. Along with the site comes a new tagline: "Informed packaging policy starts here." The organization also recently added five new members – BASF, Nova Chemicals, Crown Holdings, Charter NEX

Films and Scholle Corporation. For more, go to [ameripen.org](http://ameripen.org).

The Plastics Division of the **American Chemistry Council** is accepting nominations for its Innovations in Plastics Recycling Awards program. The initiative aims to honor technologies, products and breakthroughs that advance the use of post-consumer plastic material. Last year DiversiTech Corporation, Entropex and Preserve received awards. For more, go to [www.americanchemistry.com](http://www.americanchemistry.com).

**Axion International Holdings, Inc.**, a manufacturer of recycled plastic rail ties and composite plastic technologies, recently received a purchase order from a major West Coast-based transit line. The purchase order calls for approximately \$377,000 worth of switch ties for the upgrading of 26

timber turnouts on one of the busiest and oldest lines in this transit system. After the successful completion of one year of testing on the transit system, Axion is set to start upgrading existing wooden rail ties with its Ecotrax 100 percent recycled rail ties. For more, go to [www.axih.com](http://www.axih.com).

The **Carolina Recycling Association** has launched an updated website. The redesign brings a modern look to the recycling group's online presence and also integrates user-friendly navigation, mobile compatibility and updated information about the CRA and its upcoming events. For more, go to [www.cra-recycle.org](http://www.cra-recycle.org).

The **Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)** last month launched a program called the Circle of Safety Excellence. The member-driven effort to promote and encourage safety in the workplace asks companies to voluntarily come forward to share safety data to help boost the industry as a whole in the safety realm. At the same time, those participating firms will be recognized by ISRI for their commitment to safety. The ISRI Circle of Safety Excellence is open to all ISRI members and is designed to bring together those companies willing to share certain specified injury data in order for them to be able to benchmark their operations with others in the industry. For more, go to [www.isri.org](http://www.isri.org).

Colombian polyester fiber producer and PET recycler **Enka de Colombia S.A.**



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