



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**NORTHEAST RESOURCE  
RECOVERY ASSOCIATION**

# *FY 2021* **BOARD & STAFF**

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**Scott Hazelton**

**James Manzolini**

**Brian Patnoe**

**Dennis Patnoe**

**Erin Paradis**

**Dawn Quirk**

**Duncan Watson**

## **STAFF**

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**Reagan Bissonette**  
Executive Director

**Paula Dow**  
Finance & HR Manager

**Elizabeth Duncan**  
Finance Assistant

**Marilyn Weir**  
Finance Assistant

**Stacey Morrison**  
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**Lindsay Dow**  
Administrative Assistant

**Samantha Foresta**  
Administrative Assistant

**Bonnie Bethune**  
Member Services Manager

**Heather Herring**  
Member Services Representative

**Gwen Erley**  
Program Coordinator

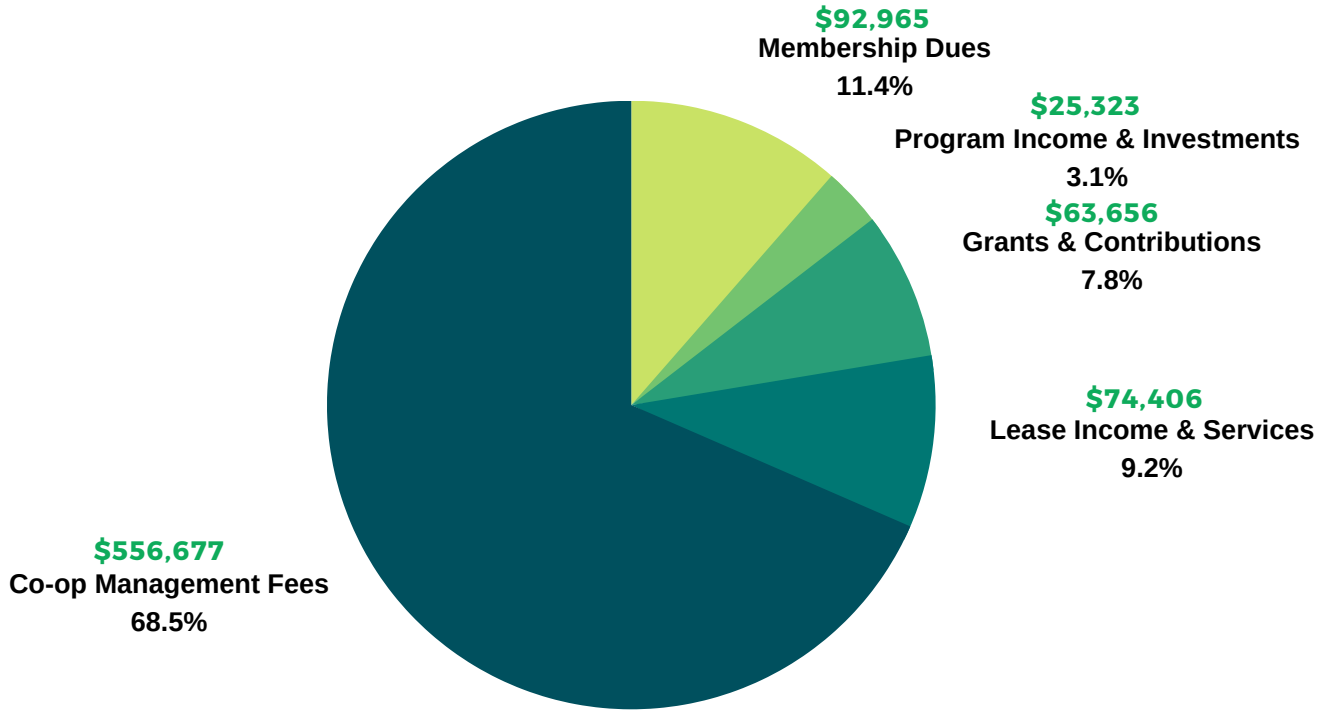
**MJ Poch**  
Volunteer

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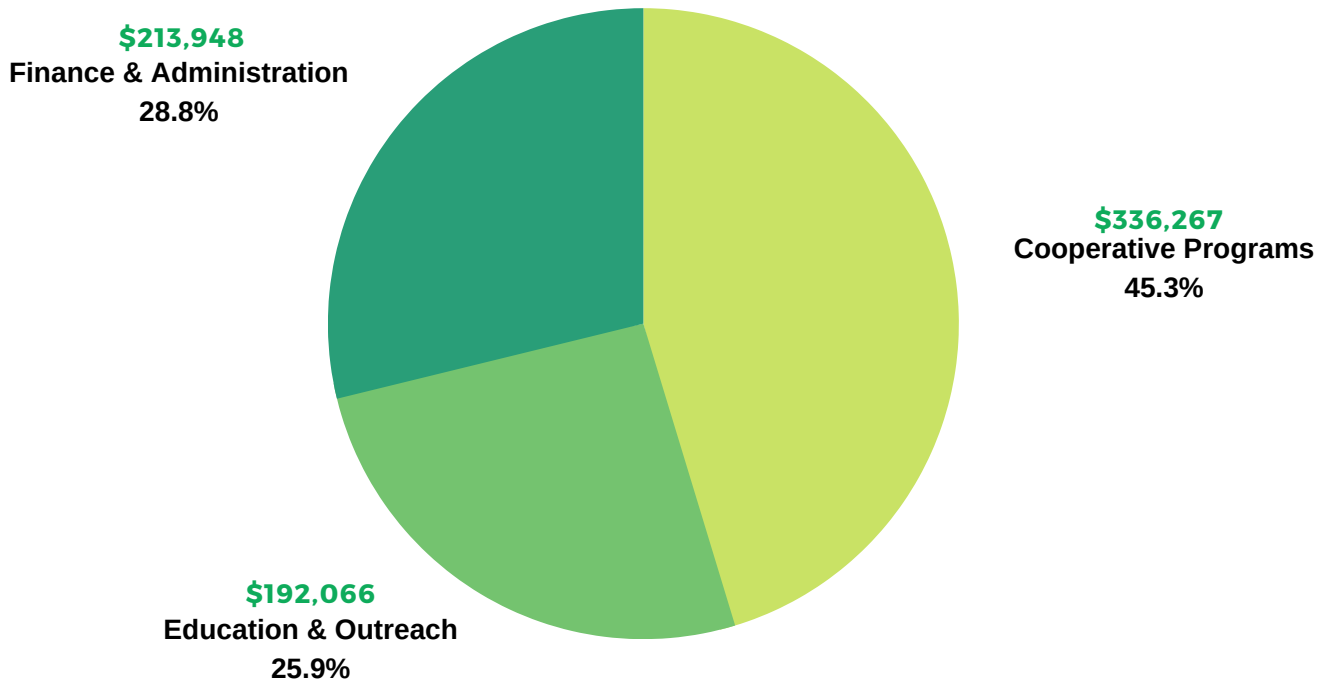
**2101 Dover Rd. Epsom, NH 03234**  
(603) 736-4401 · [NRRArecycles.org](http://NRRArecycles.org)

# Fiscal Year 2021

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



FY 2021 numbers based on pre-audited financials



**In addition** to the figures shown in the two graphics above, NRRA received revenue and paid expenses for marketing and transportation fees totaling **\$7,268,052**, a **26% increase from the prior Fiscal Year 2020**.

# 2021 *a year's overview*

## Remarks from Executive Director, Reagan Bissonnette:

**2021 marked our 40th anniversary!** Founded in 1981, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) is the oldest and largest cooperative-model recycling nonprofit in the United States. We partner with over 450 municipalities, businesses, and individuals throughout New England to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions. In particular, NRRA supports many small, rural communities across New England. In 2021, we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic alongside our members and vendors.

### Here are a few highlights from the year:

**JANUARY** - As an alternative to NRRA's usual fall bus tour, NRRA Staff and municipal members joined ecomaine staff for a **private virtual tour** of their Portland, Maine facilities, followed by a question and answer session about their processes. Additionally, Executive Director, Reagan Bissonnette's article, "**Resource Recycling: Collective Action**" was published as a feature article in **Resource Recycling magazine**.

**FEBRUARY & MARCH** - Virtual Member Operations Marketing (MOM) meetings in February and March allowed members and operators across New England to gather safely, while remaining up to date on current solid waste issues. In February, Rick Norton, Market Area Manager from Universal Recycling Technologies, gave a thorough presentation on **how they process electronic and universal waste** at their Dover, NH facility. In March, Marc Morgan, Solid Waste Manager at Lebanon, NH Recycling Center, led a **conversation about municipal composting**.

Additionally, Marc Morgan helped to demystify recycling as part of the **Beyond the Curb: Recycling 101** course at the Osher Life-Long Learning Institute at Dartmouth. Virtual classes included talking about the global impacts of recycling, contamination, emerging technologies and more. Classes were taught by NRRA's Executive Director, Reagan Bissonnette, on recycling markets, and by Member Services Rep., Heather Herring, on behavior change and recycling.

**APRIL** - NRRA technical assistance and education programs continued in April with a variety of presentations. Reagan Bissonnette and Bonnie Bethune led "**Increasing Waste Diversion: Beyond Recycling,**" a workshop for the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) on decreasing the amount of solid waste being sent to landfills and incinerators. Reagan Bissonnette and Heather Herring led, "**Recycling 101: Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling in New Hampshire,**" an in-depth three-hour workshop on solid waste, recycling, and waste reduction for NH municipalities. Finally, the April MOM meeting included David Witham, Director of Risk Management at Primex, who joined 45 NRRA members gathered virtually to talk about **reopening Swap Shops at recycling centers during the COVID-19 pandemic**.

In April 2021, NRRA was also proud to **recognize Mary Jane (MJ) Poch** for over 18 years of volunteer service to the organization. Over the years, MJ's schedule and tasks varied, but one thing never changed - MJ's commitment and dedication to NRRA and its mission. At a small celebration ceremony in the NRRA offices, MJ was also recognized by the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for total volunteer service of 30 years!

**MAY** - Over 185 presenters and attendees from New England and beyond participated in our virtual "**Recycling with Results**" **Conference on May 10-11, 2021**. The conference featured six key topics currently faced by the municipal solid waste and recycling industry. Thanks to the dedication, commitment, and generosity of conference sponsors, NRRA was able to offer the virtual conference free to NRRA members. Attendees noted they enjoyed the, "*variety, knowledge,*

*and education of the presenters. The enthusiasm and dedication of the group and the hopeful promise that so much recycling is alive and well. Remarkable innovation and scope of end products."*

**JUNE** - In our **June MOM meeting**, Bonnie Bethune, Members Services Manager, reviewed the good news for many **recyclables in this bull market**. In 2020, mills were overstocked with material. When the economy opened again in 2021, no manufacturer wanted to be caught without enough inventory. Manufacturers were hungry to purchase recyclables to make into new products, which meant increased revenue for our members. Later in the month, Reagan Bissonnette and Bonnie Bethune presented "**Understanding Recycling Markets & Practical Tips**" - a 3-hour NHDES sponsored workshop on understanding recycling markets and practical recycling tips for municipalities.

**JULY**- NRRA was awarded a **Solid Waste Management Grant** from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Utilities Services, which was set to begin in the new fiscal year October 2021. The grant had two key components: a Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT) program and a online campaign to help residents "Recycle Right."

**AUGUST** - On August 10, NH Governor Chris Sununu signed HB 413 - **the NH Solid Waste Bill** - into law. The law (1) established a solid waste working group on solid waste management planning; (2) requires the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to make certain rules regarding composting meat and dairy products; and (3) established a statewide solid waste disposal reduction goal. This bill was developed from the findings of the HB 617 Recycling & Solid Waste Study Committee led by Rep. Karen Ebel, which held hearings and produced an extensive report in the fall of 2019. NRRA was actively involved with the Committee's work and is represented on the solid waste working group by Executive Director, Reagan Bissonnette.

**SEPTEMBER** - NRRA's September MOM meeting was held on a beautiful sunny morning at Walpole, NH's **Recycling Center and Transfer Station**. The highlight of the meeting was a tour of Walpole's new Reuse Center and other facility improvements led by Ben Hoy, Recycling Manager.

**OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, & DECEMBER** - NRRA begins its new fiscal year on the first of October each year. We closed the 2021 fiscal year by welcoming nearly 70 members and staff to our **40th Anniversary Annual Meeting**, held remotely. The Annual Meeting featured a special presentation about **current recycling markets by Chaz Miller**, CEO of Chaz Miller Associates and former Director of the National Waste & Recycling Association. The 2021 calendar year also ended on a high note, with recycling markets thriving, in part due to the pandemic, a point Reagan Bissonnette and Bonnie Bethune presented at the **NH Municipal Association's 80th Annual Conference**.

**In closing**, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our lives and work. We at NRRA are well aware that our members have continued their essential work of **managing solid waste during the pandemic**, and we are grateful for your service to your communities. I'd also like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and positive attitude of the NRRA staff over this last year of change.

**NRRA's growth and achievements over the past 40 years couldn't have happened without you. Thank you for your membership and support, and we look forward to the next forty years!**



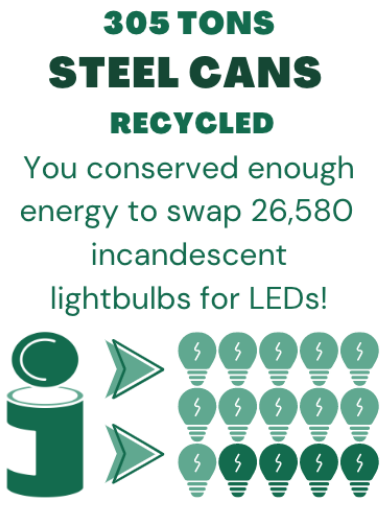







**Reagan Bissonnette**, NRRA Executive Director

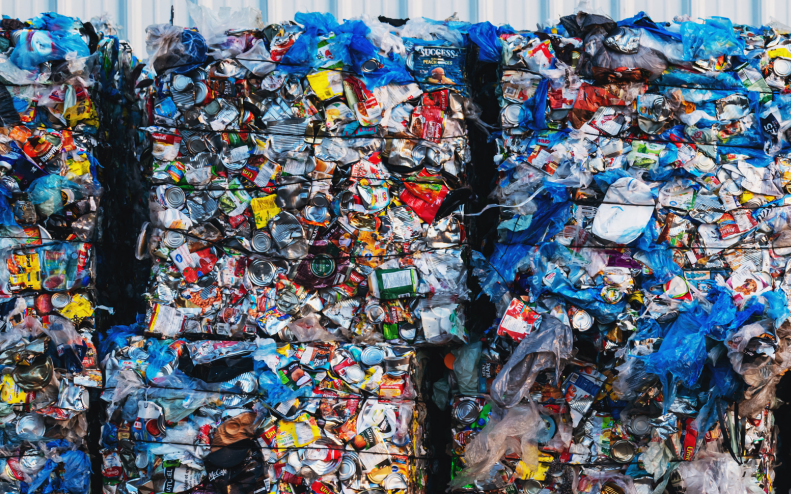
# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

**NRRA has helped our members to recycle and manage over 47,039 tons of material in 2021!**

The comprehensive NRRA Environmental Impact Report below highlights some of the many positive impacts generated from our members' combined recycling efforts from January through December 2021. These materials were sent to market to be remanufactured into new products. The following data was calculated using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Waste Reduction Model (WARM)**.

 <p><b>444 TONS ALUMINUM RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved enough energy to power 610 homes for a full year!</p>	<p><b>1,122 TONS PLASTICS RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You saved 43,292 trash bags from ending up in a landfill!</p> 	<p><b>305 TONS STEEL CANS RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved enough energy to swap 26,580 incandescent lightbulbs for LEDs!</p> 
<p><b>9,935 TONS SCRAP METAL RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved enough energy to drive a car 117 million miles!</p> 	<p><b>799 TONS ELECTRONICS RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved enough energy to fire up 35,515 propane BBQ grills!</p> 	<p><b>12,749 TONS PAPER RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved enough energy to charge 5+ billion cell phones!</p> 
<p><b>1,359 TONS TIRES RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved the equivalent of 489,130 pounds of coal being burned!</p> 		<p><b>7,064 TONS GLASS RECYCLED</b></p> <p>You conserved the equivalent of 184,421 gallons of diesel being consumed!</p> 

# RECYCLE



## \$3.8 Million

(\$3,778,103 to be exact!)

*The dollar amount NRRA returned to members in 2021, thanks to recycling!*



## 97,840 Tons of CO<sup>2</sup>

Amount of **avoided** carbon dioxide emissions averted thanks to NRRA's recycling efforts



## 21,269 Passenger Cars

The equivalent number of **cars removed from the road for a year!**



# THANK YOU!

"One thing I really would like to stress is just how incredibly grateful I am to all the solid waste operators and everyone who works in the waste and recycling industry for how they managed to adjust their operations to keep this essential service moving forward [during the pandemic]... Our solid waste operators... have done a really fantastic job to continue to provide these services and in a way they can keep residents safe."

*- Reagan Bissonnette, NRRA Executive Director*