NH RECYCLES

IMPACT REPORT

2026



A Year of Cooperative Marketing, Education, and Technical Assistance



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

FY 2026 was a year of transition, growth, and continued service to our members. We said goodbye to longtime Executive Director Reagan Bissonnette as she moved on through a planned leadership transition, and I was honored to step from my role as Education & Grants Manager into the position of Executive Director. We also marked an important organizational milestone by paying off our mortgage and celebrating full ownership of the NH Recycles building in Epsom, NH.

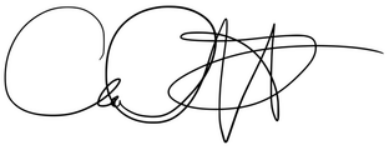
Through it all, our staff remained focused on what we do best: supporting members through cooperative marketing, education, and technical assistance. Our cooperative marketing programs helped members manage 76.2 million pounds of recyclables and returned $2.3 million through the sale of recyclables. Those numbers represent more than 6,750 orders coordinated by our staff to help municipalities across New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts move their materials.

In FY 2026, we also completed two grant-supported projects. *Recycle Right North Country* focused on operator and resident education and outreach, while *Solid Waste Safety* provided training and resources around battery, propane, and scrap metal safety. We hosted 119 events, including Safety Summits, the 2026 Recycling Conference & Expo, Member Operations and Marketing Meetings, and regional tours. Together, these opportunities helped operators earn more than 1,500 NHDES continuing education credit hours.

We celebrated milestones across our team as well, welcoming Paige Wilson as Education Coordinator, recognizing Board Chair Joan Cudworth and Administrative Specialist Lindsay Dow with induction into the NH Recycles Hall of Fame, and thanking Board Treasurer Mark Richardson for 15 years of service on the Board.

As we look to 2027, our focus remains clear: providing practical education, transparent access to recycling markets, and data-driven tools that help communities make informed decisions and manage materials more effectively. Thank you for your continued partnership, your trust in NH Recycles, and the work you do every day in your communities.

With appreciation,



ANDREA FOLSOM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NH RECYCLES



The NH Recycles staff (and Bonnie)


PLEASE RECYCLE
NO
NH
RECYCLES


MAKE YOUR OWN PATH


HARDING
NH
RECYCLES


USDA
FOOD LOSS
AND
WASTE








EMBER CENTERED





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ANDREA FOLSOM - Executive Director, Education & Grants Manager

REAGAN BISSONNETTE - Executive Director

PAULA DOW - Finance & HR Director

KIM MITCHELL - Finance & HR Coordinator

MARILYN WEIR - Finance Specialist

DENISE LUSSIER - Office Assistant

BRIAN PATNOE - Member Services Director

STEVE BEAN - Municipal Recycling Advisor

SAM FORESTA - Logistics Coordinator

LINDSAY DOW - Administrative Specialist

PAIGE WILSON - Education Coordinator

Program Impact at a Glance

FY 2026 was a solid year for NH Recycles. We continued to serve members across New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts as municipalities navigated uncertain recycling markets, while completing two major grant-funded initiatives: our three-year Recycle Right North Country project and our USDA-funded Solid Waste Safety project. Through strong member engagement, data-driven education, practical technical assistance, and collaborative partnerships, NH Recycles continues to help build more resilient, informed, and responsible recycling and solid waste systems.

1510
NHDES credit hours earned through NH Recycles events & webinars

425
Members Served in FY26



310
Recycling Conference & Expo Attendees

37
Member Facility In-Person Site Visits by NH Recycles Staff

112
Operators attended **5** Member Operations & Marketing (MOM) Meetings

44
Fall Bus Tour Attendees

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Success Stories: FY26

This year, NH Recycles members achieved meaningful operational, financial, and educational successes with the support of NH Recycles' cooperative marketing, technical assistance, and educational outreach. These are just a few stories that reflect how partnership, persistence, and shared problem-solving continue to make recycling strong.

1 Benefit of Cooperative Marketing & Member Savings

- **Deerfield, NH** a technical assistance phone call about what to do with lead turned into a cooperative marketing order that earned the town $4,200 in revenue for a single load!
- **Dover, NH** reported an anticipated savings of $19,000 annually by switching electronics vendors.
- **Francestown, NH** sent out their first loads of OCC and aluminum, bringing in nearly $9,500.
- **Wilton, NH** saw increased savings through NH Recycles clean glass program with no transportation cost!

2 Investing in Infrastructure

- **Tamworth, NH** held a ribbon cutting for their new facility, years in the making. NH Recycles had been part of the planning process through a SWAT visit in 2022 and ongoing technical assistance in the ensuing years. Watching their plans come to fruition with a new building, 2 new balers, a mini-loader, and 4 shipping containers to store commodities is a real win for the town and for recycling.
- **Dalton, NH** secured a pallet jack with a scale through an EPA grant awarded to NH Recycles, helping the town restart its recycling program after its local outlet stopped accepting materials.

3 Education and Engagement

- **The 2026 Recycling Conference & Expo** survey results show the event was widely regarded as highly successful, combining practical, operator-relevant content and direct access to vendors and peers. Highlights include: "*You are a great asset and resource to the state of New Hampshire.*" "*Excellent speakers and very informative!*" and "*Keep doing this. While some may attend just for the credits, the event actually helps solve problems.*"
- **NH Recycles** created three new videos through interviews taken during the 2026 Recycling Conference designed to highlight the education and technical assistance available to members.

4 Policy and Leadership

- **NH House of Representatives**: While NH Recycles does not take positions for or against legislation, the organization was asked to provide educational testimony, both independently and through the Solid Waste Working Group, to help legislators understand how proposed bills could affect member communities. These requests reflect the *increasing recognition of NH Recycles as a trusted statewide voice with expertise in recycling and waste reduction.*

5 Partnership and Collaboration

- **Tires, Electronics, HHW, Scrap Metal, and Glass -** this year, NH Recycles toured several of our vendor facilities to find out exactly what happens to materials once it leaves the transfer station or recycling center. From crushing cars and shredding tires for wire and rubber, to breaking down electronics to the careful handling of HHW, operators don't need to guess at what happens to materials, making it easier for them to answer the age-old resident question of, "Is this really recycled?"

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Environmental Impact Report: FY 2026

Reporting Period: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2026)

Congratulations—our membership is recycling! *Recycling can generate revenue, help communities avoid costly disposal fees, and conserve energy and natural resources. NH Recycles, your nonprofit municipal recycling partner, helped communities across NH, VT, and MA market the recyclables below, where they were processed and used to make new products.* ***Learn more at www.NHrecycles.org.***

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL	RECYCLED AMOUNTS	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT! Here is just one benefit of recycling each material instead of manufacturing new products from virgin resources.
ALUMINUM	689,705 LBS.	You saved enough energy to run a TV for **40,002,890** hours!
PLASTICS	1,847,279 LBS.	You saved **97,065** gallons of gasoline!
ELECTRONICS	1,357,070 LBS.	You saved enough energy to power **43,465** homes for one day!
GLASS	8,584,895 LBS.	You kept the equivalent of about **51,395** trash bags out of the landfill!
SCRAP METAL	16,585,707 LBS.	You saved **24,712,703** pounds of iron ore!
PAPER &/OR CARDBOARD	20,448,735 LBS.	You saved **173,814** trees!
STEEL CANS	344,802 LBS.	You saved enough energy to replace **11,957** incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs!
TIRES	2,084,300 LBS.	You saved **49,590** gallons of oil!

AVOIDED EMISSIONS



Recycling uses much less energy than making products from virgin resources, resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions.

By recycling the materials above, your community helped avoid approximately **174,638,463 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions** – equivalent to taking **17,665 passenger cars** off the road **for an entire year!**



76.2

Million pounds of materials managed in Fiscal Year 2026.

$2.3

Million dollars returned to Members through the sale of recyclables.

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Financial Highlights

NH Recycles ended FY 2026 in a strong financial position. Projected year-end revenue totaled $1.18 million, with cooperative marketing generating $540,000 despite continued challenges in recycling markets. After accounting for additional grant-related expenses anticipated before year-end, projected net income is $86,240. Federal grant funding from the EPA Recycle Right North Country project and USDA also continued to support significant education, technical assistance, and recycling initiatives throughout the year.

Over the past several years, the Board of Trustees has made strengthening NH Recycles' reserves a financial priority. As of June 30, 2026, our operating reserve totaled $326,679, exceeding our three-month operating reserve goal of $283,110. Our capital reserve totaled $154,910, also exceeding its $100,000 goal. Together, these funds provide important protection against changes in recycling markets, grant funding, unexpected expenses, and future building needs. We will continue working toward our longer-term goal of maintaining up to six months of operating expenses in reserve.

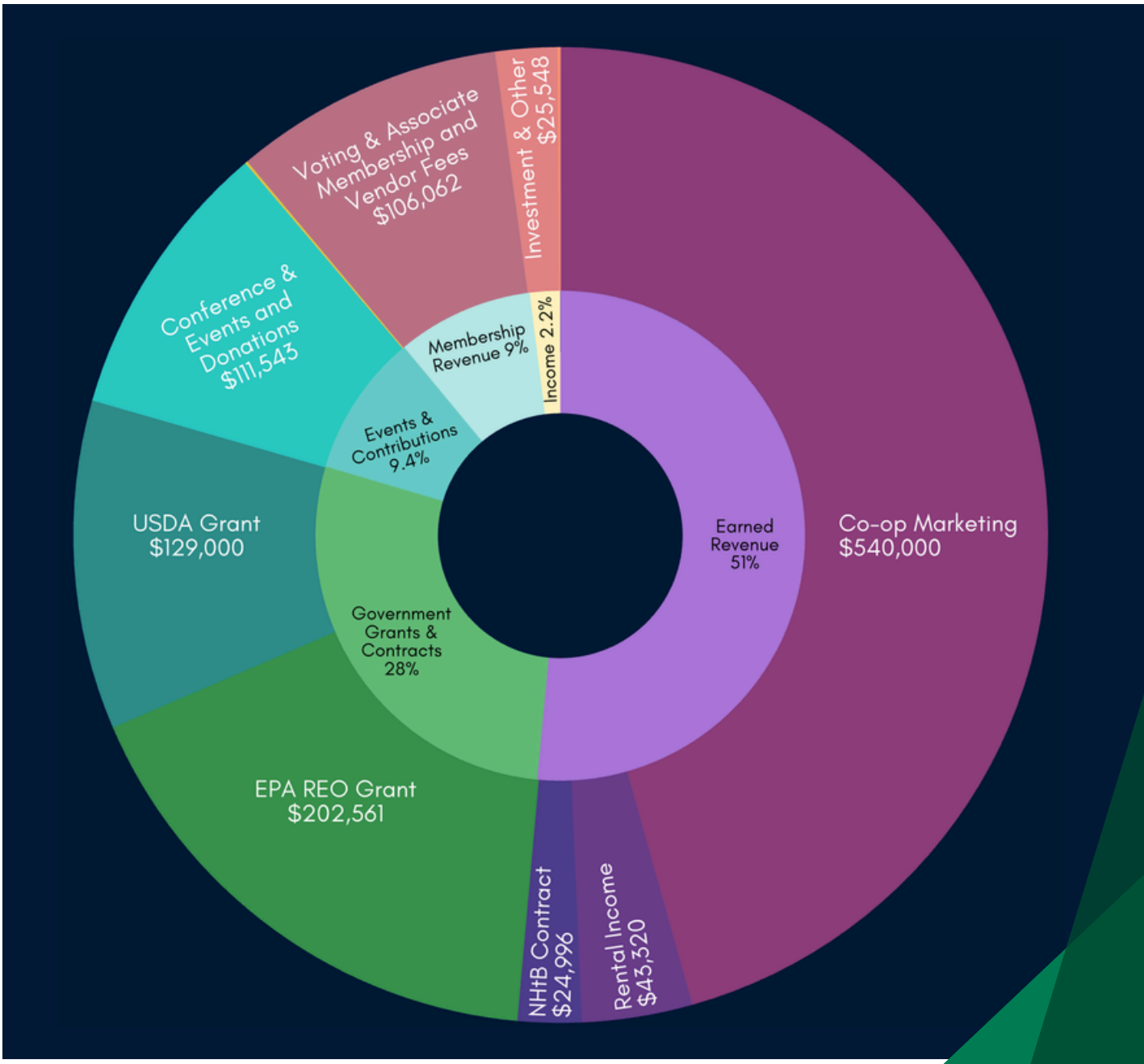
NH Recycles closes FY 2026 in the strongest financial position in its history. With our office mortgage fully paid off, key reserve milestones achieved, and another positive operating year, we enter FY 2027 from a position of stability. That financial strength allows us to continue investing in our organization while protecting the resources needed to provide reliable programs, services, and support to our members for years to come.



Revenue Mix

NH Recycles' revenue in FY 2026 totaled $1.18 million. More than half (51%) came from earned revenue, including cooperative marketing, rental income, and the NH the Beautiful contract. Government grants and contracts accounted for 28% of revenue, while events and contributions provided 9%, membership revenue 9%, and investment and other income 2%.

Together, this mix of earned income, grant funding, membership support, and other revenue provides a stable financial foundation that allows NH Recycles to sustain its educational programming, member benefits, and cooperative recycling initiatives.



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Practical Training. Safer Operations.

Solid Waste Safety

NH Recycles completed its USDA-funded Solid Waste Safety project this year, providing more than 100 eligible rural New Hampshire communities with access to training, technical assistance, tours, and practical resources focused on reducing safety risks at transfer stations and recycling facilities.

The project addressed some of the most common and potentially dangerous materials operators encounter, including lithium-ion batteries, propane tanks, scrap metal, and other hazardous materials. Three Solid Waste Safety Summits - two in person and one online - brought together operators, municipal staff, fire personnel, and other partners to share practical strategies for preventing fires, responding to incidents, and improving everyday facility safety.

Learning extended beyond the classroom. Three operator tours gave participants a closer look at scrap metal processing, electronics recycling, and transfer station operations. NH Recycles staff also visited vendors handling household hazardous waste, tires, and glass-to-sand processing, bringing what we learned back to members through trainings, articles, resources, and the NH Recycles website.

The project also created two lasting resources: the **Solid Waste Safety Toolkit** and **Scrap Metal Safety Toolkit.** Individualized technical assistance and site visits helped communities apply those lessons to their own facilities.

By connecting operators with practical information, industry partners, and one another, the project helped communities better understand risks, strengthen everyday practices, and create safer facilities for staff and residents.

100+ Eligible Communities

3 Safety Summits

3 Operator Tours

2 Safety Toolkits









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Education Works.

Recycle Right North Country

Does recycling education actually work? That was the question behind Recycle Right North Country, our EPA-funded education and outreach project serving 30 communities in Coös County and northern Grafton County. After two years of outreach, measurement, and evaluation, the results gave us a clear answer: **yes, it does.**

At the center of the project were three partner communities, Lancaster, Littleton, and Northumberland, where we measured recycling participation, contamination, recycling generation, and resident confidence before and after an intensive education campaign.

Residents received clear, repeated recycling information through mail, magnets, social media, videos, radio, transfer station signage, Recycling 101 presentations, door-to-door outreach, community events, operator trainings, tours, and other local outreach.

The clearest result was better recycling. Combined contamination fell from **3.82% to 2.33%**, a reduction of about **39%**. Participation increased from approximately **73.6% to 77.2%**, and resident confidence improved following Recycling 101 education.

The measured residential recycling rate remained essentially unchanged overall, reinforcing an important lesson: successful recycling education is not just about putting more material in the bin. It is also about helping more people participate and helping them recycle the right materials.

Recycle Right North Country showed that clear, consistent, locally relevant education can make a measurable difference. Those lessons will continue to shape how NH Recycles helps communities improve recycling across our membership and beyond.





















Thank You, Reagan!

After seven years of dedicated leadership, NH Recycles said farewell to Executive Director Reagan Bissonnette in 2026. During her tenure, Reagan helped strengthen and modernize the organization, expand services for our municipal members, build a strong financial foundation, secure significant federal funding, and guide our transition from NRRA to NH Recycles. Just as importantly, she built strong relationships with staff, members, partners, policymakers, and leaders across New Hampshire and beyond. **We are grateful for Reagan's leadership, vision, and commitment to NH Recycles and for the lasting impact of her work on the organization and the communities we serve.**









25 Years in the Making

A Milestone Built by Members

In 2026, NH Recycles celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the mortgage on our headquarters was paid in full. The story began in the late 1990s, when staff developed an innovative way to build a down payment—inviting municipal members to donate loads of cardboard, with the proceeds helping NH Recycles purchase its first building in 2000. As the organization grew, that property was sold and our current Epsom headquarters was purchased in 2006. Through careful financial stewardship by staff and Board members over the years, that investment is now fully ours. More than a financial achievement, paying off the mortgage represents long-term stability and reflects what has always made NH Recycles strong: **members, staff, and leaders working together to invest in the organization's future.**























THANK YOU!

We'd like to thank our staff, Board, volunteers, and especially our Members for your continued support of NH Recycles and your commitment to improving recycling!

















