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Media Contact:

Marissa Segundo
Glass Recycling Coalition
(727)278-7909
info@glassrecycles.org

GRC/NERC Webinar Spotlights Partnerships to Make Glass Recycling Work

Webinar provides solutions to increase quality glass recycling through partnerships

ANN ARBOR, MI (March 23, 2017)—Public-private partnerships are becoming an effective solution to resolve infrastructure funding issues for recycling. A recent webinar, attracting 214 attendees, co-hosted by the Glass Recycling Coalition (GRC) and Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) offered a deeper understanding of successful public-private partnerships that have strengthened local glass recycling markets.

“Public-private partnerships are what makes Ohio EPA’s glass recycling grant initiative work,” said Terrie TerMeer, chief of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. “To best use public funds, we worked with recycling facilities, both large and small, to provide grants for upgrades to their recycling systems to improve glass recycling in Ohio,” said TerMeer.

TerMeer co-presented with Ben Pedigo, Rumpke Waste & Recycling, on the public-private partnership that helped to increase options for glass recycling in Ohio. Last year, the City of Dayton and the Ohio EPA, partnered with Rumpke for a \$50,000 grant as part of a \$1 million upgrade to its mixed glass recycling center in Dayton, Ohio.

“Keeping glass out of landfills is crucial, and since its inception, Rumpke Waste and Recycling has attempted to find ways to elevate waste to its greatest potential and that includes finding ways to make glass recycling successful,” said Pedigo. “Rumpke is proud to partner with the City of Dayton and the Ohio EPA to develop innovations that encourage more glass recycling. It’s one more way to ensure recycling growth in our region and waste reduction in landfills.”

In 2015, matching grant funds from the Ohio EPA also helped to fund \$80,000 in processing technology at one material recovery facility in rural Logan County, Ohio.

“We have always been committed to recycling glass,” said Angel Payne, coordinator for Logan County Solid Waste District. “This funding opportunity allowed our solid waste district to save on transportation costs, improve worker safety and achieve better quality glass.”

The “Partnerships to Make Glass Recycling Work” webinar provided examples of solutions for urban programs using funding and resources from partnerships. For example, Kansas City-based Ripple Glass was founded thanks in part to a public-private partnership with a solid waste district and a craft brewer that sought options for recycling the bottles they produced.

“Through public-private partnerships, we provide glass recycling services for the Kansas City metropolitan area and over 80 communities throughout the Midwest,” said Michelle Goth, Ripple Glass, regional business director.

Partnerships to Make Glass Recycling Work Key Takeaways:

- Public-private partnerships in communities is one way to strengthen glass recycling.
- Glass should be included in curbside programs, as well as options for drop-off.
- Some MRFs and secondary processors are taking steps to further clean glass to recover more.
- Many local/state governments have found success by committing to fund grants for glass processing.
- The Glass Recycling Coalition has a library of resources to help at GlassRecycles.org.

“We appreciated the opportunity to partner with GRC on this webinar,” said Mary Ann Remolader, assistant director of NERC. “NERC and its members are motivated to find options and resources for improved recycling glass.”

Attendees previewed the GRC’s new decision-making tool along with an overview of other public sector resources to develop an informed assessment of local glass recycling options. The GRC also seeks input from communities, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and the glass industry through an online [survey](#) to gather local perspectives of glass recycling from around the U.S. The survey closes April 7, 2017.

To view the full presentation or learn more about the Glass Recycling Coalition, visit GlassRecycles.org. For more information, contact info@glassrecycles.org.

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The Glass Recycling Coalition (GRC) brings together a diverse membership of more than [35 companies](#) and organizations representing glass container and fiberglass manufacturers, brands that use glass to showcase their products, haulers, processors, material recovery facility, capital markets and end-markets to make glass recycling work. Established in April 2016, GRC is a non-competitive coalition of U.S. value chain members involved in glass recycling and dedicated to supporting the most accessible and viable glass recovery and recycling options for consumers. The coalition encourages financially sustainable mechanisms that produce quality cullet and strengthen glass markets. For more information, contact info@glassrecycles.org.