

National Recycling Coalition Professional Certification Program



The mission of the National Standards Certification Board is to support the maintenance of high standards for Sustainable Resource Management professionals by facilitating the development of state/or regional certification programs, and developing and maintaining a national accreditation of such certification programs.

Why A National Certification in Sustainable Resource Management for Recycling Professionals Is Important

As environmentally sound waste and resource management systems and programs become a higher priority for local governments, businesses and institutions, a well-trained pool of Certified Professionals becomes even more important. Within the professional training program, learning outcomes, concepts of recycling, source reduction, reuse and sustainable material management are all covered. Certification is a means to identify qualified professionals committed to

personal excellence and achievement of skills, knowledge, and a demonstrated broad understanding of these issues. The professional status of certification can be displayed as a visual tool of professional designation on resumes, business cards, correspondence, research, reports, and other printed or published materials.

This accreditation program for certification has been designed to ensure effectiveness, credibility,

and consistency from one state to another. Once certified by an accredited program, a professional shall possess the same level of knowledge and competence throughout the country.

This program is designed to support convenient, affordable professional training programs that address the national standards while also incorporating unique state, regional and provincial concerns and regulations.

The National Standard Baseline Program In A Nutshell

1. Requires a minimum of 30 hours of training with certification by a post-secondary institution
2. Can be hosted by a state or regional Recycling Organization, State Environmental Agency, University or Community College
3. Program courses cover, at a minimum, specific student learning outcomes with required proficiency examinations



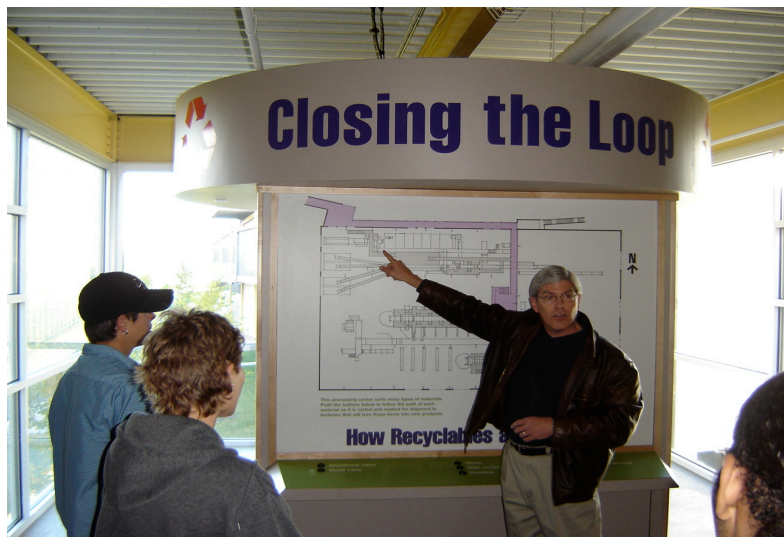
How to Start An Accredited Program

Program Development Options:

- Work with an existing Certified Program as a mentor
- Create a training based on
- the Student Learning Outcome Guidelines (minimum of 30 hours)
- Plug into an existing program's already-developed curriculum that meets the national standards through partnership, agreement on how resources are shared, etc. Check out <http://nrcrecycles.org/the-coalition/nrc-committees/national-standards-certification-board/>

Start-Up Program Funding Opportunities:

- The certification program is a source of recurring revenue once developed. Plan for an initial investment into the program that will create a new revenue stream once developed.
- Attain grant funding, state funding or fundraise to cover the programmatic start-up costs
- Submit Letter of Interest to NSCB to aide NRC in securing national funding to support state-level certification development. We need to know the level of interest to demonstrate the demand for such services to potential funders!



Applying For Accreditation

The National Standards Certification Board (NSCB) has made a commitment to support organizations as they develop their programs. Once the applying entity has developed a program, agendas, content and examinations that meet the national standards requirements, that entity may apply to the National Standards Certification Board for accreditation. The entity can be linked to a post-secondary institution, perhaps working with a department of continuing education, as the certifying partner or can choose an out-of-state institution that is already established with the NSCB program. Please work with the certifying university or college to ascertain their certifying credit fee schedule.

An accreditation fee to the National Recycling Coalition of \$1,000 is required at time of application, with payment options available (\$500 initially and \$500 at later date). Accreditation is valid for 5 years, at which time program must re-apply for reaccreditation and pay \$1,000 fee.

A certification program applying for accreditation must meet minimum standards in the following areas:

- **Program Requirements:** A recertification process is required
- **Program Administration:** An oversight committee representing different industry sectors is required
- **Program Courses:** Must cover all areas listed in Student Learning Outcomes.

Professional Student Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with a wide-range of concepts, strategies, policies and implementation practices in this training.

Concepts such as full-cost accounting, state and local policy opportunities, understanding principles of material marketing, material life cycle analysis, education and outreach tactics,

trends in recycling, reuse, composting and diversion practices, state-level compliance requirements, jobs in recycling, contracting for diversion, assisting businesses to enhance diversion and many more subjects will be part of your training program.

For a full description of student learning outcomes, please refer to the National Recycling Coalition website:

www.nrcrecycles.org



Create Demand for the Certification:

- Work with your state Environment and/or Economic Department to become a partner in this project
- Over time, the addition of state-level training requirements through legislation, administrative rulemaking or state solid waste plan incorporation can create demand. For example: In NM via the rule-making process, all registered/permitted recycling facilities must have a certified professional present at the facility at all times
- Work with employers in the sector to encourage through preference or require the certification for employment, new hires or for raises/promotions
- Add certification courses as a complement to existing conferences



Value of the Certification Program To Your Entity

- Supports the mission of our organizations
- Additional member benefit
- Provides consistent and ongoing training and credibility to professionals in the field
- Promotes enduring partnerships and collaborations
- Raises level of expertise in sector
- Complement to existing conferences and trainings
- Recurring revenue source
- Develops new environmental and organizational leaders
- Drives membership to entity (provide discounted pricing to attend to members of organization)
- Recertification requirements drive students to other trainings
- Creates a larger audience for advocacy

How Other Accredited States Created Programs

Illinois

- Accredited Program Host: Illinois Recycling Association
- Certifying Partner: Kankakee Community College
- Courses Offered: Online certificate program consisting of two 15-week courses: Sustainable Resource Management, SUST 1013 (3 Credit Hours) and Sustainable Resource Management II, SUST 1023 (3 Credit Hours)
- Notes: Designed primarily in 2014 according to Student Learning Outcomes (SLO); the Illinois Recycling Association offers the national certification exam. Accreditation application pending.
- <http://www.kcc.edu/Community/sustainability/Pages/sustainable-resource-certificate.aspx>

New Jersey

- Accredited Program Host: Association of New Jersey Recyclers
- Certifying Partners: Rutgers University Office of Continuing Professional Education and NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- Courses Offered: The Certification Program in NJ is comprised of 10 existing and updated courses held over 21 days for 126 hours. The Recycling Coordinator's Primer (3 hours), Recycling Health and Safety (3 hours), Recycling Practice & Theory (36 hours), Understanding Sustainability Management (6 hours), Management & Leadership Skills (12 hours), Enhancing Your Public Communication Skills (12 hours), Understanding Recycling Economics (24 hours), Recycling Public Policy (6 hours), Recycling Collection Techniques (12 hours), Recycling Case Studies (12 hours)
- Notes: Existing Certified Recycling Professional Course (CRP) updated and augmented to ensure adequate coverage of all Student Learning Outcomes. Students who complete trainings receive CRP and NSCB certification.
- <http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/programs/NJ-recycling-certification-series-requirements.html>

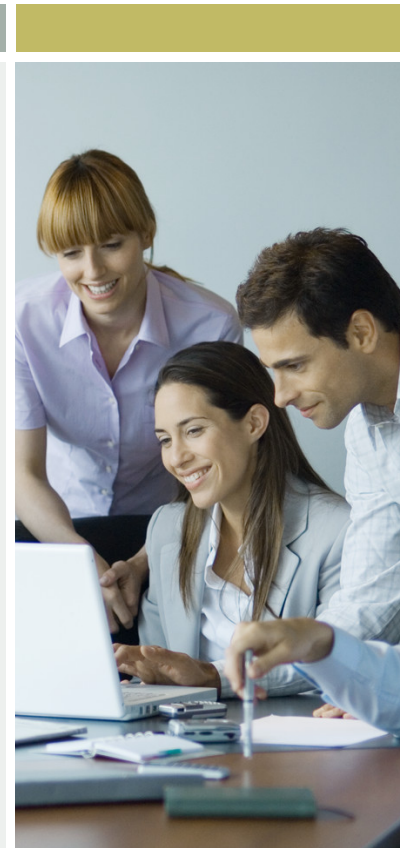
New Mexico

- Accredited Program Host: New Mexico Recycling Coalition
- Certifying Partner: Penn State University – Altoona Office of Continuing Education and the NM Environment Department: Solid Waste Bureau
- Courses Offered: Recycling Facility Operators Certification (24 CEU credits) and Recycling Professionals Training (6 CEU credits)
- Notes: Recycling Facility Operators course existed with new content developed for Recycling Professionals Training and aligning existing course with SLOs.
- http://www.recyclenewmexico.com/national_cert.htm

Testimonials

"As a new county recycling coordinator, the PROP (NSCB application pending) certification program has been very valuable. In addition to receiving useful information on topics like municipal solid waste legislation, grant opportunities, outreach, education and more, the program provides an opportunity to see different recycling operations and discuss approaches with a variety of recycling professionals. Beyond the important information that is taught, the introductions to colleagues around the state have been helpful in my work." **Veronica Harris, Recycling Coordinator, Montgomery County**

Increasing pressure on natural resources has meant increased focus on recovery of valuable resources in today's economy. With more demand than ever for skilled workers and laborers, the recycling and composting industry in Illinois welcomes this valuable credential, recognized across the nation by the Zero Waste community. SRM 1013 and SRM 1023 are comprehensive in scope, with presentations provided by industry experts and resources that complement the online learning environment. Any graduate of this coursework and certification exam will be able to apply relevant knowledge and skills in the real recycling world...and any employer of these graduates will realize the benefits of their industry-driven training. - **Wynne Conlea, President, Illinois Recycling Association**



**NRC and the NSCB
are here to assist you
to develop a
program that is right
for you, with funding
support, mentorship,
and application
process guidance.**

NSCB@NRCrecycles.org

www.nrcrecycles.org