

With more than 20 years of leadership advancing circular economy strategies across nonprofit, government and corporate sectors, MaryEllen Etienne brings deep expertise in stakeholder engagement, program development and systems thinking.

She is the founder of Reuse Alliance, creator of ReuseConex and Women in Circularity and a co-developer of the TRUE Zero Waste certification program, leading initiatives that bridge policy, practice and community engagement. In her current role as a Director at the U.S. Green Building Council, MaryEllen drives efforts to accelerate the adoption of green building and zero waste practices.

She is eager to support NRC's mission and help build a more resilient, inclusive and equitable circular economy as a member of the Board of Directors.

Why are you nominating yourself or a colleague for the NRC board of directors?

I am nominating myself for the NRC Board of Directors to help strengthen and expand the organization's role in advancing circular economy practices nationwide. With over two decades of experience developing collaborative programs and fostering cross-sector partnerships, I am committed to connecting diverse stakeholders and ensuring that NRC continues to be a unifying voice for the recycling and reuse movement. Serving on the Board will allow me to contribute my expertise in policy, engagement and systems thinking to support NRC's mission and to help build a more resilient, equitable and effective resource recovery infrastructure.

Please indicate any experience or skills you plan to bring to the NRC in order to benefit the organization.

Beyond a subject matter expertise in waste reduction, reuse and recycling—my core skills include coalition building, stakeholder engagement and program development and implementation, with

a strong record of connecting diverse partners to achieve shared outcomes. I also bring expertise in strategic communications, event logistics and fundraising that can help strengthen NRC's visibility, member engagement and financial sustainability.

Currently, as a Director at the U.S. Green Building Council, I work to accelerate the adoption of green building and zero waste practices. This role, combined with my grassroots leadership in the reuse sector and zero waste movements—including founding Reuse Alliance, creating ReuseConex and Women in Circularity, and co-developing the TRUE Zero Waste certification program—allows me to contribute both systems-level perspective and hands-on tools to support NRC's mission.

I have also served in leadership roles where I helped design and grow collaborative networks, organize large-scale national and international events and advance initiatives that bridge policy and practice. I am committed to leveraging these experiences to help NRC expand its reach, strengthen its member value and champion a more resilient and equitable circular economy.