A National Accreditation of Sustainable Resource Management Training Programs

Presented by MaryEllen Etienne, Reuse Institute
Why SRM?

- It’s not just about recycling anymore!
- “Sustainable Resource Management” – it’s a broader, most inclusive field
- Reduce, Reuse and then Recycle towards Zero Waste
A Program of NRC

- The **National Recycling Coalition** is a nonprofit focused on promoting & enhancing the 3Rs
- Network of more than 6,000 members
- Looks to facilitate activities between and among nonprofits, businesses, trade associations, individuals and government that are committed to the conservation of natural resources.
Nat’l Standards Certification Board

- John Frederick (Chair), Intermunicipal Relations Committee
- Judi Gregory (Secretary), California Resource Recovery Assoc.
- Jack DeBell (Program Manager), University of Colorado
- English Bird, New Mexico Recycling Coalition
- MaryEllen Etienne, Reuse Institute
- Lisa Friend, Boulder County Commissioner Office
- Bert Jacobson, Kankakee Community College, Illinois
- Marie Kruzan, Association of New Jersey Recyclers
- Gary Liss, GrassRoots Recycling Network, Zero Waste USA
- Joanne Shafer, Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority
Our Mission

- Support high standards for Sustainable Resource Management professionals,
- Facilitate the development of state/or regional certification programs,
- and to develop and maintain a national accreditation of such certification that includes student learning outcomes
Our Goals

- We’re helping to:
  - Create demand for SRM Training Certificates
  - Establish a foundation for Good Green Jobs
  - Promote Highest and Best Use of Resources Locally

- We’re supporting the development of certified training programs at:
  - State/Provincial Recycling Organizations
  - Universities
  - Other entities
Why a National Standard?

- Certification means the same thing everywhere
- Transferability within and between states provides universal credibility
- Programs are held to a high and consistent standard
  - Course Content / Minimum Hours
  - Instructor Standards / Administrative & Program Reqs
  - Student Learning Outcomes / Proficiency Measures / Recertification
- Allows state, provincial or topical focus while still providing general uniformity
Standards with Flexibility

- “Certification” fundamentally means the same thing...
- ... But flexibility within programs is still permitted.
  - Individual state, provincial or topical focus
  - Account for regional differences
  - Allow for different approaches
What’s the SRM Standard?

- Standard provide states and others with the ability to certify students as a “Certified Sustainable Resource Management Professionals”
- Ensures professional training for current SRM organizational leaders and future SRM leaders
  - Identify
  - Prepare
  - Train
  - Certify
  - Retain Certification
The Standard

- Program Requirements
  - Post-secondary institution certification
  - Minimum 30 hours of instruction
  - Progressive & final proficiency exams
  - Recertification

- Program Administration
  - Committee Structure | Policies & Procedures

- Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- Curricula Oversight
  - Instructor qualifications | Facilitate reciprocity
Benefits to Trainers

- Promotes enduring strategic partnerships & collaborations
  - SRM professionals will look to you for continued support & guidance
  - Develops new organizational leaders
  - Creates an fellowship/common ground
- Creates new/recurring revenue streams
  - member growth and retention
  - Increased attendance at events, meetings and training workshops
Benefits to Trainers, cont’d

- Increases statewide presence
  - Raising your profile with local government
  - Establishing consistent/professional media messaging through trainees

- General awareness raising
  - Broadens statewide understanding of SRM
  - Creates a larger audience for your advocacy work
Benefits to Trainees

- Increased level of professionalism and training
  - Partner with training entity
  - Peer mentoring & networking
  - Enhances knowledge in a dangerous field
  - Connection with facilities and professionals in a non-regulatory networking environment
- Learn best practices
  - Exposure to state regulatory needs, national trends, policies and industry best practices (e.g. safety, ops)
  - How to improve program effectiveness & capacity
  - How to work with media to create consistent messaging
Benefits to Trainees, cont’d

- For job/advancement seekers,
  - Employers seek professional certification & training
  - Certifications are resume builders
  - Promotes enduring partnerships & collaborations
- Forum for training on topics with reoccurring issues
- Constant improvements & upgrades; Better reporting, can create requirements for reuse, recycling & compost training
Costs to Trainers

- Initial start-up costs to develop program, create consensus.

- Minimizing costs:
  - Partner with state, facilities, Board members, other professionals
  - Board/Members willing to donate time to instruct
  - Using free training facilities
Certification Start Up

- **Planning**
  - Convene an inclusive committee
  - Identify & secure partnership with post secondary institution
  - Obtain guidance

- **Course Development & Instructors**

- **Finance & Funding**
  - Seek partners
Guidance from NSCB

- Program & Administrative Guidelines
- Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)
- Recertification
- We offer:
  - Models from experienced programs
  - Help
  - Guidance & Flexibility
What Employers are Saying

“Raised level professionalism”
“Adds credibility to the title “Sustainable Resource Management Professional”
“Saved us training dollars and time”
“An excellent way to educate on important issues”
“Networking and exposure to experts has enhanced our outreach efforts, program performance and market opportunities”
Contact Us

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