



North American Sustainable Resource Management Certification Standardization

An Update



What drove initial discussions?

- Perceived need for training
- Desire to build collaboration
- Growth of state-based training efforts
- Perceived value of a standard so that certification means the same thing everywhere



Why a National Standard?

- Certification means the same thing everywhere
- Transferability within and between states would provide universal credibility
- Programs are held to a high and consistent standard
 - Course Content/Learning Outcomes
 - Instructor Standards
 - Proficiency Measures or Tests
- Allows state, provincial or topical focus while still providing general uniformity



Other National Benefits

- Pool of qualified resource management professionals would expand.
- Provides professionals with a way to distinguish themselves from others in the field
- Increase credibility and level of competence
- Greater opportunities to advance in career ladders
- Encourage collaboration among programs



Do Certified Professionals Increase Diversion Rates?

- Better equipped to build economic sustainable programs
- Both government and private sector efforts benefit
- Diversion rates have increased in programs with Certified Recycling Professionals
- Increased diversion of new/ non-traditional material

What Employers are Saying

- Raised level of Recycling Professional
- Adds credibility to the title “Recycling Prof”
- Saves training dollars/time
- An excellent way to educate on important issues
- Exposure to experts has enhanced
 - Outreach efforts
 - Program performance
 - Market Opportunities





NRC and RONA

- National Recycling Coalition's (NRC) Recycling Organization Council (ROC) initiated discussions
 - ROC and NRC staff - 2008
 - ROC meeting in Long Beach, California – March 2009
- Recycling Organizations of North America (RONA) tried to continue effort
 - Survey of state programs
 - Stakeholder meetings & CBJT Grant
 - Devens, Massachusetts – November 2009
 - Santa Monica College - January 2011
 - Washington, DC – February 2011



The Survey Said...

- Certified through university continuing education departments (2)
- Training exclusively (or primarily) in conjunction with their conference (5)
- A scaled-down program (2)
- Discussion stage(6)
- Discussing but had taken no action because of a perceived lack of resources (2)

Total Responses – 18 states



Program Requirements

- Only four programs had more than thirty hours of instruction (22%)
- Only two were certified by an accredited entity (11%)
- Only four required testing/proficiency (22%)
- Only four had maintenance requirements (22%)

Barriers

	%	#
1. Funding	50%	9
2. Direction	33%	6
3. Board Support	17%	3
Membership Demand	17%	3
5. Done by Others	5%	1



RONA's Timeline

- Survey of Recycling Organizations (Spring 2009)
- Resource Recycling Conference meeting on Student Learning Outcomes (Early Fall 2010)
- Industry Advisory Board input (Fall 2010)
- Committee Conference calls (Fall and Winter 2010-11)
- Draft standards (Late Winter 2011)
- Committee and Stakeholder meetings (January and February 2011)
- Adoption of Standards (Spring 2011)



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