



**Environmental Research  
& Education Foundation**  
*Lighting a path to sustainable waste management practices*



## *Press Release*

### **EREF and OWMA Collaboration Expands Canadian-Based Research & Scholarships**

**Raleigh, NC (October 5, 2016)** – The Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) and the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF) have completed an agreement to strengthen EREF's funding of Canadian-based research and scholarships. EREF is currently one of the largest sources of funding in North America for research and scholarships for sustainable materials management.

"The partnership between EREF and the OWMA provides a more effective means to facilitate, evaluate and oversee direct independent scientific research and educational initiatives of specific interest in Canada," said EREF President and CEO Bryan Staley, Ph.D., P.E.

The objective of this collaborative effort is to more effectively fund and facilitate research that addresses the needs of the Canadian waste management sector and fosters relationships with Canadian academic institutions. EREF and the OWMA have established a Memorandum of Understanding, which will provide a mechanism to increase funding to support academic research in Canada on issues that impact the waste management sector, including, but not limited to policy impacts, mitigation of risk and improvement of operations, efficiency and sustainable growth.

EREF's current activities, which include funding of scholarships to students at Canadian institutions and research efforts that address issues of interest to the Canadian waste industry, set a strong precedent for this collaboration. Additional ties include a member of the EREF Board of Directors that is a faculty member at the University of New Brunswick. Most recently EREF awarded a scholarship to Jillian Treadwill from McGill University, which was a scholarship established by Ontario-based Ice River Springs. EREF and the OWMA will send a letter to Canadian academic institutions that highlights the importance of academic research institutions in facilitating credible research related to waste management and encouraging them to participate in these programs (attached).

"As Canada's largest waste management association, the OWMA remains committed to enhancing efforts to develop cutting-edge research, data collection and analysis that can assist the waste management and resource recovery sectors with identifying opportunities for improvement and sustainable growth," said Peter Hargreave, Acting OWMA CEO. "Our partnership with EREF will play a pivotal role in achieving these goals and helping develop solutions to address the challenges facing the sector in Canada through independent scientific research, advanced scholarship and improved data analysis."

EREF is a 501(c) class charity that funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve. For more complete information on EREF funded research, scholarships, its continuing education program and how to donate to this great cause, visit [www.erefdnd.org](http://www.erefdnd.org).

The OWMA is the largest waste management association in Canada and represents more than 250 members within Ontario's private and public sectors. OWMA members manage 85% of Ontario's waste and have diverse interests and capital investments in areas, such as waste and recycling collection, material recycling and resource recovery, organics processing and composting, hazardous waste recycling and safe disposal, and landfills and transfer stations. Learn more about the OWMA at [www.owma.org](http://www.owma.org).

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## RE: EREF & OWMA Collaboration Opens More Opportunities for Canadian Research and Scholarships Related to Sustainable Waste Management Practices

Dear (Name),

The Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA) and the Environmental Research & Education Foundation (EREF) have completed an agreement to strengthen EREF's funding of Canadian-based research and scholarships. EREF is currently one of the largest sources of funding in North America for research and scholarships for sustainable materials management.

The objective of the collaborative effort is to more effectively fund and facilitate research that addresses the needs of the Canadian waste management sector and fosters relationships with Canadian academic institutions. EREF and the OWMA have established a Memorandum of Understanding, which will provide a mechanism to increase funding to support academic research in Canada on issues that impact the waste management sector, including, but not limited to policy impacts, mitigation of risk, technical issues and improvement of operations, efficiency and sustainable growth.

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EREF is a non-profit, non-lobbying charitable organization whose mission is to facilitate research and educational initiatives related to sustainable solid waste management practices to benefit the solid waste industry and the communities it serves. EREF is currently one of the largest sources of research funding related to solid waste in North America, with over \$1 million (U.S.) funded annually in grants and scholarships. Scholarships are awarded by EREF to recognize excellence in master's and doctoral waste management research and education.

The partnership between EREF and the OWMA provides a more effective means to facilitate, evaluate and oversee direct independent scientific research and educational initiatives of specific interest in Canada. Typically EREF provides support to its scholars via general donations to the scholarship program and endowments. If donations are made by Canadian individuals or companies, they can restrict the donated funds to students at Canadian institutions and/or Canadian citizens, regardless of where they are studying.

EREF scholarships recognize graduate students pursuing excellence in solid waste management research and education. Recipients are chosen based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities and potential contributions to the solid waste industry and its scientific community. Interested applicants should complete the online application. Upon receipt of the completed application, the foundation's scholarship committee will review the applications and, following their recommendation, scholarships are awarded by the Board of Directors.

We invite you to consider submitting research proposals and sharing information about the scholarship program with your students. EREF and the OWMA look forward to facilitating better sharing of international research that is of interest to the waste sector. More information on the EREF scholarship program can be found at [www.erefdn.org](http://www.erefdn.org). More information about the OWMA can be found at [www.owma.org](http://www.owma.org). Please don't hesitate to contact either one of us with any questions or for more information.



Bryan Staley  
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EREF



Peter Hargreave  
Acting CEO  
OWMA