

Meet the New NIH Bethesda Campus Recycling Coordinator

The NIH Bethesda campus has a new recycling coordinator and she wants the NIH community to be more aware of the recycling services offered and how to recycle properly on campus. Tierra Robinson is a new physical scientist with the Office of Research Facilities (ORF), Division of Environmental Protection (DEP). Ms. Robinson is responsible for providing recyclable waste consultations and for monitoring the performance of the solid waste, medical waste, and recycling services on the Bethesda campus.

Tierra has several years of experience in legal research and environmental science studies, culminating in a Masters in Environmental Management. She began her position with DEP in December of 2016 following a summer internship with NIH. Ms. Robinson first visited the NIH campus in the summer of 2015 during a Graduate Public Health Fellowship sponsored by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). She was inspired by the feeling of community, public health innovations, and environmental stewardship at NIH. Tierra was offered a spot in the 2016 NIH Biomedical Summer Internship Program. During her time as an intern, Ms. Robinson served as a junior technical expert on DEP projects, including an application on disposal of chemical waste to the sanitary sewer. Her research abstract, on composting waste animal bedding containing antibiotics, was selected to be presented at the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) during the October 2016 Conference in Long Beach, CA.

Ms. Robinson is part of the Waste and Resource Recovery Branch (WRRB), headed by Captain Edward Pfister, REHS. She assists with handling the solid waste and recycling contract managed by team lead, John Prom. In her short time in the position, Tierra has been actively involved in several tasks to revamp the recycling program. Ms. Robinson has been enthusiastic in connecting recycling, waste reduction, and wellness education during campus events like Earth Day and America Recycles Day. She has worked with the Montgomery County Division of Environmental Protection and other federal agencies and local entities on implementing waste reduction projects. Ms. Robinson is an active member of the Green Team Leads Council (GTLC) and Sustainable Lab Practices Working Group (SLPWG) in providing NIH waste management updates. She has also created updates to web content and outreach materials in an effort to increase recycling awareness. With the help of the WRRB team, Tierra implemented a new plastic film recycling pilot on the NIH Bethesda campus in March 2017. Forthcoming will be the first NIH Bethesda Recycling Manual to provide the campus with answers to frequently asked questions, as well as presentations to help staff increase their recycling efforts and reduce contamination.

Tierra succeeds the former recycling coordinator, U.S. Public Health Service's LTJG Ariell Lawrence, who occupied the position from 2013 to 2016.



Ms. Tierra Robinson, new recycling coordinator for the NIH Bethesda campus.

NIH Recycling Contact List

Do you have a question about how and what items to recycle on your NIH campus? Are you interested in learning more about recycling processes and how you can contribute? If so, please consult the table below to determine who you should contact!

Location	Email	Phone Number
Bethesda, MD	Tierra Robinson tierra.robinson@nih.gov	301-496-7990
Fort Detrick, MD - NCI	Paul Stokely stokelypa@mail.nih.gov	301-846-7381
Fort Detrick, MD - IRF	Mark Marshall marshallma@mail.nih.gov	301-631-7238
Baltimore, MD	James Pitt pittj@mail.nih.gov	443-740-2761
Research Triangle Park, NC	Paul Poliachik poliachikp@mail.nih.gov	919-541-1414
Rocky Mountain Labs, MT	Dave Lennon lennonds@niaid.nih.gov	406-802-6102