

WASTE BYTES!

Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management and Recycling Program

STAFFING CHANGES AT THE STATE PLANNING OFFICE

By now, many of you are aware that there is a planned dismantling of the State Planning Office, with the various programs relocating to other departments and agencies. While no firm decisions have been made at this time, we've all been expecting changes in where our respective programs and responsibilities could be relocated.

Recently, we received news that several positions within the State Planning Office were to be eliminated as part of the current budget work. The position held by Rhonda Carl was scheduled for elimination on June 11, 2011. And, just before Rhonda's last day with us, we were notified that Sam Morris was selected to fill a vacancy within the Land for Maine's Future Program (located within SPO) and that his position with Waste Management and Recycling was also being eliminated.

This came as a surprise and we will be re-prioritizing this program's efforts. Both Rhonda and Sam were valuable contributing members of the program, providing assistance to communities, businesses, students and residents. Sam remains with an SPO program. We hope that Rhonda will find a suitable position soon.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Staffing Changes at the SPO	1
SPO Grants to Municipalities	2
Staffing Changes (continued)	3
Expanding the E-Waste Laws	3
Recycling Program Survey Results	4
Spring Grant Program	5
We know the Author	5



Rhonda Carl



Sam Morris

Sam Morris Accepts Position with the Land for Maine's Future Program

(a note from Sam.....)

Traveling on, but before I go....

Friday was my last official day as Senior Planner with the Recycling and Waste Management Program here at SPO.

(Continued on page 3)

Thanks, Rhonda and Sam, for your work, contributions to the program and its successes - - we wish you well as you move on to another chapter in your lives.

GRANTS AWARDED FOR RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

We announced the award of grants in mid-May to 16 municipalities and programs to help expand their recycling programs. The Office's waste management and recycling program awarded just over \$300,000 in grants, selected through a competitive process, to local programs that were focused on ways to increase corrugated cardboard recycling and yard and leaf waste composting.

According to an assessment by the State Planning Office, capturing more of the disposed corrugated cardboard for recycling could increase the statewide recycling rate by as much as six percentage points. "It's easy to collect, we have the basic infrastructure to recycle it, and there are strong markets for it," said Darryl Brown, Director of the State Planning Office.

The grants range from \$2,200 to \$25,000 for site work for compost pads, improvements to buildings, equipment and such. Old Town, for example, is adding storage room to their existing recycling center for new volumes of corrugated cardboard. Skowhegan is constructing a paved compost pad.

The grants are also making recycling easier for citizens. The towns of Nobleboro and Jefferson, who share a recycling center, will construct a satellite facility centrally located in Jefferson that will make recycling more convenient.

Mainers recycled 38.7% of their household wastes in 2009. Funds for recycling grants come from fees on the disposal of certain wastes in Maine landfills. A list of grants awarded is shown below. A minimum local match of 15% is required.

Municipality	Grant Requested	Local Match	Total Project	Project Description
Alfred	\$25,000	\$13,025	\$38,025	Building addition and baler for OCC
Bangor	\$25,000	\$12,820	\$37,820	Gravel 1-acre compost pad
Central Penobscot Solid Waste (Corinth)	\$2,200	\$400	\$2,600	Concrete Compost Pad (40' x 40')
China	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$24,000	Compost Pad, build 3-walled building for drop off of compost material, purchase bucket for skidsteer
Jefferson/Nobleboro	\$22,896	\$5,906	\$28,802	Create a satellite recycling facility in Jefferson, 3 35-yd roll-offs, 8 55-gal drums
Lincoln County	\$25,000	\$31,650	\$56,650	Slab repair and expansion. (2) 30-yard open top roll-off containers
Lubec	\$15,513	\$2,950	\$18,463	Purchase cardboard bins for businesses, addition to store cardboard, new roof
Mid-Maine Solid Waste Assoc (Dexter)	\$25,000	\$58,510	\$83,510	Construct paved compost pad
Old Town	\$25,000	\$14,408	\$39,408	Addition to recycling center 40'X40' for OCC storage out of the weather
Readfield/Wayne	\$7,650	\$6,762	\$14,412	Composting Pad, Chipper, Education
Rockland	\$25,000	\$3,750	\$28,750	Construct 112' x 130' asphalt compost pad
Skowhegan	\$25,000	\$3,752	\$28,752	Compost Pad 60' x 160' Paved
St. George	\$7,506	\$1,325	\$8,831	Concrete Compost Pad (30' X30' x 6")
Unity Area Regional Recycling Center	\$14,173	\$3,335	\$17,508	Purchase utility trailers and trailer locks for collecting and storing OCC at business locations
Vassalboro	\$22,525	\$6,000	\$28,525	Concrete Compost Pad (25'x30'x6")and Wooden Building for Recycling
Yarmouth	\$14,293	\$2,522	\$16,815	Repair Compost Pad (50' x 100'), construct bin for holding finished compost
Totals	\$301,756	\$171,115	\$472,871	

Sam Morris... continued

On Monday June 13th, I moved over to the North side of the Office and began work as part of the Land for Maine's Future Program. I am the newest member of a four person team, headed by Jody Harris, which serves as staff to the Land for Maine's Future Board. (If you want more info on my new gig, go to <http://www.state.me.us/spo/lmf/>)

But before I make the move (just a few feet really) I want to say thank you, without sounding too much like the old guy in an Oscar night speech, to several people, beginning with George MacDonald whose depth of knowledge, experience, encouragement, and support provided the grounding for everything I tried to do for the past 14 years, besides being the best boss ever.

George, along with my team mates, also showed some amazing patience and good humor with some of my "theories" and pretty much non stop editorials on all things to do with waste and recycling, and comments on just about everything else.

So, I want to thank all the members of the WMR team, starting with the present; Lana Laplant-Ellis, Suzanne Duplissis, and Bruce White; and past; Lisa Baldwin, Shannon Haines, Hank Tyler, Tom Miragliuolo, Jetta Antonakos, and Rhonda Carl; for making it so easy and such a great time to work here.

And a thank you to everyone else I have worked with over the last twenty two years, while it has mostly been a pleasure, it has always been interesting, I could not have asked for more. I think we have done good work, there is more to do. Good luck and happy trails.

Expanding the E-Waste Laws

It has been only a few years since the State of Maine announced that it was the first State to create a product stewardship program for the recycling of electronic waste – e-waste. The success of this program, and the recognition that there was reasonable opportunity for expanding this valuable activity, has resulted in the scope of the program being expanded.

On June 8, 2011, Maine's E-Waste Product Stewardship Program saw a few changes to its enabling statute. In a memo from Carole Cifrino, Maine E-Waste Program Manager, two areas are highlighted as changes that affect our collection sites and take effect immediately.

Changes in the E-Waste are:

- "Adding small businesses, small non-profits, and elementary and secondary schools as covered entities along with households;"

and

- "Setting a limit of seven (7) on the number of covered electronic devices that can be delivered at one time to a collection site by a covered entity unless the collection site agrees to accept more."

The Maine E-Waste Product Stewardship Program is staffed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Questions can be directed to Ann Pistell at 207-287-7703 or Carole at 201-287-7720. We thank Carole and Ann for their extra effort!



HOW DOES YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM COMPARE?

The Maine Resource Recovery Association recently held its 18th conference at Outlook Resort in Northport. The State Planning Office's Waste Management and Recycling team members capitalized on the opportunity to ask the attendees (municipal employees and transfer station operators) to complete a short questionnaire, and by so doing, attendees were entered into drawings for varying door prizes.

A total of 36 questionnaires were completed. Because the questionnaires were anonymous, it is not possible to know how many individual towns or programs were represented. However, the information collected offered these valuable insights:

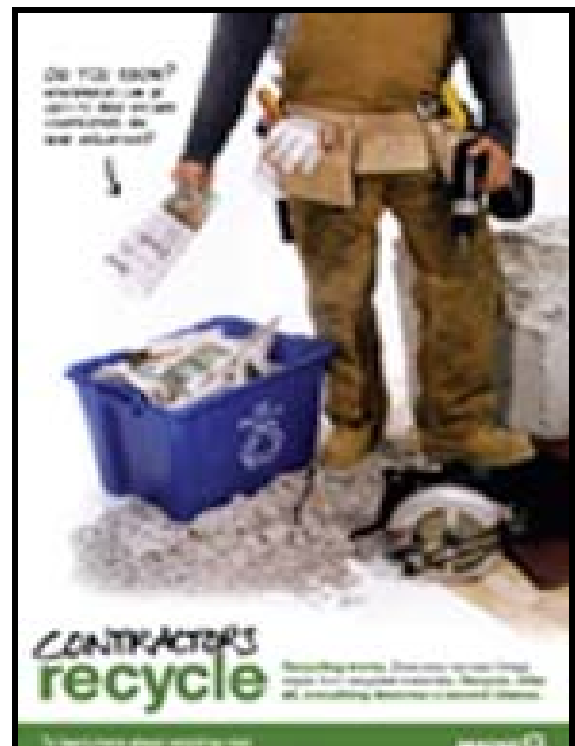
- 86% of towns have schools that recycle
- 83% of towns provide brochures of their recycling program
- 77% of towns encourage backyard composting
- 55% are familiar with the 'Maine Recycles' online Toolkit
- 53% of transfer stations offer tours to schools
- 36% are familiar with 'Maine Recycles' on Facebook and Twitter
- 27% offer transfer station open houses

This snapshot of what towns and programs are doing was encouraging and clearly showed that there is a strong effort by towns to promote recycling and composting. However, it also showed that there was room for improvement, and would not necessarily involve a great deal of effort on the town's part.

In 2008, the State Planning Office started its Maine Recycles campaign to get the message out about recycling and composting. As part of the campaign, an online Toolkit was created to help municipalities with their outreach efforts by providing editable brochures and posters as well as clipart. Unfortunately, after 3 years only 55% of the respondents were familiar with the Toolkit feature of the campaign - a sign that more needs to be done to promote it.

On a more positive note, after only one year, there is already a 36% familiarity with Maine Recycles on Facebook and Twitter. It is difficult to know if this is more of a testament to the power of social networking or State Planning Office's efforts in getting the word out. Whatever the reason, it was a good first year.

Getting the word out to residents about their municipal recycling program is an important component to increasing participation levels. According to the respondents, 83% of their towns have brochures explaining the recycling program. Considering that lack of knowledge about how and what to recycle is a known barrier to participation, this is a good rate. In addition, 77% of respondents indicated that their towns encouraged backyard composting. These numbers show that towns are doing well getting the message out to residents.



2011 Maine Recycles Spring Grants

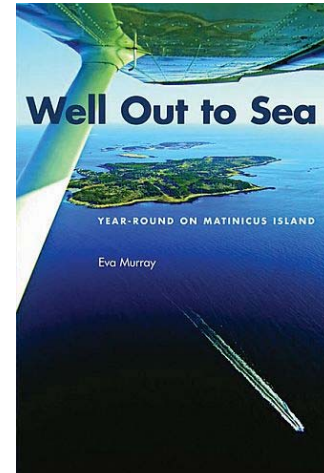
At the recent MRRRA conference, one aspect of the fun and excitement was having each interested conference attendee answer a survey. (see earlier article on page 4). From two of the questions, we were able to glean that 83% of our audience provided brochures and pamphlets about recycling and composting; however only 55% knew about the Maine Recycles Tool Kit. That second and possibly the first number may change soon, as Suzanne actually finalized another round of Maine Recycles grants to our communities.

Grants were awarded this time to 26 communities and programs. Projects did include brochures and signs along with a few new bits of strategy. We would say that it is a job well done; however the fun now is waiting to see the pictures of the final product.

In 2008, the State Planning Office started its Maine Recycles campaign to get the message out about recycling and composting. As part of the campaign, an online Toolkit was created to help municipalities with their outreach efforts by providing editable brochures and posters as well as clipart. Unfortunately, after 3 years only 55% of the respondents were familiar with the Toolkit feature of the campaign - - a sign that more needs to do more to promote it.

On a more positive note, after only one year, there is already a 36% familiarity with Maine Recycles on Facebook and Twitter. It is difficult to know if this is more of a testament to the power of social networking or State Planning Office's efforts in getting the word out. Whatever the reason, it was a good first year.

Getting the word out to residents about their municipal recycling program is an important component to increasing participation levels. According to the respondents, 83% of their towns have brochures explaining the recycling program. Considering that lack knowledge about how and what to recycle is a known barrier to participation, this is a good rate. In addition, 77% of respondents indicated that their towns encouraged backyard composting. These numbers show that towns are doing well getting the message out to residents.



May We Recommend *By Bruce White*

We normally don't advertise; however we do promote. When conference time comes around each time each year, I first wonder about going and eventually end up looking forward to the event – mostly for the familiar faces. Each year I miss one or two friends, as the numbers decrease, but then I always learn one or two things and often have a happy surprise. This year's surprise came from one of our friends and recycling enthusiasts, Eva Murray.

At the breakfast on the second day, I joined Eva and Suzanne at their table. It was then that Eva produced a copy of her new book from a bag. Her work, "Well Out to Sea", is a compilation of articles that she has written about life on Matinicus Island. Together these stories document a wonderful challenge in the lives of the residents off the Maine Coast. Only one will surface between the covers as the "Garbage Czar" of Matinicus Island. An enjoyable reading will reveal such things as the significance of banana boxes to the islanders – especially to recycling efforts. "Recycling" is only a part of the story and yet if you feel challenged in your recycling programs, you might find inspiration from "Well Out to Sea".

Eva's book is published by: Tilbury House, Publishers; 103 Brunswick Avenue; Gardiner, ME 04345; www.tilburyhouse.com ; 1-800-582-1899; or e-mail, tilbury@tilburyhouse.com