

WASTE BYTES!

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Grant Me This It's Not Too Late	1
On Tap in Augusta	1
Recycling in Multi-Unit Buildings	2
Your Role in Recycling at Home	2
Recycling Tips	3
Paperboard Packaging	3
'Small Recycling Grants' info/Application	4 - 7



'Grant' Me This

The State Planning Office Waste Management and Recycling Program announced a fourth round of small grants to Maine's municipalities to support the promotion of Recycling. The program specifically encourages the use of the electronic tool box of ideas and materials found in a cache on the Maine Recycles web site.

The word is out and information and forms posted on the SPO Waste Management and Recycling web site. Materials are duplicated on the last two pages of this copy of "Waste Bytes". Suzanne Duplissis is again the gatekeeper looking to keep the grants flowing smoothly. The truth is that the more we see, the more ideas will be generated and ... before too long a time passes. We don't say that we reach the saturation point but rather we say that "Recycling" efforts across the State will be "Branded". Now how cool is that!

On Tap in Augusta – Transition Time

With each session of the Legislature, the question we are often asked is "what is happening in the State Capital?" It is understood that what is really being asked is that the communities and citizens want to know 'what is happening' that could impact or affect them.

Right now, we have a new Governor and both the majority of the Senate and House are of the same party. Cabinet appointments are being made and employees are learning who their new Commissioner or Director may be.

Here in the State Planning Office, we still have our Acting Director – Tim Glidden - appointed from our ranks and more specifically from the Land for Maine's Future Program. At this time, that's the latest from us....



Recycling in Multi-Unit Buildings

For the last few decades, the State Planning Office shared recycling problems with the world around them. This has never been as evident as it is now with the new office. The houses of 184, 187, and 189 State Street were attractive and offered an interesting setting for business; however it was often said that they did not lend themselves to serving as offices. We also discovered this through the many attempts to do our part to increase recycling in state offices.

For most activities to be successful, in spite of how easy and convenient a desired practice must be, still involves a level of commitment from all involved. Think in terms of multi-unit apartments with lack of communication, restricted parking and outside space, inside – especially in old houses, cramped quarters and sometimes almost non-existent hallways.

In our new offices, the recycling commitment of Laplant-Ellis and Duplissis has resulted in appropriately placed recycling bins in the office cubicles and waste baskets scattered toward the ends of aisles and areas where groups might congregate or where waste is predictable. The food waste pail in the break room even has a dedicated compost bin at the foot of the back stairs. Cardboard has been deposited in totes in the basement along with other central collection vessels. SPO is leading by example...

YOUR ROLE IN RECYCLING AT HOME

Let's face it; we all need to buy stuff in order to live. As consumers, we can reduce the amount of waste we produce by buying items that are made to last and are packaged in minimal material that is recyclable in our local recycling program. Thinking ahead about what will happen to our stuff once we are done with it will make recycling easy when the time comes.

The first step in recycling is finding out what is recyclable in your town (most towns have this info on their website). This information is important to have so that when you are out shopping, you can decide what to buy based on its ability to be recycled. Oftentimes, there is little difference between products but there can be a big difference in the packaging. Buying products in minimal packaging that is also recyclable in your town is always the best choice.

You're not done yet, however. Once the stuff is home and used up, the recyclable material needs to find its way to the recycling bin if any of this is going to make a difference. If it just ends up in the trash then you have wasted your time. Keeping the recycle bin in a convenient location is your best bet.

Suzanne



TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE AND RECYCLING AT HOME

Reusable products are almost always better than single use ones

Reusable dishes and utensils rather than paper or disposable plastic ones

Reusable grocery bags rather than single use ones

Cloth napkins instead of paper ones

Rags for cleaning up spills instead of paper towels

Reusable containers to store food rather than plastic wrap, aluminum foil or plastic bags.

Make scrap paper for writing notes or lists from the back side of used paper

Donate magazines to a physician's office or nursing home rather than putting them in the recycle bin

Be sure to donate items still in good condition to local charities. They are counting on your generosity.

If you're not sure if something can be recycled, ask your transfer station attendant or public works department... both are great resources.



Many times, too numerous to mention, we have seen or heard about boxboard or paperboard described as cardboard or mentioned that it couldn't be recycled. The final decision actually falls on the local facility, as with any material taken to the recycle center or transfer station; however education is still being carried out in that area. In most cases, paperboard is accepted in with mixed paper. Examples of acceptable paperboard boxes are often hung over the mixed paper window at the recycling center. Recently a press release was circulated by the Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC) to announce another step in their educating the public.

Following is the body of that press release:

Previously, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) stated that marketers could advertise a product or package as "recyclable" when it could be "collected, separated or otherwise recovered for the solid waste stream for reuse—or in the manufacture or assembly of another package or product through an established recycling program" by a "substantial majority" of consumers or communities where an item is sold. The FTC has now confirmed that 60 percent of U.S. cities qualify as a "substantial majority."

"The paperboard packaging recyclable logo reflects a critical move forward for the paperboard converting industry in educating the public that the paperboard package is one of the most widely accessible packaging mediums that can be recycled," says Steven Levkoff, chair of the PPC Board of Directors and of The Standard Group.

MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE AGAIN TO ASSIST WITH YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM'S OUTREACH!!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 11, 2011

Attention: Maine Municipal Recycling Programs

Having the time to develop promotional and educational materials to encourage increased recycling in your community may be challenging. To help, the State Planning Office (SPO) has a number of downloadable, easy to modify resources in the Maine Recycles Toolkit. The Office is offering small grants to assist municipal recycling programs with customizing these resources into local outreach materials.

What is the Maine Recycles Toolkit?

The Maine Recycles toolkit is a collection of materials – logos, posters, brochures, articles, and more – with a positive, friendly message about the ease and benefits of recycling. These materials are all downloadable and can be easily customized and used to promote local recycling programs. It includes resources that can help you inform your residents about the specifics of your program and the benefits of recycling. Here is the link to the Maine Recycles toolkit: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/municipalities/toolkit.htm>.

Who is eligible for these grants?

Eligible entities are limited to municipal or municipally-owned regional recycling/composting programs or public corporations providing recycling and/or composting services. Please note that the signature of a municipal representative who is authorized to commit local resources is required. Preference will be given to applicants who have not participated in past rounds of funding.

How much can I apply for?

A limited amount of funding is available. Eligible applicants may apply for amounts of up to \$500 per program.

Is there a match requirement?

Yes, the applicant needs to provide either cash or 'in-kind' match. The match provided by the applying municipality or program may include a combination of staff or volunteer time to implement the project (minimum commitment of 10 hours). The project budget needs to explain what the local match will be.

What activities are eligible?

Examples of Possible Ideas

Videos for Public Access TV Customizing and Printing Brochures
Signage for your Facility Banners
Public Service Announcements Web Page Development Other idea??

How do I apply for a grant?

Return a completed application form to the State Planning Office by Friday, March 11, 2011.
The application is available at: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle>

To qualify, you must:

- Describe your current program and existing outreach efforts.
- Explain how you will use the money and how this will benefit your program.
- Explain how you will distribute the new materials to obtain the maximum benefit.
- Identify a commitment of matching money or work to complete the project.

What happens after I apply?

1. Applicants will be notified by March 23, 2011 of grant awards. All decisions are final.
2. Once awards are made, grantees of approved projects will receive a Budget Form to help document the project's expenses and the community's match which must be completed and sent to SPO by April 15, 2011.
3. To receive reimbursement of state grant funds, grantee's matching funds must be spent and projects completed between the award date and June 30, 2011.
4. Grantees will need to submit approved expenses on a request for Payment Form with supporting documentation (originals only, no electronic versions accepted) as well as provide samples of materials produced from the funding and/or photos documenting the project by June 30, 2011 to Suzanne Duplissis, Maine State Planning Office, 38 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0038. (Please note that the award check will be issued to the municipality and it will be up to the grantee to make reimbursement arrangements if necessary). The SPO reserves the right to utilize any completed project and/or materials in its ongoing information outreach efforts.

Dates to remember:

March 11, 2011	Application Deadline at the SPO
March 23, 2011	Notification of awards with budget form
April 15, 2011	Budget Form due at the SPO
June 30, 2011	Completion of projects
June 30, 2011	request for Payment, supporting documentation, and samples due at the SPO

For questions or assistance with application, contact the State Planning Office, Suzanne Duplissis, at 624-6248 or by e-mail at Suzanne.duplissis@maine.gov. We can offer ideas or help you develop yours.



APPLICATION FOR:

RECYCLING TOOLKIT ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING – SPRING 2011

The purpose of this funding is to provide cost-sharing to municipal programs to assist in their development and distribution of recycling information materials and related activities (example: composting) by using the 'toolkit' that has been created for the Maine Recycles campaign. *Eligible entities are limited to municipal and regional recycling/composting programs and public corporations/entities providing recycling and/or composting services.*

Name of Municipality or Region: _____ Date: _____

Population: _____ Recycling Program Type: _____ Drop Off _____ Curbside _____

Contact Name: _____ Position _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell _____

Address: _____

Authorized signature _____ Printed name _____

(must be authorized to sign on behalf of municipality)

Please provide answers to the following questions (both sides). Use additional sheets if necessary.

Please describe your recycling and composting (if applicable) program

Please explain your current informational efforts about recycling and/or composting.

Up to \$500 in grant funding may be available to assist you in expanding or changing your outreach program. Explain what/how you would use the money and what you expect to accomplish with this extra assistance.

What will your program contribute to the project as a match in funds? If no match funds are available, what would you be able to offer as a match, i.e., staff time, materials, etc.? Provide a budget (required).

How do you plan to get the maximum benefit from this project and financial investment?

What is your expected timeframe to plan, develop and implement your proposed project?

Recycling Toolkit Assistance Grant Funding – Spring 2011

(Please retain this information sheet for future reference)

Important dates to remember

- March 11, 2011 – Application Deadline at SPO**
- March 23, 2011 – Notification of Awards with Budget Form**
- April 15, 2011 – Budget Form Deadline**
- June 30, 2011 – Projects must be Completed**
- June 30, 2011 – Request for Payment, supporting documentation, and/or samples due at SPO**

1. Applicants will be notified by March 23, 2011 of grant award decisions. All decisions are final.
2. Once awards are made, grantees of approved projects will receive a Budget Form to help document the project's expenses and the community's match which must be completed and returned to SPO by April 15, 2011.
3. To receive reimbursement of state grant funds, grantee's matching funds must be spent and projects completed between the award date and June 30, 2011 (projects begun before the award date will not qualify).
4. Grantees will need to submit approved expenses on a Request for Payment Form with supporting documentation (originals only, no electronic versions accepted) as well as provide samples of materials produced from the funding and/or photos documenting the project by June 30, 2011.

Mail to:

Suzanne Duplissis
State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038.

(Please note that the award check will be issued to the municipality and it will be up to the grantee to make reimbursement arrangements if necessary).

The SPO reserves the right to utilize any completed project and/or materials in its ongoing information outreach efforts.