

WASTE BYTES!

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

The First of October Belongs to Recycling – Now if Only We Could Get Everyone to Talk about It.



The first week in October is generally the busiest week in the year for the State Planning Office Waste Management and Recycling team. This year proved to be no different - - just as rewarding - - by far the most tiring - - and some of the best time spent. The first week (the three days prior to the Columbus Day weekend) was filled with two days at the annual Maine Municipal Association convention followed by Friday's gathering of the Maine Science Teachers Association Conference. Both events provided an opportunity to meet with like-minded folks, as well as others who want to learn more.

In our State, similar issues are commonly shared between the municipalities and schools. The questions and discussions center on solid waste reduction, recycling, and composting. This year, being the 25th year of recycling in the State, directed the focus on Maine Recycles Week 2011, November 8th to the 15th. Given the unknown related to the pending dismantling of the State Planning Office, staff and the Maine Recycle Week Steering Committee chose to move away from the traditional printing and distribution of posters and calendars to pour more energy into encouraging and guiding the communities to recognize what they have accomplished in their efforts and to celebrate their successes. It is hoped that energy is reborn for a push to reach the state goal of a 50% recycling rate.

To add life to Maine Recycles Week, each person at these events who took posters or engaged in serious

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discussion about their communities, facilities, schools, and activities were asked to get back to the SPO by phone, postcard, or e-mail with news of plans and accomplishments. With Suzanne Duplissis, Lana Laplant-Ellis, and Bruce White taking turns on the soap box, attendees of the events were greeted with a new enthusiasm and caught their questions and interest in a new wave of commitment.

Staff encouraged the attendees to be proactive and positive in reaching out to their residents and businesses, to promote this year's Maine Recycles Week. Please send reports or plans describing what treats may be in store or shared to raise the public awareness toward the importance of recycling during Maine Recycles Week 2011. All news will be fielded by staff on the Maine Recycles web site, www.mainerecycles.com or bruce.white@maine.gov, (207) 624-6247 or suzanne.duplissis@maine.gov, (207) 624-6248.

And We Are All the Better for It!

The debate continues as to how many years there has been a Maine Recycles Week. It always depends if the first America Recycles Day is counted or not. Tracing the years of the poster contest gets a different answer than counting the years of the “Maine Recycles” calendar. All that aside, we encourage and urge communities, residents, and businesses to celebrate 25 years of recycling in Maine.

Ten years ago, on a week designated as Maine Recycles Week, the schools in Maine were asked to help their communities celebrate recycling efforts in their homes, businesses, and municipal offices. Citizens were asked to make a pledge to their commitment to recycle. The media was asked to announce all of the good things being done in each community.

A school competition, which cash prizes were awarded, was born out of this special request. There were special gestures that stood out like the Bowdoinham Community School having students bake cookies for the transfer station manager – Bowdoinham must have placed three or four times; Lincoln Academy received their check at an assembly which might have been a second celebration; and the St. John Catholic Elementary School in Winslow will always be a favorite as it turned out to be camping day that I arrived to present their check. On a grander scale, the elementary school in Kennebunkport created the life-sized whale out of aluminum foil salvaged from the dish line in the cafeteria.



Back to School 2011



Now when we are asked to turn to the community, I like to think of a special school and a special time. Camden/Rockport with the help from Carol Lambert, a local writer and gifted organizer, created a few nights to remember for the Community School. What was once designed to raise money for a swap shop was redirected for the school. The night, of course, was called “The Pick of the Litter” and was a fashion show with ensembles of articles of clothes that literally were salvaged from their new swap shop. The event was held at the Samoset resort and many benefited from very entertaining evenings.

MAINE 
RECYCLES

If you have creative genius working overtime, don't forget to invite us or at least share it with us!

Here's an Opportunity to Let Your Voice Be Heard!!

Let us say a word about the Maine Resource Recovery Association Annual Meeting. No. Let's have you say a word or two or more at the MRRA Annual Meeting and workshop. When is it that anyone is invited to participate in a meeting and given multiple opportunities that could possibly make a difference?

Let's start with a simple observation. Each MRRA meeting is an opportunity to meet with other folks in your field, but not every meeting is overflowing with attendees. The MRRA's Annual Meeting is on Monday, October 24, at the Rooster's Restaurant in Augusta. The event provides many options for learning, networking, sharing, and participating in discussions on future activities of the state-wide association.

A two-track program fills the better part of the morning, with speakers on: updates to the E-Waste Program; Lock-Out, Tag-Out safety training; HHW management; Ergonomics and Lifting Techniques; and includes a facilitated discussion on 'what do you want, need or expect from the MRRA?'. The business meeting starts just before lunch and includes election of the board of directors. During the business meeting, members have their chance to ask questions to help them to understand how the marketing cooperative is operating in the current market as well as the current state of the State in your Industry.

Following the Annual Meeting, the group will gather for lunch.

The afternoon sessions will provide you with a view of 'what's happening in Augusta', which is another chance to learn about and ask questions about agencies and programs. This will be followed by a review of a case study where communities in Oxford County, with the aid of a consultant, reviewed various solid waste management options and scenarios.

This is truly a meeting for the members.

Please check out the web site of the MRRA at <http://www.mrra.net/>. You will find contact information and guidance from Victor Horton and John Albertini for registering for the workshop and meeting.

[MRRA Workshop & 2011 Annual Meeting](#)

The 2011 MRRA Annual Membership Meeting & Workshop, to be held at Rooster's in Augusta, will feature sessions on E-waste, and more... [Continue reading](#) →

Date: October 24, 2011

Time: 8:00 - 3:00

Venue: Rooster's Coal Fired Pizza & Tap House

Address: 110 Community Drive, Augusta, ME, United States

[Google Map](#)