

WASTE BYTES!

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

A Few More Bills of Interest to Recycling and Waste Management

With activities of the current legislative session naturally focused on the economy and budget, one might expect less activity on other areas, such as the environment. Each committee this session seems to have a full agenda and more bills are expected as we head into April.

To the bills mentioned last month, we have added the following:

L.D. 622 An Act To Promote the Accessibility and Use of Reusable Bags As written, a retailer with 30,000 square feet or more of retail sales would have to provide reusable bags twice a year. *(voted ought not to pass by the Committee – 3/19/09)*

L.D. 733 Resolve, To Examine Environmental Effects of the Dual recovery System for Beverage Containers. As the review is presented, it is ambitious and might draw attention to new reuse strategies by retailers.

L.D. 759 An Act To Require State-owned Solid Waste Disposal Facilities To Demonstrate a Public Benefit

L.D. 760 An Act To Improve Landfill Capacity

L.D. 871 An Act To Facilitate Compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules

L.D. 876 Resolve, To Create a Surrounding Community Advisory Panel for the Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town



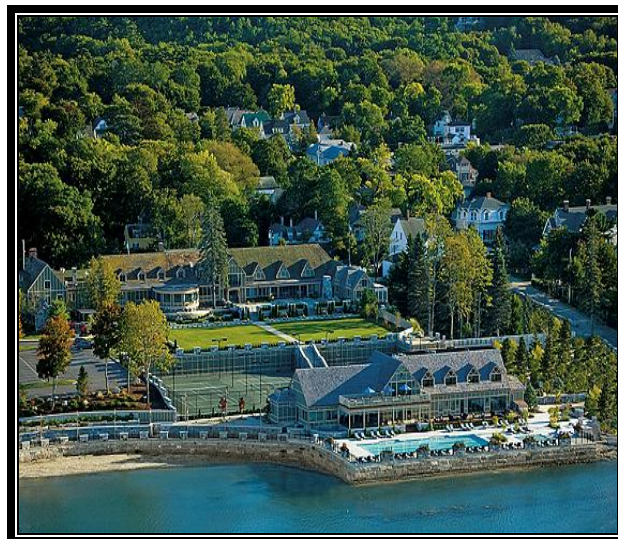
MRRA Sets Its Course for Bar Harbor

This May 4th and 5th, the Maine Resource Recovery Association has captured a berth at the Bar Harbor Club for its 16th Annual Conference. While plans are still in the works, there is enough indication of success to have each of us ensure that our reservations are made. Principal speakers of national recognition will be planting seeds for thought during the two days. Topics for breakout sessions appear to have wide appeal and excellent information to be sampled, discussed, and digested, either while relaxing at the end of the days or on the trip home.

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News from Augusta	1
MRRA 16 th Annual Spring Conference	1
Maine Recycles Video Contest	2
Responsible Recycling	2/3
Transfer Station Training	3/4



Maine Recycles Ad Campaign Video Contest Steals the Show at the State Museum

Winners of the Maine Recycles Video Contest were announced this past Saturday, March 14, at an event held in their honor at the Maine state Museum. Nearly 60 attended, representing students and their schools from around the state.

The competition challenge was to create a 30-second video encouraging residents to recycle more and throw away less. Over 127 videos from 35 schools were submitted. The winning video will be aired as a public service announcement on Time Warner Cable stations across Maine. Additionally, a 'top 20' video compilation will be distributed to Maine's community access television stations.

Prizes for the winning videos included cash awards for the video makers and a technology grant for their school. Judges for the video competition included members of the Maine Recycles Steering Committee, Time Warner staff, and other interested parties.

First Place, College and High School, went to Cody White, New England School of Communications, Bangor.

Second Place, College and High School, went to David Caldwell and Harlow Waltz, Capital Area Technical Center, Augusta.

First Place, Middle School, went to Matthew Woodbury, Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth.

Second Place, Middle School, went to Zach Thurlow, Mt. Jefferson Jr. High School

Thanks to all who participated!!! For more information on the contest, and to see those videos that were awarded 'Honorable Mention', please go to <http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/schools/videocontest.htm>



Responsible Recycling

Years ago when recycling was first being proposed, the municipalities maintained their right to establish their own policy and programs to address the management of municipal solid waste generated within their jurisdiction. They could select strategies for waste reduction that would serve them in the best way. The result has been a fairly successful multi faceted effort that spans the state from border to border and serves better than 98% of the population.

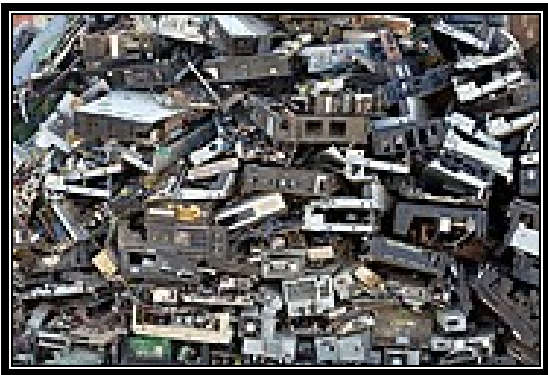
A close inspection of these varying municipal solid waste management programs and operations would identify a minimum in each case which reflected the individual waste streams and available markets and disposal opportunities. A number of communities have adopted ordinances or guidelines that define (or may require) what their residents or local businesses were expected to do. These have generally included corrugated cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, metal cans, clear glass, and possibly newsprint were to be collected and processed for recycling. Other locales built permanent facilities to manage large quantities or more kinds of products.

Where each community has a different proportion of residents and businesses, an analysis of the waste stream to determine what was being tossed, was important to do. Occasionally an individual situation would arise that evolved into something needing special attention such as, oil and lead batteries. Separate collection companies sprung up for batteries and waste oil.



Responsible Recycling Continued from Page 2

These separations of readily identifiable and manageable waste items have grown and now include universal waste or household hazardous waste. Tree limbs, brush, leaves and the like has lent itself to composting and is being managed at many facilities in this fashion. To tackle growing problems related to the collection of hazardous materials, more and more regulations were developed and special handlers trained, identified, and assigned a role.



In more recent years, materials have been labeled by useful objects rather than by chemicals. Mercury thermometers still are only one of many devices; however they are handled in the same category along with fluorescent lamps, ballasts, and compact fluorescent lights (CFL's). Special handling and disposal was spawned from the awareness of unsafe practices in undeveloped countries where many of these unwanted items were shipped to for management or disposal. Televisions and CRTs followed 'mercury containing products' in terms of being managed separately from MSW. The next step was stewardship of the E-waste, where manufacturers are part of the solution in managing the unwanted electronics.

Recycling had become so successful that recycling centers and transfer stations were the natural sites for the collection, aggregation, and shipping of all universal wastes. Traditional recycling activities have now melded with the 'responsible' recycling of these products that pose potential harm to health and the environment, benefiting all of us.

As one thinks about strategies to reduce the waste stream, note that such efforts are underway



MRRR Conference – Continued from page 1

Speakers recruited for the event include: Jerry Powell on Monday; Brenda Platt and Jim Bohlig on Tuesday.

Jerry Powell is from Portland, Oregon, and is not new to the conference. He is Executive Editor of **Resource Recovery**.

Brenda Platt will kick off the Sustainability track on day two of the conference. Ms. Platt is Director of Materials Recovery, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Washington, D.C.

Jim Bohlig was named on January 8, 2008, to head Casella Waste Systems Renewables Division. Mr. Bohlig will speak at noon on Tuesday, as well as, joining Ms. Platt on a morning panel with leaders from our own State to discuss Sustainability.

The Transfer Station Operator's Special & Hazardous Waste #3 Core Session will last all day on Tuesday. This session will count toward Operator certification. Please note the schedule included on the following page, Page 3, for alternative times for this offering.



Training Announcement Transfer Station Operators Training Program

The Department is pleased to announce a presentation of Core Training Session number 3: *Hazardous Waste and Special Waste* open to all municipal transfer station operators, town managers, and others interested. Training is scheduled at the locations and dates listed below. Come learn about:

- Hazardous waste: what makes it hazardous and how it is different from special waste; what makes household hazardous waste ok.
- Exclusion plan for your transfer station: what all the stuff is that's listed in that plan, what it looks like, how to deal with it and other items you are unsure of when they arrive at your gate.
- Identifying chemicals and toxins commonly turning up and the pathways of exposure that you should be aware of. We have our list; bring your own.
- Asbestos: associated health risks, what building materials it is found in, what is regulated, what is acceptable and proper handling.
- Universal Waste: updates and a question and answer period.

Transfer Station Operator's exam will be available immediately following course.

Please register to join us at one of the following locations:

Augusta	April 21	Augusta Response Building, (By the Big Smoke Stack), Augusta
Brewer	April 23	Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way
Caribou	April 28	Northern Maine Development Commission
Portland	April 30	Portland's DEP Office, Canco Road, Portland (Please park in the back)
Bar Harbor	May 5	Maine Resource Recovery Association Annual Meeting @ Bar Harbor Club (Must register for this day with MRRA @ http://www.mrra.net and pay the MRRA fee)

Lunch and Refreshments will be served. **Registration 8:15 AM.** Program begins promptly at 9:00AM and ends promptly at 4PM. Registration fee for locations other than Bar Harbor is \$25.00 including a light breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and materials - payable with your registration. Please make checks payable to *Treasurer, State of Maine*. **Please return your registration before April 15th or we can not guarantee you a seat.** Please contact Sandy Moody at 207-287-7751 if you can not attend or would like to attend at a different location after registering.

(Please detach and return- Keep top portion for marking your calendar- No confirmation will be returned to you)

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Complete Mailing address _____
 Title or Position _____ Municipality/Co. _____

Location to attend training Augusta Brewer Caribou Portland Bar Harbor

Mail To: Department of Environmental Protection, BRWM, Transfer Station Training, 17 SHS, Augusta,

Maine 04333