



The Scrap Paper

Newsletter of the Maine Resource Recovery Association

December 2013

For up-to-date information see our website at www.mrra.net

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MRRRA Board of Directors Meetings

(Members are always welcome to attend)

Thursday, January 23, 10:00 to Noon via Conference Call

Thursday, February 27, Noon at UMA, Augusta

Thursday, March 27, 1:00 at Bangor Public Works

No April meeting - Join us at the Conference!

Maine DEP Training Schedule

www.maine.gov/dep/training/index.html

Maine DOL - SafetyWorks! Training Schedule

www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Safetyworks_Classes&v=ListAll

21st Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste

Conference, Trade Show & Awards Presentations

Monday & Tuesday, April 28-29, 2014, Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine

Mark your calendar NOW!

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RECYCLING MARKETS REPORT

With holiday production completed mill cutbacks due to demand and/or maintenance have caused prices to hold at best and drop for many grades. Fresh reports of continued economic growth bode well going forward but China continues to restrict imports based on issues of contamination & material quality! If the economy continues to rebound and the Fed doesn't pull back too hard and slow that growth we can hope that prices could improve over time. For now expect steady, if not lower prices, in the short term. January prices come out on the 6th.

| | Dec '13 | Sept '13 | Dec '12 |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------|
| OCC | \$105-110 | \$115-120 | \$100 |
| NEWS #8 | \$65 | \$65 | \$65 |
| Mixed Paper | \$14-35 | \$13-37 | \$50 |
| SOW | \$145 | \$150 | \$170 |
| HDPE #2 Natural | \$594 | \$674 | \$404 |
| HDPE #2 Z (Mixed) | \$434 | \$304 | \$244 |
| HDPE #2 Colored | \$434 | \$294 | \$216 |
| Plastics #1,3-7 no #2 | \$24 | \$0 to -\$100 | -\$10 |
| PET #1 (full load of UBC quality) | \$414 | \$454 | \$416 |
| Tin Cans (p/u - varies w/ freight) | \$195 | \$150 | \$158 |
| Scrap Metal (p/u - varies w/ freight) | \$85-145 | \$70-145 | \$90-\$170 |
| Tires (negative) | -\$65 | -\$65 | -\$65 |
| MRRA net avg. paid prior month (picked up) | \$115 | \$103 | \$119 |
| ecomaine single stream (delivered) | \$5 | -\$10 | -\$5 |

[Circular File: Less Is Less \(excerpted\)](#)

by Chaz Miller, State Programs Director for the Environmental Industry Association

The declining waste trend of recent decades is here to stay.

Our industry is in the midst of unprecedented change. How much waste we make, what's in it and how we manage it have evolved dramatically in the last two decades. In the past, waste generation has been a function of population growth, economic growth and the materials we use in our daily lives. Yet for the last two decades, population growth has exceeded the growth in the waste stream.

Why are we no longer the Saudi Arabia of garbage? Three reasons: "the evolving ton," source reduction and zero waste initiatives by manufacturers and retailers.

As to how we manage waste, we disposed of less of it in 2011 than we did in 1990. At the same time, recycling and composting doubled their share of the waste management market.

These changes in quantity and quality have not come without a price. MRFs are adjusting to the revenue impact of less paper and more plastic. Landfills, especially small local landfills, are struggling with less supply. Nonetheless, these changes are here to stay. We are not managing our father's waste stream. We have no choice except to adapt.

You can read the full article at the link above.

Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Awards

To Be Presented At The Dinner Reception at the
Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference on Monday April 28, 2014

Deadline for Nominations: Postmarked or faxed by: Friday, February 21, 2014

Mail: Maine Resource Recovery Association, PO Box 1838, Bangor, ME 04402-1838 or Fax: 942-4017

Award Categories

- Recycling or Solid Waste Manager of the Year
- Operator of the Year
- Program of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Most Improved Program
- Composter of the Year
- Outstanding Quality Award
- Recycling Business of the Year
- Distinguished Service Award

Criteria Guidelines for the Awards

- Were there unusual problems to solve in the program?
- Was there a creative approach to solving the problem?
- Did the nominee use a cost-effective approach or creative use of limited resources?
- Did the nominee demonstrate leadership in rallying public support?
- Was the nominee addressing difficult to manage waste?
- Include the degree of commitment and the impact on the environment if appropriate?
- Include any information that would help the committee choose your nominee

Nominee Award Application

Name of Award _____ Name of Nominee _____

Position/Title of Nominee _____ Program/Town Name _____

Nominee's Telephone # _____ Person Making the Nomination _____

Telephone # _____

Please briefly describe the Nominee or Program's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria above.

The Annual Compost Bin Sale Starts Now

As much as 25% of your household garbage can be from Kitchen Scraps and Yard Waste. We can help with that.

The MRRRA, is pleased to offer **The Earth Machine™** backyard compost bins and other composting accessories at a reduced price to your residents.

Municipalities and other Civic Groups can sign up and receive a packet to help get their residents composting or download the forms from our website starting February 1.

Offered this year will be the Earth Machine backyard composting unit for **\$48...a retail value of \$120**, a wingdigger compost turner for **\$17**, a rain barrel for **\$65, retailing for over \$130** and a handy thermometer priced at **\$20** so they can monitor compost temperature. New this year is the Sure-Close kitchen pail available for **\$7**.



Residents also receive a FREE “how to” guide with each compost bin purchased.

For more information or a participation packet, please contact Victor Horton at (207-942-6772) or via email at victor.horton@mrra.net. Forms will also be available for download online at www.mrra.net by early February.

The sale runs from Feb. 1, 2014 to May 3, 2014 with orders and payment due at the MRRRA office by May 5, 2014.

Deliveries will be made by **May 23, 2014**.

Sign up today to get started!

Kaid Benfield's Blog [Wasting Away \(excerpted\)](#) by Lee Epstein

Full text available at the link above.

There's a place not too far from here – and not too far from where you are reading this right now, either – where all the stuff we don't want ends up.

It's the final resting place for the trash we throw out, a place where all the physical detritus associated with our living on earth eventually settles. This includes not only grungy old mattresses but minute particles of air pollution; not only millions of tons of rotten food, but the polluted water we try to shunt quickly off our farms and parking lots and streets. It includes the carbon and methane, nitrogen oxide and other compounds that pour from fossil fuel combustion, industry, farms and mining processes, and the construction waste created when we build new buildings or get rid of old ones. This place is not on a map, but it does have a name. It's called Away. It's huge.

We throw things away. Pollution goes away. Water flows away. And if we're staying in one place, after this material goes away and for some very brief period of time, that one place is "clean" again – whether it's a city street, the air we breathe, or the trash can. So how do we perform this cosmic magic trick that defies one of the laws of physics (the Law of Conservation of Matter)? Well, we all know there's no such thing as magic, right? It's all just sleight of hand; that's why it's called a "trick," after all.

But isn't Away getting kind of full? Well, honestly, it is: With the 35 billion tons per year of carbon dioxide we humans spill into the atmosphere; the 230 million tons per year of nitrogen gases; the two billion tons per year of other air pollution; the 730 million tons per year of pollution we discharge into the water (that's more than the weight of all of Earth's human population); the 1.3 billion tons per year of food waste; and the 1.3 billion tons per year of solid waste or trash. The problem is, Earth has been called a "spaceship" for a reason: it's a single, rather small planet hurtling through space. And everything's rather contained on the ground, in the water, or in the air – so really, of course, there's no Away.

Everything we do, everything we use and discard, every action we take that results in waste being generated – whether throwing away some food from our refrigerator, driving to the grocery store, building a building, manufacturing parts for an airplane, turning on an electric light, buying some new consumer electronic gadget, or even building new development where it really doesn't belong – results in something going to that mythical place.

A recent report from the Container Recycling Institute (CRI) (*Bottled Up 2000-2010*) provides some depressing statistics on the current habits of the U.S.'s throw-away culture: of 243 billion beverage containers sold in the United States in 2010, 153 billion were either sent to landfills, littered or incinerated. Our national "wasting rate" is 63 percent for 2010, a 7 percent increase over 2000's wasting rate of 59 percent, which itself increased by 20 percent over that in 1990. The trend is going in the wrong direction.

Air pollution. Water pollution. Solid waste. Toxic chemicals. Energy use and climate change. We know that there is no Away. Award-winning architect/designer William McDonough, together with German chemist Michael Braungart in their groundbreaking 2002 book *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*, posited that ultimately, sustainability means designing and building things without any waste, which make all the energy they need or create more energy than they use, and which can, when their useful life is over, be readily deconstructed without waste and fully used again. Their principles apply to homes and office buildings, as well as to computer servers and cell phones. Such thinking, and surely such doing, is still very much a work in progress. But it must proceed.

Because Away is just another name for planet Earth. And right now, it's the only home we've got.

[NERC Gives You Free Access To New Organic Waste Management Online University](#)

Compostory.org is packaging an unprecedented online learning platform for local governments, waste management professionals and the agricultural sector in efforts to bring the six continents up to speed on organic waste management practices. The introductory lesson is open to everyone and details the course strategy and objectives. Lessons are currently being released and NERC offers free access to the course.

The course syllabus was created by a world class advisory board to provide a comprehensive introduction on organics recycling based on success stories from around the world. To that end, the course delivers the big picture, enabling participants to build their own organics waste “vision” while emphasizing the variance of many parameters, namely, regulations, economic models and climate.

Compostory.org targets a global audience and aims to become a premium digital platform for knowledge sharing in the field. More information is available at the link above.

[5 Shocking Facts about E-Waste](#)

1. Manufacturing an electronic device takes resources...lots and lots of resources
2. The theory of planned obsolescence
3. An appalling 27% recovery rate
4. Our increasing dependency on electronics
5. We can do far better to eliminate e-waste

Read the full story with suggested solutions at the link above.

[Single-serve Coffee's Dark Side: Waste \(excerpted\)](#) By David Worthington

The full text is available at the link above.

Over 13 percent of offices and over 10% of U.S. households have bought into the single-serve coffee craze, but convenience has a price. Hundreds of millions of pounds of “pod” trash is entering landfills every year.

Single-serve coffee is all the rage - even Starbucks is selling its own system in its stores. There are over 300 pod style brewers and accessories listed in Amazon’s marketplace and hundreds of varieties of beverages being sold. Over 9 billion cups were brewed as of early last year. It’s a high margin, high volume business.

The commercial success of single-serve coffee is obvious, but the environmental impact is less known. The core “green” issue is that those little plastic pods that so many of us love aren’t recyclable. A pod is essentially a plastic container that has an integrated filter and plastic foil top. The average coffee drinker doesn’t disassemble it, nor should they be expected to. Burning hot coffee grounds aren’t a nice thing to handle.

A company called OneCoffee is using biodegradable capsules. Swiss Coffee Co. is also selling compostable capsules for its Beanarella brewing system. Green Mountain Coffee subsidiary Keurig has been searching for a way to combat claims of unsustainability. In 2011, the company started a pilot take-back program for corporate customers. Coffee grounds are sent to a compost facility and the rest of the materials incinerated in a waste-to-energy plant. The company also sells a refillable K-Cup filter.

Keurig founder, John Sylvan says he felt guilty about the waste that his product has generated and that he wouldn’t do it now if he were able to revisit his creation. Sylvan estimated that a single k-cup machine can create 10 times more waste than a conventional drip brewer.

It’s a pretty big deal when a product’s founder says something like that. Maybe his words will make a difference and steer vendors toward more sustainable products.

[Six Classes: A Webinar Series on Chemicals of Concern](#)

You are invited to listen and learn from our series of half-hour webinars about six families or “classes” of chemicals which contain many of the harmful substances found in everyday products. Instead of worrying about tens of thousands of untested chemicals, we will learn from distinguished scientists who are outstanding teachers about six classes containing many of the bad actor chemicals in consumer products. In addition, the series will move us towards solutions by asking, “Do we need these chemicals?” and when the answer is “Yes,” we will explore safer green chemistry alternatives.

This engaging and informative weekly series ran from Tuesday October 22 to December 10, 2013. If you have questions about the webinar series, contact Sam Busener at sam@greensciencepolicy.org or fill out our contact form.

[Trash to Treasure: Vintage Repurposing \(excerpted\)](#) by Jennifer Fischer

Vintage repurposing gives new life to old items in unexpected ways. The sky’s the limit when it comes to potential uses for old yardsticks, plant stands, screen doors, gardening tools, and buckets. Flea markets are treasure troves and local thrift shops are a forager’s paradise.

Pinterest and Tumblr® brim with creative ideas for transforming goods that have seen better days. A chunk of ancient, red barn siding becomes a wall hanging. Old metal bedsprings take on a second life as a wine rack.

You can read the full article at the link above.

[NYC Council Passes Plastic Foam, E-Cigarette Bans \(excerpted\)](#)

By Jake Pearson

“Foam pollutes the waste stream, making it harder to recycle food waste as well as metal glass and plastic,” the mayor said in a statement after the vote.

The foam bill allows lawmakers to ban the product if after a yearlong study the commissioner of the Sanitation Department finds the material can’t be recycled effectively. If banned, it could add the nation’s largest city to a list of localities that prohibit the foam, which the food-service industry has long valued for keeping food warm or cool but environmentalists see as a landfill-clogging, litter-generating scourge.

At a news conference before the vote, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn warned against the environmental hazards of the material, particularly its presence in landfills, saying the only things that last longer than the foam containers are cockroaches and the performer Cher.

“If you could recycle it for real, that would be great. But we’re not going to wait forever to get the answer to that,” said Quinn. “If within a year a conclusion is not affirmative that foam can be recycled, it will be banned.”

San Francisco and dozens of other U.S. cities already have nixed takeout containers made from what’s technically called expanded polystyrene foam (the Styrofoam brand isn’t used in food packaging). It takes a long time to break down in landfills, and there’s debate over how readily it can be recycled once it’s soiled by food. City plastics recycling contractor Sims Municipal Recycling has said it can’t currently process and market plastic foam.

You can read the full article at the link above.

MRRA has recycling bins & curbside carts for sale.

We offer large and small quantity purchasing of recycling curbside bins and wheeled carts.



18 gallon bins starting at \$8.50

Custom artwork available.
Give us a call today for pricing
and color availability @ 942-6772.



Wheeled carts in several popular sizes

MRRA also offers these services:

Maine's Recycling & Annual Solid Waste Conference
 Recycling & Solid Waste Technical Assistance
 Consulting – MRRA will send a rep for a free no obligation site visit
 Marketing of recyclable materials
 The Scrap Paper Newsletter
 Workshops & Tours

MRRA MARKETING COOPERATIVE

MARKETING MAINE'S RECYCLABLES COOPERATIVELY

Begun in 1992, the Marketing Cooperative serves over 250 Maine cities, towns and businesses through 80+ regional and stand-alone recycling processing centers. Developed through a partnership between the former Maine Waste Management Agency and the Maine Resource Recovery Association, the Cooperative provides a forum for recycling personnel to network with peers, industry officials, and end-user markets.

The Cooperative also provides education on market trends, product specifications, workplace safety, and annual forklift certification through the Maine Bureau of Labor. Meetings provide a forum to identify common needs, solutions and goals.

The Marketing Cooperative is more than a recyclable materials broker. It:

- Will respond to your RFPs to give you more options
- Provides consistent product specifications
- Provides technical assistance, market research & development
- Maintains multiple markets for each material
- Maintains relationships with brokers and end-users
- Places orders with markets
- Coordinates the transportation (including coordinating partial loads from multiple members to make full loads)
- Allows members to maintain control of the sale
- Has accountability to members
- Is an advocate for its members in the marketplace
- Maintains a control & documentation system to provide accurate payment
- Provides administrative support, collections, & dispute resolution
- Offers workshops to improve marketability of materials, workplace safety, and information regarding regulations
- Created and presents the Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference in cooperation with our sponsors & exhibitors

Let MRRA market a trial load for your town or business today! Call Victor Horton at 207-942-6772.