



The Scrap Paper

*The Newsletter of the
Maine Resource Recovery Association*

Volume 4 Issue 4

Summer 2004

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Upcoming Events

November 8-15 Maine Recycles Week

See the Maine State Planning Office website at <http://www.state.me.us/spo/recycle/mrw/> or contact Bruce White at 287-8053 for more information

Date & Place To Be Announced MRRRA Winter Workshop (in January or February)

May 2-3, 2005 Maine 12th Annual Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

Atlantic Oakes, Bar Harbor

RECYCLING MARKETS REPORT

We leverage our members' tonnage and constantly seek out new markets to get YOU the best possible prices. How do our prices compare to what you are being offered elsewhere?

The economy can't seem to make up its mind. Export (primarily China) demand has cooled in recent months. Metal and Natural HDPE prices have been especially good.

Just for fun, and as a point of reference for those of you relatively new to the recycling industry, the comparison prices listed this issue are from the Maine Waste Management Agency (MWMA) newsletter of December 1991. This was two years after the MWMA was created and shortly after MWMA began awarding recycling grants. See how much things have improved!!! Many thanks are due to the staff of MWMA, the State Planning Office & everyone in the many recycling centers.

	September '04	December 1991
Old Corrugated Cardboard	\$ 71 - 76	\$ 0 - 15
#8 NEWS	\$ 76 - 81	\$ 2.50 - 25
Mixed Paper	\$ 46 - 51	\$ 0
SOW	\$ 141 - 146	\$ 60
White Ledger	\$ 199	\$ NA
HDPE Natural	\$ 416	\$ 0 - 120
HDPE Mixed	\$ 286	\$ 0 - 120
HDPE Colored	\$ 266	\$ 0 - 120
PET (full load)	\$ 336	\$ NA
Tin Cans	\$ 131 - 141	\$ 0 - 15
Scrap Metal	by quote (varies by mileage)	\$ 0 - 10
Clear Glass delivered	\$ 0	\$ 15 - 25
Tires	-\$104	-\$90 - -\$110

All prices are net to you and subject to changing market conditions.

Release Numbers: Your Ticket To Ride (Load)!!

MARRA supplies release numbers for all loads. The first question to ask any trucker arriving at your center to pick up a load is: What is HIS release number? This will verify which load he is there to pick up.

We have had several instances where the truck went to the wrong center or the center loaded the wrong material. As you might imagine, this can create a problem such as a rejected load and extra freight charges for your center.

Remember, you are responsible for putting the proper material on the truck! Please, check the release number! Thank you.

2003-2004 Another Record Year

For the third year in a row and the 11th time in its 12 year existence, the MARRA Marketing Cooperative has set a new record for marketed tonnage for the fiscal year ended June 30 - 29,513!

MARRA membership includes 135 towns, regional associations, businesses and individuals with 74 centers, representing over 200 towns, currently utilizing the marketing services provided by the Cooperative.

American Forest & Paper Association Releases New Recycling Guides Paper Industry Promotes Increased Paper Recycling in Schools, Offices and Communities

The AFPA recently announced the release of three new brochures designed to increase paper recycling in schools, workplaces and communities interested in implementing new recycling programs or improving existing recycling programs. See the website below for the full text of the press release and links to download the brochures in PDF format.

http://www.afandpa.org/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Releases1&template=/PressRelease/PressReleaseDisplay.cfm&PressReleaseID=550&PressReleaseCategoryID=10&ShowArchives=0

Don't Forget: Maine Recycles Week

November 8th-15th

Visit <http://www.state.me.us/spo/recycle/mrw/> or call Bruce White @ 287-8053

Talking Trash
by Tony Barrett

Glass Half-Empty?

When the market for recycled glass went sour, it got so bad that instead of earning revenue, it would have cost the Harpswell Recycling Center \$15/ ton just to have the buyer to take the glass. Some voiced the opinion that we should stop recycling glass since it was going to cost the town money to dispose of it in addition to the transport costs. The supply of crushed, recycled glass had been steadily increasing and the demand for glass was dropping fast – replaced by aluminum, plastic and coated paper; all lighter-weight packaging alternatives. Crushed glass was piling up fast at the Recycling Center. If we stopped accepting glass, reasoned Recycling Center manager, Bob Webber, not only would the town not meet its recycling percentage goal for 2002 (50%), but also we would not be positioned to supply glass when and if the glass market turned around. In the meantime, over 70 tons/ year of crushed glass would end up in landfills. There had to be another solution.

There was. Crushed glass, if properly sorted and cleaned, is an inert substance; essentially beach sand. Why couldn't crushed glass be 'recycled' as a clean fill material? Bob Webber approached Maine DEP (the department which issues the operating license to the Harpswell Recycling Center) on the issue. Maine DEP agreed and issued regulations which allows the use of Recycling Center crushed glass as a landfill due to its benign impact on the environment. Hey, wait a minute, that is not recycling!! Sure it is, counters Bob Webber. Several landowners have already 'recycled' this product and saved the cost of bringing in an alternate fill material. More importantly for the town, Harpswell saves \$65 in transportation & tipping costs alone by finding alternative uses locally for each ton of glass. We also extend the life of area landfills.

For example, Harpswell resident, Megan Hubbard, used recycled glass at her home. A stone retaining wall was being constructed and required a permeable & porous backfill material to allow proper drainage behind the newly rebuilt wall. Instead of having to purchase clean sand or crushed stone, she opted to use 1.5 tons of crushed glass. Bob Webber personally delivered some of the material in his own pick-up truck. "I not only saved the cost of crushed

stone or sand, I am proud to help recycling in Harpswell", said Ms. Hubbard. The backfill material was capped with a permeable landscape fabric and 10 inches of topsoil, which is now planted with bulbs waiting to bloom in the Spring. According to Ms. Hubbard, there was only one drawback; the smell. "I am fastidious in rinsing the glass that I take to the Recycling Center. Apparently, others are not given the amount of spaghetti sauce, mayonnaise and jelly still in the crushed glass." After a couple of rinsing rainfalls, the smell subsided and the crushed glass has settled in just fine reports Ms. Hubbard.

In this regard, Bob Webber reminds all Recycling Center customers to properly sort (remove all metal & plastic lids) and rinse glass of food materials before depositing at the Recycling Center. It is important if we are to be able to continue to use crushed glass as an approved fill material and it is also a courtesy to the staff who would appreciate being able to handle clean material.

As to the future market for recycled glass, it continues to be a buyer's market in New England. In fact, one New England beer company doesn't even reuse its own glass (the beer bottles that you take to the local redemption center are transferred to the beer distributor and transported back to the original bottler who pays back the deposit money) due to the high cleaning cost. Last year, the local buyer refused to accept the crushed glass even when delivered free. All crushed glass was simply being dumped into the local landfill for a tipping fee. Instead, the beer company found a buyer in Canada where the old bottles are cleaned and exported for reuse to South America. The beer company then buys new glass bottles manufactured with imported glass from Columbia. Go figure.



Harpswell resident Megan Hubbard, backfilling her stonewall with recycled crushed glass from the Harpswell Recycling Center

At least Harpswell is implementing some innovative local solutions to minimize resource use and keep our disposal costs down.

Tony Barrett is a member of Harpswell's Recycling Committee

MAINE'S SWITCH FROM ARSENIC PRESSURE-TREATED WOOD

In 2003, Maine passed a law to dramatically reduce the future sale of arsenic pressure-treated wood for residential uses. The specific prohibitions in the law mirrored a national agreement between the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the manufacturers of pressure-treated woods. The provisions concerning arsenic-treated wood went into effect beginning January 1, 2004. Maine DEP just completed a representative survey of wood retailers and found uniform compliance with the law.

Fully 37 of the 46 specific outlets inspected had eliminated the sale of all arsenic pressure-treated wood. All of the other outlets appeared to be strictly adhering to State and Federal provisions regarding the specific exempted items and the strict industrial and marine uses where arsenic-treated wood is permitted. The Department will prepare a report of its findings to be presented to the next Legislature.

The pressure-treatment substitutes to arsenic containing compounds still contain copper, the element that gave arsenic treated wood a greenish color and so still very much look like the pressure-treated wood that we were used to. For those who are curious, the composition of a piece of pressure-treated wood can be found on a small label stapled to the end of a board or timber.

Annual Meeting & Workshops

Hurry, it's not too late to register!

The Annual meeting of MRRA is always an informative and interesting event. Come and exchange ideas with your peers in the solid waste industry!

8:30 - 9:00 AM **Registration & Buffet Breakfast**

9:00 - 10:15 AM **What's Happening**

Several speakers will talk about what is new and what is on the horizon of solid waste management in Maine. Hear about the opportunities & challenges we will face in the near future.

George MacDonald, State Planning Office
Don Meagher, Pine Tree Landfill
et al

10:30 - 11:45 AM **Virtual Tours**

PowerPoint tours of a few transfer stations / recycling centers. See how other facilities are set up and how they handle their materials.

Town of Winthrop
Casco / Naples Bulky Waste Facility

12:00 - 12:30 PM **Annual Business Meeting**

Financial Reports
Marketing Update
Election of Directors
Surprise Announcement - Don't miss it!!!

12:30 AM - 1:15 PM **Lunch and Networking**
Door prizes will be awarded

1:30 - 2:45 PM **Private / Public Cooperation**

Cooperation can reduce costs. Learn how to use RFPs and smart contract negotiating to get the best deal in this competitive economic climate.

Francis Ackerman, Maine Attorney General's office
Troy Moon, City of Portland
et al

The program is subject to change.

MAINE RESOURCE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting & Workshops

Thursday, September 23rd, 2004, Ground Round, Augusta, Maine

Registration / Cancellation Deadline: Friday, September 17th

Members \$20, non-members \$30, Additional attendees half price

A limited number of scholarships are available.

To register: fax this filled-out form to 942-4017, call 942-6772 or email mrra.john@verizon.net

Organization: _____

Please check one: Member _____ Non-member _____

Join MRRA & save (circle one below):

Dues: Individual \$30 Municipal \$40 Business \$100

Billing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

First Attendee (full price)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Additional Attendees (half price)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

_____ Check enclosed / to follow by mail or

_____ Deduct from Revenue (please initial): _____

Place Your Ad in This Space

Reach 750 key people in Maine's solid waste industry

\$200 full page, \$100 half page, \$75 quarter page

Reduce Waste!!

If you would like to start receiving the email (pdf) version and stop getting the paper version, please **clearly** print your email address below and either fax this page to MRRA at 207-942-4017 or mail it to MRRA, PO Box 1838, Bangor ME 04402-1838. Thank you.

Email Address: _____ @ _____

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Annual Meeting Highlights

Featured Speakers:

Francis Ackerman, Attorney General's office
George MacDonald, State Planning Office

Don Meagher, Casella (W. Old Town Landfill)

Virtual Tours

Surprise Announcement

Door Prizes

Return Service Requested

Maine Resource Recovery Association
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