

The Scrap Paper

Newsletter of the Maine Resource Recovery Association

September 2009

For the most up-to-date information check our web site at mrra.net

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MRRA Board of Directors Meetings

(All members always most welcome to attend!)

Thursday, October 22, Noon, Bangor Public Works, Bangor

Thursday, December 10, Noon, Augusta restaurant TBA (lunch provided)

Thursday, February 25, Noon, Bangor Public Works, Bangor

Maine Recycles Week: November 8-15

Do something special in your town!!!

MRRA Winter Workshop

Date and location to be determined. Late January in the Auburn area probable.

Inside

Recycling Market Report - Page 2

Legislative Update Correction - Page 3

News & Notes of Interest - pages 3-7

Now Get The Scrap Paper via E-mail! - Page 8

RECYCLING MARKETS REPORT

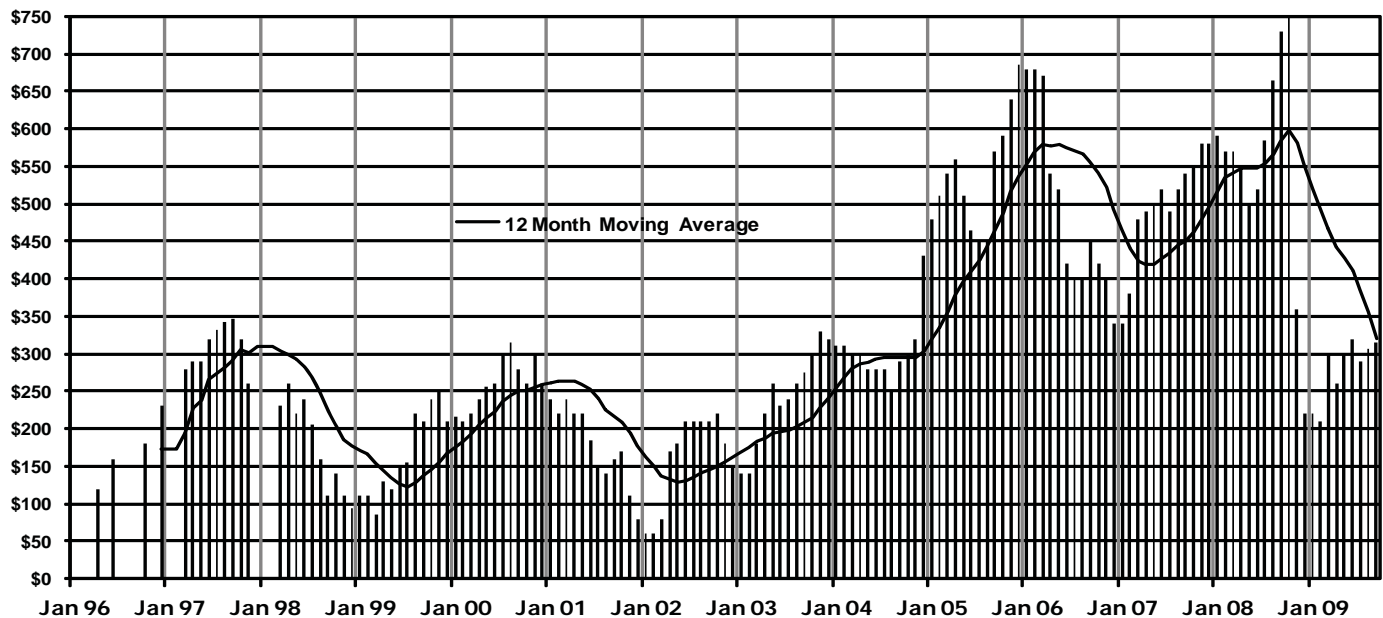
We leverage our members' tonnage, seeking new markets to get YOU the best prices. How do our prices compare to what you are being offered?

August and September saw material prices increase across the board. The economy has shown signs of recovery, albeit haltingly. While down significantly compared to a year ago prices are back to or above their historical averages. Fall usually sees prices drop somewhat so be prepared for a pull back going forward.

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

| | Sept '09 | July '09 | Sept '08 |
|--|---|-----------|----------|
| OCC | \$76 | \$61 | \$111 |
| #8 NEWS | \$76 | \$56 | \$151 |
| Mixed Paper | \$56 | \$26-\$37 | \$71 |
| SOW | \$141 | \$121 | \$236 |
| HDPE Natural | \$461 | \$426 | \$841 |
| HDPE Mixed | \$311 | \$286 | \$726 |
| HDPE Colored | \$271 | \$216 | \$656 |
| PET (full load) | \$296 | \$296 | \$386 |
| Tin Cans | \$93 | \$41 | \$156 |
| Scrap Metal (picked up) | \$81 | \$11 - 56 | \$126 |
| Tires (negative) | -\$110 | -\$110 | -\$104 |
| MRRA net avg. paid | TBD (August was \$80 exc. Iron & Tires) | | |
| ecomaine single stream (delivered to Portland) | \$0 | -\$25 | \$25 |

#2 HDPE-Mixed Plastic Bottles- Highest US \$ per Ton
January 1996 - September 2009



Correction

2009 Maine Legislative Solid Waste Bills Passed into Law

Last issue the below legislation was reported as requiring a 10-cent deposit on each plastic bag. That requirement was not part of the final bill that was passed. The corrected summary is below. MRRA apologizes for the error.

LD 367 To Convene a Work Group To Design and Implement a Statewide Disposable Checkout Bag Reduction Campaign, with Benchmarks

The resolve requires the Executive Department, SPO to establish a work group consisting of agencies, organizations and businesses for the purpose of reducing the distribution of disposable checkout bags. The work group is charged with assessing recycling infrastructure capacities, developing language for a memorandum of understanding with goals and benchmarks for reducing the use of disposable checkout bags, designing a statewide promotional campaign and identifying funding sources. The work group is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, and the committee is authorized to report out legislation relating to the report.

More information on any legislation may be found by searching the state web site at:
www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/default_ps.asp?PID=1456&snum=124

Recycling and Land Reuse Practices Can Help Fight Climate Change

There is much potential to reduce the nation's greenhouse gases through recycling, waste reduction, smart growth, and by reusing formerly contaminated sites including brownfields.

EPA's report "Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices" finds that 42 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are influenced by materials management policies. This includes the impacts from extracting raw materials, food processing, and manufacturing, transporting, and disposing of products. Another 16 to 20 percent of emissions are associated with land management policies. That includes emissions from passenger transportation, construction, and from lost vegetation when greenfields are cleared for development. In addition, the equivalent of 13 percent of U.S. emissions is absorbed by soil and vegetation and can also be protected or enhanced through land management policies.

Some of the materials & land management activities that have the potential to decrease emissions include:

- reducing the use of non-packaging paper products
- increasing municipal recycling, and recycling of construction and demolition debris
- reusing land, including redevelopment of formerly contaminated lands
- reusing formerly contaminated lands for renewable energy development
- encouraging smart growth

The report suggests that land management and materials management approaches should be part of the nation's toolbox to meet the target of an 83 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

More information on the report: www.epa.gov/oswer/publication.htm

Funds Available to Help Promote Recycling & Composting

www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/index.htm

Municipalities and regional programs that need help encouraging their residents to reduce waste by recycling and/or composting are encouraged to apply for special matching funds available through the State Planning Office. Any community or program may apply for up to \$500 to use towards a project that educates on these topics. Information on the Maine Recycles "Toolkit Assistance Fund" can be found at the web site above.

New Member Joins the MRRRA Board of Directors

At the annual meeting of the Maine Resource Recovery Association, held on September 21st, the members elected a new representative to the Board of Directors. David St. Laurent has a B.S. in Environmental Studies and is the Director of Solid Waste for the City of Rockland. The facility includes a C & D landfill, transfer station, recycling program, Universal Waste collection facility & swap shop. Previously Dave was Environmental & Safety Coordinator/Final Assembly Supervisor for Fisher Engineering when Fisher received the Governors Award for Health & Safety; Solid Waste Program Manager/Environmental Specialist at BIW where he implemented a source segregation waste handling process for three manufacturing facilities and four office facilities and earned the Aegis Award from BIW; and a Project Engineer and Microbiologist for Poland Spring Bottling. David brings his knowledge from the public and private sectors to the challenges facing MRRRA. Dave can be reached at 594-0322.

Alison McCrady leaves the Board with Dave's election. Alison, currently the Recycling Coordinator at ecomaine, has served on the MRRRA Board since 1998, and was Vice President from 2002 to 2005 and President from 2005 to 2007. Everyone at MRRRA and beyond owes Alison a sincere thank you for her many contributions over that time. We look forward to Alison's continued participation in MRRRA activities and know she will be a valuable asset to the MRRRA community in the years ahead. Thank you, Alison!

Warning Sign Generator

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Pay-As-You-Throw

www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/tools/payt/index.htm

In communities with pay-as-you-throw programs (also known as pay per bag), residents are charged for the collection of MSW — ordinary household trash — based on the amount they throw away. This creates a direct economic incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste.

Traditionally, residents pay for waste collection through property taxes or a fixed fee, regardless of how much — or how little — trash they generate. Pay-As-You-throw (PAYT) breaks with tradition by treating trash services just like electricity, gas, and other utilities. Households pay a variable rate depending on the amount of service they use.

Most communities with PAYT charge residents a fee for each bag or can of waste they generate. In a small number of communities, residents are billed based on the weight of their trash. Either way, these programs are simple and fair. The less individuals throw away, the less they pay.

EPA supports this new approach to solid waste management because it encompasses three inter-related components that are key to successful community programs:

1. **Environmental Sustainability** - Communities with programs in place have reported significant increases in recycling and reductions in waste, due primarily to the waste reduction incentive created by PAYT. Less waste and more recycling mean that fewer natural resources need to be extracted. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions associated with the manufacture, distribution, use, and subsequent disposal of products are reduced as a result of the increased recycling and waste reduction PAYT encourages. In this way, PAYT helps slow the buildup of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere which leads to global climate change. For more information on the link between solid waste and global climate change, go to EPA's Climate Change Web site.

2. **Economic Sustainability** - PAYT is an effective tool for communities struggling to cope with soaring municipal solid waste management expenses. Well-designed programs generate the revenues communities need to cover their solid waste costs, including the costs of such complementary programs as recycling and composting. Residents benefit, too, because they have the opportunity to take control of their trash bills.

3. **Equity** - One of the most important advantages of a variable-rate program may be its inherent fairness. When the cost of managing trash is hidden in taxes or charged at a flat rate, residents who recycle and prevent waste subsidize their neighbors' wastefulness. Under PAYT, residents pay only for what they throw away.

Recycling Case Studies Available

www.paperrecycles.org/case_study/index.html

The American Forest & Paper Association announced that the U.S. paper recovery rate grew in 2008 from 56 to 57.4 percent last year, but cautioned that the economic downturn caused a sharp decline in paper demand beginning in the fourth quarter of 2008. The long-term effect of the slowdown on recovery rates and recycling will depend on the speed with which the economy rebounds.

AF&PA credited the growth in the 2008 recovery rate to strong global demand for recovered fiber in the first three quarters of 2008, along with a sound recycling infrastructure and the ongoing commitment of millions of Americans.

"Recycling is one of America's great environmental success stories and the paper industry is proud to have played a central role in the significant growth in paper recovery in recent years. It's important that in the wake of the global recession, the resulting decline in paper demand, and the decline in value of recovered paper, that we protect both our infrastructure and personal commitment to recycling so that we are prepared to again meet growing demand as the market rebounds," said AF&PA President and CEO Donna Harman.

Harman pointed to the 2009 AF&PA Recycling Award winners as successful and innovative paper recycling programs. www.paperrecycles.org/case_study/index.html

State Electronics Challenge – Northeast Pilot

www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/

Collectively, state and local governments purchase more than \$35 billion worth of technology equipment annually*, and has the opportunity to provide leadership in the environmentally sound and cost effective management of electronic assets.

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a voluntary program that encourages state, regional, and local governments, including schools and other public entities, to:

- * Purchase greener electronic products.
- * Reduce the impacts of electronic products during use.
- * Manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.

The SEC provides resources to help state, local, and regional government and agencies to become leaders and face the new challenges posed by the electronics waste stream.

The SEC is modeled after the very successful Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC), which was created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

*National Association of Purchasing Officials

Kaisei Returns from the Plastic Vortex

www.care2.com/causes/environment/blog/kaisei-returns-from-the-plastic-vortex/

Project Kaisei, a joint project between Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the nonprofit group The Ocean Voyages Institute has just returned from a month long ocean cruise to study the plastic vortex, aka the great Pacific garbage patch, an area of the ocean with exceptionally high concentrations of suspended plastic and other debris trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre. Some estimate that this patch is the size of Texas. In 2006, UNEP reported that in this area there are up to six pounds of marine litter for every pound of plankton.

According to the project's web site, every year over 260 million tons of plastic are produced, much of it for one-time use. Less than 5% of the world's plastics are recycled. Where does the rest of it go? Well, now we know. What we don't know yet is what happens when the plastic starts to break down. Will it move up the food chain? The team already observed jellyfish nibbling at the plastic debris. As the plastic breaks down further, it will release toxic chemicals. This is an especially challenging issue, since the patch is in international waters, and the result of global garbage dumping.

MRRA has recycling bins & curbside carts for sale.

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

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and color availability @ 942-6772.**



18 gallon bins starting at \$8.00
(minimum quantity: 100)



Wheeled carts in several popular sizes
(minimum quantity: 54)

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

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Please Don't Forget: MAINE RECYCLES WEEK

Each year Maine celebrates Maine Recycles Week from November 8th-15th. Plan your own unique festivities to encourage increased recycling in your community! For more information visit www.state.me.us/spo/recycle/mrw/index.php or contact Bruce White at the State Planning Office (287-8053 or 800-662-4545 or Bruce.White@maine.gov).

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