

# The Scrap Paper

Newsletter of the Maine Resource Recovery Association

March 2008

For more current information see our web site at [mrra.net](http://mrra.net)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 27, MRRA office, Bangor**  
MRRA Grant Development Committee - 10:00 AM  
MRRA Board of Directors Meeting - Noon

**Wednesday, April 23, via conference call**  
MRRA Board of Directors Meeting - 10:00 AM

**Monday & Tuesday, April 28-29, Rockport**  
Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

**Thursday, May 22, SPO, Augusta**  
MRRA Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon

**Thursday, June 26, MRRA office, Bangor**  
MRRA Board of Directors Meeting - Noon

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## RECYCLING MARKETS REPORT

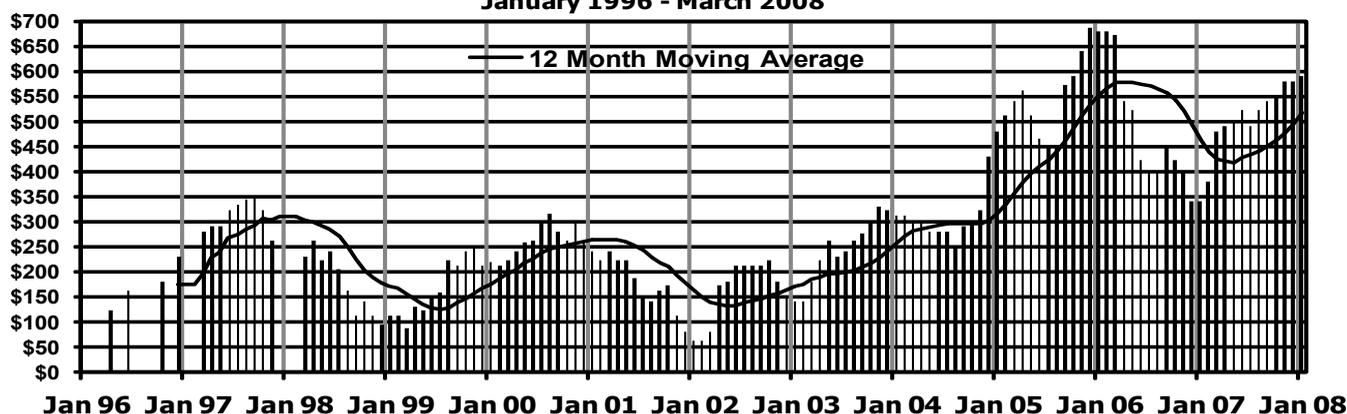
**We leverage our members' tonnage, seeking new markets to get YOU the best prices. How do our prices compare to what you are being offered?**

We have all seen the headlines: Employment situation worse than feared; Construction spending continues retreat; Manufacturing sector worsens; Factory orders fall for first time in five months; Non-manufacturing sector continues struggle; Beige Book reports slowing; Consumer credit debt rises. Despite the grim news, prices have continued to surprise on the upside. How long can it last? Your guess is as good as any! Plastic prices are, at least somewhat, tied to the price of oil so those could remain high, but paper and metal will largely depend on the world economy & China's buying habits.

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

	<b>March '08</b>	Dec '07	March '07
<b>OCC</b>	<b>\$136</b>	\$116	\$146
<b>#8 NEWS</b>	<b>\$126</b>	\$101	\$126
<b>Mixed Paper</b>	<b>\$71-76</b>	\$71-76	\$71-76
<b>SOW</b>	<b>\$231</b>	\$211-221	\$166
<b>HDPE Natural</b>	<b>\$766</b>	\$726	\$601
<b>HDPE Mixed</b>	<b>\$586</b>	\$576	\$476
<b>HDPE Colored</b>	<b>\$546</b>	\$526	\$341
<b>PET (full load)</b>	<b>\$436</b>	\$396	\$336
<b>Tin Cans</b>	<b>\$150-157</b>	\$76-81	\$166-176
<b>Scrap Metal (del.)</b>	<b>\$121</b>	\$81	\$40
<b>Tires (negative)</b>	<b>-\$104</b>	-\$104	-\$104

**#2 HDPE-Mixed Plastic - Highest US \$ per Ton  
January 1996 - March 2008**



## **The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference**

Monday & Tuesday, April 28-29, 2008

Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine

Presented by the

### **Maine Resource Recovery Association**

#### **Conference Sponsors**

Casella Waste Systems  
Interstate Refrigerant Recovery, Inc.  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Maine State Planning Office  
Schnitzer Northeast  
Scotia Recycling Ltd.  
Smorgon Steel Recycling, Inc.  
Uniwaste Services  
Waste Management  
WeRecycle!, Inc.

#### **Conference Highlights**

Addresses by:

Denise Coogan, Manager of Safety & Environmental Compliance, Subaru of Indiana  
Sam Zaitlin, Consultant

A large selection of vendors to visit in the exhibit hall

A variety of training & informational sessions led by:  
Dept. of Labor SafetyWorks!, Dept. of Environmental Protection  
& many other experienced & knowledgeable presenters

A variety of actual & virtual tours of municipal solid waste facilities

Recyclathon Safety Rodeo Competition with prizes

North Shore Comedy Night with 2 Boston comics

Door Prizes

**Registration flyer available at:**

***[http://mrra.net/admin/assets/2008\\_Conference\\_Registration\\_Flyer.pdf](http://mrra.net/admin/assets/2008_Conference_Registration_Flyer.pdf)***

## **Rebates for Recycling Old Thermostats**

A recent Maine law prohibits the disposal of old mercury-containing thermostats. A program has been set up to allow residents to mail the thermostats to a recycling facility and receive a \$5 rebate. The program was instituted by the DEP in cooperation with the Thermostat Recycling Corporation, a not-for-profit corporation founded and operated by thermostat manufacturing companies. This document:

<http://www.nema.org/gov/ehs/trc/upload/HOMEOWNERS-INCENTIVE-Program.pdf>, will provide program details. For more information see this Recycling Today article <http://www.recyclingtoday.com/News/news.asp?Id=12468>, or call the TRC at 800-238-8192.

## **Reduce Junk Mail with 41 Pounds and Congress**

41pounds.org is a nonprofit organization working to eliminate a big personal nuisance and environmental hazard — junk mail. Their name comes from the amount of junk mail the average person receives each year (credit card applications, catalogs, coupon books, etc.) that for the most part goes directly into the trash can or recycling bin. Even with recycling programs all over the country, the majority of household waste is junk mail, and paper takes up about 40% of landfill space! They aim to help you reduce how much you get. Sign up on their web site and they will contact dozens of companies to get you off their mailing lists.

The Center for a New American Dream helps Americans consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice. One of their initiatives is to Tell Congress to Make it Easier for Americans to Opt Out of Junk Mail by creating a Do Not Junk registry similar to the FTC's Do-Not-Call list. You can join the effort at:

<http://www.newdream.org/junkmail/index.php> There is a link on their site with tips to reduce your junk mail now!

## **National Geographic Green Guide to Plastic Containers**

National Geographic's Green Guide has produced an excellent primer on the various plastics used in containers & wraps. Plastic is a widely used material in the United States, and it shows up in everything from toys to clothes to food containers. But not all plastics are created equal. Some plastics can transmit chemicals into your food, while others are perfectly safe.

Before you know which type of plastic container to buy the next time you hit the store, you first need to know how to tell them apart. You can check it out & share it with your residents at:

[http://www.thegreenguide.com/products/Kitchen/Plastic\\_Containers/1](http://www.thegreenguide.com/products/Kitchen/Plastic_Containers/1)

## **EPA Lawn Care Guide Available**

Lawns do more than make your yard look good. Lawns absorb water, which helps reduce storm runoff and improve water quality. Lawns also have a significant cooling effect, provide oxygen, trap dust and dirt, promote healthful micro-organisms, prevent erosion and filter rainwater contaminants. The EPA offers Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment, a 19 page step-by-step guide on how to care for your lawn AND protect the environment. For links to more information also try The Center for a New American Dream.

## **Skills Inc. - E-Waste, Computer Reuse, Computer Donation, Computer Recycling, Electronics Recycling, Asset Recovery**

### **Types of Service**

Computer Recycling, Computer Reuse, Drop Off Service (Waterville location), Pickup Service (New England)

### **Description**

Skills Inc. is now providing computer reuse & recycling services to individuals and businesses throughout Maine. Drop off recycling is an option at our Waterville recycling center, and Pickup Services are offered for businesses (minimum volume applies).

Our unique asset recovery program helps to greatly reduce your e-waste recycling costs by offering a reuse option. These credits are earned for each piece of computer equipment that can be reused and are applied to the recycling costs of your older computer equipment. This method provides an efficient and cost effective way for businesses to offset recycling costs while providing computers for noteworthy social programs such as the PC's for MAINE non-profit computer access & literacy project. Recycling cost savings experienced by participating businesses range from 38 to 85%.

### **Waterville Recycling Center Drop Off Hours:**

Monday – Friday, 8am to 4pm      Closed on State and Federal Holidays

### **Computer Pickup Information:**

Contact: Chris Martin or Carol Gilpatrick at (207) 877-0522 or e-mail: recycle@skillsinc.net

## **MRRA has recycling bins & curbside carts for sale.**

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

**Custom artwork available.**

**Give us a call today for pricing  
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

# Make This Your Last Paper Issue of The Scrap Paper!!

We would like to make this your last hard copy of The Scrap Paper.

Beginning with the next issue, we are offering a new way to receive your newsletter: sent to your e-mail inbox as a .PDF file which is readable with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.

This process will offer several advantages to you & MRRRA including faster delivery, better, full-color pictures & graphics, embedded hyperlinks, easily saveable to your hard drive for future reference and cost savings on printing & postage.

If you would like to stop getting the paper version and start getting the e-mail version, please clearly print your e-mail address below and either fax this page to MRRRA at 207-942-4017 or mail it to MRRRA PO Box 1838 Bangor ME 04402-1838.

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](http://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](mailto:Bruce.White@maine.gov)).

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**15th Annual Maine  
Recycling & Solid Waste Conference  
April 28th & 29th - Details Inside**

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