



The Scrap Paper

Newsletter of the Maine Resource Recovery Association

September 2014

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

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

[MRRA's Annual Meeting & Workshops](#)

October 27th, 2014, Black Bear Inn, Orono, Maine

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

MRRA Board of Directors Meetings

(All members welcome)

Thursday, December 4, 12:00 Noon, TBD, Waterville

RECYCLING MARKETS REPORT

	Sept '14	June '14	Sept '13
OCC	\$90	\$100-105	\$115-120
NEWS #8	\$65	\$65	\$65
Mixed Paper	\$7-29	\$10-30	\$13-37
SOW	\$155	\$165	\$150
HDPE #2 Natural	\$1,000	\$854-894	\$674
HDPE #2 Z (Mixed)	\$514	\$574	\$304
HDPE #2 Colored	\$494	\$414-494	\$294
Plastics #1,3-7 no #2 (depends on weight)	\$44	\$34-64	\$0 - -\$100
PET #1 (UBC-Bottle Bill) (full load)	\$416	\$434	\$454
Tin Cans (picked up - varies w/ freight)	\$190-210	\$174-195	\$150
Scrap Metal (picked up - varies w/ freight)	\$75-175	\$80-170	\$70-145
Tires (negative)	-\$85 - -\$105	-\$65	-\$65
MRRA net avg. paid prior month (picked up)	\$86	\$102	\$103
ecomaine single stream (delivered)	-\$15	-\$10	-\$10

[Old Corrugated Cardboard Prices Continue to Fall](http://waste360.com/old-corrugated-cardboard-occ/old-corrugated-cardboard-prices-continue-fall)

<http://waste360.com/old-corrugated-cardboard-occ/old-corrugated-cardboard-prices-continue-fall>

Average prices for post-consumer Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC, PS-11) continue their gradual monthly price descent.

During the past six months, the OCC paper grade has dropped from a national median average of \$119 per ton as reported in April 2014, to the current average low of \$95 per ton.

[Post-Consumer PET Prices Gradually Dropping](http://waste360.com/research-and-statistics/post-consumer-pet-prices-gradually-dropping)

<http://waste360.com/research-and-statistics/post-consumer-pet-prices-gradually-dropping>

The average price for post-consumer PET has gradually dropped by 27 percent, from an average 21 cents per pound in April of this year, to the current average of 16.5 cents per pound.

These prices are as reported on the Secondary Materials Pricing (SMP) Index. This pricing represents what is being paid for post-consumer recyclable plastic materials in a sorted, baled format, picked up at most major recycling centers.

[Recycled HDPE prices climbing](http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20140822/NEWS/140829971/recycled-hdpe-prices-climbing)

<http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20140822/NEWS/140829971/recycled-hdpe-prices-climbing>

North American selling prices for recycled grades of high density polyethylene resin have increased in recent months because of tight supplies of the material. An average increase of 12 cents per pound is being shown for all grades of recycled HDPE.

One recycling market veteran said that this year's pricing changes — including a 12 cent-per-pound first quarter surge — are the most volatility she's ever seen for the material. "The market dynamic has changed and there's a huge shortage of natural [recycled] HDPE," the buyer said.

Market watchers added that demand for recycled HDPE also has increased as some processors have reduced the amount of recycled polypropylene used in their products.

2014 Annual Business Meeting & Workshop

Monday, October 27th, 2014, Black Bear Inn, Orono

Come and exchange ideas with your peers in the solid waste industry!

[Download the registration brochure here](#) or call 942-6772 to have one faxed to you.

8:00 - 9:00	Registration & Light Continental Breakfast Buffet	
9:00 - 10:15	<p>Safety: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly</p> <p>The SafetyWorks! program of the Maine Department of Labor will show what they DO and DON'T want to see when they inspect your facilities. See what NOT to do so you can avoid fines and penalties.</p>	<p>Disaster Debris: You Need to Have a Plan</p> <p>Some recent events have cost towns immensely. To qualify for FEMA aid you MUST have a plan BEFORE disaster hits. DEP and the Maine Emergency Management Agency will give you the details on what you need to do.</p>
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 - 11:45	<p>Recognizing Hazards in the Waste Stream: Protecting the Public, Your Staff and the Environment</p> <p>Household hazardous waste, meth lab & pool chemicals, sharps/needles all pose serious health risks. Maine DOL SafetyWorks! and a hazardous waste company representative will explain what to look for and how to respond.</p>	<p>Working with Your Neighbors to Save \$\$\$</p> <p>Regional cooperation can reduce costs through increased efficiencies of scale. Learn about several programs that have been used and demonstrate how to save taxpayer dollars.</p>
11:45 - 12:15	Annual Business Meeting & MRRA's Strategic Planning Update	
12:15 - 1:00	Luncheon Buffet	
1:00 - 1:15	An MRRA Mission: Informing Legislators on Solid Waste Issues	
1:15 - 1:45	<p>Why Focus on Organics?</p> <p>Organic material makes up a very large percentage of the waste stream. Hear why the EPA, DEP and others are putting a major emphasis on reducing this portion of our waste.</p>	
1:45 - 2:00	Dessert	
2:00-3:00	<p>Tour a Compost Operation</p> <p>The city of Bangor composts leaf and yard waste while the University of Maine in Orono composts a variety of materials including food waste. Choose one to visit and see what they have to offer us on how we can best manage these wastes.</p>	

REMINDER:**MRRRA Partners with MMA to Represent Municipal Interests at the State Level**

During this past legislative session, there was extensive discussion before the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (“Committee”) regarding L.D. 1483. As originally proposed this bill would have implemented a fee on landfill disposal, with those funds then used to subsidize the waste-to-energy incinerators. MRRRA offered testimony in opposition to this bill, as did the Maine Municipal Association (“MMA”) and many others. Eventually, the Committee passed a significantly amended L.D. 1483, which directed the Maine DEP to incorporate the waste management hierarchy into the standards for licensing solid waste disposal facilities. The rule-making process to do so has not yet begun. Throughout the L.D. 1483 debate, it became evident that the Committee is intent on evaluating and updating Maine’s solid waste management policies. The waste management hierarchy, the 50% recycling goal, the future of waste-to-energy facilities, and the role of the State-owned landfill were of significant interest. It is extremely likely that the debate will be continued in the next legislative session. Recognizing that each of these topics has the potential to greatly affect municipal programs and budgets, MRRRA has taken a leadership role in representing the interests of its municipal members by partnering with the MMA to facilitate municipal involvement in the discussion. In fact, at MRRRA’s recent annual solid waste and recycling conference, the House Co-Chair of the Committee, Representative Joan Welsh, challenged municipalities to become involved in the process and to bring forth recommendations to the Committee. To that end, the MRRRA and MMA are co-hosting two sessions at the MMA Annual Convention in October, with the intent of informing municipal leaders of these recent and anticipated legislative activities and also to facilitate forming recommendations for the Committee. As a precursor to the Conference, the MMA, with assistance from the MRRRA Board of Directors, has developed a survey that was recently sent to all municipalities. The purpose of the survey is to solicit input on solid waste management in each community, and to help inform state-level discussions in 2015. Please make sure that the policy makers in your community with the most knowledge of local solid waste management services complete and return the survey questionnaire.

It is imperative that municipalities become involved and that the concerns and suggestions of their citizens and leaders be heard. Solid waste management costs are a huge component of most municipal budgets, and state-level changes in policy have the potential to directly impact those costs – negatively or positively. As noted, there are several opportunities to become involved:

Schedule of Coming Events:

October 1st, 10:30 – 11:45 am, MMA Convention: Augusta Civic Center: The Future of Solid Waste in Maine
Over the last two years the Legislature has examined how best to address a significant financial issue facing Maine’s waste-to-energy facilities due to expiring federal electricity subsidies, while also assessing Maine’s overall solid waste management plan. The enacted legislation, LD 1483, directed Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate rules in support of Maine’s Solid Waste Hierarchy. The new law was widely viewed as a step in the right direction but also a step short of plugging the looming financial gap. The Legislature is expected to revisit this issue in 2015, and input from municipal officials is being sought. To that end this panel will review the results of a 2014 solid waste survey co-designed by MMA and MRRRA.

October 1st, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., MMA Convention: Augusta Civic Center: Have Your Say: Improving State Support for Municipal Solid Waste Management

MRRRA will facilitate this session to solicit your ideas and formulate municipal input for the 127th Legislature as they consider changes to the State’s solid waste policies & laws. These changes will happen with or without municipal input, and it is MRRRA’s goal to identify changes that would benefit municipal programs by enhancing recycling programs and reducing cost.

MRRRA welcomes and encourages your interest and involvement in this process.

News & Notes

Please click on the headlines or copy the links to read the full articles from their original sources.



[America Recycles Day \(November 15th\) Toolkit](http://americarecyclesday.org/toolkit)

<http://americarecyclesday.org/toolkit>

America Recycles Day, a program of Keep America Beautiful, is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Every year on or around November 15 (America Recycles Day) event organizers like you, educate neighbors, friends and colleagues through thousands of events. Keep America Beautiful created these “Go-to-Guides” to make it easy to organize your local event. Included in these turnkey materials are customizable templates including posters, media materials and proclamations and activities you can use to promote recycling awareness, commitment and action in your community.

[Model Food Scrap Composting](http://nerc.org/news-and-updates/blog/nerc-blog/2014/09/16/model-food-scrap-composting)

<http://nerc.org/news-and-updates/blog/nerc-blog/2014/09/16/model-food-scrap-composting>

The Franklin County Solid Waste District (FCSWMD) is comprised of twenty-two member towns in western Massachusetts. The District provides technical assistance for organics composting at schools and special events. Fourteen schools in the District compost their kitchen and cafeteria food scraps. Organics are collected in a dumpster and hauled by Triple T Trucking to Martin’s Farm in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

The District also manages four municipal organics drop-off programs at transfer stations in Whately, Northfield, New Salem, and Orange. Food scraps and soiled paper are collected in each of the towns. All four towns have volume-based rate – pay as you throw (“PAYT”) trash disposal, with free organics disposal for residents.

[Businesses find cash in composting organic trash](http://www.jsonline.com/business/businesses-find-cash-in-composting-organic-trash-b99342997z1-275031721.html)

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/businesses-find-cash-in-composting-organic-trash-b99342997z1-275031721.html>

It may not be high-profit, but it’s “extremely viable,” she said of her early reading on the prospects for forging a business out of offering restaurants and grocery stores special pickup of organic waste that otherwise would be headed for the landfill.

Launched earlier this year, her company, Compost Crusader LLC, has lined up seven customers so far without doing much in the way of marketing. The early clients were enough to generate nearly 25,000 pounds of waste in August that Tashjian trucked to a Racine County composting operation.

“I would like to be able to see a hundred businesses on board by the end of next year,” she said.

[ISRI opposes one-bin collection programs](http://www.recyclingtoday.com/isri-one-bin-opposition.aspx)

<http://www.recyclingtoday.com/isri-one-bin-opposition.aspx>

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) has adopted a policy that supports separating recyclables from waste prior to collection as opposed to commingled or one-bin collection. Sorting before collection ensures that recyclable materials, particularly paper, are not unnecessarily contaminated and degraded, the association for the recycling industry says.

“One-bin collection jeopardizes the quality of recyclables by mixing them with liquids, food, chemicals and other waste, thereby lowering, and in many cases all-together destroying, their value,” says Robin Wiener, president of ISRI. “Materials that are all together destroyed will be diverted to landfills or incinerators, lowering recycling rates and damaging the environment.” She adds, “Simply put, one-bin collection is not good for recycling.”

The ISRI policy states: “ISRI supports the collection and sortation of recyclable materials in a manner that optimizes the value and utilization of the material as specification-grade commodities to be used as feedstock to manufacture new products.

“Since the quality of the recyclables as specification grade commodities is essential, ISRI opposes the commingling of recyclables with solid waste or mixed waste processing in one-bin system where all solid waste and recyclables are placed together with no separation prior to recycling.”

[When Recycling Becomes a Dirty Business](http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/08/26/when-recycling-gets-messy)

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/08/26/when-recycling-gets-messy>

Cities across the United States are making recycling a lot simpler for their residents. Put all your paper, glass, metal cans, and plastic bottles into one bin and set it out at the curb, and a truck comes to pick up your mixed recyclables. No need for multiple bins in your garage to sort out glass from cans from paper: Somebody else does the work for you at the other end of the line.

It's called “single-stream” recycling collection. Not only is it convenient; it makes collecting recyclables cheaper. But there's a catch, a rather big one: A surprising proportion of your recyclables ends up in the landfill anyway.

[Cascades to Cease Kraft Paper Operations in East Angus, Quebec](http://www.paperage.com/2014news/07_09_2014cascades_east_angus_closure.html)

http://www.paperage.com/2014news/07_09_2014cascades_east_angus_closure.html

Cascades Inc. announced that it will cease its Kraft paper manufacturing activities in the East Angus (Quebec, Canada) plant because of unfavourable market conditions and the failure of discussions concerning the plant's transfer and turn-around.

Close to 175 employees will be affected by the closure, which will come into effect by October 3, 2014.

By closing the plant, Cascades is withdrawing from the Kraft paper sector definitively.

[Connecticut board mill to close](http://www.recyclingtoday.com/fusion-paperboard-closing-Versailles-Connecticut-mill.aspx)

<http://www.recyclingtoday.com/fusion-paperboard-closing-Versailles-Connecticut-mill.aspx>

Fusion Paperboard, Versailles, Connecticut, has informed 145 workers at its recycled-content paperboard mill in nearby Sprague, Connecticut, that it intends to close the mill in September 2014. Approximately 130,000 tons of used boxes from recycling centers, stores and distribution centers in the New England were used each year to convert into coated recycled boxboard.

[Non-recyclable items gumming up the works at recycling centers](http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20140821/NEWS/140829978/non-recyclable-items-gumming-up-the-works-at-recycling-centers)

<http://www.plasticsnews.com/article/20140821/NEWS/140829978/non-recyclable-items-gumming-up-the-works-at-recycling-centers>

ReCommunity is not a big fan of old garden hoses. And the recycling company is not too fond of plastic grocery bags, dirty diapers and needles that can't be handled at its materials recovery facilities.

The influx of all sorts of unacceptable items at the company's MRFs has gotten to the point that the Charlotte, N.C.-based firm is trying to bring added attention to the problem.

And ReCommunity is warning that there's a higher cost of handling all of this unwanted material — a cost that could end up hitting customers in the pocketbook.

[Contamination Challenges](http://waste360.com/single-stream/contamination-challenges)

<http://waste360.com/single-stream/contamination-challenges>

The ultimate goal of recycling is minimizing the need for raw resources in the production of products. Reductions in the mining of raw materials and the production of virgin products often result in substantial energy and emissions savings—as well as cost savings from avoided environmental compliance practices.

Global markets readily gobble up recovered commodities for the manufacturing of new products. Often manufacturers look to recovered materials for cost savings, marketability of an eco-product or to meet emissions compliance requirements. In the late 1990s, the growing number of markets for recovered commodities was reinforced with new opportunities to reduce collection costs and the industry's desire to increase recovery efficiencies, resulting in the single-stream collection strategy for recyclables.

However, challenges remain for single-stream collection, which initially received impetus from the notion that heightened convenience would directly result in greater participation curbside. The challenges relate primarily to 1) a lack of consideration in the design of materials that are destined to be discards, such as packaging materials and containers, and 2) the issue of contamination that occurs as a part of recycling collection activities. Recycling contaminants are generally defined as unrecyclable materials that must be separated from recyclable materials or problematic materials, such as plastic films and broken glass, which jam equipment or create excessive wear and tear at material recovery facilities.

[Do I Still Need to Rinse Recyclables?](http://www.care2.com/causes/do-i-still-need-to-rinse-recyclables.html)

<http://www.care2.com/causes/do-i-still-need-to-rinse-recyclables.html>

We all know it's important to recycle and not toss things into the trash or the environment, but how carefully do we need to rinse containers before sending them on their way to the recycling center? Some argue that recycling is a total waste of water when you factor in the amount people are using to get their cans, bottles, and jars squeaky-clean, while others claim containers don't need to be rinsed at all, and some say that the reality lies in the middle ground.

The real answer is that the rinsing requirements can vary depending on where you are but the bottom line is this: Yes, you still need to rinse recyclables. However, you can do it in an energy-efficient way.

Here's why recyclers ask you to rinse:

[Discard Studies...exploring throw-away culture](http://discardstudies.com/) <http://discardstudies.com/>

[Modern Waste is an Economic Strategy](http://discardstudies.com/2014/07/09/modern-waste-is-an-economic-strategy/)

<http://discardstudies.com/2014/07/09/modern-waste-is-an-economic-strategy/>

Modern waste is fundamentally different from its predecessors. From the turn of the twentieth century and into the 1950s, first in the United States, then elsewhere, waste began to increase in tonnage, gain in toxicity, and become more heterogeneous (MacBride 2012: 174). It also started to play a pivotal role as an industrial strategy for growth and profit. About ninety-seven percent of waste produced in the US today is industrial solid waste (ISW) produced during processes such as mining and mass agriculture. The remaining three percent is what we usually think of when we think of garbage: municipal solid waste (MSW) (EPA 1999; MacBride 2012: 87-88). While this split is crucial for shifting attention to the scalar dynamics of waste, I want to argue that when municipal solid waste—that which you and I throw away—is considered within its material, economic and historical context, it too can be categorized as industrial solid waste.

[DEA Publishes Final Rule Expanding Pharmaceutical Waste Collection](http://waste360.com/medical-waste/dea-publishes-final-rule-expanding-pharmaceutical-waste-collection)

<http://waste360.com/medical-waste/dea-publishes-final-rule-expanding-pharmaceutical-waste-collection>

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has published a [new rule](https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2014-20926.pdf) <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2014-20926.pdf> expanding pharmaceutical waste collection options for disposal.

The Washington-based agency's rule implements the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which authorizes the DEA to develop and enact regulations that outline methods to transfer unused pharmaceutical controlled substances to authorized collectors for disposal. The act also permits long-term-care facilities to do the same on behalf of residents or former residents of their facilities. The final rule will take effect Oct. 9. The act aims to curtail prescription drug abuse.

The Boston-based Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) supports the rule, which it said in a news release will allow retail pharmacies, manufacturers, drug distributors, reverse distributors, narcotic treatment programs and hospitals/clinics with an on-site pharmacy to volunteer to collect medications like Vicodin, Oxycontin, and Percocet.

[Boxes, boxboard, paperboard, folding cartons, cardboard: whatever you call it, we have them covered](http://blog.solidwastemag.com/boxes-boxboard-paperboard-folding-cartons-cardboard-whatever-you-call-it-we-have-them-covered/)

<http://blog.solidwastemag.com/boxes-boxboard-paperboard-folding-cartons-cardboard-whatever-you-call-it-we-have-them-covered/>

The Paper & Paperboard Packaging Environmental Council (PPEC) (Canada) launched a new website on the environmental attributes of paper boxes, but did they have a time before settling on what exactly to call it. You wouldn't think there could be so many different names for what basically is a similar type of packaging material, but it's a fact. There's boxes, boxboard, paperboard, cartons, and these are just some of the terms used by industry folk. Throw in the general, more public catch-all phrase of cardboard, and you can see why people get totally confused ([What do you mean "cardboard" doesn't exist?](http://www.ppec-paper.com/what-do-you-mean-cardboard-doesnt-exist-2/)). <http://www.ppec-paper.com/what-do-you-mean-cardboard-doesnt-exist-2/> The aim is to provide customers and consumers with easy access to the most accurate, concise and current environmental information possible.

[COFFEE TALK: Why I'm disappointed in TerraCycle](http://blog.solidwastemag.com/coffee-talk-why-im-disappointed-in-terracycle/)

<http://blog.solidwastemag.com/coffee-talk-why-im-disappointed-in-terracycle/>

So-called products of convenience are the perfect opportunity for a sustainability outfit like TerraCycle to take a stand against companies like Keurig or Tassimo—two of the leading coffee pod makers—instead of accommodating unsustainability. It isn't going to help anyone—let alone the planet—if TerraCycle and the public keep finding ways to merely accommodate wasteful consumer products instead of deciding to not support them at all.

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 \$8.50

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.