



The Scrap Paper

Newsletter of the Maine Resource Recovery Association

December 2012

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MRRRA Board of Directors Meetings

(All members welcome)

Thursday, January 24th, 10:00 to Noon, via conference call

Thursday, February 28th, 1:00 PM, Bangor Public Works conference room

Thursday, March 28th, Noon, MMA, Augusta

20th Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

April 29th & 30th, 2013, Samoset Resort, Rockport, 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

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RECYCLING MARKETS REPORT

We leverage your tonnage to get YOU the best prices. How do our prices compare?

Despite continued economic sluggishness keeping down demand pricing has been quite resilient. Weak demand usually means lower prices. In stead we are seeing demand dry up significantly. Prices are good but buying is down to a dribble for many grades. Mills are becoming extremely selective and picky about quality. A pending east coast port strike could further dampen prices by eliminating export volumes for a while and has already depressed export demand on fears of gridlock.

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

	Dec '12	Sept '12	Dec '11
OCC	\$100	\$90	\$120
NEWS #8	\$65	\$50	\$80
Mixed Paper	\$50	\$10	\$55
SOW	\$170	\$175	\$145
HDPE #2 Natural	\$404	\$554	\$614
HDPE #2 Z (Mixed)	\$244	\$469	\$414
HDPE #2 Colored	\$216	\$434	\$414
Plastics #1,3-7 no #2	-\$10	\$94	NA
PET #1 (full load of UBC quality)	\$416	\$394	\$594
Tin Cans (p/u - varies w/ freight)	\$158	\$206	\$230-\$255
Scrap Metal (p/u - varies w/ freight)	\$90-\$170	\$95-\$162	\$115-\$180
Tires (negative)	-\$65	-\$65	-\$65
MRRA net avg. paid (prior month-picked up)	\$119	\$112	\$131
Single stream (delivered to Portland)	-\$5	-\$15	\$0

A Word to the Wise

The current market situation is unique in the 20+ years of the Coop's existence. Many factors are coming together as we have never seen them before. This makes predicting pricing and/or demand quite difficult:

- Mills normally take down time for maintenance or market adjustments around the holidays;
- Holiday demand is over but, to offset that, generation will soon drop off as holiday buying ends;
- A looming east coast port strike comes on the heels of a brief west coast port strike worrying exporters;
- The US "fiscal cliff" poses a potentially large tax increase on all Americans, reducing spending.

Export buyers are not buying for fear of containers sitting at the port incurring high storage fees and domestic mills have cut their buying and are turning away tonnage they were accepting before if they have experienced, or even suspect, relatively low levels of contamination. When they don't need much and are not competing with China they can be selective. For example, if you have boxboard in your OCC they may not want it at ANY price! They are asking for pictures and REFUSING loads if they see ANY boxboard!!!

If the fiscal cliff is avoided and if the port strike is short or doesn't happen things may settle down. The only thing you can control right now is the quality of your bales.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness!

This was true when the Maine Waste Management Agency stressed it 20 years ago and it is more so today!
Make clean bales and you will always be in demand. Make dirty bales and you may go begging.

Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Awards

To Be Presented At The Dinner Reception at the
Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference on Monday April 29, 2013

Deadline for Nominations: Postmarked or faxed by: Friday, February 22, 2013

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 State Electronics Challenge

The State Electronics Challenge (SEC) is a free, voluntary program that harnesses the purchasing power and resources of the public sector to change the way office equipment is designed, used and disposed of. The program supports and recognizes an agency's efforts to buy office equipment that meets ENERGY STAR and EPEAT requirements. SEC partners enjoy cost savings, as well as tangible environmental benefits—energy conservation, greenhouse gas avoidance, and reductions in solid and hazardous waste.

Any state and local government agency, tribal government, school, college, university, or other public or non-profit entity can be an SEC Partner. SEC Partners focus on one or more of the three phases of the office equipment lifecycle:

- Buying or leasing equipment that meets EPEAT requirements (which include ENERGY STAR);
- Using equipment efficiently, reducing paper and energy use and extending the life of the equipment; and
- Recycling unwanted equipment responsibly using certified electronics recyclers.

Joining provides access to SEC support and implementation tools and technical assistance, including:

- Answers to key questions to help you prepare to speak with vendors and others in your organization;
- Model policies, procurement language, operating procedures, and manuals;
- Examples of similar agencies and organizations that already SEC partners;
- Partner-only webinars on emerging issues;
- Tools to help track efforts and document impacts particularly highlighting sustainability indicators like energy use, GHG avoidance, toxics use reduction, and recycled content; and
- Sustainability Reports documenting material, energy and cost savings to support agency sustainability goals.

The SEC also provides awards and recognition to partners with exemplary programs. Partners that have targeted one lifecycle phase are eligible for Bronze Awards. A commitment to address two lifecycle phases is required for Silver Awards. Entities that address all three lifecycle phases are eligible for Gold Awards. SEC Awards and Sustainability Reports can be helpful in raising the profile of an organization's efforts and justifying the resources invested in environmentally preferable purchasing programs.

To learn more, including the next SEC introductory webinar, visit the SEC website

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 MRRA, 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 **\$46.00...a retail value of \$120**, kitchen pails for **\$8.00**, a wingdigger compost turner for **\$17.00** and a rain barrel for **\$62.00, retailing for over \$130**. Back again this year a handy thermometer priced right at **\$19.00** so they can monitor compost temperature.



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

For more information or a participation packet, contact Victor Horton at (207-942-6772) or email victor.horton@mrra.net. Forms will also be available for download at www.mrra.net by February 2013.

The sale runs from Feb. 1, 2013 to April 20, 2013 with orders and payment due by April 24, 2013.

Deliveries will be made by **May 22, 2013**.

Early bird orders will be accepted until **March 28, 2013** for delivery by April 24, 2013.

Sign up today – participation forms available at mrra.net

News & Notes

2013 Product Stewardship Report and Comments

DEP has completed its third report, [Implementing Product Stewardship in Maine](#) (pdf format), published pursuant to 38 MRSA § 1772. The department will accept comments on this report until 5:00 pm on January 14, 2013. The report and comments will be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on January 15, 2013.

To submit a comment or for further information contact:

George MacDonald
Maine DEP, Division of Sustainability
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Safe Medicine Disposal for ME Program

Providing Maine residents with a safe option for disposal of unused and expired medicine.

Please note, the Safe Medicine Disposal for ME Program has ended. However, there are law enforcement agencies in Maine that accept unused and unwanted medicines for disposal: Please click [here](#) for a link to a Google Map of law enforcement agencies in Maine that accept unused medicines for disposal. (These sites do not distribute disposal envelopes.)

WANT MORE INFORMATION? Call the Safe Medicine Disposal for ME Program Helpline at: 1-866-637-9743 or e-mail info@safemeddisposal.com

Report Finds Quality Problems with MRF-Generated Recyclables

While this report pertains to the UK it is probably relevant to the US as well. The Resource Association, an advocacy organization for the reprocessing and recycling industries, has released a report that finds that the poor quality of the recyclables processed by Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the United Kingdom has resulted in increased costs for reprocessors and manufacturers. The findings of the report will be submitted to various U.K. government agencies as part of the on-going policy discussion about delivering high quality recycling. To view the full report click [here](#)



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

National Green Week is an annual event of the Green Education Foundation (GEF). It empowers schools to engage in sustainability focused lessons, projects or activities between February 4 and the end of Earth Month (April). Participating districts, schools, classrooms or youth groups choose a week, then select from GEF's sustainability focused programs to be their 'green theme.' Each theme provides 5 day standards-based lesson sets, activities, recommended reading, sustainability tips, contests, and more!

This year, National Green Week kicks off February 4-8 but you can choose any week from Feb. 4 through April 30 to participate.

Participate for the whole week, a day, or just one lesson or activity. Schools and groups are encouraged to take this opportunity to spend time with students discussing sustainability topics and exploring ways they can make a difference.

Join the Movement, Make a Difference. GEF is giving away hundreds of prizes! Sign up by February 1 to be entered to win! All signed up? You're ready to plan your Green Week! [Get the Start Up Kit!](#)

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

Profiles in Garbage: Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) #1

Polyethylene terephthalate is a plastic resin used to make bottles for beverages, food, and other household and consumer products. PET is a relatively new packaging resin. The PET bottle was patented in 1973. Four years later, the first PET bottle was recycled. For more information please go to [Waste Age Magazine](#)