

Presentation

(1) History

Thanks to Jessica Haviland and the Maine Resource Recovery Association for inviting me here today
Giving me the chance to talk about our Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee

(2)

Brunswick History is a History of landfills, like most communities
Had them since 16th century (note the shell middens all along the coast)
Landfill no longer compliant with state laws by 1983
State wants to close it then
Secure landfill created in 1984
Also a Brush Dump, or "Inert Landfill" -- No trash there. The young lady in the picture here has evidently just learned what "Inert Landfill" means!
Finally closed and secured in 2021
Collect gasses and flare them
1/28 the impact of Methane

(3)

Recycling began in 1980
Save space in the landfill and stave off closure
Collect clear glass and mixed paper at the curb
Other things encouraged -- especially cardboard & Colored glass
Take them to Pub Works and sort them
Sort into separate bins
Only curbside recycling until 1989

(4)

Original Solid Waste Advisory Committee also formed in 1980
It was felt that there was too little community support for recycling
14 members appointed by Town Council
Looked at all areas of solid waste management
Decisions and recommendations based on solid waste hierarchy with which we're all familiar
Hierarchy now forms basis of State Law passed 1989

(5)

SWAC Advisory Only (Still Is)
We have no direct implementation role of any sort
Successfully pressed for Mandatory Recycling in 1989
Again arguing to save Space at the landfill
Putting off closure would save money
First with Blue Bins for collection (Nov 1989)
Town Bought 6,000 of them, & I Still have mine
Made it easier to recycle

Brought Peer pressure to those who didn't

- (6) SWAC Reconstituted about 5 years ago as R&S
 - Same Goals
 - Same Advisory Role
 - First order of business involved cost of Solid Waste Mgmt
 - Endless Projects to Consider

- (7) Current iteration of the R&S Committee
 - Nine Volunteer Taxpayer Members, 1 H.S, 1 Bowdoin
 - Chosen & appointed by Town Council for 3 year terms
 - Very slow process
 - Pub Works Dir and two Councilors ex-officio
 - Include H.S. and Bowdoin Students as Stakeholders
 - Not very successful
 - Different agendas
 - They come and go frequently
 - Takes too long to replace them

- (8) Glass costs
 - Two years ago, we Stopped recycling glass
 - Work to move processing to ecomaine
 - There, the glass actually gets recycled, and we'll pay only once

- (9) Four Subcommittees, but currently considering name changes due to changing needs and roles
 - Implementation -- with move to ecomaine nearly assured, their role will change, not sure to what
 - Organics -- movement to change to Recycling, because
 - Organics is part of recycling, not the other way around
 - Solar Energy -- too restrictive
 - Public Education -- stays the same

- (10) Implementation
 - Goal here was to Coordinate the move to ecomaine
 - Have some industry experts on the committee
 - Used a WARM Model that analyses all aspects of dollar and environmental costs and savings
 - Show significant savings when include dollar and CO2e reductions by moving to ecomaine

- (11) Organics
Developed a Three-pronged Organics Recycling (Composting) program
Backyard Composting (need equipment)
Fee Based Curbside Pickup by Garbage to Garden
Free Drop Off points (for others)
Maine DEP grant for Intern
We'll use the grant to Promote and educate about the three-pronged program
Half priced backyard composters
Low, or no cost kitchen waste collectors
Expanded drop off locations
Our intern will also be doing Lectures, working with social media, and staffing information tables at public events.
Allowed to discuss Organics Only under the grant, but hope to leverage some of that for other aspects of our R & S
- (12) Solar energy (depositphotos_3857894-stock-photo-renewable-energy)
Being expanded to all alternative energies, but Chair is a solar guy, so we started there
Sold the town on signing a 20 year solar farm deal
Concerns about new stuff coming along in the next 20 years
Don't know what that will be
Too little acreage to do all solar
- (13) Public Education
I Chair That One
No Town support here
No access to Town Website or email system
Weekly column the most successful
Successful course at MSC
Little success with social media
Messages need to be too short
- (14) In the end, the R&S Committee did get the Council to finally demand action from the TM and Move to eomaine
Did it in three ways
Solid research by the Implementation Subcommittee (picture)
Solid reporting of the economics involved
Strong email campaign through local contacts
Able to overwhelm the Town Council and Town Manager with email by tapping our networks of local Citizen Contacts
Took a full year
Not signed yet
Supposed to start July 1, 2022
Swap program

(15) Final Message

Everybody remember this from your grandmother?
It talks directly to the first element on the Hierarchy
It covers our real message nicely!