

29th Annual Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference & Trade Show

The Samoset Resort  *Rockport, ME*

April 29 - 30, 2024



**Sustainable
Materials Management
Works for ME!!**

2024 Registration Packet

Maine  **Resource
Recovery Association**

mrra.net

Sustainable Materials Management works for ME!!

For over two decades, **Maine Resource Recovery Association** has brought you Maine's only integrated conference for the Recycling & Solid Waste Management Industry. This year's 29th annual conference will be held in Rockport, Maine at The Samoset Resort on **April 29-30, 2024, with vendor set-up and a Vendor Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, April 28th.** If you'd like to join us for dinner on Sunday, please mark it on the form.

We invite you to network with 200+ private and public-sector leaders and decision makers from:

- Recycling Centers, Transfer Stations, Organics Processors, Landfills and Incinerators
- State, City and Town governments
- Business and Industry

Thank you to our Top Level Sponsors!



ecomaine



**Natural Resources
Council of Maine**



**The Association of
Plastic Recyclers**



In Cooperation With:

AVCOG, ecomaine, Maine DEP, NRCM, SafetyWorks!, UMaine, Ferg Lea, Ross Nason, & Becky Secret



Keynote Speakers

Melanie Loyzim-Commissioner – Maine DEP



Melanie Loyzim is the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP). She has been with the agency since 2006, and has served in a variety of roles including underground tank inspector, air toxics and emissions inventory program manager, director of Bureau of Air Quality and the Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management and most recently as deputy commissioner. Prior to her tenure at Maine DEP, she worked for Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment in their emissions inventory program and as a rule writer.

Edward Humes-Author & Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist

Edward Humes is a journalist and author of 17 books, including *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair With Trash*, *The Forever Witness*, *Eco Barons*, and the PEN Award-winning *No Matter How Loud I Shout: A Year in the Life of Juvenile Court*. He received the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the military. Ed and his family, including two rescued racing greyhounds and their collie, live in Southern California. More at www.edwardhumes.com



Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Awards Banquet

Monday, April 29th 6pm

Nominations for 2024's awards are being accepted now!

- **Volunteer of the Year**
- **Business Recycler of the Year**
(not a recycling business!)
- **Most Improved Program**
- **Program of the Year**
- **Manager of the Year**
- **Composter of the Year**
- **Operator of the Year**
- **Hauler of the Year**
- **Distinguished Service Award**

Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference Agenda at a Glance

Monday, April 29 ****Times Subject to minor changes****

7:30a – 9:00a: Registration and Breakfast Buffet

8:30a: Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45a: Plenary Keynote - Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner– MaineDEP: Gain insights as Melanie provides an encompassing perspective on the future of solid waste management in Maine over the next five years.

9:15a - 10:15a: Coffee Break/Exhibit Hall

10:20a: Plenary Keynote Panel– The History of Solid Waste in Maine: This panel will explore the trajectory of solid waste practices in the state of Maine, tracing the journey from open burning dumps to the formulation and execution of policies. Delve into the transformative impact of technological advancements in this comprehensive examination of Maine’s solid waste history.

11:30a - 12:00a: Exhibit Hall

12:00p - 1:00p: Luncheon Buffet, Sponsor Recognition & Exhibit Hall

1:05p - 2:15p Concurrent Sessions

Sponsor Session: Stay informed with updates from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on key aspects such as the Solid Waste Management plan, Bottle Bill, Food Waste, and address any additional questions or concerns you may have.

Round Table Discussions: Engage in insightful conversations with your peers during this session, focusing on sharing Best Practices and exploring Efficiency strategies for your transfer stations.

SafetyWorks! Training: This course, presented by the Department of Labor SafetyWorks! program, will focus on Fall Protection Training.

2:15p - 3:15p: Break/Exhibit Hall

3:20p - 4:35p Concurrent Sessions

Greenwashing & truth in labeling: Explore the impact of labeling and greenwashing on waste disposal in this informative session. Join us to delve into the nuances of how these practices influence the management of waste.

Diversion Strategies for Problematic Materials: Join this session to explore existing programs and sustainable solutions addressing problematic materials. Gain insights into the management of E-waste, Freon, tires, Propane tanks, and Hazardous waste.

SafetyWorks! Training: This course, presented by the Department of Labor SafetyWorks! program, will focus on Machine Guarding.

The Evolution of Landfills: Join us in this session to examine the progression and transformation of landfills throughout the years. Explore developments and advancements that have shaped the evolution of landfill practices.

4:35p - 6:00p : Reception and Belt Sander Races

6:00p - 7:00p : Awards Banquet

7:00p - 10:00p : Entertainment– Trivia Night

Tuesday, April 30 **Times Subject to minor changes**

7:30a - 9:00a: Registration and Breakfast Buffet

8:30a - 9:00a: Plenary Keynote: Edward Humes, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and Journalist. How is it possible that we waste 40% of our food, 67% of energy, and 80% of our gasoline, and think that's normal, when we think about it at all? How has plastic waste become so pervasive it's become an unintended food group? Edward Humes' new book, *Total Garbage: How We Can Fix Our Waste and Heal Our World*, is a surprisingly hopeful narrative about the most wasteful civilization in history—ours—and the communities, campuses, businesses and game changers across the country tackling waste and the environmental catastrophes it drives. Humes will be in conversation with Sarah Nichols of CLYNK! (formerly of NRCM).

9:05a - 10:15a Concurrent Sessions

Circular Solutions for textiles and clothing: Participate in this session to gain insights into the impact of fast fashion on waste management and the quality of donations to second-hand stores. Discover local solutions addressing these challenges and fostering a more sustainable approach to textiles and clothing.

Batteries– Challenges and Solutions: Learn the fate of batteries during the recycling process in this session. Explore the challenges batteries pose in recycling centers, transfer stations, and landfills, including concerns about fire prevention. Join us to investigate potential solutions and strategies to better address these issues.

DEP Reporting Training : Join this informative session to receive training on Annual Transfer Station Reporting and Data Collection, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the reporting process.

Sponsor Session: Join us as NRCM discusses Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and its comprehensive implications in this informative session.

10:15a - 11:05a: Coffee Break/Exhibit Hall

11:10a - 12:15p Concurrent Sessions

Ocean Plastics: Unveiling the Lesser-Recognized Impacts and Local Solutions: Delve into the often-overlooked consequences of ocean plastics and explore community-driven solutions in this session.

DEP Operator Core Training #3: Hazardous Waste and Special Waste. This class is open to all municipal transfer station operators, town managers, and others who are interested. We will discuss how to identify and manage hazardous and special wastes, including household hazardous wastes, lead and asbestos, and universal wastes. Requirements for Exclusion Plans and the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule will also be covered. *You must attend both sessions to complete certification.*

Financing solutions: Explore strategies for financing facility repairs and equipment needs in this session, providing valuable insights for effective financial planning.

12:15p - 1:00p: Luncheon Buffet and Exhibit Hall

1:00p - 3:00p Concurrent Sessions

Future of Waste Panel Discussion: Explore the trajectory and prospects of Solid Waste Management in this engaging panel discussion. Where are we headed, and what does the future hold? Join us to unravel the evolving landscape of waste management.

DEP Operator Core Training #3: Continuation of earlier session. *You must attend both sessions to complete certification.*

Entertainment Night:

Monday April 29th from 7pm-9pm

Get your teams together, we are doing Trivia night!! We sent out a survey, and Trivia night seemed to be very popular due to last years participation. If you would like to participate in the trivia night please mark it on your Registration form.

There will be prizes!!!!

Recycling Competition: Belt Sander Races!!!

Monday April 29th from 4:35pm-6:00pm

Our Recycling competition this year will again feature the Belt Sander Races! We had so much fun we've decided to bring them back! You can decorate your sander or leave as is, but no modifying the engines!!! [Click here](#) for a look at last year's races! If you'd like to participate please mark it on your registration form.



Hotel Accommodations

The AAA Four-Diamond **Samoset Resort** welcomes guests to 230 acres of oceanfront elegance reminiscent of a bygone era. One of the premier luxury resorts in Maine, renowned for its award-winning service and expansive views of Penobscot Bay, the Samoset boasts an eco-friendly culture. The Resort has adopted a variety of sustainable practices aimed to reduce water, waste, and energy consumption while increasing resort-wide recycling opportunities.

Overnight room reservations are to be made individually by attendees.



Enjoy MRRA's Discount on accommodations!
To book your reservations at **The Samoset Resort on the Ocean**
[Click here](#)



Single and Double rooms Starting at

\$149.00/night