



Maine Materials Management Plan and Program

N.H. Solid Waste Working Group Meeting
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water

Overview

Maine Materials Management Plan: establishment, purpose and content

Other Materials Management Program Cornerstones

Highlights: Program Elements

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Maine Materials Management Plan

➤ Established at 38 M.R.S. § 2122:

“The Department shall prepare an analysis of, and a plan for, the management, reduction and recycling of solid waste for the State. . . The plan must provide guidance and direction to municipalities in planning and implementing waste management and recycling programs at the state, regional and local levels.”



Maine Materials Management Plan (cont.)

- One of the tools that shapes Maine's materials management program and approach
- Establishes a vision for materials management in Maine:
 - “to support the development of a sustainable, economically viable system that directs the resources inherent in waste materials into a ‘circular economy’ while protecting public health and the environment”
- Identifies specific strategies to be employed over each 5-year period to support waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, and to generally encourage management of waste further up the hierarchy



Maine Materials Management Plan (cont.)

- Designed to support municipalities and businesses in developing waste reduction and recycling solutions
- Developed in conjunction with Maine's biennial Solid Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report (38 M.R.S. § 2124-A)
- Guiding principles:
 - Maine Solid Waste Management Hierarchy
 - Maine Food Recovery Hierarchy
- Next 5-year update due in January 2024



Other Materials Management Program Cornerstones

- State municipal solid waste recycling and per capita disposal reduction goals
- State authority to develop and operate state-owned solid waste disposal facilities
- Establishment of the Maine Solid Waste Management Fund
- Prohibition on licensing new commercial solid waste disposal facilities
- Establishment of a public benefit test for new/expanded solid waste disposal facilities
- Extended producer responsibility “framework” law
- Bans on single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam food containers



Maine Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report

- Last biennial report to Legislature – January 2021
- Includes information on statewide generation of solid waste, recycling rates and available disposal capacity.
- Key Findings:
 - 9 operating landfills accepting MSW or MSW ash; estimated licensed life ranging from 3 to 35 years;
 - 3 operating WTE facilities with licensed, combined annual capacity of 550,000 tons;
 - Overall sufficient licensed landfill capacity for at least the next 10 years;
 - MSW generation increased 8% between 2017 and 2018; and 6.5% between 2018 and 2019.



Maine Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program (38 M.R.S. § 2201-B)

- Established to provide grants to public and private entities to assist in the development, implementation or improvement of programs, projects, initiatives or activities designed to increase the diversion of solid waste from disposal;
- Grants awarded for composting, food scrap collection, reuse, recycling and repair projects;
- \$687K awarded from 2018 to 2021.



Product Stewardship/ Extended Producer Responsibility

- Annual Product Stewardship Report (38 M.R.S. § 1772(1))
- Product Stewardship Framework Law (38 M.R.S. § 1772(2)) – criteria for identification of new candidate products;
- Existing programs:
 - mercury thermostats and lamps
 - electronic waste
 - architectural paint
 - rechargeable batteries and cell phones
 - beverage container redemption



Extended Producer Responsibility New Programs

➤ **Packaging** (38 M.R.S. § 2146)

- Provide financial support to municipalities
- Decrease packaging volume and toxicity; increase recycling and improve recycling outcomes; invest in education and infrastructure
- Stewardship organization selected through competitive grant process;
- Producers pay fees based on amount and recyclability of packaging

➤ **Drug Take-Back** (38 M.R.S. § 1612)

- Manufacturers required to participate
- Stewardship plans approved by MDEP





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