



MID-MAINE SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION

Mid-Maine Solid Waste Association 2012 Annual Report

The towns of Dexter, Exeter, Ripley, St. Albans, and Corinna are members that form the Mid-Maine Solid Waste Association (MMSWA). Other users of our facility include Guilford (since 2004) and Cambridge (since 1999). The Association is governed by a Board of Directors, which represents the interests of each of the participating members.

The MMSWA facility provides for the disposal of solid waste at its Transfer Station and operates a Recycling Facility on the premises. The site also offers demolition debris disposal, composting, tire disposal, white goods (refrigerators, appliances, etc.), universal waste (televisions, monitors, etc.), and metal disposal.

During the 2012 year MMSWA processed over 5,400 tons of municipal solid waste (household waste), 650 tons of wood waste, 1,200 tons of landfill debris, 150 tons of compost, 50 tons of universal waste, and over 1,100 tons of recyclables. Because we process these items separately it is important for our residents to keep these items separated when bringing them for disposal. Each year MMSWA is required to report to the State of Maine the total amount of waste attributed to landfill disposal, recycling, and transferable waste. The State requires MMSWA to have a 50% recycle rate, so if recycled items are dumped with the household waste, our community may not meet the requirements or benefiting from the financial gain of reselling recycled goods. Every year the cost of disposing household waste increases by 3 to 4%, the more we are able to recycle yields a minimized increase in each of the town's disposal fees. In 2011 MMSWA was told that our landfill has about 12 years left of capacity. When and if we have to close our landfill we will incur a significant amount of cost associated with the closure and also will be required to ship our landfill waste to other landfills with high disposal fees. We can help lengthen the time our landfill by keeping wood debris and household waste out of it.

MMSWA's wood waste disposal costs run approximately \$20,000 a year. This cost reflects fees for grinding, transporting, and testing of the wood being processed. The processed wood goes to energy recovery boilers which burn the processed wood to make electricity. At the start of the wood grinding, an independent lab comes to take samples of the wood. These tests are to determine the presence of trash, plastics, arsenic, and other chemicals that the State regulates when burning for energy. If the wood waste fails these tests, each costing \$1,000 (paid for by MMSWA), then we are responsible for retesting the product or disposing of the materials in a landfill. If this wood waste is sent to a landfill, it could potentially increase the original disposal cost by three times. With that said, it is very important that we keep any contaminants out of the wood waste and dispose of all goods appropriately.

The cost to run the MMSWA facility in 2012 was \$940,000.00. This figure includes \$403,000.00 for the disposal of household waste, and \$84,000.00 shipping household waste to Penobscot Energy Recovery. We recovered \$160,000 by selling our recyclable materials and saved \$81,400 in disposal costs of recyclable materials.

Please help MMSWA achieve its goals by separating your trash prior to arriving at the facility. This will help our staff in maintaining a clean, organized, and customer-friendly environment while increasing our recycling efforts. Remember, the more we recycle the less our waste disposal costs will increase.

An important reminder, please make a concerted effort to secure all incoming loads in order to prevent roadside debris.

If you have any questions about the DEP's rules pertaining to municipal waste, universal waste, or demolition debris, please feel free to contact MMSWA or visit the Department of Environmental Protection website at www.maine.gov/dep.

Rules for the use of the transfer station and recycling facility, as well as a schedule of fees, and vehicle permits are available at your town office. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at 924-3650. Current permits are required to use the MMSWA facility. Hours of operation are 8am to 5pm Monday-Thursday and Saturday. We are closed on Fridays and Sundays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trampas King
Superintendent,
Mid Maine Solid Waste Association