

9:00 am - 9-24-19 – Police Department Meeting Room – Solid Waste / Recycling Committee
Venessa Berry, Lissa Bittermann, Jon Dykstra, Dave Eglinton, Harvey Flashen, Paul Hogan, Thomas McClain, Kinder Wilson, Mike Claus

Venessa and Lissa updated the committee on efforts by ecomaine communities to reduce contamination of recycling material brought to ecomaine facility. Ecomaine has produced print and video contamination reduction education materials for all towns that have contracts for recycling. In addition to increasing education efforts, the order of least contamination recycling processes is:

1. Drop off facility where personnel can require sorting and reject material before customers put material in transport containers.
2. Curbside bins being hand loaded into a packer where recycling collection personnel can inspect and tag contaminated recycling bins
3. Unsupervised bin collection or curbside carts with automated collection and no inspection procedure prior to unloading bins or carts into collection truck.
4. Unsupervised silver bullet collection of zero sort materials.

Ecomaine is currently marketing the following recyclables in North America:

1. Old Corrugated Cardboard (various mills, mostly Quebec)
2. Mixed Paper (9D West Virginia plant through MRRA)
3. 1 & 2 plastics (various vendors)
4. 3 – 7 plastics (various vendors)
5. Metal (various vendors)
6. Glass (used at ecomaine ash landfill as road base and available for contractor use)

There are no end use requirements for tracking and accounting of recyclable materials. This could change with the recycling resolve being considered at the State level. Recycling resolve could potentially reduce costs for recycling due either direct aid to towns or better recycling programs providing more recycling revenue. Discussed previous mixed paper loads being sent to southeast Asia. Discussed fluctuations in recycling materials costs and how that was likely to continue in the near term. Ecomaine recycling plant process about 35,000 tons per year of material.

Ecomaine provides materials to towns, public and collection companies to help reduce recycling contamination. Ecomaine would be happy to work with the committee to develop a program to control recycling contamination. Issue of Kennebunkport 25% contamination rate and do we have old data brought up. Ecomaine would like data on number of stops and any trash or recycling tonnage data that we have. 10 years back would be best. Discussed alternatives to ecomaine: Casella facility, Fiberight, Massachusetts facility, use of a transfer station, and the appearance that the relative cost / carbon footprint of using other facilities is higher than ecomaine. Ecomaine looking at town repair cafes where residents could volunteer to fix broken tools and equipment and promote reuse shops. Ecomaine willing to work with the Town on organizing a communications plan for a curbside recycling reintroduction if approved by Budget Board / Selectmen / Town Meeting process. Committee members to send feedback/suggestions of how that should be done in our community to Paul Hogan and he will consolidate a draft for committee to review.

Next Meeting on Monday October 28th at 9:00 am at Police Department Meeting Room. Request to have meeting times posted on Town Website Calendar.