# The Waterboro Recycler

## Issue # 4

## SPRING 2009

**Editor & Publisher – Clinton Andrews- Transfer Station Manager**

### Universal Waste

### GOODBYE OLD PAL

**February 2009**

The Federal Communications Commission has passed a mandate that, by June 2009, all television broadcasting must be received though a digital signal. That means that most of our old analog televisions will become obsolete. One out of every four homes will be throwing out their TV's. This would amount to 120,000 TV's in Maine alone!

What happens to these TV's beyond your transfer station? Do they go to landfill with a lot of hazardous materials in them? That could mean an environmental disaster for our grandchildren and beyond.

The better option is to recycle them, and that's what we do even though the recycling of televisions can cost up to $20.00 to recycle. Luckily the TV manufactures pay the lion share of this cost and at most transfer stations the individual also pays a portion of the disposal fee.

*Continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE


1 TV Recycling – What Waterboro Recycles

2 Recycling Rate Down – What Happens To Recyclables?

3 ME. Forest Rangers Report Illegal Dumping

3 Tips for Hauling Trash To The Transfer Station

4 Waterboro Goes Single-Sort Recycling / Do or Don't


### *REDUCE – REUSE - RECYCLE*

**WATERBORO RECYCLES**

CARDBOARD – PAPERBOARD – FOOD BOXES

PACKAGING BOXES – NEWSPAPER – BOOKS

JUNK MAIL – OFFICE PAPER – MAGAZINES

SHREDDED PAPER – CATALOGS – BAGS

USED MOTOR OIL - ANTIFREEZE

#1 THROUGH #7 PLASTICS – GIFT WRAP

ALUMINUM FOIL AND FOOD CONTAINERS

RINSED TIN CANS – EMPTY AEROSOL CANS

METAL ITEMS – STEEL – BRASS

ALUMINUM – TIN - COPPER

RINSED GLASS JARS & BOTTLES – CHINA

RETURNABLE & NON- RETURNABLE

BOTTLES & CANS

UNBAGGED GRASS – LEAVES – HAY

NON WOODY PLANTS – MANURE – SAW DUST

PORCELAIN FIXTURES – BRICKS – CEMENT

CONCRETE & PATIO BLOCKS – CHIMNEY TILES

RECHARGABLE BATTERIES – CELL PHONES

Continued from Page 1

L.

Your TV is placed in a Gaylord, shrink wrapped, and Uniwaste Services, LLC of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, picks up the TV's along with other universal waste, computer monitors, printers, computer towers, copiers, and other electronics are all sent to the recycling company.

Maine is fortunate that the Legislature had the foresight to ban the disposal of TV's and computer monitors and recycling.

Our universal waste program is a model to other states.

**WATERBORO'S RECYCLING RATE**

**1999-2007**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1999** | **21.8%** | **2003** | **36%** |
| **2000** | **21.7%** | **2004** | **40.6%** |
| **2001** | **23.9%** | **2005** | **58.2%** |
| **2002** | **22.9%** | **2006** | **65%** |
| | **2007** | **43.3%** | |

# What Happens to My Recyclables?

## Metals

Did You Know? Metals can be recycled indefinitely without ever losing their properties! Steel is a widely used magnetic metal. Steel cans are 99 percent steel with a thin coating of tin, though they are often called "tin cans." Steel is made from iron ore, and is 100% recyclable. In fact, all steel products are made with recycled metal, making it the most recycled material in the world!
Fast Fact: By recycling, the steel industry saves a lot of energy - enough to power 18 million households for a whole year!

## Plastic

Plastic is made from petroleum, natural gas, and coal. The technology for recycling plastics is relatively new and still in development. Different combinations and process join the molecules into many different polymers, with a variety of strengths and flexibility.
Recycled plastic is recycled by you and is sorted at Ecomaine according to:

- resin type: seen as a number on the bottom of the plastic item,
- molding process: how the plastic is made, for example, shopping bags and milk jugs are made from the same resin type but processed differently.

At Ecomaine the plastics are then compacted into large cubes called bales and transported to a processing plant. The different plastics are washed and shredded into flakes or fragmented into pellets. Manufacturers re-melt the flakes or pellets and mold them into new plastic products such as shampoo bottles, flowerpots, decking, or even clothing.

## Paper

Paper is made from plant fibers and cellulose. Americans typically use trees for the raw material, but cotton, rice, straw, flax, bamboo, linen rags, hemp, and more can also be used. The types of paper collected and the methods used for separating the different types vary according to the recycling program at Ecomaine.
Wasted Paper: Paper is the number one material that we throw away, even though almost all of it can be recycled! It makes up roughly 1/3 of what we toss.

- Collected at Ecomaine and squashed into large cubes, called bales, and shipped to a processing plant.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

- The paper is chopped up to separate the fibers from each other.
- The fibers are put through several mechanical and chemical treatments to wash out the inks and other contaminants. This soupy mixture is called slurry and is about 97% water.
- This process damages and shortens the fibers of the paper, thus paper can only be recycled around 3 - 6 times.
- How the paper is sorted for processing at Ecomaine, (office paper, newspaper, magazines, mixed paper) determines the products the paper will become.

## Illegal Dumping

### Maine Forest Rangers

### Report Increased Littering

Statewide, forest rangers investigated hundreds of littering complaints in 2008. Illegal dumping takes place on public highways, abandoned roads, log landings and campsites. Landowners are finding they need to decide if they are going to post their property, allow access for recreational use, or continuing to pay the cost of disposing such illegally discarded items such as refrigerators, computer monitor, fluorescent bulbs, TV's, and construction debris.

Illegal dumping has gotten so bad that, according to biologists from Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, cleaning up litter left on MDIF&W lands, has become the "number two management activity in terms of cost and manpower.

The amount of acreage that sportsman have lost access to in the last 10-years is over one million acres.

Littering is a civil violation, if convicted, violators face fines from $100 to $1,000, depending on the amount of discarded items.

Violators when convicted may also have to pay for the cost of cleanup and damages to landowners, and may also temporarily loose their driver's licenses.

The following are some tips to help landowners reduce littering on forested lands:

1. Limit vehicle traffic to your land if possible.
2. Contact the Maine Forest Service at 1-800-750-9777 if you see evidence of littering and provide them with directions to the site.
3. Do not attempt to confront the violators. Write down license plate numbers, time, and description of any vehicles seen in the area.
4. Encourage neighbors, ATV and snowmobile clubs to help monitor your property.
5. Clean up the area as soon as the investigation has been completed. When illegal dumpers are looking for a place to dispose of their litter, they often use sites, which have already been established.
6. Consider placing signs warning and discouraging illegal dumping and violators will be prosecuted.

## Tips for Taking Trash To Your transfer Station

Secure your trash it is illegal to have your trash fall out of your vehicle.

Recycle as much as possible to reduce the overall cost of solid waste disposal, this saves you money.

Be aware of Maine and your town's littering laws and report violations to the Maine Forest Service as soon as possible.

# RECYCLING JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT EASIER!

In May 2006, Ecomaine invited all in Maine in the recycling arena, as well as their "RWS" municipalities to a meeting to announce a new decade or era of "single sort" recycling. Single sort or single stream is leading-edge technology that eliminates the need to separate recyclables by category for collection. Twenty-one member communities of which Waterboro is one had a decision to make, single sort or no single sort, that was the question. As long as the recycling income for paper and cardboard was high Waterboro took the position that it was not cost effective to switch the way we handle your recycling. Last fall the bottom fell out of the recycling industry as the world economy fell into the bottom of the dumpster. Instead of generating high income for the recyclables the price went into a negative position that forced towns to re-think they way it handled it's recycling.

On March 1,2009 Waterboro started single-sort recycling. Instead of separating cardboard, paper, tin cans, and #1 through #7 plastics everyone can now place all recycling into what was used as the cardboard compactor. This decision did not come without drawbacks, once the town changed to single-sort Ecomaine made it very clear that if and when the economic conditions got better and recycling income came back to positive figures the town could not turn back to it's prior arrangement. The key words here are, if and when! The hope is increased participation in recycling and a reduction in trips to Ecomaine will offset the loss of additional recycling income.

Is single sort recycling better for the environment? The answer is yes. Every ton recycled is one less ton in the waste stream, and national statistics show this system will result in more recycling. Why? With no sorting it is so much easier and the homeowner now needs only one container and one stop at the transfer station.

The single stream equipment and installation cost Ecomaine $3.7 million dollars and was paid for from reserves and recycling income. All of the member municipalities shared in the cost of this equipment let's make sure that Waterboro uses this equipment to the fullest; it is my hope to see an additional 200-ton reduction in household waste thereby saving tipping fees & hauling costs equaling $20,000.00.

The following is a guide that should help you in determining everything that is allowed in the single-sort compacter. If it's not listed it's not allowed.

Just rinse out containers and leave labels on.

## DO RECYCLE

**PAPER, PLASTIC, METAL & GLASS CAN ALL BE MIXED TOGETHER**

PAPER

- NEWSPAPERS & INSERTS
- MAGAZINES
- MAIL & CATALOGS
- PAPER BAGS
- OFFICE PAPER & ENVELOPES
- FILE FOLDERS
- WRAPPING PAPER
- PHONE BOOKS
- HARD & SOFT COVER BOOKS
- PAPER PLATES & CUPS (CLEAN)
- MILK & JUICE CARTONS
- DRINK BOXES & ASEPTIC CONTAINERS
- CARDBOARD BOXES
- CEREAL & OTHER FOOD BOXES
- GIFT BOXES
- PIZZA BOXES

PLASTIC

- WATER BOTTLES
- MILK JUGS
- DETERGENT BOTTLES
- ALL CONTAINERS MARKED # 1-# 7 (EXCEPT STYROFOAM)
- PLASTIC GROCERY/SHOPPING BAGS MARKED WITH A # 2 OR # 4

METAL

- TIN CANS
- AEROSOL CANS (EMPTY)
- ALUMINUM CANS / FOIL
- POTS & PANS

GLASS

- ALL GLASS BOTTLES & JARS (ALL COLORS)

**ALL CONTAINERS SHOULD BE EMPTY**