

Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition
Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Committee
Thursday June 18th, 2009
5:15pm

Members present: Tom Longstaff, Elery Keene, Shelly Phillips, Sally Harwood, Blanche Davidson, Bob Gilchrist, Steve Erario and Andrew Young

Fostering Additional Support

The group agreed that looking for additional members for the committee (even those without expertise in waste management) would be beneficial. Several names were mentioned of people who would possibly be interested in either joining the committee or sharing their knowledge on waste in the area. The names include: Tom Davis/Carol Gilpatrick from Skills, Inc.; representatives from Oakland and Fairfield to present on what their towns do with waste; a representative from the Oakland Transfer Station; from the high school, JMG (Jobs for Maine Graduates) might be interested in getting students involved in recycling initiatives. It was also discussed that Huhtamaki used to be a large purchaser of newspaper products but no longer buys from in-state—is there a local market for old paper products anymore?

Review of Projects

The next item was a review of the three projects under Objective 4 and looking for people who would be interested in leading those projects and whether the projects still fit the goals of the committee.

Project 1: Project 1 is viewed by the committee as micro-scale, non-municipal initiatives. The point was raised that the Barrels facility could be used as an educational space to teach residents about composting, recycling, etc. Barrels would be a good place to use because the clientele will be the type of people who would be interested and willing to participate in local composting and recycling. Another idea was put forward to show the movie “The Story of Stuff” to educate people about the whole life of household goods and to have a discussion afterward. Blanche offered to search for a copy of the movie. Possible viewing spots mentioned include Railroad Square Cinema or Channel 7 because they look for relatively cheap material to show during the day. Feasibility and cost will need to be determined with Railroad Square. The committee asked for someone who would be willing to work on this project and Tom Lonstaff and Blanche Davidson both volunteered to work on this project. Other ideas included a Colby student doing an independent study on the whole waste process and high school students doing a relatively short video on what happens to waste after people leave it for the towns to collect.

Project 2: Projects 2 and 3 are viewed as having more of a municipal focus. It was decided that Projects 2 and 3 should be combined because of the large overlap of the initiatives.

Project 2/3: One idea discussed was another education initiative, this time focusing on waste and what is prohibited in household waste bags. This would also include area students and teaching them what to do with old batteries and other electronic waste (old cell phones, computer monitors, televisions, etc.). Shelly volunteered to find out about School District 52 involvement in recycling. She also said that she could talk with Mike Heavener about getting a plastic barrel at the Winslow waste collection facility. Andrew will work on researching where consumers can buy and dispose of household electronics, including CFL bulbs, batteries, LEDs, computer monitors, cellphones).

The next meeting was set for July 1st at 5:15pm and Sally will double check on the location
Meeting concluded at 6:35pm