



## MID-MAINE SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION

### Mid-Maine Solid Waste Association 2011 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.

The end of 2011 marks MMSWA's twentieth year of operation. Since opening the MMSWA facility, we have avoided costs of \$1,800,000. During 2011 the facility processed 5,600 tons of municipal waste, 700 tons of wood demo debris, 1,400 tons of landfill debris and more than 3,000 tons of recycled goods. Our recycling rate for 2011 was 50%. We hope to continue to increase our recycling efforts in the coming year, so please take the time to check what recycled goods are accepted at our facility. Remember, recycling benefits everyone. Thank you for helping us achieve the State's goal of 50% recycled goods, your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Other important news includes the amount of Universal Waste (televisions, computer monitors, fluorescent lights, ballasts, mercury switches, thermometers, and thermostats) MMSWA has collected in 2011; greater than 70,000 pounds, including more than 1,750 televisions and monitors and over 1,000 printers, fax machines and game consoles. These Universal Waste products are recyclable and keeping them out of our mainstream disposal system helps to protect the environment from mercury and lead pollution. The disposal fees for these items are as follows: televisions (any size) - \$5.00 each, computer monitors - \$3.00 each, all printers, fax machines, game consoles, fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, mercury switches, thermometers and thermostats are accepted at no charge. Additionally, we kindly ask that you please do not break your fluorescent bulbs, TV's/monitors, and mercury devices prior to disposal. The mercury they contain is hazardous to us and our environment.

In 2012 we plan to continue our efforts by including more recyclable products. During the year we will be collecting all rigid plastics which include pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic totes, plastic garbage cans and plastic toys.

In 2011, MMSWA received a grant from the State of Maine to improve our composting site. The \$25,000 grant was to help us pay for the paving of the site and its driveway. This will help us keep the compost free from gravel and rocks while turning the compost. We continue to ask that you please put all leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste in this composting location. All waste we can keep from going to the landfill or PERC will save space and/or money. The compost made at MMSWA is free for our residents and works great in gardens. We do accept food waste in this compost area as well, but please see attendant before disposing of it.

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](http://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