



Recycling News

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ecomaine is owned by 21 communities, including the municipalities of:

Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Scarborough, and South Portland

Attachment/below: four municipal recycling charts

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Figures Show Recycling Financially Benefits Local Municipalities

Because the people of Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Scarborough, and South Portland participated in recycling, their municipalities avoided paying a total sum of \$1,039,632 in waste disposal costs over twelve months.

“Recycling makes a real difference to the bottom line,” said City of Portland’s Director of Public Services Michael Bobinsky. He explained that, from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, our residents and businesses of Portland separated 5,358 tons of recyclable material from their trash and “since every ton of trash costs the City \$88 for disposal, we avoided paying \$471,504.” There is potential for even greater financial benefit if Portland’s 35 percent recycling rate grows.

Similar, proportional benefits were experienced in the smaller communities of Cape Elizabeth, which had a recycling rate of 33 percent and avoided costs of \$111,056, Scarborough, with a recycling rate of 34% and avoided costs of \$240,504, and South Portland, with a recycling rate of 28% and avoided costs of \$216,568.

All four municipalities are owners of **ecomaine**, the nonprofit entity that handles both their disposal and recycling. **ecomaine**’s general manager, Kevin Roche, noted that even a small increase in a community’s recycling percentage can yield significant financial benefits. With just a two percent increase, for example, South Portland would have saved an additional \$4,331, Cape Elizabeth an additional \$2,221, Scarborough an additional \$4,810, and Portland an additional \$9,430. “That’s why raising community awareness of recycling is so important,” said Roche. “We want everyone to understand that recycling is an advantage for their communities ecologically and economically, and that with single-sort technology, it couldn’t be easier to participate.”

Statistics for each of **ecomaine**’s 39 recycling communities are updated monthly and can be viewed at www.ecomaine.org (see “Stats, Budget, and Annual Report”).

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*Recycling rates (above) are based on total tonnage of waste and recycling received by **ecomaine**.*

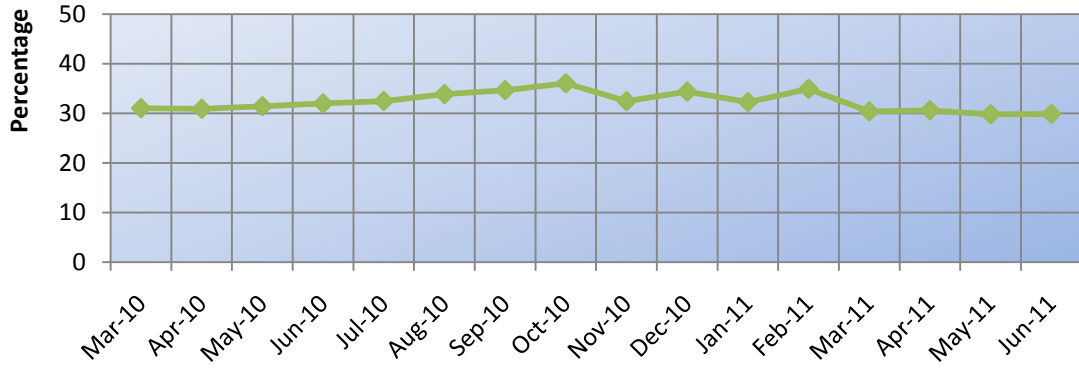
*Avoided costs are based on **ecomaine**’s \$88 per ton disposal charge.*

ecomaine is a nonprofit, municipally owned and operated single-sort recycling facility and waste-to-energy plant.

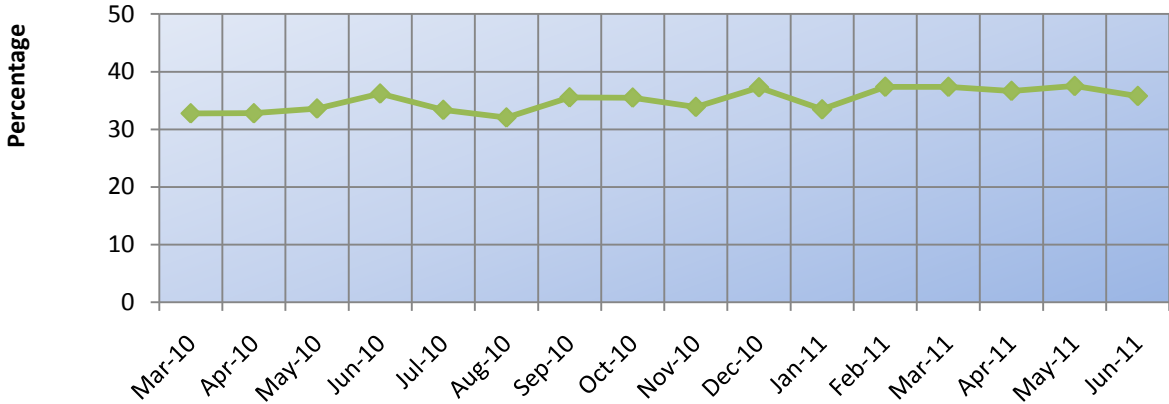
ecomaine’s fiscal year is July 1-June 30

Figures are accurate based on information received to date

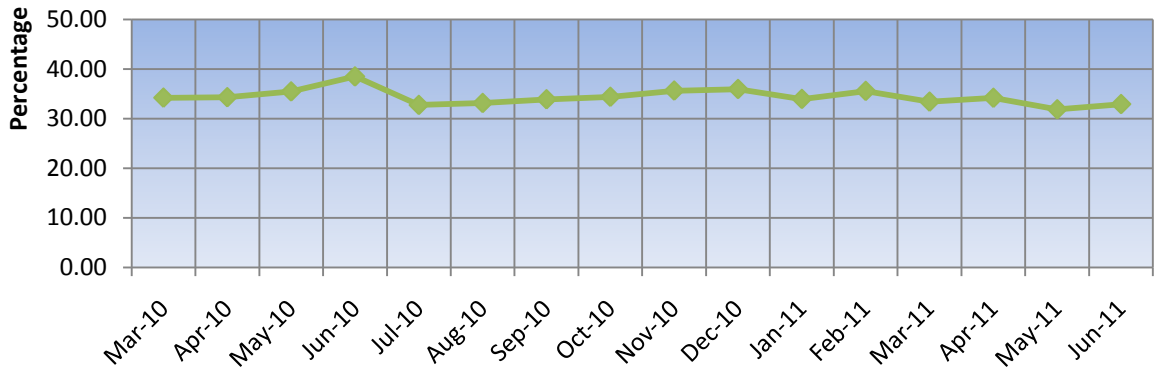
Cape Elizabeth: Percent Recycled



Portland: Percent Recycled



Scarborough: Percent Recycled



South Portland: Percent Recycled

