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### **Another dead snake in recycling**

**ecomaine**, the non-profit municipally owned recycler for 25 percent of Maine's population, has found a dead snake amongst the recyclables delivered to their facility. "This is the second snake in two years and we really don't want another one," said Kevin Roche, general manager.

The single-sort recycling facility operates with state-of-the-art technology and equipment that rapidly sorts all the mixed materials into separate categories and bales them for re-use by manufacturers. John Morin, **ecomaine**'s recycling facility manager, commented that "no one would ever think a snake is recyclable, so, whoever is responsible probably mistook a recycling container for a waste container."

Roche explained that the benefit of single sort recycling is that it's simple: that is, no separation of materials into different containers. "More people are willing to recycle when you make it easy to do," added Roche, "but the system becomes less efficient for our communities when people add food items, animals, and other non-recyclable items."



*Recycling Operator Goran Dobric displays the dead snake (May 2011).*



*Recycling Sorter Charlie Radley and Recycling Operator Goran Dobric hold the dead snake from March 2009.*

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- **ecomaine** recycling is owned and operated by 21 communities in Southern Maine and is located in Portland. It also has contracts with an additional 22 municipalities.
- **ecomaine** owns and operates a waste-to-energy plant and a landfill, as well, and all three facilities are ISO 14001 certified for excellence in environmental management.
- For more recycling information visit [www.ecomaine.org](http://www.ecomaine.org)