

2011 **eco**-Excellence Award Winners

## Grand Award

### Best Community Program

**Award Winner:** Joanna Basinger

**Nominator:** Barbara Foss



Above: Joanna Basinger with her Grand Award chair and plaque

L-R: ecomaine Board Chairman Michael Bobinsky, ecomaine Scarborough Board Member Michael Shaw, Joanna Basinger, Barbara Foss, Scarborough Recycling Coordinator Sarah Bernier, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

Joanna Basinger is the originator of Closest Closet...[www.ClosestCloset.com](http://www.ClosestCloset.com)...a site, according to a *Scarborough Leader* article written by David Harry, she launched from her Scarborough home “based on the idea of lending and borrowing skills, goods and services.”

Although the lifetime membership fee is just \$10, that fee is waived if you offer 10 goods or skills to be posted in trade.

On the Closest Closet website, Joanna describes the operation as “a place to connect with people near you for:

- borrowing and lending items,
- sharing and receiving help with tasks (skill-sharing),
- recycling or receiving unwanted items,
- bartering and/or trading goods or services,
- supporting local economies,
- and making a commitment to live more responsibly within our communities.

We do this for free. If you’ve ever wished that communities just helped one another, this is where you want to be.”

## Best Business Award

**Goodwill Industries of Northern New England**

**Nominator: Michelle Smith**



L-R: ecomaine Chairman of the Board Michael Bobinsky, Bob Frederick of Goodwill, nominator Michelle Smith, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

Goodwill has made it both possible and easy for Maine residents to recycle their outdated computer equipment in an environmentally responsible manner...and it's free.

The program – called ReConnect – is a result of Goodwill’s collaboration with Dell and a third party recycler to safely de-manufacture and recycle all parts in the United States. Nominator Michelle Smith noted that, “With a network of 19 stores in Maine and five donation centers in the Greater Portland area, Goodwill serves as a natural donation drop-off for unwanted electronic waste.” Since the launch of ReConnect in 2009, Maine residents have brought 2,269,686 pounds of electronic waste” out of our waste stream. Goodwill is, in fact, the largest e-waste collector in the state. Importantly, Goodwill continues its program outreach through advertising, news releases, and events – continually informing the public about their program and encouraging residents to safely recycle their e-waste.

## **Bridgton**

**Business Winner:     Bridgton Hospital**

**Nominator:           Martha Denison**



L-R: ecomaine Recycling Committee Chair Troy Moon, Kate Fitzcharles, Martha Denison, ecomaine Bridgton Board Member Mahlon Johnson, and ecomaine General manager Kevin Roche

In her nomination of Bridgton Hospital, Martha Denison cited several on-going activities, as well as new initiatives begun in 2010. Examples of those are:

- X-ray film has been eliminated and replaced by digital x-rays
- The cafeteria charges less when a reusable mug is used
- Styrofoam cups were eliminated
- Housekeeping and cafeteria staff now use “green” cleaning products
- Items that can be safely reprocessed are sent to ASCENT and returned in proper packaging – saving more than \$10,000 last year
- The “Connect Shuttle” program provides patients transportation to CMMC, eliminating the need for multiple personal vehicles and, thereby, reducing emissions.
- An electrical harvesting system was installed in the lobbies to reduce electricity consumption during the day

## Cape Elizabeth

**Winner: Lisa Fernandes**

**Nominators: Susannah Sanfilippo  
Lori Power**



L-R: ecomaine Board Chairman Michael Bobinsky, Susannah Sanfilippo, Lisa Fernandes, Lori Power, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

Lisa Fernandes started Portland Maine Permaculture, a meet-up.com group, which has grown from a membership of seven to a membership of 1,000 people. Members exchange information through the Portland Permaculture message board and, for those who live closer to Greater Portland, meet in person to, as Lori wrote, Re-skill, Re-localize, and build resilience.

A definition of permaculture provided by Susannah explains it this way: the conscious design and maintenance of productive ecosystems which have diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way.”

Lisa has volunteered her time to create and organize events, disseminate information, and foster camaraderie among like-minded people. A sampling of what she has done includes the following:

- Maintaining the message board with hundreds of pages of pertinent articles, with discussions, and with resources
- Initiating and planning classes and workshops with such as:
  - Creating edible landscapes
  - Sheet mulching
  - Bio-remediation strategies for lead
  - Green building
  - Food preservation
  - Rainwater harvesting
  - Making BioChar...and much more.

Susannah describes Lisa, this way: “Lisa can see the many sides to any issue. She’s a learner and a teacher. She is an information maven and disseminates ideas in a way that piques our curiosity, makes us inquire further and ignites our creativity.”

## Casco

### Business Award Winner: The Village Gift Barn

Nominator: Joanne Legere-Vail



L-R: ecomaine Recycling Committee Chair Troy Moon, Terri Linnell, Joanne Legere-Vail, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

The Village Gift Barn is located in an 1860s barn, which, except for the electrical up-grades, remains untouched. Found items from the house and barn are used to hold displays and include:

- Pedestal sink
- Glenwood stove
- Wringer washing machine
- Old sleigh
- Whiskey barrels, etc.

Found items also have come from friends and from the Casco/Naples Transfer Station, such as:

- Door-less cabinets and drawer-less bureaus
- Wooden shutters
- Crib rails
- One side of a rocking chair
- Water skis, etc.

All found items carry informational tags to draw attention to creative re-use instead of disposal.

The shop also sells found items that they combine to create new tables and other items.

Roughly 30% of the inventory is created from recycled materials by local crafters.

## Cornish

**Winner: Cornish Recycling Committee**

**Nominator: Diane Harrington, Town Clerk**



L-R: ecomaine Board Member Troy Moon, Cornish Recycling Committee Members Scott Cecil, Jack Bash, Daniel Berlund, and Clifton Sargent, and Town Clerk Diane Harrington

Diane Harrington wrote that a committee of volunteers was formed in 2009 to evaluate the Town's recycling program and has, in a very short time, made critical improvements, such as:

- Relocating the facility to a more convenient location
- Raised recycling awareness through the use of newspaper ads, local television, CDs and printed materials for distribution
- Applied for a State Planning Office grant to help defer Town expenses
- Organized a meet-and-greet event at the relocated recycling center and answered questions about what is and is not recyclable

The Committee is now organizing a door-to-door campaign to promote recycling and will distribute more educational material at the annual Town Meeting.

Their future goals include the exploration of curbside recycling pick-up and pay-as-you-throw programs.

## Falmouth

**Winner:** Claudia King

**Nominator:** Deidre Conroy-Vella



L-R: ecomaine Chairman of the Board Michael Bobinsky, Deidre Conroy-Vella, Claudia King, ecomaine Falmouth Board Member Bonny Rodden, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

In her nomination of Claudia King, Deidre said that she “has worked tirelessly, effectively and selflessly to promote and develop eco-excellence in our community. With a background in science, she shared her knowledge and experience in research to aid in producing an emissions inventory for the town co-authoring the Energy and Climate Action Plan.”

She has been credited with many other contributions, as well:

- Advocated and organized the successful drive for Falmouth Town Council to unanimously sign the US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement
- Founding member and liaison to Falmouth branch of Maine Partners for Cool Communities
- Successfully encouraged recycling throughout the Falmouth school system, efficient lighting, and the change to re-usable flatware.
- Coordinated for an event called “Walking Softly on the Earth”
- And, was recently appointed to the new Falmouth Recycling Energy and Advisory Committee to develop an energy and climate action plan.

In addition to these accomplishments, Claudia and her family are renovating their home to the highest energy standards available with the goal being a net-zero efficiency residence. Deidre wrote that Claudia “happily encourages all to tour the property and is recording its renovation in an effort to share with others.”

## Freeport

**Community Award Winner: Wolfe's Neck Farm**

**Nominator: Liz Brownlee**



L-R: ecomaine Board Member Troy Moon, Eric Tadlock, ecomaine Freeport Board Member Rod Regier, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

In her description of Wolfe's Neck Farm, Liz Brownlee wrote that it has "always been their mission to educate the community about conservation and sustainable agriculture," but that new and exciting ways to educate are always being added.

Here are some examples:

- This year 1,000 students on school field trips learned from hands-on experience
- Also, this year, 500 children attended their summer camp and experienced hands-on participation
- Recompence Campground hosted 11,000 people this year
- In October alone, the farm provided displays for community events, donated carloads of food to a local food pantry, and held a festival attended by more than 800 people
- Wolfe's Neck Farm successfully brings together nonprofits, land trusts, local farmers, and community groups to further their mission

## 2011 **eco**-Excellence Award Winners

### Freeport

**Business Award Winner: Gritty McDuff's**

**Nominator: Nathan DesJardins**



L-R: ecomaine Board Member Troy Moon; Thomas Wilson, Nathan DesJardins, ecomaine Freeport Board Member Rod Regier, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

Nathan DesJardins noted the following in his nomination of Gritty McDuff's of Freeport:

- In just one year, 222,840 pounds (dry weight) of spent grain from the brewery was sent to a local farm
- This year a solar heating system was installed that is estimated to reduce their carbon footprint by 33,020 pounds of Co2 a year; the twelve 4'x10' solar water collectors heat three 105-gallon storage tanks
- And the switch to natural gas for back-up has reduced their carbon footprint even further

## Gorham

**Business Award Winner: Nappi Distributors**

**Nominator: Mathew Robinson, Town Council Chairman**



L-R: ecomaine Chairman of the Board Michael Bobinsky, Town Manager David Cole, Nappi Vice President Elmer Alcott, Town Council Vice Chair Brenda Caldwell, Town Council Chairman Mathew Robinson, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

Council Chairman Mathew Robinson wrote that prior to 2007, Nappi Distributors had been working out of multiple locations, which was not an efficient system of operations for them. Their consolidation of distribution into one building in Gorham increased their efficiency, including the following:

- The use of T7 LED lighting throughout both the warehouse and the offices
- Installation of a high-efficiency natural gas heating system
- And, the recycling of paper, plastic and cardboard.

This is, said Mathew, just some of the measures taken by a large business in doing their part to help the environment.

## Gray

**Business\_Award Winner: The Bottle Barn**

**Nominator: Solid Waste & Recycling Committee, in conjunction with Karen Licht and her AP Biology & Environmental Studies classes**



L-R: ecomaine Board Member Troy Moon, Mark Collins, Gray Solid Waste & Recycling Committee member Peter Thoits, and ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche

Nominators for The Bottle Barn said this about owner Mark Collins:

He “is not your typical redemption center operator. Mark is conscientious about recycling and takes the time and effort to separate recyclables from the waste he receives.” Gray Solid Waste Director Randy Cookson said, The Bottle Barn “does a tremendous job recycling. Weekly, they bring a pick-up load of separated paper bags, plastic bags, #2 plastics, mixed plastics, glass, and cans.”

The Gray Solid Waste & Recycling Committee asked Gray-New Gloucester biology teacher Karen Lite and her AP biology & Environmental Studies classes to interview two potential eco-Excellence Award nominees and both classes selected The Bottle Barn.

Mark was lauded for taking additional action – beyond bottle and can redemption - to keep other mixed-in recyclable materials from being thrown away.

The Committee concluded that Mark Collins is “a public display of handling waste responsibly” and, as such, benefits the Town of Gray.