



food waste

GOES BACK TO THE FARM IN FY 2017

“Inspired by the impressive tonnage we were able to divert from the landfill through our food waste recycling pilot, we look forward to future programs.”

—KERRY GRANTHAM, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, SCARBOROUGH



ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



A busload of board members, ecomaine staff and sustainability coordinators from ecomaine member communities traveled to Exeter, Maine in December to learn about Stonyvale Farm and Exeter Agri-Energy's food waste recycling and anaerobic digestion process first-hand.

ECOMAINE EXPANDED its comprehensive long-term solid waste solutions in fiscal year 2017, partnering with Agri-Cycle, the city of South Portland and the town of Scarborough to divert more than 2,700 tons of food waste out of landfills.

To pilot food waste diversion, ecomaine dedicated a new bunker area at its waste-to-energy facility. Collected food waste is transported in large tractor-trailer loads to Stonyvale Farm in Exeter, Maine. There, Exeter Agri-Energy anaerobically digests the food waste to produce electricity, fertilizer for the corn they grow as feed, and animal bedding for its 2,000 dairy cows.

Agri-Cycle began delivering industrial loads of food waste from area supermarkets, restaurants and food processors in Greater Portland in September. This past May, in conjunction with Maine Composts Week, the program began collecting residential food waste in areas of Scarborough and South Portland. Both communities provided public food waste drop-off locations for all residents.

“Such a great program for both the City and the environment.”

—SOUTH PORTLAND RESIDENT,
PRE-PILOT SURVEY

Scarborough's four-month pilot tested 35-gallon carts collected weekly by Pine Tree Waste, with trash and recyclables collected every other week. The pilot showed strong support in the community for food waste recycling, but every-other-week collection of trash and recyclables proved challenging.

South Portland's pilot used a six-gallon bucket collected weekly by Garbage to Garden, while weekly collection of trash and recyclables continued with Pine Tree Waste.

We have learned a lot from both pilot programs and look forward to applying the best of the best practices for more ecomaine communities in the year ahead!

ecomaine and the Scarborough and South Portland food waste recycling pilot communities partnered with Hannaford Supermarkets to provide in-store signage such as this, encouraging re-use of clear produce plastic bags to contain and recycle food scraps. The plastic bags are removed by Exeter Agri-Energy using de-packaging technology and are then brought back to ecomaine to be burned through our waste-to-energy process.

