

John Morin, Denise Mungen receive excellence awards

The Maine Resource Recycling Association presented ecomaine Recycling Manager **John Morin** as Manager of the Year at its annual conference at the Samoset Resort in Rockport in April. "John has the knowledge of what goes on at every level of the industry and applies that knowledge on a daily basis to keep ecomaine's MRF running smoothly; despite an array of challenges that land at his feet with regularity," said Ross Nason, chairman of MRRRA's Board of Directors, upon presenting John with the award. "He understands the trucking and brokering of material, he has cultivated relationships across the industry so he always has his finger on the pulse of what's going on and he knows how to manage his staff so they are happy and productive."



Pictured above, l-r: Ross Nason, Chairman of the Board for Maine Resource Recovery Association; Victor Horton, MRRRA's Executive Director; and John Morin, Recycling Manager for ecomaine. Pictured left: Denise Mungen.



Denise Mungen was honored with the Wellness Champion award for inspiring others to be their healthiest selves. She was recognized for using her passion, empathy and ability to recognize and overcome barriers to successfully meet the health needs of employees who work shift work. ♻️

ecomaine grows to 65 member communities strong



ecomaine's Business Development Manager Lissa Bittermann has grown our list of member communities to 65 in fiscal year 2017.

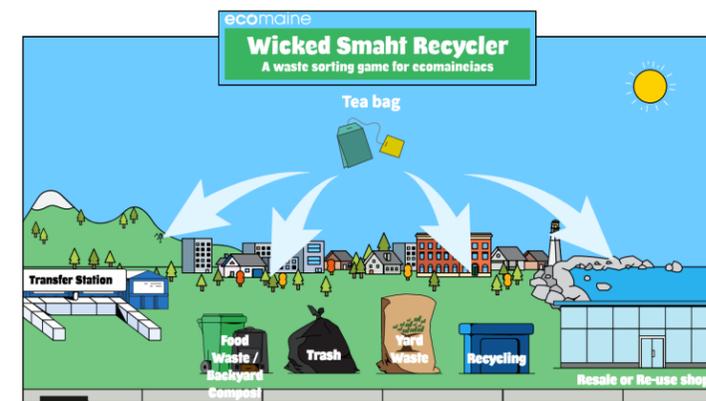
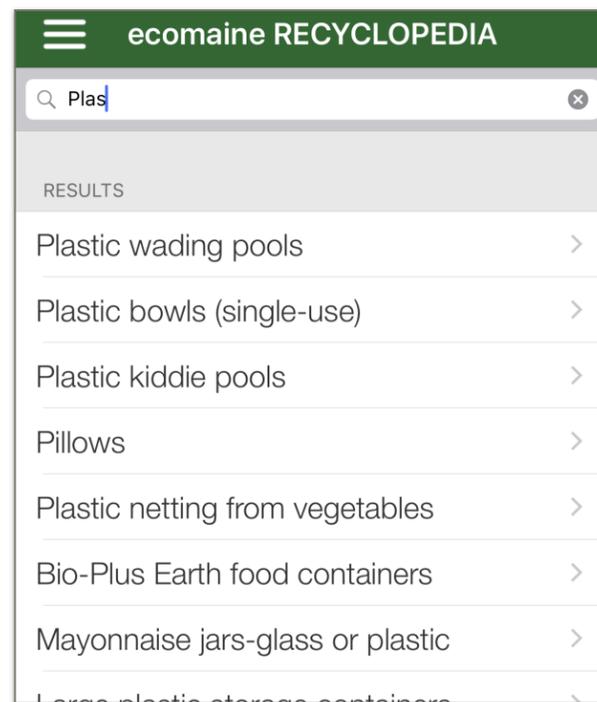
Here is a summary of our newest contracts:

- We signed a municipal solid waste (MSW) contract with Mid Coast Solid Waste Corporation located in Rockport. It serves the towns of Rockport, Camden, Lincolnville and Hope and will begin in April 2018.
- We signed an MSW contract with Owls Head, South Thomaston, Thomaston Solid Waste Corporation. This contract will begin in April of 2018.
- We signed a three-year single-sort recycling agreement with Shapleigh on the Revenue/Cost sharing plan.
- We signed a single-sort recycling agreement with Fryeburg on the Revenue/Cost sharing plan.

Great work, Lissa! ♻️

New web tools simplify waste decisions

ecomaine unveiled two new interactive tools on June 14 to help our member communities and their residents make more sustainable waste management decisions. The first is the ecomaine RECYCLOPEDIA, a web app designed to help answer waste and recycling questions on more than 600 items. The program can be downloaded from the app



stores or used on the ecomaine website. Users search for any number of items and are then directed to that item's correct waste stream. The app also features a waste sorting game called 'Wicked Smaht Recycler,' designed to sharpen and test users' recycling and waste handling know-how. Download the free app from to your mobile device today!

The second tool is the Community Recycling statistics tool. This site allows users to search for their community's waste statistics such as recycling rate, total recycling and municipal solid waste tonnage, and recycling incentives. They can then compare their community against other ecomaine communities using either a population density or recycling incentives filter. Our hope is that these tools inspire our member communities to divert more waste from the landfill through heightened recycling know-how. ♻️

South Portland and Scarborough debut curbside food waste collection

In early May, the Town of Scarborough and City of South Portland both launched pilot food waste collection programs. The City of South Portland's pilot runs for one year and includes 624 households. Garbage to Garden is hauling the pilot residents' food waste each week to ecomaine. The Town of Scarborough's pilot runs for nine months and includes 258 households whose food waste will be collected each week by Pine Tree Waste.

Different from South Portland, Scarborough is trying every other week trash and recycling collection, a measure that has proved to be successful in other cities around the country. By testing out different variations of food waste collection side-by-side, we will gain a better understanding of the best way to implement citywide municipal food waste collection for other ecomaine member communities. Ultimately, this brings us one step closer to reaching Maine's 50% recycling goal by 2021. ♻️



Employee news

Farewell Spiro!



Spiro Dobric, pictured above fifth from the left, retired from ecomaine Feb. 1 after 15 years of working in our recycling operations. Spiro joined ecomaine on Sept. 23, 2002. Above is a photo from his going-away party. He is greatly missed by many and will always be remembered for the steady reliability he provided to our recycling operations. ♻️

Employees raise \$6,877 in for United Way / MaineShare

The annual United Way/MaineShare fundraiser raised \$6,877 to benefit various local nonprofit organizations to support our surrounding communities.

Compared to last year, the campaign raised \$5,421 vs. \$4,914 in 2015 toward United Way and \$1,456 vs. \$832 toward MaineShare. Overall, contributions to the campaign increased by nearly 20 percent over the 2015 campaign results, according to the Brian Delcamp, leader of our United Way/ MaineShare campaigns.

Winners of this year's drawings were as follows:

- Lissa Bittermann
- Art Colvin
- Mark Maritato
- Paul Dubuque
- Cal Joiner
- Al Peterson

Thank you to everyone for your contributions! ♻️

ecomaine welcomes new employees

Recycling Center



Matt Roy
Recycling Operator
Joined in June

Jeremy Freeman
Recycling Operator
Joined in May

Mike Poole
Recycling Operator
Joined in January

Waste-to-energy Operations



Brian Yannelli
Mechanic
Joined in February

Richard Manoogian
Laborer
Joined in February



James Ferrar, Patrick Ball & Gage Provost
Utility Operator Interns - Maine Maritime Cadets
Joined in May

Administration



Chelsea Malacara
Communications & Outreach Intern
Joined in March

Wellness Corner

Mike Harwood loses 42 pounds in less than six months through healthy eating, regular treadmill workout

At ecomaine, all employees are encouraged to participate in the company wellness program, and many have realized the benefits of improved health and a healthy payback at the end of the year. Employees are taking proactive steps to manage their health - ranging from setting health goals to attending wellness Lunch & Learns, to tracking fitness routines, to having annual medical exams. Employees can earn a pre-tax payout of up to \$300 if they earn 100 points through active wellness program participation.

Recently, our wellness coach Tammy invited Mechanic Mike Harwood to share his inspiring story about his wellness success story, so he did!

Mike had been putting on two or three pounds every year and as he got older it has become harder and harder to take it off. This year, Mike decided, was going to be the year for him to get into shape. "I have a special needs son on the autism spectrum and one of my biggest worries is what will happen to him when I am no longer around to care for him?" said Mike.

When January rolled around, Mike made a goal to the wellness program to lose five pounds. "I really wanted to lose more but was afraid to overcommit in the fear that I would fail," he said. "So I told my wife Sabrina I wanted to eat less carbohydrates - mainly less bread and pasta. She started making healthy substitutes for dinners such as a spaghetti squash lasagna substitute."

Mike said he started eating fresh fruit and vegetables instead of chips and cookies and started using his treadmill three or more times a week. After a couple of weeks he had already lost the five pounds that he had pledged to lose. His pants fit better, he had more energy and began to think that maybe he could lose another five pounds. Soon, he was down 10 pounds in less than a month!

So now it has been five months since Mike's wellness commitment. He has lost 42 pounds and can run an 8-minute mile. He has lost 5 inches off of his waste and brought his BMI way down. "I also have a lot more energy to play with my son Collin and chase after him when he runs off," said Mike. Great work, Mike! ♻️



Mike Harwood swings with his son Collin on Father's Day 2015.



Lunch & Learn Calendar

There are still plenty of Lunch & Learns available to help you reach your 100-point wellness goal!

- Tuesday, July 18: Meal Planning
- Wednesday, August 9: Power of Ten
- Thursday, Sept. 7: Fit at 40
- Thursday, Oct. 19: Strengthen Your Core
- Tuesday, Nov. 7: Financial Fitness
- Tuesday, Dec. 12: Employee Assistance Program

All lunch & learns are at noon in conference room 1 and 5:30 p.m. in the control room.

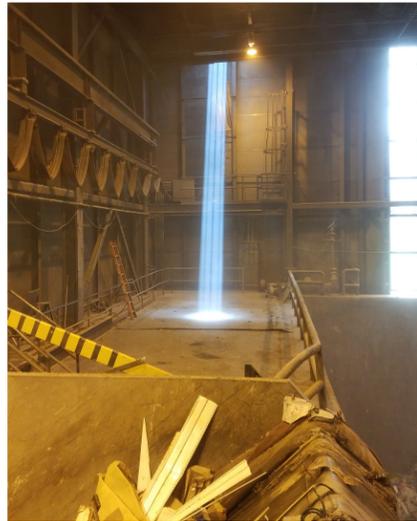
Questions? Contact Lynn Michaels at ext. 306

Crane, scalehouse projects underway

Anyone who has been to ecomaine's waste-to-energy facility in recent weeks has noticed a lot of construction underway. Specifically, we are in the process of upgrading the scale house and our cranes in ecomaine's seven-story trash bunker.

With the scalehouse project, the goal is to finally upgrade the 29-year-old scalehouse. The project team worked very hard to ensure minimal disruption to daily operations by scheduling the construction during non-business hours, for which we have received much positive feedback. This project is expected to be completed by August.

The crane project involves three work streams: the first was to replace the north crane's "umbilical cord" cable, the second was to upgrade the runways for the cranes, and the last and biggest part of the project will be to replace the south crane with an automated crane. The automated crane will allow for more efficiency and increased productivity in our 24/7 operations. ♻️



The crane construction is happening through the roof of our trash bunker. Mark Dolloff captured this cool photo of a sun beam coming through the hole.

ecomaine takes waste research journey to Scandinavia

In April Kevin Roche, along with board members Mike Shaw (Scarborough), Troy Moon (Portland), Caleb Hemphill (Falmouth), Tony Plante (Windham), and Erik Street (Yarmouth), traveled to Norway and Sweden to study some of the most sophisticated waste-collection and processing systems in the world. In planning for the future, ecomaine had three primary objectives in mind when planning this learning expedition:

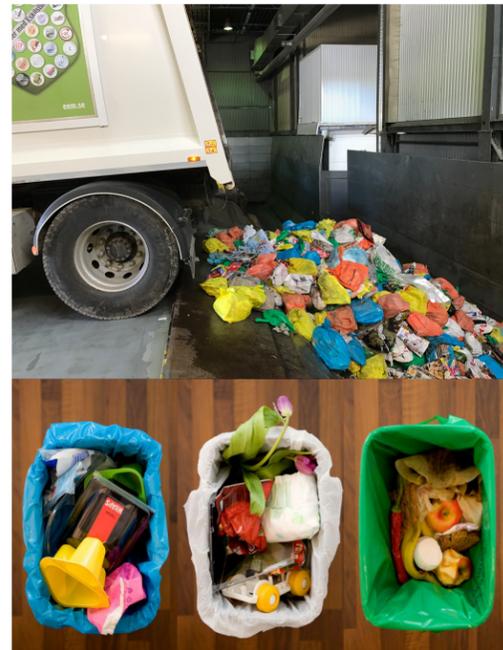
- Increase recycling rates;
- add food waste recovery without the use of an additional truck; and
- move towards more automation.

In Oslo, Norway, optical sorters identify and separate blue bags into recycling, green bags of food waste into biogas production, and all trash bags go to waste to energy. The color-coded bags depend on far fewer curbside bins, saving space for residents, limiting trucks on the road to a single curbside pick-up, which helps reduce environmental impact and lower costs for municipalities.

Sweden, which also uses waste to energy, has taken advantage of optical sorting in some of their waste processing plants. The country of Sweden has a goal to become Zero Waste and they are not far off. Ninety-nine percent of their household waste gets processed as food waste, is recycled or is processed through waste-to-energy.

So what's next? ecomaine is driven to find solutions that increase efficiency, lower collection cost, increase convenience, and reduce our environmental impact.

"In our ongoing quest to increase recycling rates, we are going to focus on automation, efficiency, and furthering regionalization," said Kevin Roche, CEO of ecomaine. ♻️



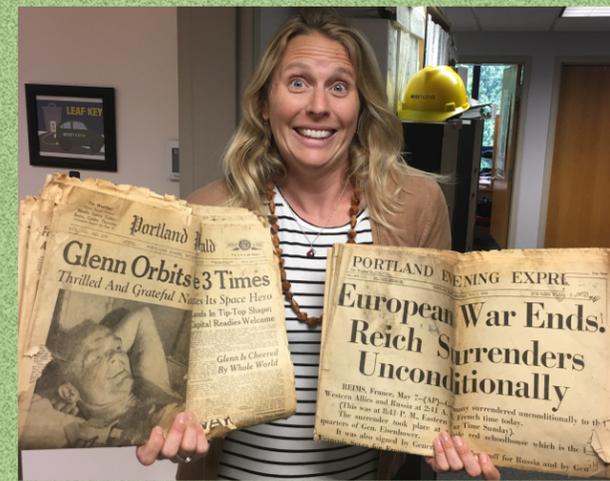
ecomaine's Environmental Department readies for ISO 14001:2015 transition

ecomaine's Environmental Management System (EMS) is based on the international standard ISO 14001, which recognizes environmental stewardship. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an independent, non-governmental organization based in and the world's largest developer of voluntary international standards. Currently, our environmental management system (EMS) is certified for the second (ISO 14001:2004) of three iterations of ISO standards. This fall, a transition audit will be completed to certify to version 3 (ISO 14001:2015). ecomaine will convert the EMS to the new standard, which includes the integration of environmental management into the business planning process; highlights the importance of the role of senior management as top role of "leadership" of the program; places emphasis on measurable environmental performance; and considers life cycle metrics and analysis in regard to environmental aspects. ♻️



Relics found at recycling

ecomaine Environmental Educator Katrina Venhuizen recently worked the sorting line at ecomaine's recycling facility to recover some cans to become up-cycled plant pots for our Annual Meeting. What she didn't expect to find were these two historical newspapers: one dated May 7, 1945, announcing the end of WWII, and another dated Feb. 21, 1962 announcing astronaut John Glenn's maiden orbits around the globe. There is never a dull moment at ecomaine's recycling center! ♻️



ecomaine partners with DEA, DEP on drug combustion



ecomaine's Environmental Manager Anne Hewes, center, partnered once again with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Drug Enforcement Administration's Danni Twomey (left) and Drug Enforcement Administration Supervisor Michael Wardrop, right, on National Drug Take-back day, where we received 27,000 pounds of drugs from throughout Maine to be mass burned in our waste-to-energy facility. Altogether in Fiscal Year 2017, ecomaine processed more than 55,000 pounds of prescription drugs. ♻️