

ecomaine

Memorandum

DATE: April 4, 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Board

FROM: Kevin H. Roche, CEO

SUBJECT: **Agenda for the Outreach & Recycling Committee Meeting**

There is an **ecomaine** Outreach & Recycling Committee scheduled for April 10, 2025 @ 4:00PM at **ecomaine**. The meeting will be held here at **ecomaine** in the 1R Community Room.

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. **Approval of February 13, 2025, Minutes (*Attachment A*)**
2. Judging – eco-Excellence Applications (*Attachment B*)
3. FY25 P.R., Outreach Program & Outreach Metrics
 - School Grants (Current Status of Projects) (*Attachment C*)
4. Other:

Meetings:

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| Full Board of Directors | 04-17-2025 @ 4pm |
| Finance & Audit Committee | 05-15-2025 @ 3pm |
| Executive Committee | 05-15-2025 @ 4pm |
| Outreach & Recycling Committee | 05-22-2025 @ 4pm |
| Annual Board of Directors Meeting | 06-18-2025 @ 11:30am (Date Change from 06-19-2025) |

ecomaine

Memorandum

DATE: February 27, 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Board

FROM: Kevin H. Roche, CEO

SUBJECT: **Minutes – Outreach & Recycling Committee Meeting**

There was an **ecomaine** Outreach & Recycling Committee scheduled for **February 13, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.** The meeting was called to order by Caleb Hemphill, Chair.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Troy Moon motioned to approve the minutes of November 7, 2024. The motion was seconded by Linda Cohen. All in favor.

2. **Presentation: EPA Grant Program – Status Update**

Zoe Malia (Staff) provided an update of the status of the EPA Grant (Multi Family Dwelling Recycling Education and Outreach Program) (*See Attached*).

Kevin Roche (Staff) briefly discussed the issue with limited communication from EPA on funding.

3. **FY 25 P.R. & Outreach Metrics**

Abigail Hart (Staff) reported that staff have reached 76,164 people through all Outreach & Education activities. She provided a brief on the different types of education in working with communities to include sports sponsorship and other forms of outreach. Digital Marketing had a 44% increase to include other social media.

4. **Program Updates**

Staff briefed the committee on the renewal of the News & Brews Trivia Night Series with Maine Public Radio. Staff also informed the committee that eco-Excellence nominations will open next week and will be reviewed by the committee at the April 10, 2025, meeting.

Linda Boudreau motioned to adjourn, and Amber Swett seconded the motion. All in favor.

Attendees: Lisa Belanger, Linda Boudreau, Linda Boudreau, Carry Castleman-Ross, Dave Durrell, Caleb Hemphill, Troy Moon Erik Street & Amber Swett

Staff: Sarah Folan, Abigail Hart, Zoe Malia, Denise Mungen & Kevin Roche

| Contact first name | Contact last name | Contact email | Name of Nominee | Reason for Nomination (100-250 words, please see criteria below) | Nominee Email | Indicate Which Award Group Nominee Qualifies As | Municipality of Nominee* |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Pamela | Posey | pmoulton61@gmail.com | Pamela Posey Moulton | <p>Posey aka Pamela Moulton, is a Maine based environmental artist who builds large scale works of art from salvaged materials. Repurposing harmful materials like plastic and marine debris, she transforms them into works of art that target environmental issues, like rising waters, sinking lighthouses and the endangered eelgrass meadows.</p> <p>Recent commissions have oriented her work beneath the sea where she works with teams to rescue abandoned fishing equipment, known as ghost gear. To date she has recovered 15 tons of ghost gear from the ocean. These harmful materials, like plastic and nylon fishing nets, morph into organic sculptures that are part sea creature, part Dr. Seuss, as they emerge from the earth reminiscent of flora, fauna, and fungi.</p> <p>The driving force in her studio practice is transforming discarded synthetic materials, until they are unrecognizable then re-interpreting their value and purpose. She is the queen of recycling transformation.</p> <p>Community collaboration is at the core of her practice. Her trio of Pink sculptures, now installed in Freeport, engaged over 5000 individuals who helped create elements for her installation. Through hands-on collaborations and real-life experience repurposing waste materials, Posey's work educates and cultivates young eco-ambassadors while broaching difficult climate change dialogues.</p> <p>www.poseyart.com</p> | pmoulton61@gmail.com | Individual | North Bridgton |
| Kara | Law | karylavenderlaw@gmail.com | Jessica Proctor | <p>With Jessica Proctor as a member of your community – whether town, church, school, sports, or otherwise - you know that things will get done, and done with a focus on environmental sustainability, especially with respect to waste reduction and recycling. This nomination is for Jess' efforts in launching, managing, and accomplishing community collection of more than 1,000 pounds of plastic film for recycling in the NexTrex Challenge in Cape Elizabeth. Launched on Earth Day 2024 in partnership with the Thomas Memorial Library and the Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee, the Cape Elizabeth Plastic Film Recycling Program met their goal in only 8 months, earning a Trex bench for the Children's Garden at the library. This success is thanks to tremendous community engagement in contributing household plastic film, as well as volunteer time and commitment to transporting giant bags of collected film to drop-off sites, all under Jess' leadership. Through this program residents were educated about household films that are accepted for recycling, and others that are contaminants, through engaging displays created by Library Director Rachel Davis, including a "No-No Board" with rejected items. At the conclusion of the program, participants were directed to store drop-off points to continue plastic film collection for recycling. Jess spearheaded this program, recruited leadership partners, promoted the program through local newspaper articles, and kept partners, volunteers, and community members on track to accomplish this tremendous achievement. The ultimate success of the program is in sharing best practices about plastic film recycling that will hopefully live as long as the recycled Trex bench.</p> | jessdeeproctor@gmail.com | Individual | Cape Elizabeth |
| Brooke | Palmer | bpalmer@dyersaco.org | Cheryl Gray | <p>I am happy to nominate Cheryl Gray for EcoMaine's Eco-Excellence Awards! After the new director of the Dyer library where Cheryl works mentioned the NexTrex Recycling challenge to earn a bench by collecting and recycling 1000 lbs. of film plastic, Cheryl took on the challenge and ran with it. She has collected over 4800 pounds earning the library a trex bench along with working with several other organizations to help them earn a bench as well. She has a list of organizations and businesses who are helping to collect plastic and want to sign up for the challenge as well. After watching her efforts a few Saco businesses were inspired to sign up for the challenge themselves. She has handed out educational material on recycling plastic- what is accepted and what is not. Cheryl has promoted and educated the community at local events. She also has organized a couple of presentations inviting Eco-Maine and Amelia Foster who started the city's composting program to present as well. I have witnessed different members of our community approach Cheryl to let her know she has changed their lives and they now recycle confidently. Cheryl has encouraged the community to take on the challenge of recycling plastic bags and film plastic they have rallied to the challenge.</p> | cgay@dyersaco.org | Individual | Saco |
| The Downs | The Downs | press@thedowns.com | M&R Development | <p>Located in the heart of Scarborough, The Downs development is Maine's largest, most comprehensive development providing an economic hub, mixed-use housing, and a Town Center, a much-desired public benefit since 2006. The Downs represents the revival of one of Maine's most well-loved landmarks, and the future of smart growth. The Downs was thoughtfully master planned, which can be replicated in communities statewide. While proven successful in housing and business development in five short years, The Downs is focused on sustainability in 2025 as it builds out the Town Center. □</p> <p>Housing: As the State of Maine works to add 84,000 housing units to ease the statewide crisis, The Downs has emerged as the statewide leader in mixed-use housing. Since 2019, it has delivered 664 housing units and is home to over 1,100 residents with 2,000 total units planned. 77-percent of the housing is non-single family. The diverse approach to housing includes affordable, workforce, luxury and senior units, apartments, tiny homes, single-family, and condominiums and townhomes. □</p> <p>Business: The business park is home to 50+ businesses with over 1,000 people reporting to work. It is home to Costco, IDEXX, InterMed and Allagash. □</p> <p>Sustainability: The Downs donated over 200+ acres to Scarborough Land Trust and will build 2 public trailheads and 10 miles of recreational trails. There are EV chargers and rooftop solar panels throughout the property. The Downs has invested \$81M in private capital for infrastructure improvements, including a traffic management plan, stormwater restoration and expansion of public transit. □</p> <p>The combined efforts will reduce non-point runoff, limit emissions, and diversify energy options. □</p> | diana@blackflymedia.com | Multi-Family Housing Leader | Scarborough |
| Cashel | Stewart | cashelstewart@gmail.com | Rubbish Project | <p>Rubbish Project brings together hundreds of Maine residents each year in efforts to clean neighborhoods, bring awareness to plastic pollution, and build community resiliency. The great team of dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to bring a fun atmosphere to about 15 events during the summer months. Their following has grown and grown over the past 5 years, creating a community that is more conscious of their waste and more considerate of their neighbor. These days, most eagerly await the events, events that feature an otherwise mundane activity of picking up trash.</p> | lexi@saltwaterclassroom.com | Non-Profit | Portland, Maine |
| Hali | Stewart | halielizabethstewart@gmail.com | Rubbish Project | <p>Rubbish is the best community trash pick-up around greater Portland and the midcoast! From April through September, they host happy-hour/ morning trash pick-ups with local businesses, and wrap up each event with socializing, conversations and tips about waste-reduction, and have an awesome volunteer raffle to celebrate the collective efforts of cleaning our neighborhoods! It's a great opportunity to engage with your community, partake in cleaning up our home, and inspire environmental stewards of all ages! Also, also stop to ask what we're doing - increasing awareness and community impact.</p> | lexi.doudera@gmail.com | Non-Profit | Portland, Maine |
| Renee | Lassow | renee_lassow@gmail.com | Rubbish (Lexi Doudera & Laura Marston) | <p>Rubbish is a dynamic, community-driven initiative that transforms sustainability into action. Through engaging clean-up events, educational outreach, and local partnerships, Rubbish has inspired countless individuals to recognize the power of their impact on waste reduction. □</p> <p>Founded in 2019, Rubbish has evolved into a collaborative project between Saltwater Classroom and GoGo Refill, demonstrating both effectiveness and scalability. By combining hands-on litter cleanups with engaging conversations, Rubbish raises awareness about waste issues while fostering a sense of shared responsibility. Events attract diverse participants, from local businesses to volunteers of all ages, reinforcing the importance of community engagement in sustainable waste management. □</p> <p>Over the years, the Rubbish Crew has continued to grow, as have the communities it serves. What started as a grassroots initiative has expanded its reach, bringing people together across Maine to take collective action for a cleaner Maine. The initiative's ability to thrive despite challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, highlights its resilience and adaptability. Under the leadership of Lexi Doudera and Laura Marston, Rubbish continues to expand its impact, making sustainability education accessible and fun. □</p> <p>By making waste reduction a collective effort and promoting individual action in a positive, approachable way, Rubbish exemplifies the spirit of Eco Maine's Eco Excellence Award. Its impact on awareness, engagement, and sustainable waste management makes it a</p> | lexi@saltwaterclassroom.com | Non-Profit | Greater Portland Area (Portland, South Portland) & Midcoast (Camden, Rockland) |

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| Renee | Lassow | renee.lassow@gmail.com | CLYNK | <p>CLYNK is a leader in sustainable waste management, making bottle redemption more effective, accessible, and impactful for communities across Maine. By offering an innovative bottle redemption system, CLYNK has helped individuals and organizations recycle millions of containers, significantly reducing waste in landfills while supporting the circular economy. □</p> <p>A key strength of CLYNK is its ability to increase awareness about recycling through user-friendly technology and educational outreach. CLYNK's digital platform tracks environmental impact, empowering customers to see their contribution to waste reduction. The company also partners with schools, nonprofits, and municipalities, fostering a culture of sustainability while making fundraising through recycling easy and effective. □</p> <p>CLYNK's impact extends beyond convenience—it strengthens communities. Programs like CLYNK to Give allow people to donate redemption funds to local charities, reinforcing the link between sustainability and social good. Additionally, CLYNK's recent expansion into Connecticut demonstrates the replicability of its model, proving its effectiveness beyond Maine. □</p> <p>With a seamless, incentive-driven approach, CLYNK simplifies recycling for individuals and businesses alike. By reducing barriers to participation and increasing engagement, CLYNK is shaping a future where recycling is second nature. For its measurable success, educational impact, and community-driven mission, CLYNK is a deserving recipient of Eco Maine's Eco Excellence Award.</p> | info@clynk.com / lassow@clynk.com | Business | Majority of state of Maine (Falmouth, Freeport, Gorham, Gray, Portland, Scarborough, South Portland, Windham, Yarmouth etc.) |
| Kim | Bernard | info@kimbernard.com | Kim Bernard | <p>Kim Bernard creates installations that are public, recycled, involve the community and raise environmental awareness.</p> <p>As an independent artist she creates public art installations out of recycled materials like plastic, denim, vinyl records and bicycle inner tubes.</p> <p>As a visiting artist she works with students and communities, throughout New England, turning Trash into Art that addresses sustainability, through hands-on participation.</p> <p>As a mentor, she consults individual artists, helping them develop their creative practice.</p> <p>As a teaching artist at MECA, for 22 years, she's taught workshops on Art Biz, Grant Writing and Upcycling, and also Trash to Art courses, in Colby's Jan Plan, for 3 years.</p> <p>As a community artist, she's organized the Rockland Sculpture Race for 5 years.</p> <p>As a volunteer, for 9 years, she creates art with youth at The Landing Place, and now serves on a marine debris advisory committee through Haystack for a Maine Sea Grant.</p> <p>Bernard is currently focused on upcycling plastic into sculptural installations using her portable plastic recycling machines. Her PopUpCycler is compact and trailerable, allowing her to create sculptural installations with communities anywhere: schools, art centers, libraries, museums, community events.</p> <p>Bernard's goal is to engage, create, educate and inspire by turning trash into art.</p> <p>www.kimbernard.com</p> | info@kimbernard.com | Individual | Rockland, Maine |
| Austin | Steward | asteward15@gmail.com | Wicked Clean Bins | <p>Wicked Clean Bins is a sustainability-focused business reducing water waste and preventing pollution through eco-friendly bin cleaning. Their process uses less water than a garden hose while containing and removing wastewater to protect local streams and groundwater. Their locally sourced, fully biodegradable detergent ensures no harmful chemicals enter the environment. □</p> <p>Beyond their direct environmental impact, Wicked Clean Bins raises awareness about sustainable waste management, offering a simple, effective service that is easily replicable. By helping residents maintain clean bins without harming the planet, they set a model for eco-conscious business practices in the community. □</p> <p>For their commitment to water conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable sanitation, Wicked Clean Bins is a deserving recipient of the Ecomaine eco-Excellence Award.</p> | hello@wickedcleanbins.com | Business | South Portland |
| Emily | Mackeown | emily@mainegearshare.org | Maine GearShare, Josh Bossin | <p>Josh Bossin, as the Executive Director of Maine GearShare, has spearheaded a gear repair program focused on sustainability and waste reduction. In 2024 alone, Maine GearShare's gear repair program diverted over 1,700 pounds of outdoor apparel and equipment from the waste stream, extending the life of essential gear and reducing the environmental impact of outdoor recreation. □</p> <p>Beyond its effectiveness in waste reduction, the program has increased awareness about repair as a sustainable alternative to disposal, engaging outdoor enthusiasts, schools, and community organizations in the value of reuse. By making gear repair accessible and affordable, Josh and Maine GearShare are fostering a culture of sustainability. □</p> <p>The program's impact extends beyond waste diversion; it has created opportunities for skill-building and workforce development, training staff and volunteers in gear maintenance and repair techniques. Additionally, it serves as a replicable model for other communities, demonstrating how small-scale repair initiatives can contribute to broader waste reduction efforts.</p> | info@mainegearshare.org | Non-Profit | Brunswick |
| Emma | Donnelly | emma.elizabeth.donnely1@gmail.co | Sam Chamberlain - Wicked Clean Bins | <p>Wicked Clean Bins is an incredible, eco-conscious small business. I appreciate their transparency in their social media posts about how it all works and how it is eco-friendly. They are reasonably priced and the quality of their work is excellent. It's really cool that this business not only is eco-friendly, but serves a much needed purpose and provides a great service to many cities in Maine. I'm so excited to see where they go in the future!</p> | Hello@wickedcleanbins.com | Business | South Portland |
| Judith | Shaw | jude23@outlook.com | Wicked Clean Bins | <p>There are many reasons to nominate Wicked Clean Bins. I live in the watershed for Highland Lake in Windham and overlooked the harm I could be causing by cleaning my trash and recycling bins with bleach then dumping it in my driveway! Now Wicked Clean Bins sanitizes my bins getting rid of waste and bacteria and none of it gets in the groundwater. Plus, since they come after municipal trash pickup, I don't have to put my bins out twice. And amazing customer service by environmentally conscious, community focused</p> | hello@wickedcleanbins.com | Business | South Portland |
| Greg | Williams | greg@agricycleenergy.com | Daniel Bell and Adam Wintle | <p>Daniel Bell and Adam Wintle, co-owners of Agri-Cycle, New England's largest organics hauling company based in South Portland, have worked in tandem with Adam's family's 3-MW anaerobic digestion facility, Exeter Agri-Energy (EAE) in Exeter, to collect and process more than 500,000 tons since 2011, when the digester was first commissioned. Dan and Adam's two companies provide a diversion solution from Galois to Kittery, moving commercial and municipal food waste from client locations to Exeter, where it is processed into renewable energy. The renewable power generated by food waste is exported to the ISO New England grid under a power purchase agreement through Maine's community renewables program. Since commissioning EAE, Dan and Adam's efforts have delivered over 120,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity to the ISO grid, 90% of which was generated from food waste feedstocks. Together, Agri-Cycle and EAE represent 80,000 tons of capacity, with between 22,000 and 25,000 tons being diverted from Maine's waste stream annually in support of state recycling goals and the Maine Won't Wait climate action plan. Since 2016, ecomaine has played a key role in Dan and Adam's contributions to food waste diversion in Maine via a formal partnership with Agri-Cycle and EAE on the transfer of food waste from the southern portion of the state.</p> | dan@agricycleenergy.com | Individual | South Portland |
| Morgan | Sewall | morgan.sewall@goodwillnne.org | Ali Mann | <p>Ali runs a repair meet-up group called Ripe For Repair (@ripe_for_repair on Instagram). She hosts semi-regular meet-ups in the greater Portland area for people to bring their broken things (literally anything) and learn how to fix them! This discourages throw-away culture and helps to fix perfectly good items to keep them in use.</p> | ali.mann@gmail.com | Individual | Portland |
| Katie | Tims | ktims@portlandmaine.gov | Ripe For Repair Team | <p>Ongoing repair meetups with the goal of reuse/reduce waste, community building, volunteerism, and knowledge sharing.</p> | ripe4repair@gmail.com | Individual | Portland |
| Kimberly | Curry | kimberly.curry@goodwillnne.org | Ali Mann Ripe for Repair | <p>Ali has organized and lead Ripe for Repair. This group has community meet ups to repair anything from small electronics to clothing to camping gear. Not only is she promoting sustainable living and extending the life of objects that would be headed for the landfill, she is also creating community and encouraging a lifestyle of reuse, recycle, and repurpose. Ripe for Repair is thriving! It is thanks in part to the vision and efforts of Ali Mann and the Ripe for Repair team.</p> | Ali.Mann@gmail.com | Non-Profit | Cumberland |

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| Linda | Cohen | lcohen@southportland.gov | South Portland Waste Reduction Committee Repair Fair | <p>It was such a great event held on January 25, 2025 in the all purpose room at the library, and had 6 different repair stations that were staffed by local volunteers. Susan Parmalee got a grant that paid for supplies from local hardware stores and donations from local businesses for food and coffee. It was very well attended (over 100 waivers signed by people who were there to get things repaired), and there were all different generations represented. People seemed really excited to have the opportunity to participate in something like this. ☐</p> <p>In terms of stats: ☐</p> <p>Lamps: 25 lamps ☐</p> <p>Clothing: 37 different items (includes jackets, pants, shirts, purses/bags, sweaters, gloves, and shoes) ☐</p> <p>Small appliances: 8 different appliances (includes mixers, grinders, toaster oven, blender) ☐</p> <p>Jewelry: 8 items ☐</p> <p>Electronics : 16 different items (includes computers, gaming devices, clocks, vacuums, space heater, hair dryer, calculator, toys, cassette/CD players) ☐</p> <p>Woodworking: 5 different items (includes chairs, stools, drawers, toys, lamp shade) ☐</p> <p>The WRC chair said that most people she talked to reported that their items were repaired or they were given advice on how to take the next steps in repairing their item. And as an added bonus, because the event was free, people made donations to the Friends of Drew is a senior at Greely High School where he has taken a leading role in starting a composting initiative at SADS1 that officially launched in 12/2024. Here is a link to the informational video that he and other students developed for informing fellow Rangers of this project. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pWPD09FIDU. He is also a member of the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee where he continues to serve as a role model and inspire us all to know that our collective work matters. The world is a better place because of people like him. ☐</p> | jrosenbach@southportland.gov | Municipality | South Portland |
| Lisa | Belanger On behalf of | isabelanger@gmail.com | Drew Flanders | <p>Lisa Belanger is a senior at Greely High School where he has taken a leading role in starting a composting initiative at SADS1 that officially launched in 12/2024. Here is a link to the informational video that he and other students developed for informing fellow Rangers of this project. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pWPD09FIDU. He is also a member of the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee where he continues to serve as a role model and inspire us all to know that our collective work matters. The world is a better place because of people like him. ☐</p> | Drewdujon@gmail.com or 2025aflanders@gmail.com | Individual | North Yarmouth |
| Carrye | Castleman-Ross | carrye22@gmail.com | Linda Goldrup | <p>Linda Goldrup is a longtime Bridgton municipal employee, having been on our Public Works staff for 2 decades. After years running sidewalk snow removal she joined the Transfer Station staff 6 years ago. Linda saw what then constituted our "dump store", which at the time was a disorganized room, filled with messy stacks of donated goods, piled up in no real order and with no sorting of trash from treasures. She single-handedly took it upon herself to organize the store into an orderly display of categories, shelving displays and "rooms" utilizing donated furniture to create shopping tableaux based on kitchen supplies, educational resources, appliances, etc., not only creating a pleasant shopping experience but most importantly diverting perfectly re-useable items from our waste stream, lowering the MSW disposal costs for our taxpayers. She also spotlights more valuable donations in an "auction" area where residents can bid on high end donated furniture etc. She has turned a formerly blighted mess of crap into a pleasant, and profitable, resource for Bridgton residents. Additionally, Linda mans this store year round, from our unheated warehouse facility at the Transfer Station, even during the cold depths of winter. Linda's creativity and dedication is legendary among her "shoppers" and townspeople, and I believe she should be more broadly acknowledged as an Eco Excellence champion for the beloved shining star she is!</p> | Goldruli55@gmail.com | Municipality | Bridgton |
| Elena | Gessler | elenag@iccmaine.org | Intercultural Community Center | <p>The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) is dedicated to enhancing the sustainability and well-being of our community through innovative educational initiatives. A prime example of this commitment is our afterschool program's "Garbage to Garden," which fosters environmental stewardship and combats food waste among immigrant families in Westbrook. Over the past two years, ICC has effectively implemented a comprehensive waste management initiative that integrates composting and sustainable gardening practices into its educational programming. ☐</p> <p>Grounded in hands-on experiences, the program includes field trips to organizations such as WisMaine Farm, where students actively engage in sustainable practices by planting seedlings and learning about local food systems. Diverse guest speakers enrich the curriculum, providing valuable insights into various professions related to environmental stewardship. In the past year, alone, our project-based learning has highlighted career opportunities, encouraging eco-conscious behavior among nearly 100 immigrant and refugee students. ☐</p> <p>Through collaborations with organizations like the Friends of the Presumpscot River and Maine Maritime Museum, ICC inspires curiosity and outdoor exploration, fostering a deeper connection with the environment. By offering culturally relevant education and accessible resources, ICC empowers youth to embrace sustainable practices fully. ☐</p> <p>This nomination recognizes ICC's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and its transformative role in creating a healthier community. By enhancing local biodiversity through its gardening initiatives and supporting socio-economic stability for our residents, ICC is a shining example of community-driven sustainability. ☐</p> | elenag@iccmaine.org | Non-Profit | Westbrook, Maine |
| Amy | Fagan | amysgardenjam@gmail.com | Laura Marston | <p>Laura's dedication to Maine's sustainability is beyond what anyone should have to do, but she has organized meetings, written letters and presented, and opened up 2 stores to help Maine get on the eco-friendly map. She is constantly upping her game to lead by example. ☐</p> | info@gogogrefill.com | Business | South Portland |
| Jami | Fitch | jfitch@scarboroughmaine.org | Rick Meinking | <p>The Town of Scarborough enthusiastically nominates Rick Meinking, former chair of the Scarborough Sustainability Committee, for the 2025 eco-Excellence Award. ☐</p> <p>Rick's commitment to sustainability is apparent. He is a founding member of Scarborough's Energy Committee (now Sustainability Committee) and a fierce proponent of energy efficiency and emissions reduction. During his time on the Sustainability Committee, Rick successfully advocated for the Town to create a Sustainability Coordinator staff position. Scarborough was one of the first municipalities in Maine to hire someone in this role. He was also instrumental in the Town's efforts to adopt an EV charging ordinance and a commercial solar ordinance, convert all of the Town's streetlights to high-efficiency LEDs, and install rooftop solar arrays on municipal buildings. He has also served on the Town's Ad Hoc Public Safety Building Committee and Ad Hoc School Building Committee to ensure sustainability practices are incorporated into the building designs. ☐</p> <p>Rick is also sustainability-minded in his professional life. He is a Senior Program Manager for Commercial Initiatives at Efficiency Maine. In this role, Rick helps commercial and industrial landowners implement energy efficiency upgrades and navigate Efficiency Maine's incentive programs. ☐</p> <p>Rick's knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm have been great assets to the Town of Scarborough. Newly enacted term limits mean Rick is no longer able to serve on the Sustainability Committee in an official capacity, but he intends to stay involved. Scarborough is fortunate to have a such a dedicated community member help the Town incorporate sustainability into its policies and practices, and we hope the review committee agrees that Rick is truly an eco-Excellence!</p> | rick.meinking@efficiencymaine.com | Individual | Scarborough |
| Tania | Ferrante | ferranta@spsdme.org | South Portland High School Ecology Class | <p>In 2016, South Portland High School started composting in their cafeteria and kitchen thanks to grants from ecomaine. At this time, we were in a new school building and set up systems with the kitchen and custodial staff to make composting a success. Students were in the cafeteria at the stations during lunch, making sure that composting was done properly. This student visibility greatly increased our composting rates according to our data. In fact, we were highly successful in composting close to 27,000 pounds that year. The district, a few years later, added the cost of composting through Garbage to Garden to our budget. ☐</p> <p>In 2020, our composting rates went down significantly due to COVID. We no longer had students at our stations, and the rate went down to about 2,600 pounds that year. This year, students in my ecology class were determined to increase composting rates once again. They collected data in the cafe by measuring the trash and composting rates. They studied rates from past years and studied how composting in the cafe could be improved. We were able to get students back in the cafeteria monitoring the stations in February of 2024. Ecology students made signs, educated students and staff in the cafe about composting, spoke with the custodians about how to best improve composting in the cafeteria, and researched compostable products that could be used in the kitchen. Ecology students spread awareness about composting and students and staff were listening. ☐</p> <p>Our average monthly composting data from September of 2023 through December 2023 was 337 pounds, which was significantly lower than pre-Covid years where we were averaging 1,398 per month. This year, ecology students</p> | ferranta@spsdme.org | Municipality | South Portland |
| Meddy | Smith | meddysmith16@gmail.com | Maya Faulstich | <p>Maya, a student at Yarmouth High School, is passionate about promoting reuse strategies in the school district and wider community. She is an active member of the student Environmental Action Club, has advocated in front of the Town Council on numerous occasions on behalf of climate issues. She was a student member on the town committee that developed the Yarmouth Climate Action Plan, and has founded several initiatives that aim to reduce waste and scale up reuse solutions. Dishes on Demand, a program founded by Maya, was one of 15 finalists for the Global Slingshot Challenge put on by National Geographic. This program offers to lend out reusable plates, cups, bowls, and utensils to school and community groups to use for dinners and events. After the event the club takes them back to wash and lend out again. Since September 2022, the program has prevented the use of more than 5,000 single use items and the equivalent of nearly 100 bags of trash (and counting!). Maya has played a central role in Yarmouth's school and broader community, in engaging, educating, and motivating community action on climate change and is a worthy candidate for</p> | mef@walmart.com | Individual | Yarmouth |

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| Chuck | Radis | cradis@maine.rr.com | Casco Bay Lines | <p>Each year, Casco Bay Lines transports more than a million passengers to the year-round islands of Casco Bay and does so in a sustainable, energy efficient manner. Current sustainability practices include: a pilot program to reduce and recycle shrink wrap for cargo, purchase of ultra low Sulphur diesel/bio fuel, recycling bulbs, batteries, printer cartridges, radiant heat in the terminal waiting room floor, new freight shed doors to contain heat during cold season, heat pumps in the terminal, and prominently displayed recycling bins throughout the terminal. In collaboration with the Portland Water District, a recently installed mural of Sebago Lake above the water fountain encourages patrons to refill reusable water containers rather than purchase single use water or soda. We are proud that our new ferry (to be delivered in the spring of 2025) will be New England's first hybrid electric ferry. The dramatically reduced carbon emissions will point the way for other passenger and cargo ships to move away from traditional diesel. Thanks for considering</p> | cradis@maine.rr.com | Non-Profit | Portland |
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ecomaine 2024 Waste Diversion Grant Status Update March 2025

North Haven School

Shaun Johnson (\$673)

Elementary students have taken charge of recycling management, and the newly installed bins at the front of their building are working well. Composting will begin this spring.

Vinalhaven School

Patricia Paquet (\$1792)

Due to a two-week break in March, Vinalhaven is just getting started on their project. They had an initial meeting with the Vinalhaven Land Trust, which will support their garden project.

Completed:

- Worm Factory Composters ordered for Pre-K through 3rd grade (4th/5th grade already have them).
- Four Worm Farm Observation Kits purchased.
- "Worms Eat My Garbage" guidebooks ordered for each grade level.
- 5th-grade students have been designing a garden in their designated space as part of their Technology class.
- Soil, seeds, and seed starter cups purchased.

In Progress:

- Participating in Read ME Agriculture 2025, featuring the book "*Farmer Eva's Green Garden Life*" by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, with a virtual author reading on March 31st.
- Ordering Red Worms, "Worms Eat My Garbage Activity Books", Digital Scales, and Raised Beds.

Westbrook Middle School

Abby Harnik (\$3300)

Westbrook is working with kitchen directors and the Cumberland County Food Council to outline their plans. They are also looking for educational support from ecomaine to help with rollout. Bea is currently assisting them with this.

King Middle School

Marina Penalver (\$720)

King Middle School is collaborating with ecomaine, Garbage to Garden, and the New England Environmental Finance Center to reduce cafeteria waste. Grant funds will be used to enhance their "Trash Guardians" Program.

Recent Activities:

- In February, Bea conducted a waste audit, identifying clean compost streams but room for improvement in recycling and waste sorting.
- Bea will return the last week of April for a cafeteria presentation on audit findings and improvements for the Trash Guardians Program.
- Funds will be allocated for upgraded signage to improve sorting efficiency.





Falmouth High School

Kim Blenk (\$1200)

The school's environmental club has a meeting on Friday, 4/4, to finalize a proposal for an updated lunch disposal system to present to administration. No funds have been spent yet, pending approval.

Roots Academy

Jaclyn Gallo (\$880)

Roots Academy has started sourcing materials for switching from paper towels to reusable hand towels.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- Community workday on 4/11 to install reusable hand towels in student bathrooms.
- Currently pricing rainwater collection barrels.
- Environmental Educators are planning classroom visits to teach 1st and 2nd graders about composting and recycling.

Ocean Ave Elementary

Amy Amoroso (\$4,796)

Ocean Avenue Elementary plans to transition to bamboo silverware this spring and fully switch to reusable utensils in the next school year.

Scheduled Events:

- ecomaine presentation on 4/30 covering the impacts of compostables vs. single-use plastics and the benefits of reuse.
- Live waste sorting demonstrations to show what happens to materials after disposal.
- School-wide assembly on waste management.
- Hands-on waste sorting relays for all classes.

Brunswick Schools

Phil Potenziano (~~\$5000~~)

Brunswick Schools was given \$5000 conditionally approved funding for their compost program. This was withdrawn as Brunswick was unable to facilitate the grant project, they will be reapplying in the Fall.

Cape Elizabeth High School

Tom Farmer (\$1800)

Tom and the AP Environmental Science students at Cape Elizabeth High School visited our facilities last week to better understand their waste management systems. They have implemented Clynk collection, composting, and multi-stream bin sorting in their cafeteria. The middle school is now modeling its program after this initiative.

Cape Elizabeth Middle School

Chriss Sutherland (\$2800)

Chriss is leading the implementation of composting in Cape Elizabeth Schools. They are just getting started and plan to share photos and updates by mid-May.

Intercultural Community Center

Emily Loder (\$1400)

ICC continues to compost snack waste and uses Garbage to Garden for weekly compost pickup. They are also planning to install raised garden beds at their facility and introduce garden education and planting once the snow melts. ICC will send photos once everything is set up.

Stepping Stones Montessori (Bea sent 3/31)

Jennifer Polley (\$2,675)

(Bea reached out for updates on 3/31 but has not yet received a response. Any updates before the 4/10 Recycling Outreach Committee meeting will be shared then.)

Appletree School (Annie)

Sara Spidle (\$495)

Appletree connected with GoGo Refill to discuss their grant and were excited to collaborate. They have purchased a gallon of multipurpose dish soap, which can also be used as hand soap. Additionally, they received sample-sized soap options to test before deciding on a bulk purchase.

They have yet to buy the spray cleaner but plan to do so on their next visit. Other sustainable purchases include:

- Natural sponges
- Wooden-handled pot scrubber
- Mason jar pump and spray lids
- Two second-hand mason jars from their town's swap shop

| School: | Contact: | Email: | Phone Number: | Project: | Status: | W9: | Signed Award Letter: | Award: | First Payment: | Second Payment: | June 1 Reports: | Notes: |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|---|-----|--|---------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| North Haven School | Shaun Johnson | sjohnson@nhcshawks.org | 412-965-1196 | Green Team Start Up and Composting and Recycling Program | Elementary students have been clearing all recycling and the new bins in the front of their building are working well. North Haven will begin composting this spring. | yes | yes | \$673 | \$538 | \$135 | | Sent W9 request on 1/30. 2/18 Sent follow up for signed grant award letter. Followed up on award letter 3/12. Sent revised Award letter 2/20 |
| Vinalhaven School | Patricia Paquet | patricia.paquet@vinalhavenschool.org | 303-250-7447 | Worms to Garden: In School Vermicomposting | Vinalhaven had a two week break in March and are only just getting started. They had an initial meeting with Vinalhaven Land Trust who will be supporting Vinalhaven School with the garden project. Some Materials are purchased like th educational materials and actual worm composters. Some materials are in process of being ordered. | yes | yes | \$1,792 | \$1,434 | \$358 | | Sent W9 request on 1/30. 2/18 Sent follow up for signed grant award letter. Sent revised Award letter 2/19 |
| Westbrook Middle School | Abby Harnik | Harnika@westbrookschoos.org | 802-782-6301 | School Wide Composting and Recycling Programming | Meetings with kitchen directors, and Cumberland County Food Council to outline and begin facilitating their plans. Looking for education with ecomaine to help rollout their programming, Bea is working with them on this. | yes | yes | \$3,300 | \$2,640 | \$660 | | Already in System, don't need W9. This is signed and in outgoing mail 3/7/25, sent follow up regarding letter 3/12 |
| King Middle School | Marina Penalver | penalm@portlandschools.org | 207-831-5621 | Improvements to "Compost Guardian" Program and Signage | The King Middle School has been working alongside ecomaine, Garbage to Garden and the New England Environmental Finance Center for waste reduction in their cafeteria. Their grant funds were to be used for enhancing their "Trash Guardians" Program (pictured below). In February, Bea preformed a waste audit on their current multi stream sorting bins and found that there was a clean compost stream, but recycling could be improved as well as reduced organics and recyclables in the trash. Bea will be returning the last week of April for a cafeteria presentation regarding the results of the audit and how their waste guardian program can be improved. Funds will be spent improving the signage for this program. Bea is meeting 4/7 to help design signage. | yes | In Principals office for final signature | \$720 | \$576 | \$144 | | Sent revised Award letter 2/20.Sent W9 request on 1/30. 2/18 Sent follow up for signed grant award letter. Sent follow up 3/12 for award letter. Sent another follow up 3/26. Meeting on 3/31 to discuss. Followed up on 4/2 for documentation of a signed award letter. |
| Falmouth High School | Kimberly Blenk | kblenk@falmouthschools.org | | Cafeteria Waste Diversion Efforts through Waste Disposal Station Redesign | Environmental Club this week. Club members are coming up with a proposal for an updated lunch disposal system to give administration. Once we have that approved, we'll begin spending money. As of now, no money has been spent. | yes | yes | \$1,200 | \$960 | \$240 | | Sent revised Award letter 2/20.Received the signed off Award Letter 2/26/25 |
| Roots Academy Cape Elizabeth | Jaclyn Gallo | info@rootslearningcommunity.com | 717-480-7012 | Composting, Reusables and Rainwater Collection for their Gardens | Roots has begun the process of sourcing materials for converting their paper towel usage to reusable hand towels. They have a community work day scheduled for 4/11 where they plan to install the reusable items in student bathrooms. They're currently in the process of pricing rainwater collection barrels. Environmental Educators will be setting up a date to go out to Roots to talk with their 1st and 2nd grade classrooms about composting and recycling. | yes | yes | \$880 | \$704 | \$176 | | Received w9 2/24/25. Sent follow up regarding award letter on 3/12/25 |
| Ocean Ave Elementary | Amy Amoroso | amyamoroso@gmail.com | (207) 874-8180 | Implementation of Compostable Bamboo Silverware in the Cafeteria | Ocean Avenue Elementary is planning on a conversion to bamboo silverware this spring and then converting to reusables in the new school year. ecomaine will be presenting 4/30 on the impacts of compostables vs single use plastics, and also the importance of switching to reuse. This presentation will show what happens to materials when they are thrown in the trash as well as demonstrations on how to sort their silverware during lunch clean up. On top of a school wide assembly program we will also be holding waste relays for all of the classes individually where we have examples of trash, compost and recycling that the students will need to properly sort. | yes | yes | \$4,796 | \$3,837 | \$959 | | |

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------|--|--|-----|-----|----------|----------|---------|--|
| Cape Elizabeth High School (2023) | Tom Farmer | tfarmer@capeelizabethschools.org | | Multi-stream sorting in the Cafeteria and introduction of Compost and Clynk | Toms and the AP Environmental Science students at Cape Elizabeth came for a tour of our facilities last week to better understand their waste systems. They have started with Clynk collection, composting and sorting in their cafeteria in multi-stream bins. The middle school is modeling their program off of this program. | yes | yes | \$1,800 | \$1,440 | \$360 | This grant was part of the 23-24 sessions, never was awarded. Someone reached out regarding it 1/29. Waiting on the signed award letter 3/5/25. Letter Signed and submitted. |
| Cape Middle School | Christopher Sutherland | csutherland@capeelizabethschools.org | 207-518-0942 | Multi-stream sorting in the Cafeteria and introduction of Compost and Clynk, Modeled after High School | Chriss is working on implementing composting in the Cape Elizabeth Schools, they are just hitting the ground running and will be sending photos and updates mid May! | yes | yes | \$2,800 | \$2,240 | \$560 | first round (May grants), already a W9, Sent revised Award letter 2/20/25. Received the signed off Award Letter 2/28/25 |
| ICC | Emily Loder | emilyl@iccmaine.org | | Composting and Gardening on Site with Education on Sustainable Food Systems | ICC continues to compost their snack waste and utilize Garbage to Garden compost pick up each week. Additionally, they will be placing raised garden beds at their facility and begin garden education and planting (once the snow leaves). ICC plans to send pictures once it is all set up. | yes | yes | \$1,400 | \$1,120 | \$280 | Sent revised Award letter 2/20. Received the signed off Award Letter 3/5/25 |
| Stepping Stones Montessori School | Jennifer Polley | jpollev@steppingstonesmontessorischool.org | 207-458-2787 | Multi-Stream Receptical Transition | Reached out to see progress 3/31, response has not been received. | yes | yes | \$2,675 | \$2,140 | \$535 | Received W9, sent out check in 3/12 for award letter Sent follow up on award letter 3/26 |
| Appletree School (Cape Elizabeth) | Sara Spidle | appletreeschoolcapeelizabeth@gmail.com | 207-799-4225 | Reuse and Refill Implementation | Appletree talked with GoGo Refill about how they received the grant, and they were excited to hear that Appletree chose their company. They have purchased a gallon of dish soap which is multipurpose and can be used as hand soap as well. They also received other soap options in smaller bottles to sample before they decide which one to buy in bulk next visit to GoGo Refill. They haven't purchased the spray cleaner but will be making another trip to purchase. Natural sponges, wooden handled pot scrubber, mason jar pump and spray lids were purchased. Two mason jars were purchased second-hand from their towns swap shop! | yes | yes | \$495 | \$396 | \$99 | Already have W9 (they also received 22 and 23 grants). Received Award Letter Signed 2/24/25 |
| Total: | | | | | | | | \$22,531 | \$18,025 | \$4,506 | |