



MID-MAINE SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION

The towns of Dexter, Exeter, Ripley, St. Albans, and Corinna are members that form the Mid-Maine Solid Waste Association (MMSWA). Other users of our facility include Guilford (since 2004) and Cambridge (since 1999). The Association is governed by a Board of Directors, which represents the interests of each of the participating members.

The MMSWA facility provides for the disposal of solid waste at its Transfer Station and operates a Recycling Facility on the premises. The site also offers demolition debris disposal, composting, tire disposal, white goods (refrigerators, appliances, etc.), universal waste (televisions, monitors, etc.), and metal disposal.

During the 2013 year MMSWA processed over 5,400 tons of municipal solid waste (household waste), 650 tons of wood waste, 1,300 tons of landfill debris, 150 tons of compost, 50 tons of universal waste, and over 1,200 tons of recyclables. Because we process these items separately it is important for our residents to keep these items separated when bringing them in for disposal. Each year MMSWA is required to report to the State of Maine the total amount of waste attributed to landfill disposal, recycled goods, and transferrable waste. The State mandates that MMSWA has a 50% recycle rate, so if recycled items are disposed along with the household waste, our community may not meet the state requirements or benefit from the financial gain of recycled goods resale. As of 2012 MMSWA still had not met the state's recycling rate. Every year the cost of disposing household waste increases by 3 to 4%, so the more our residents recycle, the more each town's disposal fee increases can be minimized.

In 2011, MMSWA learned that the existing landfill had approximately 12 years remaining disposal capacity. When and if we have to close our landfill, we will incur a significant amount of costs associated with this closure and will also be required to ship all landfill waste to other landfills, resulting in high disposal fees. In order to maximize the availability of the landfill, residents must keep all wood debris and household waste out of it.

It is very important to separate items to be disposed. Contamination of waste can result in the facility incurring additional fines or disposal fees. When this happens the participating towns are billed for these added costs and they can be significant. To help keep additional costs to a minimum, all waste must be placed in its proper place so please ask attendants when unsure about proper disposal location.

The costs incurred to operate the MMSWA facility in 2013 was in the amount of \$963,000.00. This figure includes \$413,000.00 for household waste disposal and \$87,000.00 shipping costs of household waste from MMSWA to Penobscot Energy Recovery. We recovered \$160,000 with sale of recyclable materials and saved \$81,400 in disposal costs as a result recycled goods.

Please assist MMSWA in achieving its recycling goals by separating your trash prior to arriving at the facility. This allows our staff to maintain a clean, organized, and customer-friendly environment while increasing our recycling efforts. Remember, the more materials recycled, the less our waste disposal costs will increase in the future.

An important reminder, please make a concerted effort to secure all incoming loads in order to prevent roadside debris.

If you have any questions about the DEP's rules pertaining to municipal waste, universal waste, or demolition debris, please feel free to contact MMSWA or visit the Department of Environmental Protection website at www.maine.gov/dep.

Rules for the use of the transfer station and recycling facility, as well as a schedule of fees and vehicle permits are available at your town office. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at 924-3650. Current permits are required in order to use the MMSWA facility. Hours of operation are 8am to 5pm Monday-Thursday and Saturday. We are closed on Fridays and Sundays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trampas King
Superintendent,
Mid Maine Solid Waste Association