

Recycling Committee Minutes: October 31, 2019

Members Present: Councilor Holly Lasagna, Sharon Benoit, Dennis Connelly Sr., Ralph Harder, Silver Moore-Leamon, Rebecca Lloyd, Camille Parrish

Staff Present: Phil Crowell, Assistant City Manager & Dan Goyette, Public Works Director

Presentation by Dan Goyette, Public Works Director

What is our current costs?

Total waste cost = \$1,030,000 (\$852,000 solid waste & \$177,000 recycling)

Costs per ton – recycling = \$102.00 & waste = \$42.00

What is our participation rate?

Household participation = 7-8%; 10% of total waste is being recycled

Where does Auburn's recycling material go?

Plastics

- # 2 (natural and colored) go to KW plastics in Alabama, are used for milk jugs, and all sorts of other plastic parts (cars, toys, manufacturing). This market is slightly down due to the cost of virgin resin decreasing in value.
- #1 Goes to Mohawk & Unify, also used for PET, fleece and carpeting.
- 3-7 go to KW - used for plastic paint cans

Cardboard - Stays domestic, used for new cardboard boxes. Now \$40/ton at one time was \$100 to \$150 a ton. There is too much supply with the Asian market overflowing and domestic mills taking down time to clean machinery. (Currently there are no exports of OCC out of the Lewiston facility, it goes to domestic mills in NY and Canada.)

Mixed Paper - Goes to West Virginia, Chinese owned mill. Make the paper into pulp to ship overseas. Waste is left in US. This is what will be happening in the recently Chinese purchased mill in Rumford. Currently it costs \$30 a ton to dispose of mixed paper.

Newspaper - Goes to Korea. Costs around \$20/ton to get to Boston where it is shipped.

Tin Cans - Goes to Canada, around \$120/ton

Aluminum - Anheiser Busch & Novelis takes it all. \$1000/ton used to be around \$1800/ton

Glass - Currently landfilled. The only recycler in MA went out of business last year. Need legislation to mandate that it is used in aggregate.

Future speakers / Tours:

Maine Waste to Energy <https://www.mainewastenergy.com/> – tentatively scheduled 11/14/19 @ 7:30am

Casella's Processing Facility <https://www.casella.com/locations/lewiston-me-recycling> – TBD

Natural Resources Council of Maine – Crissy Adamowicz here is a webinar that is informative
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=83&v=SypZ47dP3X0

AVCOG - Rebecca Secret: <https://www.avcog.org/index.aspx?NID=924>

City of South Portland, Sustainability Director Julie Rosenbach:
<https://www.southportland.org/departments/sustainability-office/about-team/>

ECO-Maine: <https://www.ecomaine.org/about-ecomaine/>

Common Themes:

Educational campaign is needed – how do we encourage participation with the school department “Our Kids Lead the Way”

Food to Waste composting: Options in Maine include [We Compost It!](#) and [Garbage to Garden](#) for residential or business customers, and [Agri-Cycle Energy](#) for commercial accounts.

Cost Benefit Plan needed or borrowed from a similar size community – what are the intangible benefits for Auburn to recycle

Maine Legislature – what is coming up this session and what was adopted last session, Discussion with Representative Bettyann Sheets

A recently passed bill that was discussed:
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1041&item=3&snum=129>

Pay-Per-Bag system (pros v con)

Next Meeting Dates:

Thursday, November 7, 2019 7:30am Location: tentatively Maine Waste to Energy 110 Goldthwaite Rd Auburn

Thursday, November 14, 2019 7:30 am TBD

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 7:30 am Location Auburn Hall Conference Room 204

Tour Casella’s 424 River Road Lewiston – Date TBD