

## RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Maine  
Agency Name: Maine State Planning Office  
Waste Management & Recycling Program  
Contact Name  
and Information: George M. MacDonald, Director  
Community Assistance Team  
Maine State Planning Office  
184 State Street  
38 State House Station (if mailing only)  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0038  
Phone: 207-287-5759  
Fax: 207-287-6489

**1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.**

*In Maine, communities are responsible for providing solid waste disposal services, which includes recycling and composting. There are about 320 recycling programs at the local level, representing 493 communities. Some municipal programs are mandatory, others are voluntary. The individual community/ regional program makes that decision.*

**2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?**

*Recycling in Maine is encouraged through a statewide recycling goal that programs are to work towards.*

*Adoption of waste management hierarchy  
<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/38/title38sec2101.html>*

*Establishment of goal  
<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/38/title38sec2132.html>*

*Municipal recycling  
<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/38/title38sec2133.html>*

**3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?**

*Yes, a 50% recycling goal...Establishment of goal  
<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/38/title38sec2132.html>*

**4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).**

*My program requires municipal solid waste programs to report to us annually... the information gathered is then used by us to calculate recycling rates. Recycling rates are based upon residentially and commercially generated waste but not including industrial wastes or automobiles...*

*If you visit our web site, <http://www.state.me.us/spo/recycle/> you can find a copy of the report that programs need to complete.... it's called solid waste annual report and links are on our home page....*

**5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?**

*Again, where communities are responsible for establishing programs, there is tremendous variation between individual program 'acceptable materials list' and who is allowed to participate. Most single community programs accept commercial recyclables but regional programs often do not....*

*The overall recycling rate reflects total residential/commercial solid waste generated for that year and total recycling efforts of those sectors.*

**6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)**

*We are finishing up data collection for 2003. We calculate statewide rates every two years. In 2001, Maine generated just over 1.8 million tons of trash with nearly 700,000 tons of that being recycled/composted/reused...*

*That report may be found at  
<http://www.state.me.us/spo/recycle/docs/2001gencapreport.pdf>*

**7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?**

*Again, the individual program selects the style of recycling method they prefer. About 40% of Maine's population (2000 census was about 1.27 million) have access to curbside collection of recyclables. The other sixty percent have 'drop off' programs. Most curbside programs also have 'drop off' opportunities.*

**8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?**

*The overwhelming majority of the state is rural.... with many successful programs... we have highlighted a number of these on our web site....*

*<http://www.state.me.us/spo/recycle/focus/>*

**9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?**

*The state occasionally receives funding through the issuing of 'environmental bonds' that we can use to assist with development of public recycling program infrastructure. The last bond was for \$600,000 in 2002. Funds only available to municipal programs.*

**10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?**

*Each agency and university location is to appoint a 'recycling director'... the program I administer is the 'technical advisor' and the division of purchases for the state administers the recycling collection/processing contract with the selected vendor for recycling services.*

*More information is available at our web site...[www.recyclemaine.com](http://www.recyclemaine.com)*