

**Solid Waste
Management Services
2010-2011**

available from the

**Hancock County
Planning Commission**

395 State St
Ellsworth, ME 04605
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www.hepcme.org



The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) has received funding to help towns with solid waste and recycling projects. This brochure summarizes our services and contains some helpful hints on solid waste management. If you have questions or need help with something that isn't discussed in these pages, call Tom Martin at 667-7131 (tmartin@hpcme.org). We'd be happy to help! Also, if you would like additional copies of this brochure to distribute to any solid waste committees or transfer station personnel, feel free to call us or download a copy from our web site: www.hpcme.org/environment.html

What can HCPC do for my town?

- Organize, in conjunction with other towns, an annual household hazardous waste and/or universal waste collection and facilitate other forms of regional cooperation.
- Assist with transfer station designs and improvements that increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste that is hauled to an incinerator or disposed of in a landfill.
- Help develop sound Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) management strategies.
- Design and produce brochures and posters for community waste management/recycling programs.
- Working with hotels and owners of other transient accommodations in developing recycling and other waste diversion programs.
- Arrange backyard composting workshops.
- Organize presentations on household hazardous waste management, composting, recycling, and pay-as-you-throw programs.
- Assist major generators of shellfish waste (or other organics) in diverting this material from disposal through composting or by linking producers with local compost operations or farmers.
- Prepare or amend transfer station operations manuals, job descriptions, annual recycling reports, local solid waste and recycling ordinances and policies.
- Plus, we have expertise, connections, and resources in other areas. If you have a need or an idea, just ask! We are particularly interested in promoting shared services among several towns.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS & UNIVERSAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:

Does your town have a good method for household hazardous waste disposal? There are options. In most Hancock County municipalities, residents are given access to at least one annual household hazardous waste collection event. HCPC will be planning a collection in the Ellsworth area for the summer of 2011. *There will be no charge for HCPC staff time to organize this event. Towns will be assessed for disposal fees.*

There is a permanent household hazardous waste disposal facility in Lewiston, which will dispose of waste for a fee. For details on operating hours, disposal requirements and fees, see: <http://www.avcog.org/documents/Facility%20Flyer%202009.pdf> or call (207)-783-9186.

UNIVERSAL WASTE:

Households, businesses, and municipal facilities are *required by law* to recycle mercury. Does your town know what to do? Universal waste, a specific category of waste which includes mercury-containing items such as televisions, florescent lamps, computers, monitors, and peripherals, can be recycled year-round at Coastal Recycling in Hancock for a small processing fee. Call 422-6766 for details and operating hours. In addition, these items are generally accepted at various events sponsored by civic organizations.

Members of your community may dispose of certain hazardous items any time in these ways:

- Button-style batteries will usually be accepted at jewelry stores for recycling.
- Rechargeable batteries, such as those for camcorders or cell phones will usually be accepted for recycling at the stores where those products are sold. HCPC can also accept them for recycling but we ask that you contact us at 667-7131 prior to dropping them off.
- Compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) contain mercury. Businesses statewide are partnering with Efficiency Maine to provide a safe recycling alternative for CFL's. To find out where in Hancock County you can return yours, view the up-to-date list at:
www.energymaine.com/residential_programs_esrl_rl_hancock.htm

How to dispose of materials not accepted at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

Asbestos, Commercial and Industrial Waste: Call Department of Environmental Protection at 941-4570.

Alkaline Batteries: Although you are encouraged to recycle these items whenever possible, alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C&D) no longer contain dangerous levels of heavy metals and can be disposed of with your regular trash. Check with your municipality to find out if a recycling program exists in your community.

Ammunition: Call your local law enforcement agency.

Car, Lawn Mower, and Boat Batteries: Return them to the place where they were purchased or call One Steel Recycling in Bangor at 947-3710.

Fireworks, explosives: Call the Maine State Police at 1-800-452-4664.

Infectious & Biological Waste: Call Maine DEP Biological Waste Management at (207) 287-2651.

Latex Paint: Open the can to dry the paint. Kitty litter or commercial waste paint hardener can speed up the process. Once dry, dispose of paint with your regular trash.

Pharmaceuticals: Remove all labels, wrap them up and put in the trash. Do not flush down the drain. There are also special collections that are organized annually. These are announced in the media.

Propane Tanks: Take them to your local transfer station if they are accepted there or contact area propane vendors.

Rechargeable Batteries: Many nickel cadmium, lithium, small sealed lead, and nickel metal hydroxide batteries (often used in power tools, cell phones, camcorders) can be returned to businesses where those items are commonly sold, i.e. Radio Shack or Wal-Mart for recycling. HCPC will also accept rechargeable batteries for recycling but we ask that you contact us at 667-7131 prior to dropping them off.

Smoke Detectors: Return to manufacturer or participating retailer (national program).

Miscellaneous Usable Items: You could donate items through “Freecycle Hancock” an on-line community of Hancock County residents who post and browse items that are still useful and available at no cost. Examples include baby items, appliances, televisions, VCRs, computer equipment, clothing, paint and other household items. More information is available at <http://groups.freecycle.org/freecyclehancock/description> or by calling HCPC.

COMPOST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Why should your town be concerned about composting?

- Composting programs can save towns disposal and hauling costs and also generate a valuable soil amendment. The types of food scraps and other organic matter that can be composted are the wet, heavy trash that increases the weight of your municipal waste! About one-third of the solid waste stream consists of organic mater. Some, such as shellfish, may have serious odor problems. Farmers and landscape companies are always seeking quality sources of compost.

HCPC is available to help your town (or group of towns) with composting initiatives. We can work with the DEP and other state agencies to ensure that all permitting requirements are met and that facilities are designed in a manner that avoids odor and pest problems. Specific services include, but are not limited to:

- help in planning and permitting a municipal facility. This can be as simple as yard and leaf site or a more complex post-consumer food residuals site. We can help you assess what is practical and cost-effective for your community based on your current hauling and disposal costs and volume and types of waste generated;
- working with both small and major generators of organic waste in finding an environmentally sound method of composting. For example, we could link shellfish waste generators to local compost producers;
- organizing a workshop on backyard composting;
- working with restaurants, campgrounds and owners of transient rental units in developing a food composting program. (This can be combined with a recycling initiative); and
- sponsoring a compost bin sale. Contact Maine Resource Recovery Association at 942-6772 or <http://www.mrra.net> . It sells durable compost bins in bulk. Or call HCPC, we plan to solicit interest in a county-wide sale in the spring of 2011.

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We'd like your feedback!

What services would you be interested in having HCPC help you provide to your community?

Would you be interested in partnering with other municipalities to bring a permanent household hazardous waste disposal facility to Hancock County?

Contact Person _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Postal address: _____

Municipality/organization _____

Thanks for your response!

Return to:

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