



## Maine's Recycling Rate Standard for Solid Waste Processing Facilities

Paula M. Clark, Director  
Division of Solid Waste  
Management

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water*

## Maine Law: 38 M.R.S. §1310-N(5-A) Recycling and Source Reduction Determination

- Purpose of legislation:
  - Maximize recycling and reuse consistent with Maine's solid waste management hierarchy
  - Conserve landfill capacity
  - Address issues related to high volume disposal of out-of-state waste in Maine landfills



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

## Maine Law: 38 M.R.S. §1310-N(5-A) Recycling and Source Reduction Determination

- Requires (in part) that solid waste processing facilities that generate residue requiring disposal:
  - “recycle or process into fuel for combustion all waste accepted at the facility to the maximum extent practicable, but in no case less than 50%”.
- Demonstration of compliance required by:
  - New or expanded facilities at the time of licensing
  - Licensed solid waste processing facilities annually



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

## Solid Waste Processing Facilities Rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 409

- Revised in 2010 to incorporate new recycling standard
- Defines “maximum extent practicable”:
  - “ . . . means at a rate that results in recycling or reusing the greatest amount of waste possible and minimizing the amount of waste disposed to the greatest extent possible, without causes unreasonable increases in facility operating costs or unreasonable impacts on other aspects of the facility’s operation. . . . includes consideration of the availability and cost of technologies and services, transportation and handling logistics, and overall cost that may be associated with recycling and reuse.”*



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

## Solid Waste Processing Facilities Rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 409

- Clarifies that “recycle” includes (but is not limited to) reuse of waste as:
  - Shaping, grading, or alternative daily cover at landfills
  - Aggregate material in construction
  - Boiler fuel substitutes
- Requires ongoing waste characterization of facility inputs and outputs
- Establishes annual reporting requirements related to the recycling standard



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

## Solid Waste Processing Facilities Annual Reporting Requirements

Solid waste processing facilities that generate residue requiring disposal required to submit:

- Descriptions of:
  - wastes accepted (type, weight, origin, generator, characterization data)
  - products produced (type, weight, destination, use)
  - residues sent for disposal (type, weight, destination, characterization data)
- Evaluation and analysis of characterization data
- Calculation of recycling rate for past year
- Narrative explaining/justifying recycling result



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

## Waste Characterization at Solid Waste Processing Facilities

Maine DEP developed:

- Detailed guidance on the use of a visual characterization method addressing:
  - Sorted loads
  - Sampling occurrence and frequency
  - Vehicles and delivery
  - Waste estimation procedure
  - Data analysis
  - Materials definitions
- Detailed visual estimation form for use at processing facilities



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

## Results

- First annual reports including characterization data and results were required to be submitted in February 2012
- Overall, facilities have met the standard
- MDEP continues to work with facilities to increase recycling rates
- Largest Maine CDD processor reported a 75% recycling rate for 2013



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)



Paula M. Clark  
(207) 287-7718  
[paula.m.clark@maine.gov](mailto:paula.m.clark@maine.gov)

[www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep)

