

Maine Environment



NRCM Work Yields First-in-Nation Product Stewardship Bill

On March 25, 2010, Maine Governor John Baldacci signed into law "An Act to Provide for the Responsible Recycling of Consumer Products" (L.D. 1631), backed by overwhelming bipartisan support.

Sponsored by Representative Melissa Walsh Innes of Yarmouth, the new law establishes a first-in-the-nation framework to systematically identify products that create problems when they are discarded and enter the waste stream, including those that contain toxic chemicals that threaten the health of people, wildlife, and the environment.

Under the new law, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will convene a process to identify candidate products for producer-funded collection and recycling programs to safely recycle or dispose of the products when they're no longer needed.

"This bill marks an important step toward creating a sustainable economy, for the health of our environment, Maine families, and our children's future," says Matt Prindiville, NRCM's toxics project leader. "It's critically important that we create comprehensive systems to reuse and recycle the materials in our products and minimize the use of toxic substances."

Products that could potentially be covered include common household hazardous waste items such as pesticides, paints, solvents, additional electronics products that aren't currently covered, or other products that contain toxic chemicals that can cause health problems such as learning disabilities, neurological disorders, and other serious complications, including cancer.

The Right Incentives

The framework creates a step-by-step process wherein the Maine Department of Environmental Protection identifies and prioritizes potential products. Stakeholders such as businesses and other interested parties have the opportunity to provide comments to the Legislature before recommendations are reviewed and accepted. The Natural Resources Council may refine an existing program or create a new stewardship program for specific products. Producers of selected products take responsibility for establishing and financing a collection and recycling program for those products.

The law is the result of hard work and cooperation among conservation groups, local governments, and the business community.

"Having business leaders, solid waste officials, and environmental groups coming together to better plan and manage products in the waste stream has been and will be critical to the success of this process," said Representative Innes.

Programs like these promote the sustainable reuse of materials, can prevent the release of hazardous chemicals into the environment, can reduce costs for local governments and taxpayers, and create jobs through the collection and recycling of formerly discarded products. "Product stewardship programs put the right incentives in place so that designated products are designed to be recycled instead of land-filled or incinerated," says Prindiville.

Recent Success

The approach with the product stewardship bill is similar to Maine's highly successful electronic waste ("e-waste") law, signed in 2004. It has resulted in the recycling of more than 25 million pounds of computers, television sets, printers, game consoles, and more,



(L to R) Chris Jackson (Maine Chamber), Representative Innes of Yarmouth, Governor Baldacci, and NRCM's Matt Prindiville at the signing of the first-in-the-nation product stewardship bill.

keeping, literally, tons of toxic chemicals out of our air, water, incinerators, and landfills.

The e-waste law is also saving Maine taxpayers between \$1.4 to \$3 million annually because it requires manufacturers to pay for the collection

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Conservation Plan Adopted, Hard Work to Come

After five years of hard work by NRCM staff, and input from our members, Governor Baldacci officially signed the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) on March 16, 2010. The CLUP, a guidance document used by the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), is actually a revision of a ten-year-old plan.

The road to revision was a rough one. For NRCM staff, it included multiple panel presentations in front of LURC, eight public workshops and three official public hearings across the state, a facilitated stakeholder process, and multiple written public comment periods.

It was well worth the effort, though, because Maine's North Woods is such a spectacular area, a place where, for generations, Mainers and visitors have enjoyed hiking, fishing, camping, and other outdoor

activities among our iconic landscapes and wildlife. The revised plan officially acknowledges that scattered, unplanned development can destroy the qualities of the North Woods that make it so special: its remote natural character, wildlife habitat, and backcountry recreational opportunities.

Concerns remain, however. Although the comprehensive plan commits to future steps to ensure that those values are protected, those steps have yet to be determined, much less implemented. And making them a reality is likely to be a challenge. Many of the large landowners fought hard every step of the CLUP process. They will no doubt continue to oppose anything that interferes with their ability to develop, any time and any place they want.

Nonetheless, the new plan is a first step and comes at an important time, as much has changed in the North Woods since the last CLUP was adopted in 1997. There are many discussions and a lot of activity these days around protection of this great landscape. Stay informed by joining our Action Network by clicking the Take Action button on our home page at www.nrcm.org. Thank you for all you do for Maine's environment, including our great North Woods.



Big Moose Pond in Maine's North Woods

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Environmental Optimism

In the coming days, you will receive our annual *Report Card for Maine's Environment*. In this one-of-a-kind publication, we share with you NRCM's view of how successful—or not successful—our legislators were at passing legislation that protects Maine's environment. As you will read in the report card, and as the front page of this newsletter describes, we made important environmental gains this session. Members—like you—played a crucial role in achieving that progress. Thank you!



Although the fast-paced and often unpredictable legislative schedule always makes life here at the office a little more hectic, we never lose sight of what we work so hard for: clean air, healthy rivers and coastal waters, protection from toxic chemicals, sustainable forests, and clean, renewable energy. These are objectives worth fighting for—in fact, they *must* be defended if our children and grandchildren are to enjoy the kind of Maine we know and love today.

Springtime is a great reminder of this. Migratory birds are back, cheerfully singing from newly leafed-out trees and flowering shrubs. Our gardens are starting to show promise after winter's long slumber. But for me, it's the people I see out for an evening bike ride or strolling through parks with their families that are the best reminder of what makes Maine so special. It is also the prospect of spending more time out on the landscape—a river paddle or the first hike of the season—that we all cherish.

As I and other staff travel throughout the state meeting with NRCM members, giving presentations, and attending public hearings, we are encouraged by the continued sense of connection to and optimism about the future of our state. We see it in the people of close-knit communities who are thoughtfully exploring options for bike paths and improved recycling programs. We see it in the business owners who, despite tough economic times, are investing in new technology and supporting forward-looking energy policy. It's in land trust volunteers working tirelessly to protect a special piece of farmland or other property that is integral to their community.

On behalf of NRCM, I want to thank you for your letters and emails of encouragement, your communications to decision-makers throughout the legislative session urging good decisions on Maine's most pressing environmental issues, and your ongoing financial support for our vital work. These actions not only speak of *your* optimism, they also buoy ours every single day. Thank you for doing so much to take care of Maine. —*Brownie Carson, Executive Director*



NRCM Supports Part, Not All, of Wind Project Expansion

The developer of the 132-megawatt (MW) Kibby Mountain wind project has asked the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) to allow expansion of the project to Sisk Mountain, adjacent to Kibby. NRCM supports the part of TransCanada's

request that would include eight additional turbines but opposes the southernmost seven. "The turbines we oppose would be located in a rare and important alpine forest block that provides habitat for Bicknell's Thrush, a Maine songbird of high conservation concern," says North Woods Project Director Cathy Johnson. "They would also be prominently visible from Chain of Ponds, a string of five mostly undeveloped, beautiful, and easily accessible ponds surrounded by mountains where families can paddle, fish, camp, and watch wildlife."

"NRCM recognizes the balance that must be struck between producing clean energy and protecting mountain and scenic resources," says Clean Energy Director Dylan Voorhees. "We find part of this project achieves that balance, and part of it does not."

For more information, visit www.nrcm.org.

Maine Environment

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Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 12,000 members and supporters of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM is a Maine-based nonprofit membership organization working to protect, conserve, and restore our land, air, wildlife, and water, now and for future generations. Membership starts at \$28/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org.

A glimpse of where NRCM staff have been working in communities around Maine and beyond.



Staff Scientist **Nick Bennett** recently was a guest lecturer for a class at Bowdoin College called, "Perspectives in Environmental Science." Nick's presentation was focused on NRCM's work to clean up the Androscoggin River and to restore alewives in the St. Croix River.



In April, **Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim** delivered a talk at Bates College entitled, "The Ten Big Issues on NRCM's Environmental Radar Screen for the Year Ahead." Pete discussed each of the NRCM's advocacy priorities, including federal action on climate and clean energy, watershed protection in the Penobscot and St. Croix rivers, conservation initiatives for Maine's North Woods, and state and federal action to reduce human exposure to toxic chemicals.



Also in April, **Matt Prindiville, toxics project director**, attended Canada's 6th National Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Toronto. The workshop set out to address and discuss issues related to the creation and implementation of product stewardship programs. It covered the latest developments and trends as well as current thinking on key and emerging policy issues.

Product Stewardship - Continued from page 1

and safe recycling of their products at the end of their useful lives. With more waste products covered by product stewardship programs, the savings from these types of programs will help defray municipal solid waste costs and could help lower property taxes.

For the last six years, NRCM has led the state, and the nation, in the development and enactment of product stewardship laws, because of the threats toxic substance-containing products, overflowing landfills, and the constant demand for more raw materials, pose to the health of families and our environment.

"The Natural Resources Council of Maine has really been the driving force behind Maine's product stewardship laws," Rep. Innes said at the bill signing. "[NRCM] was integral to getting this bill passed and others before it, like our e-waste and mercury-containing products laws."

"Thanks to the leadership of Representative Innes, her colleagues on both sides of the aisle, everybody at the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and the Governor, I think we've demonstrated two things: the benefit of identifying the common interests of the business community, the environmental community, and the Legislature, and the importance of crafting legislation that reflects those mutual interests," Chris Jackson, of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, said at the bill signing in the Governor's office.

"I give credit to Chris Jackson at the Maine Chamber and other members of the business community for rolling up their sleeves and working with us to fashion a bill that will really work best for the people of Maine," says Prindiville. "Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, Maine is again setting the example for the nation on how groups with different missions can work together for the good of the economy, families, and the environment."

To read the extensive local and national media coverage the product stewardship bill received, and to watch a short video of the bill signing, visit NRCM's website at:

http://www.nrcm.org/product_stewardship_law_2010.asp

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Banner: My Maine This Week photo, Kennebec River in Shawmut by Sam Horine



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• FAREWELL TO DEAR FRIENDS •

In recent months, NRCM has seen the passing of two exceptional environmental advocates and philanthropists. "Jay Harris and Frank Hatch leave behind loving families," says Brownie Carson, NRCM's executive director, "but they also leave behind communities that are cleaner and lives that are healthier because of their vision, generosity, and commitment to the environment. I will remember them always with fondness, respect, and profound gratitude."

John A. Harris IV

John A. "Jay" Harris IV died unexpectedly in late December of 2009, at the age of 81 in Pennsylvania. A founder of the Environmental Grantmakers Association, Jay was a generous and active champion of national and state organizations working to promote sustainable agriculture, land conservation, and clean energy and other solutions to climate change. Just two weeks before his passing, Jay attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. He served on the boards of numerous environmental organizations, but may be best remembered as a founder of the state conservation voter league movement.

Jay lived his environmental values. He placed much of his property into conservation to protect wildlife habitat. He owned a farm on which he practiced sustainable agriculture. He invested in clean energy technology and drove an electric car for 20 years.

For NRCM, Jay's passing is especially sad. A long-time summer resident of Northeast Harbor, Jay and his brother Nick Harris, who passed away in late 2006, had been important advisors to NRCM throughout our entire history.

A native of Philadelphia, Jay is survived by his widow, Lawrie Ryerson; sons, Shepard and Andy Harris; six grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Francis W. Hatch Jr.

Francis W. Hatch Jr. died on April 8, at his home in Massachusetts. Frank had a long and distinguished career in Massachusetts politics, including authoring the state's 1965 landmark wetlands protection law. Named the Hatch Act, it was the first wetlands protection act in the country. After he retired from politics, Frank served on the board of the Conservation Law Foundation. During his tenure, the organization won several lawsuits that helped set new standards for environmental protection, including the clean up of Boston Harbor.

Long-time summer residents of Castine, Frank and his wife Serena (Merck) have supported NRCM personally and through The John Merck Fund, a foundation on whose board he served. Frank helped to drive the John Merck Fund's active engagement in environmental protection, funding NRCM's efforts to clean up Maine's air and water and to reduce global warming pollution. The John Merck Fund also helped to create the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine, in which NRCM is actively involved.

In addition to his wife, Frank leaves two daughters, Serena Whitridge and Olivia Farr; three sons, Tim Allison-Hatch, George Hatch, and Whitney Hatch, and 14 grandchildren.



Sample rates for single life Charitable Gift Annuities through the Natural Resources Council of Maine:

Age	Rate
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%
90	9.5%

Protect Your Nest Egg While Protecting Theirs

Your support of the Natural Resources Council of Maine helps protect Maine's wild creatures from pollution and loss of habitat. Through a Charitable Gift Annuity, you can make a gift that provides income for your retirement, and at the same time supports our mission to protect Maine's environment.

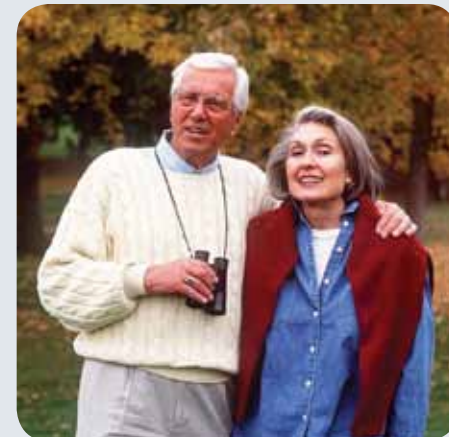
A Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to make a significant gift of cash or securities to NRCM. In return, you or your spouse receive fixed payments for life.

Tax savings on a Charitable Gift Annuity can be significant. Part of the asset you donate is tax deductible in the year you make the gift. Funding an annuity with securities can lower your capital gains taxes. And a portion of the payments you receive will be tax-free or taxed at a lower rate for a number of years.

A Charitable Gift Annuity will also give you the satisfaction of knowing that you have played a critical part in protecting the wild places and creatures that make Maine special.

And it's easy to do! To find out more about setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity and to receive a personalized illustration of how an annuity can fit your needs, please contact:

Gretta Wark, Director of Development
(207) 430-0108 or (800) 287-2345 ext. 208 • gwark@nrcm.org



WASHINGTON WATCH Gulf Disaster Points to Need for Climate Legislation

As people across the nation celebrated the 40th Earth Day, the Gulf Coast oil spill that took the lives of 11 people was quickly turning into one of the nation's worst ever environmental disasters. Combined with the West Virginia coal mine disaster that took the lives of 29 miners, and a Kentucky coal mine accident a few weeks later that killed two more, we have even more evidence that our current energy system is badly broken.

The root cause of these disasters is our reliance on 19th century, dirty energy sources. Congress needs to stop delaying and pass a clean energy and climate bill this year. We need to move to clean, renewable 21st century energy sources that protect the health of our environment, people, and wildlife. We need the boost to Maine's economy with the good jobs that new clean energy investments will bring and stop sending our hard-earned dollars to hostile nations that threaten our security.



NRCM and our coalition partners have been sending this message loud and clear to our two senators for months. Faith leaders, health professionals, veterans, legislators, economists, over 500 business leaders, and Maine citizens have been sending this message through letters to the editor and in radio and television interviews. They've sent the message in hundreds of letters and phone calls directly to Senator Snowe and Senator Collins. The Senators say they have heard us.

If ever there was a time for Maine to lead the nation, this is it. Maine's senators can help end the Senate gridlock by using their significant leverage to move a comprehensive climate and energy bill forward and get it passed this year. We need to emerge from the current disasters with a clear federal policy framework for reducing our reliance on fossil fuels through passage of comprehensive energy and climate legislation. — *Lisa Pohlmann, Deputy Director*

Don't Miss Upcoming NRCM Events!



NRCM's 2nd Annual Open Mic Night We had so much fun last year we decided to do it again! Join NRCM staff and friends for "Music Inspired by the Environment" Open Mic Night at the Liberal Cup, Water Street in Hallowell. Bring your guitar, shakers, and favorite environment-inspired songs. Or just come and meet NRCM staff, and enjoy the friendly

atmosphere and the Liberal Cup's English pub-style food and beverages. 7:00-10:00 p.m. Admittance is free and open to the public. Watch our short video of last year's event: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhFwhb4QpBI>.

For more upcoming events, visit www.nrcm.org. See you there!

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MAINE BUSINESSES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Maine can be a leader in clean energy development. You can help by adding your name to the growing list of Maine businesses calling for Congressional action for clean energy. More than 500 Maine businesses have signed the letter to Senators Snowe and Collins calling on them to help pass climate and clean energy legislation this year. Hannaford Brothers, Oakhurst Dairy, Lee Auto Malls, and hundreds of other businesses already are on board. To view the list, and to add yours to the growing list of Maine businesses, visit www.mainebusinessesforcleanenergy.org or email Leisa Dennett at ldennett@nrcm.org.

NOW SHOWING AT THE NRCM INSIDER

Tune in to www.nrcm.org to watch these new NRCM Insider video shorts:



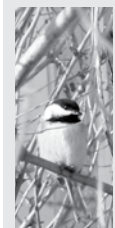
Commute Another Way Week - a fun video showcasing how NRCM staff were inspired to commute another way this year.

Happy Earth Day - a one-minute comedy of tips for a greener day every day.

Governor Signs First-in-Nation Product Stewardship Bill - find out why this new law is

so exciting, and hear great praise for NRCM's effort on this initiative.

Maine Maple Sunday - if you missed the event this year, you can still watch the action on our short short, which includes maple syrup, live music, and...monkeys?



Tip of the Day

Don't Trash Tree Limbs. Instead, put them in a pile in a corner of your yard to provide shelter for backyard birds. For a Tip of the Day every day, visit our website at www.nrcm.org. Have our tips sent directly to your homepage through our RSS feed!

Special Memberships Given November 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

Frank C. Strasburger in honor of Fred & Barbara Mueller
 Mary E. Hanley in honor of George and Mary Leger
 Sarah Rhines in honor of Grandma & Paco
 Elizabeth W. Hague in honor of Bart Hague
 Christina Banks in honor of Jay Cocks & Verna Bloom
 Meredith Zimmer in honor of John Limmer
 Belfast Garden Club in honor of Judy Berk
 Sara G. Withington in honor of Mary Sherman
 Margaret Bruno in honor of Steve Bruno
 Susanne A. Goodman-Hallstein in honor of Victoria Devlin
 Jo Ellen Linder & Samuel P. Solish in memory of Dr. John D. West
 Priscilla G. Barnes in memory of Elizabeth Boyle
 Karen D. Redlon in memory of Elizabeth Boyle
 John & Cynthia Fochs in memory of Elizabeth Boyle
 Ceasar R. & Flora J. Falsani in memory of Elizabeth Boyle
 Robert C. & Teresa B. Falsani in memory of Elizabeth Boyle
 Alan M. & Dorothy L. Johns in memory of Elizabeth Boyle
 Mrs. Gerrish H. Milliken in memory of Jay Harris
 Susan Landry in memory of Richard Briggs
 Les & Muriel R. Flood in memory of Russell Shippee
 Beverly Woodward & Paul Monsky in memory of Stuart Silvers
 Bruce Childs & family in memory of Dana Childs
 Brian Childs & family in memory of Dana Childs
 Allison Childs Wells, Jeff Wells, and Evan in memory of Dana Childs
 Alan and Lisa Childs & family in memory of Dana Childs
 Tim Childs, Tammy Therrien & family in memory of Dana Childs
 Jewell Childs in memory of Dana Childs

Gift Memberships

Enoch Albert & Sharon Knopp from Heather M. Albert-Knopp
 Paul & DoDo Stevens from Jane Stevens
 Doug Hayward from Jeannette Faunce & Jamie Oates
 Amy Faunce from Jeannette Faunce & Jamie Oates
 David Lafreniere from Jeannette Faunce & Jamie Oates
 Eric & Mary Labelle from John & Josee Shelley
 Brian & Jessica Labelle from John & Josee Shelley
 Jeff Garland from Kathleen A. Remmel
 Scott McDowell from Marilyn B. Justice
 Erin McLaughlin from Mikal C. Crawford & John L. Lowe
 Ron Way from Terry Wild
 Heather Houston from William M. & Kathleen Houston
 Holly Houston from William M. & Kathleen Houston
 Ruth Houston from William M. & Kathleen Houston

New members of **PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE** (PMF) Program PMF is our monthly giving club. Members' automatic donations help us save on administrative costs, including paper. Special thanks to these members!

Louise T. Bourne
 Everett B. Carson and Dana Porter
 Miriam Clasby
 Mark I. and Monique V. Davies
 Darwin and Beverly Hatheway
 Katie A. Huntington
 George A. Matson
 Richard B. McManus
 Benjamin H. and Christine A. Miller

Sandy Olson
 Ronald W. Schwizer
 Ward and Nancy Simonton
 Dr. Priscilla D. Skerry and
 Ms. Naomi Kronlokken
 Ed and Sylvia N. Spear
 Hilary N. Wallis
 George C. and Nancy F. Wheelwright
 Elizabeth Zook



The latest session is now behind us. How did Maine's elected officials do at protecting our families, wildlife, and environment? Watch for our Report Card, coming soon!

Send Us Your "My Maine This Week"



"This photo was taken at Eagle Lake on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway during our annual fall fishing trip." - Jim Yahn of Phillips, Maine

Do you have a photograph you'd like to share that shows your love for Maine? A poem? Send your submissions to beth@nrcm.org. Visit our website often at www.nrcm.org to see how others are enjoying Maine.