



Dear Friend of NRCM,

For decades, Mainers like you have developed a strong recycling ethic because they want to do the right thing. However, many residents across the state are losing access to, or paying more for, their recycling programs because of changes in global markets and an onslaught of non-recyclable materials sold in our state.

[Sign the petition to secure the future of recycling in Maine!](#)

Sign the petition

It's clear our current approach to [recycling is flawed](#) and in urgent need of reform. Right now, Maine's taxpayers are unfairly paying for recycling programs while big companies have no responsibility to manufacture packaging and materials that can easily or profitably be recycled. When costs go up, many towns feel they have no choice but to reduce access to recycling. Further, there is widespread confusion about what is recyclable, which is causing frustration and contamination in recycling, and is resulting in increases in landfilling.

Maine's towns and cities [should not have to choose](#) between doing what is right for the environment and their bottom line. It's time for producers to share in the responsibility of managing the waste that they are making.

Sign the petition

For all of these reasons, NRCM is supporting [Recycling Reform for Maine](#). In January 2020, the Maine Legislature will consider a new product stewardship law that could make our recycling programs more effective, more sustainable, and more equitable by obliging producers of packaging materials to share in the responsible management of the waste they create.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is drafting the bill language right now as part of a collaborative outreach process engaging many stakeholders, especially struggling cities and towns.

This policy concept has broad support from NRCM, Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Municipal Association, Maine Resource and Recovery Association, ecomaine, and more.

**We need your help to secure the future of recycling in Maine.**

1. [Sign our petition!](#) NRCM will deliver your signatures and comments to the Legislature next session. Don't forget to share it with your friends and family!
2. Stay informed and [sign up](#) for our action alerts.
3. Ask your town council to adopt the [municipal resolution](#).
4. Ask your municipal officials to attend one of the upcoming DEP stakeholder meetings:
  - Bangor: Tuesday, August 27, 9:00 a.m. at the Eastern Maine Regional Offices, 106 Hogan Road
  - Augusta: Friday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. at the DEP Response Building at 7 Chimney Lane
  - Portland: Friday, September 19, 1:00 p.m. at the Southern Maine Regional Office at 12 Canco Road
  - Presque Isle: October date TBD at the Northern Maine Regional (DEP) Office at 1235 Central Drive

[Meet](#) Boxy McBoxface, the number one champion of recycling reform for Maine!

Boxy came to Maine as a package and hoped to get recycled. But when he went to his local recycling facility, they told him, "You can't get there from here." Follow Boxy on NRCM's Facebook and Twitter accounts to get weekly



updates on Recycling Reform for Maine. You can also find Boxy at [many of our events](#)—stop by and say hi!

[Sign our petition!](#)

**Together, we can make recycling more effective, sustainable, and equitable.**

Sincerely,

Sarah Lakeman  
Sustainable Maine Director

[Share with your Maine friends & family.](#)



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