



# NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 20 Godfrey Dr., Ste 300 | Orono, ME 04473 | [www.MRCMaine.org](http://www.MRCMaine.org)

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## MRC Selects New Partner to Lead Facility Restart Efforts

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is pleased to announce exclusivity with Innovative Resource Recovery (Innovative), a special purpose entity backed by a multi-billion dollar asset management firm seeking to partner with the MRC to restart operations at the Municipal Waste Solutions (MWS) Facility in Hampden. The 60-day agreement will allow Innovative to conduct its due diligence and for both parties to negotiate definitive documents in advance of an anticipated closing on or before June 2, 2023. Innovative has provided a \$350,000 nonrefundable deposit. Part of the anticipated documents includes that MRC will retain 10% of the MWS ownership and will have a seat at the table to fulfill a management role at the facility.

Innovative is eager to support the MRC municipalities' efforts to reduce landfill disposal and aspires to make central Maine the blueprint for how communities in the U.S. can recover valuable resources from their waste streams and contribute to the circular economy. The company will focus immediate efforts on facility upgrades and hiring a local operating staff to allow for the safe and efficient processing of the MRC members' waste streams.

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*Karen Fussell  
Board of Directors, President*

“We are excited to have selected a new partner to relaunch operations,” said Karen Fussell, President of the MRC Board of Directors. “Innovative’s vision for the facility aligns with that of the MRC, and they have the resources needed to restart the plant in a timely manner.”

While MRC is hopeful this 60-day agreement will culminate in a definitive partnership by June, it is continuing its parallel efforts to secure its own loan financing to ensure a path to the necessary reopening capital is in place by early summer. See the back page for more information about our efforts to purpose this path.

We have been impressed with Innovative’s resources and management’s willingness to thoroughly understand the Hampden facility. This bodes well for a successful partnership for the MRC, our members and the success of the facility.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**2023 Finance Committee and Quarterly Board of Directors Meetings**  
*All 2023 meetings are scheduled to be hybrid so members can listen remotely.*

**Board Meeting / Finance Committee:  
Wednesday, April 26**  
**Finance Committee: 9:30 AM**  
**Board of Directors: 10:00 AM**  
*In person at Town of Orono (59 Main Street, Orono) or virtually. Please register for the virtual through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83691864407>*

**Wednesday, July 26**

**Wednesday, October 25**

*Available to watch on Facebook and later on YouTube except for the Executive Session*

**ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?**



MRC regularly sends updates and announcements by email to those who have signed up for our alerts. We have an active Facebook account where we share articles and post about events and interact with members. Make sure to “like” or follow us through your town’s accounts too! **Also, we’re on YouTube!** Please subscribe and hit that notification bell so that you don’t miss any of our uploads!

## EARTH DAY

**2023 Earth Day is this week!  
Ideas to help celebrate:**

- 1** Community clean-up
- 2** Trash-to-treasure art project
- 3** Eco-friendly craft fair
- 4** Recycling education workshop
- 5** Waste audit
- 6** Upcycling challenge
- 7** Environmental film screening
- 8** Recycling bin makeover
- 9** Clothing swap
- 10** Electronic waste recycling event



## Parallel efforts continue for reopening MWS

Last month the MRC presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), which can be viewed on the ENR's website. The briefing updated legislators on the status of Hampden facility, the decisions that were made for long-term environmentally sound and economical processing of solid waste and recycling in our region. To secure the best chances of having the plant reopen for our members we are also pursuing a "Plan B" of working to secure a loan using the facility as collateral with a pledge of a government guarantee. The ENR has requested more information from the MRC which we have shared on our website.

It is important for members to continue to keep Plan B at the forefront when speaking to your local legislators. Although a private partnership is the chosen path, we must keep Plan B active in case that does not come to fruition.

## Missed the Town Hall with MRC and Innovative on the 13th?

You can view the recording of the meeting on the MRC's Facebook page and YouTube Channel! It was a very successful meeting with members and the general public hearing directly from Innovative and asking questions. We had over 100 people register to attend and over 60 questions asked and answered during the meeting. We appreciate your engagement with this potential new partner and look forward to sharing more updates regarding the exclusivity period and path to sale of the Municipal Waste Solutions.

### ABOUT THE MRC

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is a non-profit association of Maine communities led by an elected, volunteer board of directors. 115 members have joined together to ensure the affordable, environmentally sound disposal of MSW in the long-term and send their MSW to the facility in Hampden for processing.

Visit [www.mrcmaine.org](http://www.mrcmaine.org) or contact Mike Carroll at 207-664-1700 or [execdirector@mrcmaine.org](mailto:execdirector@mrcmaine.org) to learn more about the Municipal Review Committee and to add your name to our email contact list.