



NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 20 Godfrey Dr., Ste 300 | Orono, ME 04473 | www.MRCMaine.org

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MILESTONE! MRC & Innovative Sign Partnership

On June 30, 2023, the MRC and Innovative Resource Recovery (Innovative), a pioneering materials management company, announced the signing of a landmark agreement to become co-owners of Municipal Waste Solutions' Hampden Facility. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in advancing sustainable waste management practices and promoting a circular economy in Maine.

The Hampden plant has long been recognized as a crucial hub for effective waste processing and recycling in the region. By bringing together the expertise and resources of MRC and Innovative, this partnership aims to enhance operational efficiencies, expand recycling capabilities, and further reduce the environmental impact of municipal solid waste.

MRC Board President Karen Fussell expressed her enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "This partnership between MRC and Innovative represents a powerful synergy in our mission to build a more sustainable future. By combining our knowledge, experience, and resources, we are poised to transform waste management practices, maximize recycling rates, and promote environmental stewardship within our communities."

MRC Executive Director Michael Carroll emphasized the long-term benefits of the agreement, saying, "We are excited to embark on this joint venture with Innovative Resource Recovery. Our shared commitment to innovation and sustainability will enable us to provide more effective waste management solutions while minimizing the environmental impact.

This collaboration is a testament to our dedication to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our natural resources."

James Condela, CEO of Innovative Resource Recovery, expressed his optimism for the partnership, stating, "Joining forces with Municipal Review Committee is a significant milestone for us. We are excited to contribute



MRC Board President Karen Fussell and Innovative CES James Condela

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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, July 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/webinar/register/WN_3BT2trIDRyuaaGHK7eATfg

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!

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 or contact Mike Carroll at 207-664-1700 or execdirector@mrcmaine.org to learn more about the Municipal Review Committee and to add your name to our email contact list.



Top photo from left to right: Jonathan Pottle, Esq; Kevin Howell, Steve Lewis, Melissa Doane, Michael Carroll, Sophia Wilson, Aaron Huotari, Karen Fussell, Paula Scott, James Condela. Middle photo left: Hampden Town Manager Paula Scott and MRC President Karen Fussell. Middle photo right: MRC, Innovative, and guests tour facility. Bottom photo: MRC Vice President Aaron Huotari, MRC Treasurer Sophia Wilson, MRC President Karen Fussell, Innovative CEO James Condela

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our expertise in resource recovery to the Hampden Facility, working alongside MRC to revolutionize waste management practices and foster a circular economy. Together, we are creating a partnership that is a model for other regions and communities to take for a more sustainable future for generations to come.”

The partnership between MRC and Innovative represents a shared commitment to finding innovative solutions for waste management challenges, promoting recycling, and reducing the reliance on landfilling. Through this collaboration, both organizations aim to set new standards for sustainable waste management practices and make a positive impact on the environment and local communities.

What's Next?

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that on July 27, both MRC and Innovative will be present at MWS to conduct equipment testing using approximately 30 tons of MSW. As part of the due diligence process, the equipment was previously turned on, but this upcoming test, with the participation of Maine DEP officials and the equipment manufacturer, will allow us to determine the necessary configuration adjustments for optimal performance. Additionally, it will help identify priority areas for investments, which is particularly crucial given the uncertainties surrounding waste management at present.

For this test, MRC has carefully chosen a cross-section of MRC members representing different recycling approaches, including communities that engage in mixing and sorting, those utilizing curbside recycling, and those relying on local transfer stations for recycling. This diverse selection will assist us in planning efforts.

PERC Update

As you may be aware, PERC recently disclosed its financial difficulties. In light of this, both Innovative and MRC have extended offers to provide assistance. MRC members who were previously bypassed to PERC are now transitioning to JRL. It is important to note that, during such circumstances, information can evolve rapidly and online commenters may not have the full picture. It is worth recalling that MRC's relationship with PERC ended because its private sector owners were not interested in working with MRC to address the anticipated \$10 million per year shortfall in electricity revenue or to consider changes to PERC to modernize its technology. Since the MRC took control of the Hampden facility last August, we have made progress toward reopening to bring affordable processing technology to our region and secure a sustainable and prosperous future for members.

SUCCESSFUL TOWN HALL

Over 50 questions were asked during last month's Town Hall meeting with both in-person and virtual attendees. A thorough summary of the changes to the operational agreements was provided by MRC's Corporate Counsel Jonathan Pottle, Esq. Watch the recording on our YouTube channel.