



# NEWSLETTER

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

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## Waste Running Through the Plant Again!

Last month, we received formal approval from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to commence our test runs at the plant. These crucial runs started earlier this month and will span the next six weeks. During this period, we anticipate delivering approximately 1,000 pounds of waste to the plant each week. So far both Brewer and Carmel's waste has run through the plant.

The primary objective of these test runs is to assess the volume and quality of gas that MWS can produce through anaerobic digestion. This milestone brings us one step closer to realizing the full potential of our project and its positive impact on our communities.

Three individuals from the UMaine Process Development Center toured the MWS facility. They have come over to Hampden to work with us in the lab on some testing of the processed waste too. This all gives us more information as we look toward reopening in 2025.

## Successful Annual Meeting

We are thrilled to report that the annual meeting was a resounding success. The active participation of our members made it a dynamic and engaging event. Special thanks to Cathy Conlow from MMA and James Condela from Innovative Resource Management, who graciously provided updates. Their openness and insights greatly enriched the meeting. For those who missed it, you can watch the video on our YouTube channel or on our Facebook page.



*Following the Annual Meeting, MRC Executive Director hosted a holiday party at his home*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Quarterly Board of Directors Meetings**  
**Wednesday, January 24**  
**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 in advance via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_01EAtYkmQGCdMWBzm8M9mg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_01EAtYkmQGCdMWBzm8M9mg)*

*The meeting is also available on Facebook Live or you can watch the recording later on the MRC's YouTube channel.*

## 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!



## Voice in Augusta

Over the last several weeks the MRC has been active in Augusta because of the reports and potential regulatory changes that could impact us. MRC is working closely with the Department of Environmental Protection officials and legislators on the ENR Committee to address bills and rules, ensuring that our 115 member voices are understood in Augusta.

The ENR Committee held two workshops on January 4 on [LD 1660, SP0665](#) “An Act to Provide That Advanced Recycling Facilities Are Subject to Solid Waste Regulation and That Advanced Recycling Does Not Constitute Recycling” as well as [LD1908, HP0645](#) “An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste”. Our testimony in May influenced amendments to LD1660, and the bill has been amended. Senator Carney even mentioned at the start of her presentation to the committee that the amendment narrows the scope due to many concerns the MRC raised in the last session. You can watch the video including Senator Carney’s statements [here](#).

MRC was represented at the ENR Committee meeting on January 11 on the State’s Materials Management Plan, including the 2024 State Waste Management and Recycling Plan Update and the 2022 Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report. [Link here](#). You may recall that the MRC submitted comments on the report that are available on our website (<https://mrcmaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Maine-DEP-SWP-2024-MRC-comments.pdf>)

## Materials Management Task Force

MRC members will be represented by Executive Director Michael Carroll on the Maine Climate Council’s Materials Management Task Force (MMTF). The Maine Climate Council was created by law in 2019, and the work of the Council and its task forces is crucial to meeting the state’s goals. MRC was asked to participate in the upcoming climate planning process for waste and materials management. The MMTF co-chairs are Commissioner Melanie Loyzim from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Dr. Cindy Isenhour, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Climate Change at the University of Maine. MMTF members will serve a six-month term and will meet monthly via hybrid meetings (with the option to attend in-person or virtually) between January 2024 and June 2024.

### 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.



## Ella Bowman’s Resignation

We bid farewell to Ella Bowman, who resigned. The board will consider her resignation and replacement appointment at the January meeting. Ella, with over 20 years of service with the Town of Oakland, provided valuable advice and strategic thinking.