

Ogunquit

The Community Award: The Ogunquit Playhouse

The nominator was: The Ogunquit Recycling Committee

At right:

Sandi Clark of The Ogunquit Playhouse, Barbara Early of the Ogunquit Recycling Committee, ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, Peter Lewis of The Ogunquit Playhouse, Michael Lynch of the Ogunquit Recycling Committee, Lesley Mathews of the Ogunquit Recycling Committee, Amy Picotte of The Ogunquit Playhouse, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



In the spring of 2012, the Ogunquit Playhouse began its first ever recycling program. With 95,000 attendees during the season, taking all their paper, bottles and cans out of the Playhouse’s trash was a significant improvement.

Their program went beyond that, however: now, an effort is made to –

- 1. reuse playbills and to recycle those that can’t be reused**
- 2. break down and recycle cardboard boxes,
and**
- 3. institute recycling in the offices, as well.**

Of the Ogunquit Playhouse, Chair of the Ogunquit Recycling Committee Jeffrey Porter said in his nomination:

“They continue to work with members of the Ogunquit Recycling Committee to find other ways they can become more green.”

Porter

The Community Award: The Sacopee Valley Health Center

The nominator was: Lorraine Cote

At right:

ecomaine General
Manager Kevin Roche,
SVHC Executive Director
Mary Agnes Gillman, SVHC
volunteer Vicky Ladd,
nominator Lorraine Cote,
SVHC Board President Judy
Ingram, and ecomaine
Board Chair Michael
McGovern.



The Sacopee Valley Health Center makes every effort to recycle all paper that does not contain sensitive patient information. Clearly marked bins and boxes are placed in individual offices and in other locations where paper is likely to accumulate, such as: the mail room, photocopier equipment, lunch room, and the front office.

To dispose of papers containing confidential information, a volunteer first removes all paperclips and staples, before running it through a shredder. This material – which has amounted to 8,000 large bags – is then safely recycled.

We thank Sacopee Valley Health Center recycling efforts and for setting an example that others may follow.

Portland

The Community Award: The CHEERS Club, Riverton Elementary School

The nominators were: Principal Jeanne Malia and Community Coordinator Kathy Cole

At right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, Teacher Olga "Teddy" Valencia, Student Darcy Lally, Community Coordinator Cathy Cole, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



Olga Valencia is the leader and organizer of Riverton Elementary School's CHEERS Club: Cultures Helping Everyone's Environment. There are 125 members from Grades 2-5 and are responsible for many impressive school initiatives:

- 1. They produced an educational video for - both students and teachers - about the school's new composting & recycling program. It was so well received that they were asked to present it and their program to a sustainability press conference held at King Middle School.**
- 2. This club has also raised money to "adopt" several endangered animals.**
- 3. The Club even developed an environmentally friendly cleaning spray to stop the spread of germs in classrooms.**
- 4. They started a worm composting bin and have assisted other classrooms in maintaining their worm bins.**
- 5. A butterfly garden, raised beds, and a community garden were all cleaned up by the club members and plants were started from seed. In the fall, they harvested their vegetables and served them at a luncheon, which they hosted for the new superintendent of schools.**
- 6. To conserve paper, the school now uses fabric as background for bulletin boards.**
- 7. To earn money for the school, drink pouches are collected, cleaned, and bundled by the CHEERS Club.**
- 8. Ms. Valencia is sponsoring a sustainability conference at which students from across the district will share ideas on additional ways to help the environment.**

Portland

The Business Award: ReVision Energy
Phil Coupe, Co-Founder & Managing Partner

Self-nominated

At right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, ReVision Co-Founder Phil Coupe, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



For the past ten years ReVision Energy has helped reduce fossil fuel consumption and CO2 emissions through the design and installation of solar energy equipment on homes and other buildings.

In 2012 a new initiative was launched by the company to address CO2 emissions from transportation, which resulted in Maine's first solar-powered electric vehicle charging system. The charging station is located in Portland and generates enough power to fuel four electric Chevy Volts for a year...and that is enough to remove 24,000 pounds of CO2 emissions per year.

We thank ReVision for taking that crucial first step toward vehicle emissions reduction Maine.

Saco

The Business Award: Patriot Subaru
Self-nominated

Best Business Award



Above & at right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, Tom Talbott & Jackie Parker of Patriot Subaru, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



Patriot Subaru was established in 2003 by Adam Arens and by 2012 it had become the first Subaru dealer in New England to be certified by Subaru as an “Eco-Friendly Dealer.” Many of the initial “green” changes were made in response to the national economic downturn to reduce costs through efficiencies. All expenses were reviewed for more eco-friendly alternatives and all employees were asked to make suggestions. From this came Patriot’s comprehensive “green plan.”

Most recently, Patriot worked with Efficiency Maine to become one of the first businesses in Maine to replace all outdoor halogen lights with new, more efficient LED lights. Though a large expenditure by the company, energy costs were lowered by 80% and the return on investment is just six years.

Patriot continued to make more improvements, including:

- Elimination of decorative balloons -- replaced with live, hanging plants.
- All computers turned off at night
- Recycling of all oil, car fluids, paper, water, tires, batteries, metals, and lead weights.
- Composting all food waste and the establishment of an organic garden, which is tended by employees *and* customers.

Patriot generously shares its ideas with other dealerships and businesses, both on-line and in-person.

We congratulate Patriot Subaru.

Scarborough

The Community Award: **Wentworth School Community Garden**

Teacher Joanne Stuart

The nominator was: Michael Shaw, Scarborough Public Works Director & ecomaine board member representing Scarborough

At right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, Joanne Stuart, Michael Shaw, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



The Wentworth Intermediate School of Scarborough created an organic community garden for both nutritional produce and for integrated lessons in math, social studies, literature, and sustainability. Under the leadership of teacher Joanne Stuart and with the important cooperation of cafeteria personnel lead by Leslie Dumais and Director Judy Campbell, the school's community garden had an outstanding year. Here is some of what they accomplished in 2012:

- Planted & harvested root vegetables that were roasted and served as an adjunct to lunches
- Planted a raised strawberry bed
- Grew locally donated heirloom rhubarb that was made into dessert; and grew butternut squash which was used to make squash cake for all 800 students
- Planted and used many kitchen herbs used by the school
- Constructed a popcorn field and created a scarecrow based on a literary connection
- With help from the public works department, added a greenhouse to extend the growing season
- Grew kale – an alternative source of calcium – tomatoes, and leafy greens
- Grew cucumbers to answer a student question: Do they float?
- Discussed, discovered & researched harmful and beneficial insects
- Began a worm composting project to research results
- Visited two local farms

South Portland

The Community Award: Doug Howard

The nominator was: Jim Gailey, South Portland City Manager and Vice Chair of ecomaine's board of directors

At right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, South Portland City Manager James Gailey, recipient Doug Howard, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



When Doug Howard was hired as South Portland's Public Works Director in February 2012, he inherited a problem that began in April 2011.

A 500-unit apartment complex with City services had repeatedly thrown trash in with their recycling causing entire loads of recycling to be rejected and burned as trash. City staff met with the apartment complex's management on many occasions and periodically pulled contaminated bins from the curb...all to no avail.

After many months, the problem was clearly reflected in South Portland's rising costs: the lower number of recycling tons, which have no disposal cost, and the correspondingly higher number of trash tons was costing a significant amount of tax dollars – dollars that were not budgeted. In January 2012, City Council was considering the removal of normal City recycling services and, instead, to place a silver bullet container in the area; if the silver bullet recycling container became contaminated, apartment management would be responsible for costs.

It was at this time that Doug was hired. He assessed the situation and determined that more education of tenants would be more effective than talking with management. He began by placing stickers and magnets with specific information as to what was and was not recyclable in every apartment. Periodic checks of the neighborhood continued and individuals from the City made on-site visits to hand out literature. Doug and staff also attended a summer bock party- along with the department's mascot.

After 18 months of Doug's leadership, the situation has turned itself around.

Standish

The Community Award: Ragan Elsemore

The nominators were: Amy Hubbard and Dawna Cyr of Bonny Eagle High School

At right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, nominator Dawna Cyr, recipient Ragan Elsemore, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



As a teacher at Bonny Eagle High School, Ragan Elsemore created and implemented a recycling program on her own initiative, without direction or stipend.

Bonny Eagle, with an enrollment of 1,300 students plus staff and administrative personnel, had little or no recycling, so most everything was thrown out as trash. Ragan worked with maintenance, custodial, and administrative staff, and other stake-holders, to develop a recycling system. She and her students then, made training presentations to faculty on use of their recycling buckets.

Ragan's next step was to meet with stake-holders to curb waste in the cafeteria to develop a plan that included the elimination of Styrofoam trays. Her students taught other students how to sort their trays at different stations, one of which was for dumping milk.

Even though Ragan has left Bonny Eagle to teach at another high school, her recycling system is still in place and participation by staff and students continues...a real testament to the effectiveness of her plan.

Congratulations.

Waterboro

The Community Award: David Pope & Class, Massabesic Middle School

Miranda Raymond, Alyssa Duley, Sophia LaFrance, Ivorie Dickinson, Steve Fitzgerald, Laklei Thibodeau, Chase Stearns, Kaily Dunlap, Emily Archer, Raymond Rabida, Casey Johnston, Thyme Whitten, Shannelle Wakita, Caily Hall, and Will Gierie

The nominator was: Waterboro Transfer Station & Recycling Committee

At right:

Students with: back row - 3rd from left graduate student Chris Goodchild, 5th from left David Pope, 7th from left ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, 10th from left ecomaine Waterboro Board representative Dennis Abbott, and 11th from left, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



Massabesic Middle School Teacher David Pope involved his class in a challenge called Zero Waste, which was put forth by the Chewonki Foundation during the 2011-2012 school year.

For the competition, middle school students were required to create a plan that covered six steps pertinent to reducing school waste - with two key areas being recycling and composting.

Students examined waste from the school and their data showed that only 32% of the trash generated was actually trash; food waste accounted for 65 pounds of waste daily and the remainder was compostable material and recyclables. Specifically, the school's 800 students produced 40 pounds of liquid waste each day and they calculated that more than 125,000 recyclable milk cartons were disposed of every year.

David Pope's class earned third place and received \$1,000 in January 2012 to help fund the implementation of their plan. Today, students are removing milk cartons and liquid waste from the school's trash and 8th grade students are training younger students to take over the program. This school year, students began the next phase of their plan, which is to compost food waste.

Windham

The Community Award: Bill Hansen

The nominator was: Edra Long

At right:

ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, recipient Bill Hansen, nominator Edra Long, and ecomaine Board Chairman Michael McGovern.



RSU 14 School Facilities Director Bill Hansen has been a great supporter and promoter of all green programs connected to the schools...recycling, composting, and growing foods in campus green spaces. He gladly works with teachers, cafeteria staff and others to make change happen; change that will benefit the environment.

Bill was instrumental in replacing paper towel dispensers in bathrooms with wall-mounted air blowers for drying hands...this not only saved paper, it improved hygiene, as well.

And he was also key to the success of a school garden house built to enable composting.

Bill's personal involvement includes being present twice a week to help children and cheer them on as they carry their recycling bins from school classrooms to the recycling dumpsters.

His nominator added that "Bill is a class act and so deserving of this award."

Yarmouth

The Community Award: Mark Primeau

The nominator was: Yarmouth Recycling Committee

At right:

Diana Hibbard, ecomaine General Manager Kevin Roche, Sally Grover, Mark Primeau, Wendy Ayotte, Yarmouth Public Works Director and ecomaine Board member Erik Street, and ecomaine Board Chair Michael McGovern.



For the past two years, Mark Primeau has been the director of the Yarmouth Clam Festival...an annual nonprofit event that has an estimated attendance over three days of 150,000 visitors.

Since his appointment, Mark has worked closely with the Town's Recycling Committee to improve recycling and re-use options, especially for the many food vendors that take part in the festival. More than two tons of recyclable paper, tin, plastic, and cardboard generated by food vendors have been diverted from the waste stream each year. In addition, cooking oil is collected for recycling and returnable bottles and cans are collected for both recycling and fundraising.

In 2012, Mark and the Yarmouth Recycling Committee went further by implementing a pilot program for the collection of food waste. Two public collection stations were placed in the festival's food area during peak hours and each was staffed by volunteers. The result? A total of 820 pounds of food waste were diverted from the waste stream and into composting.

With this success after just one year, both Mark and the committee are hoping to expand the collection program for the 2013 July event.

The Yarmouth Recycling Committee is very appreciative of Marks efforts to make the Clam Festival a Green Event.