

Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation

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Summary Report to Sweden - March, 2011

Sweden is one of twelve municipalities that is an owner of the Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation (MMWAC), the regional solid waste operation in Auburn that converts residential and commercial trash into green+energy. This quasimunicipal corporation was formed in 1986 by Auburn, Bowdoin, Buckfield, Lovell, Minot, Monmouth, New Gloucester, Poland, Raymond, Sumner, Sweden, and Wales. MMWAC owns and operates the fourth and latest waste-to-energy plant in the State of Maine, which became operational in 1992 and is expected to remain in service for decades to come.

Our main job is to safely and dependably process trash through modern incineration techniques to lessen landfill needs by reducing the volume of household trash by 90%, minimize any air pollution impacts using advanced operating procedures and air pollution control equipment, and create clean renewable domestic energy in the form of electricity from society's post-recyclable waste. This power is enough to serve the needs of 2,000 homes.

A family of three generates about 1 ton of trash per year. MMWAC processed 67,000 tons of trash in FY2010, ending June 30, 2010, and has converted over 1 million tons of solid waste into reliable domestic renewable energy since startup. This has offset the need for 2 million barrels of foreign oil, saved 1 ¾ million cubic yards of landfill space, and has reduced greenhouse gases by 1 million tons of CO₂ equivalent. USEPA has confirmed that waste-to-energy is a net reducer of greenhouse gases, and has stated that the power generated by this industry has less environmental impacts than almost any other source of electricity.

Emissions are strictly controlled by operating efficiently with high temperatures to destroy organics, and by using high efficiency air pollution control equipment such as acid gas scrubbers that use 2 ½ million pounds/year of lime, and activated carbon to remove metals and organics. Lastly, 800 high efficiency filter bags, each 16q long, capture even minute particles to achieve emission levels 1/10th of that allowed by our permit. There are no visible emissions; the white smoke sometimes seen coming from our stack is actually water vapor from our pollution control system that has condensed when it reaches the cool air at the top of the stack. Inert ash is safely landfilled in ash-for-trash+partner Lewiston's specially designed landfill.

MMWAC recycles close to 2,000 tons per year of various materials including 1,500 tons of metal that goes through the incineration process, as well as cardboard, light steel, tires, batteries, propane containers and Freon containing appliances.

Lovell/Sweden share transfer station services and co-mingle solid waste. Last year Lovell/Sweden residents disposed: 702 tons of municipal (i.e. residential) solid waste and 210 tons of bulky/construction/demo waste.

MEMBER COMMUNITIES:

AUBURN • BOWDOIN • BUCKFIELD • LOVELL • MINOT • MONMOUTH • NEW GLOUCESTER • POLAND • RAYMOND • SUMNER • SWEDEN • WALES

For more information contact MMWAC at 783-8805.