

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

April 7, 2010

Mr. Josh Secunda  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Region I, New England  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Subject: Progress Report for Maine's Voluntary Environmental Leader Certification Pilot Program for Grocery Stores

Dear Josh:

Attached is Maine Department of Environmental Protection progress report covering the January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010 quarter of the Maine Voluntary Environmental Leader Certification Pilot Program for Grocery Stores. This report includes the accomplishment of discrete tasks included in our revised work plan. We appreciate your comments received to date regarding our revised work plan, workbook, and project materials. We look forward to continuing to work with EPA and our partners on this project. We have more grocery stores that have expressed interest in participating in the program and I am in the process of scheduling site visits.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments at (207)-287-8550 or by email at [roy.t.krout@maine.gov](mailto:roy.t.krout@maine.gov).

Sincerely,

Roy Krout  
Office of Innovation & Assistance  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

c: Jerry Filbin (EPA), Scott Bowles (EPA), Anne Leiby (EPA), Jennifer Linn (EPA), Marge Miranda (EPA), Sherri Walker (EPA), Beth Nagusky (ME DEP), Julie Churchill (ME DEP), Peter Cooke (ME DEP), Don Witherill (ME DEP), Jeff Dennis (ME DEP)

## **Progress Report (1/01/10-3/31/10)**

Award: State Innovation Grant  
Recipient: Maine's Voluntary Environmental Leader Certification Pilot Program to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Improve Environmental and Energy Performance for Existing Maine Grocery Stores

### **Overview**

Maine has a clear need to solve existing water quality problems, address stormwater management issues, and improve environmental and energy saving practices for Maine businesses. This need is demonstrated by the dramatic increase in development in Maine; and the corresponding increase in the number of impaired or soon to be impaired water bodies. An innovative solution such as the voluntary certification program for Maine grocery stores offers an alternative to the traditional enforcement/compliance model that allows us to proactively work with unregulated facilities and encourage upgrades in stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and overall environmental and energy performance. This is important because states are generally not sufficiently staffed to implement traditional permitting programs.

### **Activities During Reporting Period**

#### **Maine Department of Environmental Protection:**

In this reporting period (January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010), the Maine DEP Environmental Leader grocery store project has:

- Developed a revised work plan to provide a pilot voluntary self-certification program for Maine grocery stores to reduce stormwater pollution and improve environmental and energy performance;
- Developed a revised Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Logic Model;
- Launched the project with a formal press release and presentations by Maine DEP staff Peter Cooke and Roy Krout at the Maine Grocers Association (MGA) Spring Issues Forum on March 17, 2010;
- Developed and collaborated on press articles that overviewed the launching of the Environmental Leader Grocery Store Project;
- Published news articles in the MGA newsletter and upcoming Maine Environmental Leader newsletter, reaching an audience of approximately 435 businesses in Maine;
- Updated and refined the certification checklist workbook, including incorporation of comments received from EPA;

- Piloted the certification workbook with MGA representatives and individual grocery stores including 1 Shaw's and 1 Hannaford supermarket and 2 independent grocery stores;
- Actively recruited Maine grocery businesses for participation in the project through MGA, Shaw's Supermarkets, and Hannaford Supermarkets, and contact with individual stores recognized as environmentally conscious;
- Developed outreach information, including Environmental Leader grocery store decal and financial assistance resource guidance to assist Maine grocery stores achieve points.

Maine DEP Innovation & Assistance and watershed management staff, and EPA Region I staff have continued to work together to implement Maine's Voluntary Environmental Leader Certification Pilot Program for Maine Grocery Stores. By implementing a voluntary certification program, Maine is promoting Best Management Practices and Environmentally Preferred Business Practices that help to address important stormwater pollution issues and overall environmental and energy saving practices.

The technical information and implementation techniques developed pursuant to this voluntary self-certification program will be able to be transferred to and replicated by other states and regions.

**Planned Activities for the Next Quarter Include:**

- Develop database for the project;
- Develop web site for Environmental Leader grocery stores with availability of workbooks and other assistance/outreach information;
- Identify and recruit additional Maine grocery store businesses to build participation in the Environmental Leader program;
- Work with Shaw's Supermarkets and Hannaford Supermarkets on scheduling site visits to their participating stores;
- Continue to work with Maine Grocers Association on promoting the program and scheduling site visits to participating members;
- Continue to promote the program at workshops and conferences;
- Distribute workbooks to participating grocery stores and provide on site technical assistance;
- Revise and refine point scoring system as more stores are visited and experience is gained;
- Review checklists and provide follow up recommendations to achieve additional points; and
- Provide Environmental Leader decals and logo for advertising, etc., for grocery stores that achieve certification.

**Financial Report**

Please refer to the attached Excel spreadsheet for the expenditures for this quarter.