

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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

Subject: **Progress Report for Maine's Green Grocery Store Program** to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Advance Sustainable Business Practices

Dear Josh:

Attached is Maine Department of Environmental Protection progress report covering the January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011 quarter of the Maine Green Grocery Store Program to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Advance Sustainable Business Practices. This report includes accomplishments of discrete tasks. We have increased the number of certified Environmental Leader grocery stores, and provided additional assistance to Maine's businesses. We appreciate your comments and suggestions received to date, and we look forward to continuing to work with EPA and our growing list of participants and partners in this project.

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

## **Progress Report (01/01/11-03/31/11)**

Award: State Innovation Grant  
Recipient: Maine's Green Grocery Store Program to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Advance Sustainable Business Practices

### **Overview**

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (ME DEP) Office of Innovation and Assistance (OIA) has advanced the development and implementation of their green grocery store program addressing stormwater pollution and advancing sustainable business practices. This voluntary certification approach is modeled after the ME DEP's nationally recognized and highly successful Environmental Leader green certification programs for Maine's hospitality and restaurant sectors, a program that has been replicated in at least six other states. The green grocery store program is assisting these businesses with sustainable practices to become recognized as certified Maine Environmental Leaders.

Maine's certification workbook includes a point system for becoming a greener business and achieving Environmental Leader branding recognition. The workbook requires 20 points under stormwater best management practices (e.g. vegetative buffers, maintenance of storm drains, etc.) to achieve certification. Additional sections address implementation of sustainable business practices including: cleaning chemicals used, waste management, maintenance, food product quality (measurement of organic, local and sustainable products) and energy efficiency measures. An innovative and voluntary solution such as the 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 advance sustainable business practices.

### **Activities During Reporting Period**

In this reporting period (January, 2011 through March 31, 2011), the Maine DEP's OIA green grocery store certification program has:

- Increased the number of participating grocery stores to nine currently certified Environmental Leaders. Nine others have received assistance recommendations to date for the process of becoming certified;
- Provided provisional certification status to fourteen participating grocery stores to date. Eight have gone on to become fully certified, seven others are still in the process of becoming certified through the provisional certification;

- Provided site visit assistance and store specific recommendations for additional practices/points to eighteen grocery stores to date;
- Provisionally certified grocery stores that have achieved certification have put in place 55 cumulative initiatives involving stormwater **in order to generate points towards the certification requirement**. These stormwater workbook initiatives are recorded by the number of stores that have implemented them:
  - 1) Number of businesses that have drafted a **stormwater policy**: 6 (stores)
  - 2) Number of businesses that have **increased trash receptacles** in the parking lot: 3
  - 3) Number of cumulative **trash receptacles** in parking lots increased: 8
  - 4) Number of businesses that have **increased cigarette disposal receptacles** in the parking lot: 3
  - 5) Number of cumulative **cigarette receptacles** in parking lots increased: 6
  - 6) Number of businesses **ensuring their dumpsters are covered**: 2
  - 7) Number of businesses that **used stenciling to reduce storm drain dumping**: 3
  - 8) Number of businesses that have **increased or added regular drain grate debris removal**: 4
  - 9) Number of businesses that are making an effort to **maintain their vegetative buffer**: 2
  - 10) Number of businesses that have **increased or added drains cleaned out annually**: 5
  - 11) Number of businesses that have increased or added **lot being dry swept**: 3
  - 12) Number of businesses that have **minimized pesticides**: 2
  - 13) Number of businesses that have **no coal tar based asphalt sealants**: 2
  - 14) Number of businesses that have **documented frequency of drain inspections**: 2
  - 15) Number of businesses that have **documented number of drain clean-outs**: 2
  - 16) Number of businesses that have **documented their sweeping schedule**: 2;
- Provisionally certified stores have undertaken also 87 workbook initiatives other than stormwater initiatives. These include specific initiatives in the areas of administration, waste management, maintenance, shipping, refrigeration, energy and HVAC;
- OIA presented at the Maine Grocers Association's Spring Issues Forum meeting event for the second year in a row on March 24<sup>th</sup> and provided program information, assistance and marketing to encourage grocery stores to participate in our program (see attachment 1);

- Provided news piece updating Environmental Leader program and published in Maine Grocers Association newsletter (see link to article: <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=j6alfzdab&v=001PSxlp8rnBclK-yT9-3bkew0IWwFQAn0BAbq5D3KTIEVVRlzSbl3ME1ciss5mdXtJ6XfDc6zQ-USoEXEmMqTKPRLWLa8SvmKUD6lBezUEahN83OtkoRI UA%3D%3D#LETTER.BLOCK29> )
- Continued contacts with partnership with Maine Grocers Association, and other partners, including participating grocery stores to identify additional participants and provide assistance;
- Contacted additional recommended grocery stores and sent program information to encourage and invite their participation;
- Updated the program web site including updated participant listings and web page for technical assistance information to encourage participation and improve use of workbook for adopting sustainable practices towards certification (see link: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/innovation/greencert/grocery.htm>);
- Updated and refined certification workbook, including comments from grocery stores to improve the assistance tool. Our most recent (March, 2011) is also presented on our web site in two formats (see link above);
- Began development of a metrics database similar to the hospitality database which is nationally recognized and being replicated. Including database for pretreatment area conditions for stormwater using GIS, and metrics for sustainable practices including stormwater;
- Coordinated with stormwater staff to measure baseline conditions for participating grocery stores. Calculated impervious area values and pre-treatment phosphorous export for stores (see attachment 2);
- Actively recruited Maine grocery stores in partnership with Maine Grocers Association, and from Hannaford, Shaw's, Trader Joe's and other independent grocery stores.

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

- Participate in Hannaford's Earth Day event (April 13, 2011) with outreach information to encourage additional grocery store participation (see attachment 3);
- Invited to present Maine's green certified grocery store program at National Environmental Sustainability Summit June 7-9 in Detroit, MI.(see attachment 4);

- Recruit and identify additional Maine grocery store businesses to participate through partners like the Maine Grocers Association, Shaw's Supermarkets, Hannaford Supermarkets, etc.;
- Continue to provide technical assistance and on site grocery store services, including stormwater and environmental sustainable business practices, energy efficiency opportunities and referrals to Efficiency Maine for additional energy reduction incentives and grants;
- Develop and update web site with improved workbooks, future certified participants and resources to assist grocery stores;
- Provide Environmental Leader decals and logos and certificates for advertising etc., for recognition of grocery stores achieving certification;
- Continue to contact grocery stores and partners to provide assistance and site visit services to encourage participation.

### **Financial Report**

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