

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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October 12, 2010

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 July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 quarter of the Maine Green Grocery Store Program to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Advance Sustainable Business Practices. This report includes accomplishments of discrete tasks included in our revised work plan. We have increased participation of Maine's grocery stores in our program, including increasing the number of certified Environmental Leader grocery stores to seven, and provided additional assistance to small businesses and larger supermarkets with eleven grocery stores qualifying for provisional certification. As we have discussed, we have revised and submitted our work plan, budget, and QAPP following formal withdrawal of Massachusetts from the project (August 5, 2010.) 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.

Sincerely:

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

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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), Don Witherill (ME DEP), Jeff Dennis (ME DEP)

Progress Report (7/01/10-9/30/10)

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 (ME DEP) has redirected its project, as set out in its final proposal, to the development and implementation of a 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. Maine's certification workbook includes a point system for becoming a green 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 (percentage organic, local, sustainable), 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 (July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010), the Maine DEP green grocery store certification program has:

- Increased number of participating grocery stores to eighteen-including four Hannaford stores, one Shaw's Supermarket, one Whole Foods Market and twelve additional stores;
- Provided technical assistance including stormwater and environmental sustainable business practices, energy efficiency opportunities and referrals to Efficiency Maine Trust for additional energy reduction incentives and grants;
- Provided technical assistance and educational information regarding green grocery store program to five additional grocery stores;

- Certified five additional grocery stores to increase to seven certified Environmental Leader grocery stores;
- Provided provisional certification recognition opportunities to nine grocery stores and markets;
- Provided Environmental Leader decals, certificates, and logos for advertising, etc., to grocery stores eligible for full and provisional certification;
- Updated the development of the green grocery store certification program web site including updated and improved workbook and additional certified participants, etc., (see link: www.maine.gov/dep/innovation/greencert/grocery.htm);
- Revised and refined workbook point scoring system as more stores were visited and experience was gained;
- Distributed workbooks to participating grocery stores and provided on site technical assistance;
- Reviewed checklists for each participating store and provided follow up recommendations and on site assistance to achieve additional points for full certification;
- Updated and refined certification checklist workbook, including comments from partnering associations and grocery stores piloting workbook certification;
- Developing databases for the project including pretreatment area conditions for stormwater, and metrics for sustainable practices including stormwater;
- Published photos and news story in the Maine Environmental Leader newsletter, reaching an audience of approximately 435 businesses in Maine;
- Posted Maine Environmental Leader newsletter featuring green grocery store certification project accomplishments on Maine DEP web site (see link: www.maine.gov/dep/innovation/greencert/September2010ELnewsletterdraft.pdf)) An additional article about sustainable landscaping and stormwater is in the process of being added to update the newsletter;
- Actively recruited Maine grocery stores from Hannaford, Shaw's, Whole Foods Market, and independent sector with partnership with Maine Grocers Association to assist Maine's grocery store businesses with sustainable business practices.

Planned Activities for the Next Quarter Include:

- Continue to identify and recruit Maine grocery store businesses to participate through the Maine Grocers Association, Shaw's Supermarkets, Hannaford Supermarkets, etc;
- Continue to provide technical assistance including stormwater and environmental sustainable business practices, energy efficiency opportunities and referrals to Efficiency Maine Trust for additional energy reduction incentives and grants;

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- Increase the number of grocery stores participating in the program to achieve Environmental Leader certification and increase their number of sustainable business practices;
- Develop database for stormwater measurement of pretreatment conditions and database for business practices measuring savings from sustainable business practices;
- Continue to populate databases to house grocery store data;
- Develop and update web site with additional certified participants, resources and improved workbooks;
- Provide Environmental Leader decals and logos for advertising, etc., for grocery stores that achieve certification;
- Continue to review certifications;
- Continue to provide assistance site visit services to encourage grocery store participation;
- Attend the Maine Grocers Association's upcoming "Maine Food Means Business Summit" on October 28th and provide assistance and marketing to encourage additional grocery stores to participate in our program.

Financial Report

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