

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 October 1, 2010 through December 31, 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. We have increased participation of Maine's grocery stores in our program, including increasing the number of certified Environmental Leader grocery stores to eight, 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.

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

Progress Report (10/01/10-12/31/10)

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 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 (October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010), the Maine DEP green grocery store certification program has:

- Increased the number of participating grocery stores to eight certified Environmental Leaders, and ten others have received assistance recommendations to date for the process of becoming certified;
- Provided provisional certification status to fourteen participating grocery stores to date (six of which have gone on to become certified) for assistance towards full 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 48 cumulative initiatives involving stormwater. These stormwater workbook initiatives are recorded by the number of stores that have implemented them:
 - 1) Number of businesses with a stormwater policy: 5 (stores)
 - 2) Number of businesses that have increased trash receptacles: 2
 - 3) Number of cumulative trash receptacles increased: 6
 - 4) Number of businesses that have increased cigarette disposal receptacles: 3
 - 5) Number of cumulative cigarette receptacles increased: 6
 - 6) Number of businesses ensuring their dumpsters are covered: 1
 - 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: 3
 - 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: 4
 - 11) Number of businesses that have increased or added lot being dry swept: 3
 - 12) Number of businesses that have increased or added minimization of 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 80 workbook initiatives other than stormwater initiatives. These include specific initiatives in the areas of administration, waste management, maintenance, shipping, refrigeration, energy and HVAC;
- Attended the Maine Grocers Association's Summit meeting event "Maine Food Means Business Summit" on October 28th and provided program information, assistance and marketing to encourage grocery stores to participate in our program;

- 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;
- Provided technical assistance including stormwater and environmental sustainable business practices, energy efficiency opportunities and referrals to Efficiency Maine for energy reduction incentives and grants;
- Updated the program web site including updated participant listings and 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>);
- Distributed workbooks and information to encourage participation and provide on site technical assistance;
- Reviewed checklists for each participating store and provided follow up recommendations to achieve additional points for full certification;
- Updated and refined certification workbook, including comments from grocery stores to improve the assistance tool;
- Coordinated with stormwater staff to measure baseline conditions for participating grocery stores;
- Developing databases for the project including pretreatment area conditions for stormwater using GIS, and metrics for sustainable practices including stormwater;
- 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

- 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 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 improved workbooks, future certified participants and resources to assist grocery stores;
- Continue to review certifications;
- Continue to provide assistance site visit services to encourage grocery store participants;
- 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.