

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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January 25, 2012

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, 2011 through December 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 again 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.

Sincerely:

Roy Krout
Office of 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), Don Witherill (ME DEP), Jeff Dennis (ME DEP)

Progress Report (10/01/11-12/31/11)

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 Assistance (OA) has continued to advance 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, 2011 through December 31, 2011), the Maine DEP's OA green grocery store certification program has:

- Increased the number of participating grocery stores to twenty-three certified Environmental Leaders. Ten additional stores have been certified during this period. Eighteen others have received assistance recommendations to date for the process of becoming certified;
- Participated in meetings with Hannaford representatives on December 5th and December 14th at their Waterville, Maine corporate location and continued to assist their efforts to increase sustainable business practices at their eleven (11)

regional store locations and complete certifications. (An entire district of Hannaford stores—District 2.) These included providing extensive stormwater management assistance and recommendations to complete certifications. These efforts led to the certification of nine more Hannaford stores as Environmental Leaders. Also provided assistance to Hannaford corporate representatives to facilitate certification of additional Hannaford stores by identifying sustainable practices and associated certification points that are common to all their Maine grocery stores;

- Completed certification of an additional grocery store (following more than a year long assistance effort with Graves' Shop n' Save) in far northern rural Aroostook county;
- Produced November press release (see link: www.maine.gov/dep/news/news.html?id=318433) to increase recognition of recently certified Maine grocery stores. Also working cooperatively with Hannaford to generate additional media information for nine recently certified Hannaford grocery stores, and also for recognition of two Environmental Leader grocery stores certified in northern Maine's Aroostook County in cooperation with our northern Maine's regional office director;
- Mapped stormwater features of grocery stores, with assistance from Maine DEP stormwater and GIS staff, to gather site specific stormwater management information to assist participating stores with recommendations for operations and maintenance and improved stormwater bmps;
- Provided technical assistance and store specific assistance packages for improving stormwater management practices to eleven Hannaford stores, including GIS maps of impervious areas with structural bmps and "hot spot" areas, and recommendations for improving bmps at each location;
- Involved all our Department's regional managers in the project (statewide), collecting comments on workbook practices, developing recognition for certified grocery stores, and inviting additional participation in the project;
- Collaborated with EPA Region I stormwater expert, Mark Voorhees, for assistance with stormwater coefficient measurement information and continued development of metrics database to identify most usable and transferrable information for EPA and other states, particularly Region 1;
- 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/assistance/greencert/grocery.html>) Updates to the Environmental Leader grocery store program were made in context of agency web site update for Maine DEP that also improves its usability;

- Updated and refined certification workbook, including comments from grocery stores to improve the assistance tool. Our most recent workbook is also presented on our web site in two formats (see link above);
- Continued contacts with partnership with Maine Grocers Association, and other partners, including participating corporations and grocery stores to identify and recruit additional participants and provide assistance. Maine Grocers Association continues to generate support for our program with their membership (see link to their web site: http://mainegrocers.org/?page_id=149), and;
- Contacted additional recommended grocery stores and sent program information to encourage and invite their participation.

Planned Activities for the Next Quarter Include

- Provide additional stormwater management and business assistance with visits to interested grocery stores. Visits will include meeting with store management to provide stormwater bmp assistance outreach to improve their current practices. Stormwater package will include assistance for determining locations of existing stormwater collection systems and maintenance and operations, and recommendations for developing bmps for improving stormwater management;
- Develop the metrics database with additional stormwater coefficients and including recommendations from EPA Region I stormwater expertise to provide measurement of stormwater bmp practices, etc.;
- 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 management and other 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 and updated workbooks, future certified participants, and other resources to assist grocery stores;
- Provide Environmental Leader decals and logos and certificates for advertising etc., for recognition of grocery stores achieving certification;
- Develop press releases and opportunities for additional media recognition of newly certified and participating Environmental Leaders;

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- Continue to involve our Department's regional managers who will be able to assist to improve and strengthen our Environmental Leader services and possibly encourage/increase participation of new grocery stores.

Financial Report

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