

# Taking out the Garbage:

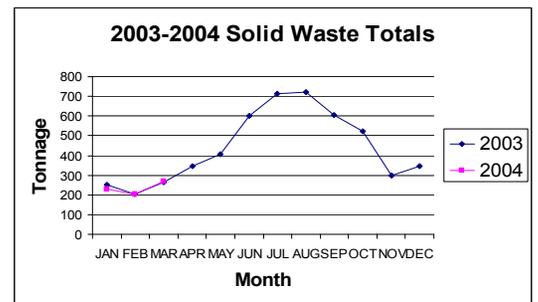
***An Effort to Significantly Reduce the Bar Harbor/Mount Desert Island Waste Stream Through the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism and Local Environmental Stewardship***

## **Issue:**

Bar Harbor, like most of the other municipalities located on Mount Desert Island (MDI), pay waste disposal costs on behalf of the business community as a way of saying "Thanks for locating your business here." Without any obligation to pay for waste disposal, there is little to no tangible incentive for businesses to decrease the overall amount of waste being generated.

The cost of waste disposal depends on the weight of the material upon delivery to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC), a waste-to-energy incinerator located approximately 60 miles away from MDI. Wet pre and post-consumer organic waste from food-related establishments makes up a majority of the waste stream by weight. The amount of waste generated in Bar Harbor and other surrounding communities increases significantly during busy summer months. Many community stakeholders have expressed support for a waste management strategy that shifts the cost burden to the producers and promotes stewardship of local resources.

## **Proposed Solution:**



***The amount of waste generated in Bar Harbor increases significantly during the summer, coinciding with the busv tourist season.***

The Hancock County Planning Commission is working with various stakeholders to create strategies to divert food waste in the Bar Harbor area. Strategies include:

- ✓ Donations to local food pantries and animal farms;
- ✓ Converting cooking oil to bio-diesel for use through the local bio-diesel coop; and
- ✓ Large-scale composting. Local environmental stewardship is the critical incentive that will be used to get businesses on board.

## **For More Information:**



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