



**Owner Communities**

Bridgton  
Cape Elizabeth  
Casco  
Cumberland  
Falmouth  
Freeport  
Gorham  
Gray  
Harrison  
Hollis  
Limington  
Lyman  
North Yarmouth  
Ogunquit  
Portland  
Pownal  
Scarborough  
South Portland  
Waterboro  
Windham  
Yarmouth

May 5, 2011

Falmouth Town Council  
C/O Tony Payne, Chair  
Town of Falmouth  
271 Falmouth Road  
Falmouth Maine 04105

Dear Tony:

I would like to congratulate Falmouth for deciding to adopt weekly curbside collection of recyclables. This will be a great enhancement of your town's recycling program and a great convenience to your residents. The ecomaine recycling committee has heard, however, that the Town Council may also eliminate or reduce the number of silver bullet recycling containers available to the public. I wanted to reach out to you and share some information that I hope you and your colleagues will consider as you deliberate on this topic.

The ecomaine Recycling Committee has reviewed the recycling programs of our member communities and has found that towns utilizing both curbside and drop off collection have more effective recycling programs than those that rely on curbside collection alone.

For example:

- Pownal instituted curbside recycling in 2009. When they eliminated their silver bullets very soon after, their recycling tonnage fell from an average of 14.86 tons to 11.93 tons. This represents a 20% reduction.
- North Yarmouth moved to curbside recycling in 2008 and eliminated silver bullet use in 2010. They saw a reduction from an average of 45.45 tons of recycling to 38.19 tons when silver bullets were removed from service. This represents an 18% reduction in recycling.

**Associate Members**

Baldwin  
Hiram  
Naples  
Parsonsfield  
Porter  
Saco  
Standish

**Contract Members**

Andover  
Cornish  
Jay  
Livermore Falls  
Manchester  
Monmouth  
North Haven  
Poland  
Sanford  
Old Orchard Beach  
Readfield  
Wayne

- Old Orchard Beach added silver bullets to its already existing curbside collection service and saw an increase from an average of 30 tons per month to 47.04 tons. That is an increase of 57%.

Drop off containers such as the silver bullets make recycling accessible to many people who may not be fully served by the curbside program. These include residents of apartment buildings and condominiums, small businesses and residents who may miss their collection day or who generate a large quantity of recyclables between collections.

The Town of Falmouth has been a leader in waste reduction and recycling since the early 1990s. It was the first town in the region to institute a pay-as-you-throw program – an approach to waste reduction since adopted by several neighboring communities. Even before beginning curbside recycling, Falmouth residents recycled at impressive rate. The ecomaine Recycling Committee commends these achievements.

We hope you will strongly consider the information we have shared with your and decide to maintain your silver bullet program in its current form.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Troy Moon  
ecomaine Recycling Committee Chairman

CC: Nathan Poore, Town Manager  
Bonny Rodden, ecomaine Board Member

## Falmouth Analysis of Percent of Recycling from Curbside Collection vs. Drop Off

