



# Maine Auto Recyclers Association

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bill Bell  
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## MARA Members Can Receive Free "On-Site" Technical Assistance

For the second year in a row, MARA has teamed up with FB Environmental to offer free technical assistance to help active MARA members develop or update their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This is a non-regulatory visit to help you comply with your State of Maine Multi-Sector General Permit.

Here's what MARA members get:

1. A free comprehensive site visit, complete with a friendly technical staff person
2. A free color map of your salvage yard with a full summary of your site visit
3. Optional on-site employee training to help you meet your annual SWPPP requirement
4. A complimentary 3-D Spill Kit sign to proudly hang in your dismantling garage

All MARA members are encouraged to take advantage of these free services while they last. Remember, all auto salvage yards need to have a Stormwater Plan on file as a requirement of your permit to operate.

## Cash For Clunkers: Need for Improvement

*Bill Bell, Executive Director*

This summer's "Cash for Clunkers" program was, in the opinion of most auto industry observers, a big success. Almost 700,000 new vehicles were sold, generating almost \$3 billion of income for dealers. Huge numbers of Ford Explorers, Jeep Cherokees, and Dodge Caravans plus a lot of pickup trucks were traded in for Toyota Corollas and Camrys, Honda Civics, and Ford Focuses. The average "Clunker" traded in was getting 16 MPG; the average new purchase is rated at 25 MPG, a 60% improvement in fuel consumption. Even the State of Maine sales tax revenues showed an unexpected increase resulting from the program.

**However**, the program also showed up some serious weaknesses with how we deal with vehicle recycling paperwork here in Maine. I discussed this recently (Oct 1) with Garry Hinkley, Director of Vehicle Services at Maine BMV, who is more than willing to work with us but who also pointed out the cause of the problems.

**First**, the list of Maine facilities eligible to participate in disposing of "Clunkers", as posted on the official Car Allowance Rebate System website used by Maine car dealers, was bogus.

### Want A Free Site-Visit Today?

Call: 221-6699 and ask for Kailee.

Or send an email to:

[jenj@fbenvironmental.com](mailto:jenj@fbenvironmental.com)

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## Cash for Clunkers Cont....

This list contained all kinds of “facilities” no longer in business, or not in any way capable of properly disposing of liquids, mercury switches, or other toxic components, to say nothing of crushing a vehicle or bringing in a crusher. Maine’s list was 12 pages long, compared to 2 pages for New Hampshire, 2 pages for Connecticut, 3 pages for Vermont, and eight for Massachusetts. Not sure what reason was for this list being so long, except that Maine does not participate in the ELVS program. At any rate, we need to work with DMV to come up with a realistic list of facilities which can properly handle used vehicles, rather than the current hodgepodge listing which somebody provided to CARS.com.

**Second**, our members need to be squared away with reporting cars received and disposed of to NMVTIS (National Motor Vehicle Title

Information System). Right now, everyone is correctly reporting to the State of Maine. In some states, this would be enough –those states are forwarding the information to NMVTIS. Maine, however, is not doing so, for reasons ranging from technological to financial. Existing federal law already required Maine recyclers to start reporting receipt and disposal of vehicles, and the Cash for Clunkers program specifically requires that vehicles received by recyclers be reported within 7 days, and that the vehicle be crushed, and **this reported to NMVTIS**, 180 days after receipt.

**To get a NMVTIS number and begin reporting, you must go through Auto Data Direct (866-923-3123) or ISO (800-888-4476).**

**If you took in vehicles under Cash for Clunkers, you signed a document saying that you would, among other things, adhere to these reporting requirements.**

## How Do You Manage Your Automobile Fluids?



12/02/2005  
Photo: FB Environmental



Photo: FB Environmental



Photo: NHDES

### The GOOD...

All fluids are drained indoors using fluid extractors and stored in covered, labeled containers.

### The BAD...

Fluids are changed indoors, but left standing in uncovered 5 gallon buckets that can easily be spilled. Old spills (far left) were not cleaned up.

### and the UGLY...

Fluids are changed outdoors with no containment for spills/leaks. At a minimum, this work should be done on an impervious surface (e.g. concrete pad), and under a cover or roof.

## NMVTIS Reporting

The National Motor Vehicle Title Information Resource Center (NMVTIS) serves as a repository of information related to vehicles that have been in the possession of auto recyclers, junk yards and salvage yards.

### Data To Be Reported

Auto recyclers, junk yards and salvage yards are required to provide NMVTIS with the following information on each vehicle received into inventory every month:

- ◆ Name, address, and contact information for the reporting entity
- ◆ VIN
- ◆ Date the automobile was obtained
- ◆ Name of the individual or entity from whom the automobile was obtained
- ◆ A statement of whether the automobile was crushed or disposed of, or offered for sale or other purpose
- ◆ Whether the vehicle is intended for export out of the United States



## MARA on the World Wide Web

Anyone that uses Google to search the web will soon be able to find MARA online! The new site is set to be launched in the late fall/early winter 2009. Website features will include an interactive map featuring all MARA members, links for news and industry related trainings, electronic copies of archived newsletters, minutes from annual meetings, and more.

We are currently accepting feedback from members on site-content. If you have any ideas about what you think the new MARA website should feature, please send an email to [jenj@fbenvironmental.com](mailto:jenj@fbenvironmental.com).

### Important Record Keeping for Auto Salvage Yards

- ↪ Quarterly Visual Monitoring (Stormwater-30 min. after rain)
- ↪ Quarterly Site Inspection
- ↪ Major Spills & Leaks
- ↪ Annual Employee Training



## Stormwater Management: “SWPPP Tips” Provoke Discussion at Annual Meeting

The 2009 MARA annual meeting featured a presentation by FB Environmental called SWPPP (Pronounced ‘SWIP’) Tips for Maine Auto Recyclers. The presentation was done by Jennifer Jespersen and Fred Dillon, who have helped numerous salvage yards across the state develop stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs). This program, complete with full color imagery from local salvage yards, discussed what SWPPPs are, why they are needed, the major parts of the plan, simple, effective good housekeeping strategies, and techniques for completing quarterly inspections.

Different aspects of site and fluid management were described in detail with examples of practical improvements that auto salvage yard owners can use to reduce stormwater runoff for the least cost.

### Below are a few simple strategies for preventing stormwater from entering surface water (e.g. streams & wetlands):

- ▽ Check all incoming vehicles for leaks
- ▽ Change and store all fluids indoors
- ▽ Use fluid extractors
- ▽ Make Spill Response Kits Clearly Visible
- ▽ Label Waste Storage Containers
- ▽ Keep undrained vehicles away from ditches & wetlands
- ▽ Don’t crush during rain events
- ▽ Patch leaky outdoor storage units
- ▽ Vegetate bare eroding ditches and drainage swales



*Leaky outdoor parts storage areas like this school bus (above) should be retrofitted to limit contact with precipitation.*

**Remember:** Within 180 days of acquisition, all fluids, refrigerant, batteries, & mercury switches must be removed from motor vehicles and appliances that cannot be driven or run under their own power. Likewise, vehicles obtained prior to October 1, 2005 must have all fluids, refrigerant, batteries, & mercury switches removed immediately.

*To learn more SWPPP tips, to get help started on your own SWPPP, or for assistance with your annual employee training, contact FB Environmental at (207) 221-6699, or by email to [jenj@fbenvironmental.com](mailto:jenj@fbenvironmental.com).*



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***The Good, the Bad  
& the Ugly***

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