

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Bowdoinham Select Board
FROM:	Wendy Cunningham, Chair Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWC)
DATE:	April 22, 2026
CC:	Nicole Briand, Town Manager; Bryan Benson, Solid Waste Director, Paul Denis, Vice Chair SWC, Pat McDonough SWC
SUBJECT:	Hazardous Waste Day in partnership with Topsham

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Select Board of Solid Waste Advisory Committee's endorsement of a Hazardous Waste Day in partnership with Topsham, currently projected for August, 2026.

DISCUSSION

During the April 8, 2026 meeting of the Solid Waste Committee, Bryan Benson (Solid Waste Director) reported on developing a combined Hazardous Waste collection day in partnership with Topsham. Here is the excerpt from the minutes outlining that discussion.

- Yvette (Town Office) and Bryan met with Topsham to put together a dual community hazardous waste day, hopefully in August. This was only a preliminary meeting, more work would need to happen. We would split the cost with Topsham; the cost will be weighed in some manner as Topsham with its higher population will likely have more hazardous waste turned in by their citizens

Given that Hazardous Waste days has shown to be effective way to avoid unsafe disposal of said wastes (e.g. people just 'dumping' hazardous wastes) we endorse the Town pursuing this effort. As you can see from above we understand details still need to be worked through and costs should be weighed in consideration of how much hazardous waste is brought in by each town's citizens. We also believe these costs would be more advantageous to the Town than if we held the Hazardous Waste day in Bowdoinham alone, which we do from time to time.

Sincerely,

Wendy Cunningham, Chair Solid Waste Committee



Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) Sustainability Grant Application

The Natural Resources Council of Maine's Sustainable Maine Program encourages individuals, communities, and the state to adopt practical, effective measures that conserve and protect our natural resources. Our overarching goal is a resilient future where people are able to work, play, and thrive in Maine.

To help advance sustainability initiatives throughout the state, we are offering grants for community organizations up to \$2,000 to help them reach their goals.

There are three deadlines for grant applications to be submitted for consideration:

- **Summer Grants - must be submitted by July 18, 2025**
- **Fall/Winter Grants - must be submitted by September 12, 2025**
- **Spring Grants - must be submitted by December 5, 2025**

NRCM will evaluate your application on the following criteria:

1. Relevance to NRCM's Sustainable Maine Program; initiative must contribute to a sustainable community
2. Strength of the group's organizing skills; demonstrated ability to carry out the project plan
3. Need for funding to reach the goals of the sustainability initiative

For community-based grant applications, preference will be given to initiatives undertaken by:

1. Start-up groups (less than two years in existence) and;
2. Mature organizations if the initiative itself is new (less than one year in the making).

Please Note: Depending on the depth of each response, the full application should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Applicants may submit and save or edit their responses