


**Maine Clean Government Initiative Biennial Plan
Department of Conservation**

**Submitted to:
Department of Environmental
Protection**

**Department of Administrative and
Financial Services**

May 31, 2002

1.0 Introduction




The Maine Department of Conservation is responsible for the management, development and protection of seventeen million acres of forestland, 10.4 million acres of unorganized territory, 47 parks and historic sites and more than 480,000 acres of public reserved land. The Department of Conservation's mission is to benefit the citizens, landowners, and users of the state's natural resources by promoting stewardship and ensuring responsible balanced use of Maine's land, forest, water, and mineral resources. The Department is comprised of 5 Bureaus and maintains a staff of approximately 300 year round employees plus a significant seasonal summer staff which more than doubles the total number of employees.

Facilities operated by the Department range from owned and leased office buildings and space, storage buildings, garage/shops, parks, historic sites, recreational use fire towers, radio repeater sites, insect laboratory and an aircraft hangar. The Division of Lands oversees management of more than 480,000 acres of public lands. Facilities exist in populated areas such as Augusta and Bangor and some of the most remote areas of the state. Some facilities do not have road access and can only be reached by boat. The department provides family housing for some parks staff and forest rangers. The department maintains structures with a wide variety of complexity at approximately 100 sites.

The Commissioner appointed the Assistant to the Commissioner to assume responsibility for coordinating the effective development and implementation of agency activities under the Maine Clean Government Initiative.

2.0 Issues Identification



The Assistant to the Commissioner in consultation with the Director of General Services and Bureau designated employees identified environmental aspects associated with the Department's activities. Environmental aspects were further evaluated and defined in meeting held between the Assistant to the Commissioner and Ms. Jane Carpenito of Rizzo Associates, a Maine Clean Government Initiative Consultant.

3.0 Objectives and Targets Selection Process

Upon reviewing the list of Department environmental aspects and impacts, the Department concluded that waste reduction, minimizing exposure to lead and asbestos in Department of Conservation housing and improving knowledge about water quality at swimming areas were the primary environmental objectives that the Department will focus on in this Plan. Clean Government objectives identified by the Department are further described in the following table:

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Objective	Target	Method of Measure	Performance Indicator	Action Plan	Responsible Position	Target Date	
Reduce Hazardous Waste Generation	Remove inventory of old "off-spec" materials from facilities	Weight of waste (pounds) from manifests	Inventoried waste will have been removed from facilities statewide.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Select waste removal contractor to complete the southern Maine area pick-up. Reinforce purchasing practices to avoid bulk purchases of products that contain hazardous materials. Upon completion of inventory removal, conduct debriefing of the process and develop plan for future pick-ups as necessary 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dir of General Services, Bureau Staff Assist to the Commissioner Dir. Of General Services and Assist to the Commissioner 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fall02 Fall 02 Winter 02/03 	
Regulatory Compliance	Incorporate universal waste management into management practices.	Weight of Universal waste (pounds) from shipping documentation	Universal waste generated will be properly, stored, labeled and disposed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review regulatory applicability with DEP. Continue to collaborate with DOT, DHS and Purchases to advocate for development of recycling contracts to meet the needs of DOC facilities. Expand current DOC hazardous waste/recycling guidance document to include universal waste management. Identify appropriate staff to receive universal waste training. Provide training for identified staff with assistance from DEP. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asst to the Commissioner and Dir of General Services Asst to the Commissioner Asst to the Commissioner Asst to the Commissioner Asst to the Commissioner 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing Summer 03 Spring/ 03 Winter 03/ 04 	
Reduce Opportunities for Lead and Asbestos Exposure	Develop and Implement Program to address Lead management in DOC provided	Written guidance document and education programs	Employees living in DOC housing will receive guidance document on safe management of lead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advocate for bond issue to survey lead/asbestos presence in state buildings with State provided housing being a priority. Continue support for and participate in proposed effort to organize known locations of lead and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant to Commissioner Assistant to 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing 	

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	housing facilities.		and will be provided with opportunities for training.	asbestos containing building materials in central statewide database housed at DAFS/BGS 3.Coordinate with BGS, DEP, DHS to establish guidelines for lead testing protocols at DOC and statewide facilities with initial priority on housing. 4.Coordinate with BGS, DEP, DHS to establish guidelines for the safe repair, remodeling and maintenance of DOC housing facilities with potential or actual lead paint issues 5.Issue guidance documents 6.Coordinate and provide training programs for interested staff	Commissioner & Bureau staff 3.Assistant to Commissioner 4.Assistant to Commissioner 5.Assistant to Commissioner 6. Assistant to Commissioner and bureau staff	3.Ongoing 4.Ongoing 5.Fall 02 6.Winter/spring03	
Regulatory Compliance	Complete closure of floor drains identified with potential to adversely impact soil and groundwater or isolation of source of concern from floor drain	Number of floor drain closures or successfully isolated potential sources near floor drains	Floor drains with potential for contamination will be closed or potential source of adverse substances will be isolated	1.Continue cooperative effort with DEP to research floor drains of concern or identify and isolate . 2.Research and identify appropriate methods of drain closure or isolation or nearby sources of adverse substances. 3.Determine cost estimates for implementation. 4.Request funding for implementation if not possible within existing funds. 5.Select Contractor. 6.Conduct Implementation	1.Assistant to Commissioner & Bureau staff 2. Assistant to Commissioner, Bureau staff 3.Bureau staff 4.Bureau staff 5.Bureau staff 6.Bureau staff	1.ongoing 2.winter 02/03 3.winter 02/03 4. 5. 6.	
Reduce disease causing micro-organisms at swim areas	Reduce disease causing micro-organisms at swim areas from swimmer introduced diarrhea events and site conditions	Test results and frequency as recommended by working group	Development of Public Education Materials, Recommended Testing protocols, Outbreak protocols and Guidance on running a beach to maintain healthy swim areas. Public Education materials displayed at State Park Beaches	1.Continue cooperative efforts with DHS, DEP &DMR to develop Public Educational Materials, Outbreak Protocols, Recommended Testing Protocols, Running a Beach protocols, 2.Continue cooperative efforts with DHS, DEP & DMR to use several State Park Beaches as pilot sites for research and information development on bacteria at swimming beaches. 3.Distribution of completed Public Education materials through State Park sites. 4.Determination of initial recommended actions that we will undertake. 5.Instruction of identified DOC park staff in cooperation with DHS, DEP on initial	1.Regional Park Managers & Asst to Commissioner 2. Regional Park Managers 3.Regional Park Managers 4.Regional Park Managers 5.Regional Park Managers.	1.Ongoing 2.Ongoing 3.summer 02 to summer 03 4.summer 02 to summer 03 5.summer 02 to summer 03	

				implementation actions. 6.Implementation.	Assistant to Commissioner 6.Bureau Staff	6.summer 02/03	
Reduce use of mercury thermometers	Eliminate use of mercury thermometers at Forestry weather stations	Number of mercury thermometers eliminated from Forestry weather stations	All mercury thermometers will be eliminated at Forestry Weather Station.	1.Continue testing of recently installed electronic weather stations. 2.Upon completion of successful results of electronic weather station performance to insure reliability and credibility remove approximately 40 older mercury thermometers. 3.Coordinate with DEP on proper disposal.	1.Regional Forest Protection Ranger 2.Regional Forest Protection Ranger 3.Regional Forest Protection Ranger	1.Ongoing 2.winter 02/03 3.winter 02/03	

4.0 Recent Environmental Protection Efforts

- Low wattage light bulbs are being used to save energy in many Park buildings. We have been designing buildings such as the Range Pond Shelter to take advantage of natural ambient light with electric lights used only for very dark days. Interiors of structures have been painted with light colors or natural polyurethane to reflect natural light.
 - Twelve (12) volt lights have replaced many propane-powered lighting fixtures in remote Parks facilities.
 - A Clivus Multrum brand composting toilet facility has been constructed at Eagle Island. A solar photo cell powered fan helps to provide a negative air flow from the restroom through the riser to a vent stack which removes any noxious odors from the use area. The composting feature has virtually eliminated the buildup of solids because of the breakdown through biological action of the solids by a factor of 90% into a fluid that consists primarily of nontoxic salts and a composted solid, both suitable for use as a fertilizer for flowers or other vegetation. The result has been a no odor facility with a greatly reduced volume of waste product.
 - Hydronic solar heaters for showers have been installed at the new Lake St. George bathhouse;
 - Solar panels have been installed at several remote forestry and parks facilities to reduce reliance on generators. A fire suppression system is currently being constructed on Eagle Island at Admiral Peary's historic summer house. This will be entirely powered by a solar photo cell array and will allow greater security for the historic building with no use of generators.
 - Mountain top radio repeaters are solar powered.
 - Batteries for solar powered radio repeaters are gel filled batteries which are less toxic.
 - All batteries for portable radio communication units are recycled through University of Maine.
 - Routine upgrades to forestry facilities regularly include installation of energy efficient windows, energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs, and insulated vehicle doors.
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- Several park rangers are patrolling parks with mountain bikes rather than automobiles.
- Many parks have been provided with small diesel tractors that are used for a myriad of purposes. They reduce fuel needs and staff time required to grade roads, mow grass, and perform other necessary functions.
- Four stroke outboards have been purchased for boats at Eagle Island and other locations. The four stroke outboard results in approximately double the fuel efficiency and far less residual pollutants than a conventional two stroke outboard produces in the water body. A collateral benefit is that a smaller horsepower outboard is generally required.
- Golf carts are utilized as intrapark transportation for staff and equipment where practical. They are very fuel efficient compared to conventional transportation and recharge on downhill grades.
- The Division of Lands recently conducted successful third party audits on their management of more than 480,000 acres of State owned forested lands. The audits by the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative verified that the lands are being managed in a sustainable manner. Included in the audits was high praise for the minimal use of herbicides and praise for implementation of measures that conserve special features including rare, unique and exemplary natural areas.

5.0 Obstacles to Plan Implementation.

The Department of Conservation embraces the goals of the Clean Government Initiative and expects that it can complete the goals set forth in this plan within the target dates identified assuming current staffing levels, continued timely availability of assistance from sister state agencies and availability of adequate funding.