



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

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To Whom it May Concern:

It is estimated that Maine disposes *more than 30 tons* of greenhouse plastic annually, with the majority destined for landfills.

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has been awarded an 18-month State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection Waste Diversion Grant to develop a statewide pilot program to recycle agricultural greenhouse plastic. The grant proposes that a voluntary recycling program can achieve a high percentage of grower participation, and affordably divert and recycle a significant percentage of waste greenhouse plastic.

The **Greenhouse Plastic Recycling** program's goal is to collect at least one-third of Maine's annual waste greenhouse plastic and partner with an end-user who can convert the collected plastic into resin feedstock used in the manufacture of new plastic products. The target material for recycling, Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE #4), is a clear film used to cover greenhouses, high tunnels, hoop houses and other agricultural structures.

Collection of the waste plastic will run from April 2020 through December 2020. Participation will be **free of charge** and is open to all growers who register for the project.

Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service is partnering with the University of Maine to get the word out about this effort and to let our producers know of this option for recycling used plastic from their High Tunnel Systems.

For more information and to find the nearest drop-off location, please visit: <https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/greenhouse-plastic-recycling/> or contact: David McDaniel, Program Manager at (207) 342-5971 (UMaine Extension Waldo County Office) or via email at: agplasticrecycling@maine.edu.

Sincerely,



JUAN C. HERNANDEZ
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service