
Research Report

Cities of Biddeford and Saco

**Maine Energy Recovery Company
Survey**

March 2005

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Methodology

The sample

The Maine Energy Recovery Company Survey is based on telephone interviews conducted between February 9, 2005 and March 3, 2005 among 607 randomly selected adults in the cities of Biddeford and Saco. A total of 305 residents in Biddeford were interviewed and 302 residents of Saco were interviewed.

The sample of the telephone numbers called was based on a complete updated list of telephone prefixes (the first three digits in a seven-digit number) used in these two cities. The sample was generated using software provided by GENESYS Sampling Systems. This software ensures that every residential telephone number in the two cities has an equal probability of selection.

When a working residential number was called, the person with the most recent birthday was identified and interviewed. Up to nine attempts were made to contact and interview each selected household and identified respondent. The survey was administered in full to each respondent.

Sampling error

The percentages reported for the entire sample are within plus or minus 4% that would be found if all households in this geographic area were interviewed. For example, if our survey showed that 50% of the sample were familiar with the Maine Energy Recovery Company, then the comparable figure for the population would be somewhere between 46% and 54% with a confidence level of 95%. The sampling error within each city (Biddeford and Saco) is plus or minus 5.7%.

Response Rates:

The following rate formulas are calculated using AAPOR standard formulas. In each case, these represent the most conservative calculation of the rate. For example, the response rate was calculated using AAPOR's RR1 formula and represents the lowest possible value the response rate could take.

Rate	%
Response Rate	30.1%
Respondent Cooperation Rate:	70.0%
Household Cooperation Rate:	53.1%
Household Refusal Rate	20.4%
Respondent Refusal Rate	6.7%

Key Findings

ALL RESIDENTS

Awareness and Impressions of Maine Energy Company

- Three in four residents indicate they are familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company. 31% of residents are very familiar.
- Residents' impressions of Maine Energy Recovery Company include that it is in a bad location, it produces odor, and generally positive views of MERC.

Information about Maine Energy Recovery Company and the Community Host Agreement

- 57% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about Maine Energy Recovery Company.
- 47% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford or Saco regarding the Energy Recovery Company recently.
- Most residents (79%) are not familiar with the community host agreement between Biddeford/Saco and Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Options for the Future Community Host Agreement with Maine Energy Recovery Company

- Top of mind, many residents feel that the facility should be moved to another location, that improved monitoring or regulation of pollution is required, or that the facility should be closed.

Specific Options for a Community Host Agreement

Option Evaluated:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

- Top of mind, 60% of residents would strongly or somewhat support an option that would allow Maine Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 36% of residents would oppose this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere, that MERC employee 85 people, and that residents enjoy lower trash disposal fees. Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the impact of continued operation in infrastructure and increased town expenses for public safety. Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.
- Given all advantages and drawbacks 31% of residents would support an option that would allow Maine Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 27% of residents would oppose this option. Among 42% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.
- Most residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Option Evaluated:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

- Top of mind, 55% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 40% of residents would oppose this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses and that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC. Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure, that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal, and that closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs. Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.
- Given all advantages and drawbacks 29% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 23% of residents would oppose this option. Among 48% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.
- Nearly three in four residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.
- In comparing the two options, residents slightly favor letting the plant remain open under new environmental conditions.

Impact of Cost on Support for Closure in 2013

- Among those who support closure in 2013 even with the need for a bond, 59% indicated they would be willing to pay \$250 or more for this bond to insure closure. This represents 22% of all residents.
- Among those who support closure in 2013 even given the associated costs, 54% indicated they would be willing to pay \$350 or more a year to insure closure (for a bond, increased trash collection fees and potentially increased taxes). This represents 20% of all residents.

BIDDEFORD RESIDENTS

Awareness and Impressions of Maine Energy Recovery Company

- Three in four residents indicate they are familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company. 30% of residents are very familiar.
- Residents' impressions of Maine Energy Recovery Company include that it is in a bad location, it produces odor, and generally positive views of MERC.

Information about Maine Energy Recovery Company and the Community Host Agreement

- 56% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about Maine Energy Recovery Company.
- 46% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford or Saco regarding the Energy Recovery Company recently.
- Most residents (81%) are not familiar with the community host agreement between Biddeford/Saco and Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Options for the Future Community Host Agreement with Maine Energy Recovery Company

- Top of mind, many residents feel that the facility should be moved to another location, that improved monitoring or regulation of pollution is required, or that the facility should be closed.

Specific Options for a Community Host Agreement

Option Evaluated:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

- Top of mind, 63% of residents would strongly or somewhat support an option that would allow Maine Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 34% of residents would oppose this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that MERC provides tax revenue to the city that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere, that MERC employes 85 people, and that residents enjoy lower trash disposal fees. Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the impact of continued operation in infrastructure and increased town expenses for public safety. Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.
- Given all advantages and drawbacks 31% of residents would support an option that would allow Maine Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 24% of residents would oppose this option. Among 45% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.
- Most residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Option Evaluated:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

- Top of mind, 52% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 42% of residents would oppose this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses, and that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC. Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure, that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal, the loss of tax revenue, and that closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs. Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.
- Given all advantages and drawbacks 28% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 23% of residents would oppose this option. Among 49% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.
- 70% of residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.
- In comparing the two options, residents slightly favor letting the plant remain open under new environmental conditions.

Impact of Cost on Support for Closure in 2013

- Among those who support closure in 2013 even with the need for a bond, 59% indicated they would be willing to pay \$250 or more for this bond to insure closure. This represents 22% of all residents.
- Among those who support closure in 2013 even given the associated costs, 67% indicated they would be willing to pay \$350 or more a years to insure closure (for a bond, increased trash collection fees and potentially increased taxes). This represents 22% of all residents.

SACO RESIDENTS

Awareness and Impressions of Maine Energy Company

- Three in four residents indicate they are familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company. 32% of residents are very familiar.
- Residents' impressions of Maine Energy Recovery Company include that it is in a bad location, it produces odor, and generally positive views of MERC.

Information about Maine Energy Recovery Company and the Community Host Agreement

- 59% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about Maine Energy Recovery Company.
- 48% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford or Saco regarding the Energy Recovery Company recently.
- Most residents (75%) are not familiar with the community host agreement between Biddeford/Saco and Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Options for the Future Community Host Agreement with Maine Energy Recovery Company

- Top of mind, many residents feel that the facility should be moved to another location, that improved monitoring or regulation of pollution is required, or that the facility should be closed.

Specific Options for a Community Host Agreement

Option Evaluated:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

- Top of mind, 57% of residents would strongly or somewhat support an option that would allow Maine Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 38% of residents would oppose this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere, that residents enjoy lower trash disposal fees, and that MERC employes 85 people. Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the impact of continued operation on increased town expenses for public safety, continued impact on city infrastructure and that not all emissions and odor would be eliminated. Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.
- Given all advantages and drawbacks 30% of residents would support an option that would allow Maine Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 30% of residents would oppose this option. Among 40% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.
- Most residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Option Evaluated:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

- Top of mind, 56% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 38% of residents would oppose this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses, that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC, and that all emissions and odor would be completely eliminated. Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.
- Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure and that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal.
- Given all advantages and drawbacks 31% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 22% of residents would oppose this option. Among 47% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.
- Nearly three in four residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.
- In comparing the two options, residents slightly favor letting the plant remain open under new environmental conditions.

Impact of Cost on Support for Closure in 2013

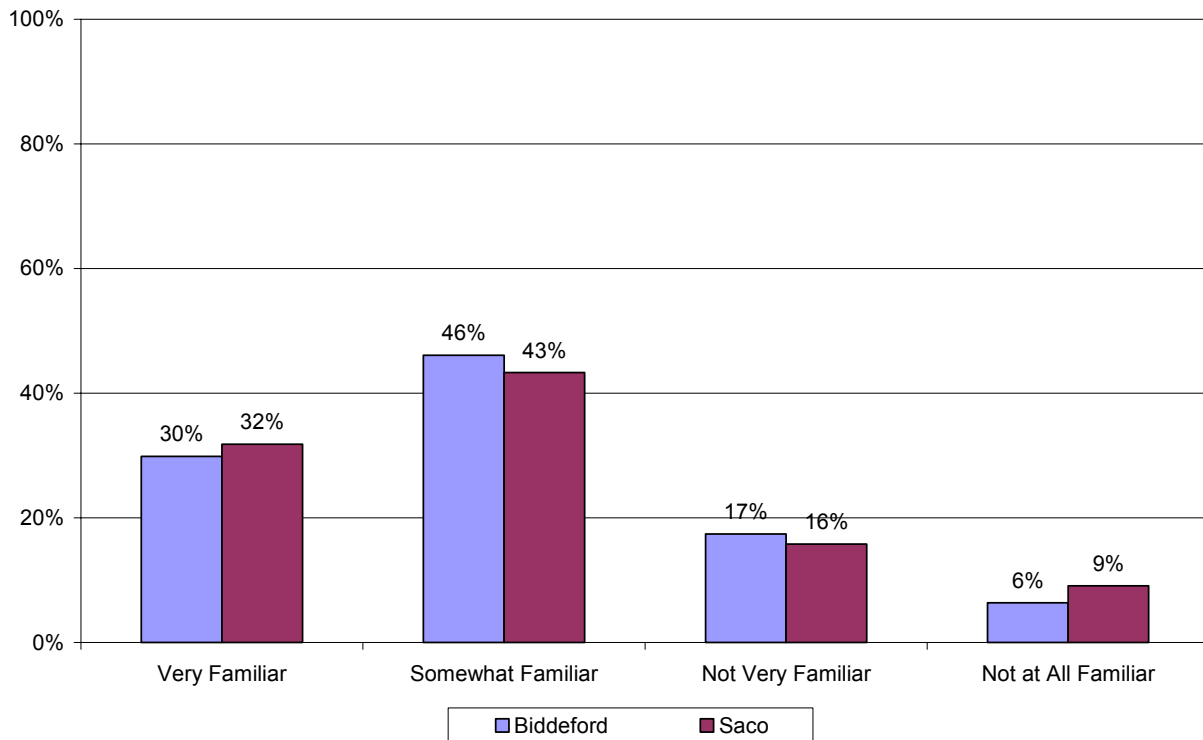
- Among those who support closure in 2013 even with the need for a bond, 59% indicated they would be willing to pay \$250 or more for this bond to insure closure. This represents 22% of all residents.
- Among those who support closure in 2013 even given the associated costs, 44% indicated they would be willing to pay \$350 or more a years to insure closure (for a bond, increased trash collection fees and potentially increased taxes). This represents 23% of all residents.

Summary Report

Awareness and Impressions of Maine Energy Recovery Company

Three in four residents indicate they are familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company. 31% of residents are very familiar.

Q01 - First how familiar are you with the Maine Energy Recovery Company?



Q01 - First how familiar are you with the Maine Energy Recovery Company?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Very Familiar	30%	32%	31%
Somewhat Familiar	46%	43%	45%
Not Very Familiar	17%	16%	17%
Not at All Familiar	6%	9%	8%
DK-REF	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Comments:

Thirty-one percent of residents in Biddeford and Saco indicated they were very familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company while 45% indicated they were somewhat familiar. Seventeen percent of residents in Biddeford and Saco indicated they were not very familiar and 8% indicated they were not at all familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Biddeford Residents

Among residents of Biddeford, 30% indicated they were very familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company while 46% indicated they were somewhat familiar. Seventeen percent of residents in Biddeford indicated they were not very familiar and 6% indicated they were not at all familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Saco Residents

Among residents of Saco, 32% indicated they were very familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company while 43% indicated they were somewhat familiar. Sixteen percent of residents in Saco indicated they were not very familiar and 9% indicated they were not at all familiar with Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Males were more likely to indicate they were very familiar with the Maine Energy Recovery Company (40%) than females (23%).
- Respondents age 50 to 64 were more likely to indicate they were very familiar with the Maine Energy Recovery Company (41%) than those age 18 to 34 (21%).
- Respondents with household incomes of \$60,000 to \$80,000 (82%) and over \$80,000 (84%) were more likely to be familiar with the Maine Energy Recovery Company than those with household incomes of under \$20,000 (58%).

Residents impressions of Maine Energy Recovery Company include that it is in a bad location, it produces odor, and generally positive views of MERC.

Q02 – What are your general impressions of the Maine Energy Recovery Company?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Bad location, poorly placed, in downtown	23%	23%	23%
Produces odor, bad odor	17%	11%	14%
Generally positive views of MERC, good company	13%	13%	13%
Produces pollution, smoke, ash	7%	7%	7%
Negative impressions in general, has caused problems	6%	4%	5%
Doesn't bother me, no complaints or problems	3%	4%	4%
Prefer incinerator to landfill, burning trash good idea	3%	2%	2%
Causes health problems, allergies, asthma	2%	2%	2%
Should close facility, should have never built facility	2%	2%	2%
Move to new location, should have been built in elsewhere	3%	1%	2%
Neither positive nor negative	2%	1%	1%
OK, do an OK job	< 1%	2%	1%
Has not affected us, located away from facility	1%	1%	1%
Should not be in Biddeford in general	2%	1%	1%
Has not saved residents any money	< 1%	2%	1%
Safety concerns, fires, explosions	1%	1%	1%
MERC has not met their obligations for residents	0%	1%	1%
MERC does not follow regulations, burns too much	1%	< 1%	1%
Provides electricity	< 1%	1%	1%
Reduces trash costs	< 1%	1%	1%

Q02 – What are your general impressions of the Maine Energy Recovery Company?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Process trash, burn trash, pick up trash	1%	0%	< 1%
Legally city cannot close	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Favorable impression if abide by regulations	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Provides tax revenue	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Needed in general, provides benefits to community	< 1%	1%	< 1%
Should not spend taxpayer money to close plant	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Neither positive nor negative	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Truck traffic, trash trucks on roads	< 1%	1%	< 1%
MERC is misleading public, not forthcoming	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Other	1%	2%	2%
None, no impressions	4%	13%	8%
DK	4%	3%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Comments:

Residents were asked their general impression about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Their responses are summarized in the preceding table. There were a variety of views expressed by residents. The most frequently mentioned were that the facility was in a bad location (in downtown Biddeford (mentioned by 23% of residents), that it produced an odor or bad odor (14%), that they had generally positive views of Maine Energy Recovery Company (13%), that the facility produced smoke, pollution or ash (7%), and that they had negative impression in general, that the facility had caused problems (5%), among others.

Biddeford Residents

Among Biddeford residents most frequently mentioned views were that the facility was in a bad location in downtown Biddeford (mentioned by 23% of residents), that it produced an odor or bad odor (17%), that they had generally positive views of Maine Energy Recovery Company (13%), that the facility produced smoke, pollution or ash (7%), and that they had negative impression in general, that the facility had caused problems (6%), among others.

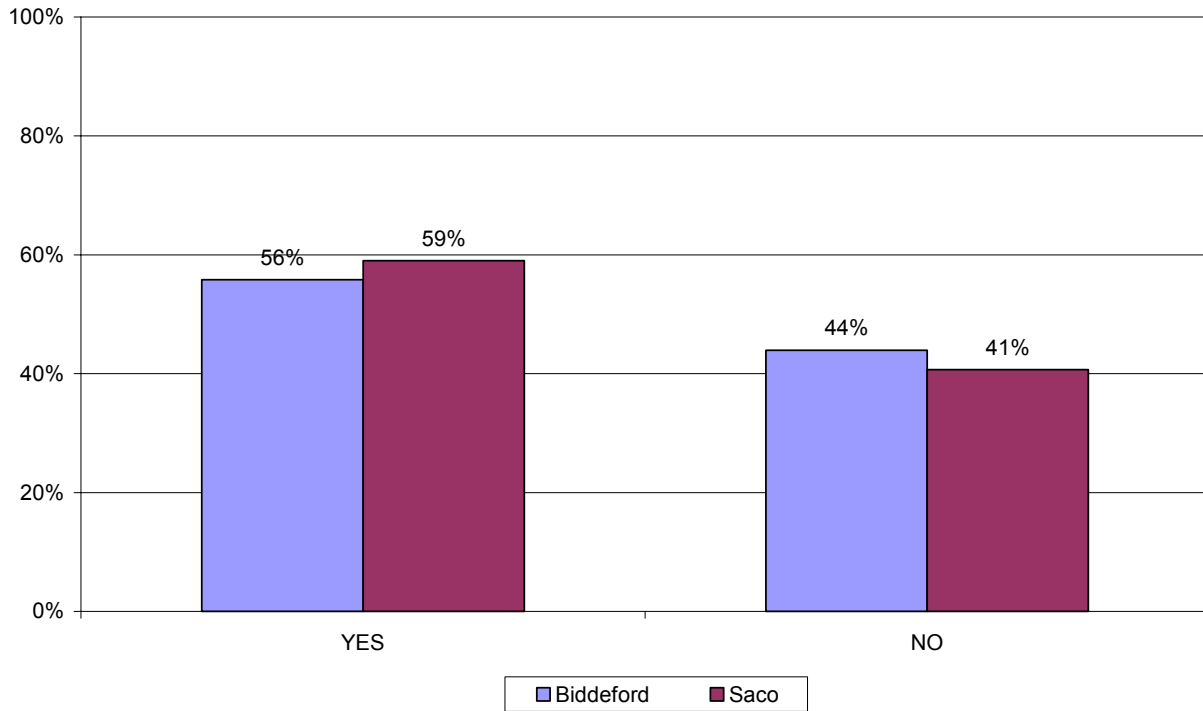
Saco Residents

Among Saco residents most frequently mentioned views were that the facility was in a bad location in downtown Biddeford (mentioned by 23% of residents), that it produced an odor or bad odor (14%), that they had generally positive views of Maine Energy Recovery Company (13%), that the facility produced smoke, pollution or ash (7%), and that they had negative impression in general, that the facility had caused problems (5%), among others.

Information about Maine Energy Recovery Company and the Community Host Agreement

57% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Q03 - Have you seen read, or heard anything recently about the Maine Energy Recovery Company?



Q03 - Have you seen read, or heard anything recently about the Maine Energy Recovery Company?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
YES	56%	59%	57%
NO	44%	41%	42%
DK-REF	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

What have you seen or heard?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
MERC in general, articles, in paper frequently	15%	28%	22%
MERC closure, cities wanting to close, relocation in general	21%	22%	22%
MERC in general, controversy, positives and negatives	10%	10%	10%
Heard about survey	10%	5%	8%
Biddeford, Saco governments contract renewal, closure	7%	6%	7%
MERC and Biddeford, Saco meetings, negotiations	6%	5%	5%
Smell, Odor	5%	3%	4%
Groups working to close MERC	5%	3%	4%
Pollution released from plant	4%	2%	3%
Lawsuits	2%	2%	2%
Traffic complaints, truck traffic	1%	1%	1%
People complaining about facility	0%	2%	1%
Revenue from MERC, tax benefits, revenue replacement	< 1%	1%	1%
MERC working to clean up pollution	< 1%	1%	1%
Health risks associated with MERC, groups raising	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Problems with location	0%	1%	< 1%
Town has increased taxes paid by MERC	1%	0%	< 1%
Advertisements	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Other	6%	4%	5%
DK	5%	2%	3%

Comments:

Among all residents, 57% indicated they had read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Among those who had seen or heard something, 22% indicated they had seen or hear something about Maine Energy Recovery Company in general or had seen articles about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Twenty-two percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard something about closing the facility or moving the facility. Ten percent had seen or heard about the facility and controversy surrounding it while 8% reported seeing or hearing about this survey. Seven percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard something about the agreement renewal.

Biddeford Residents

Among residents of Biddeford, 56% indicated they had read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Among those who had seen or heard something, 21% indicated they had seen or heard something about closing the facility or moving the facility. Fifteen indicated they had seen or hear something about Maine Energy Recovery Company in general or had seen articles about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Ten percent had seen or heard about the facility and controversy surrounding it while 10% reported seeing or hearing about this survey. Seven percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard something about the agreement renewal.

Saco Residents

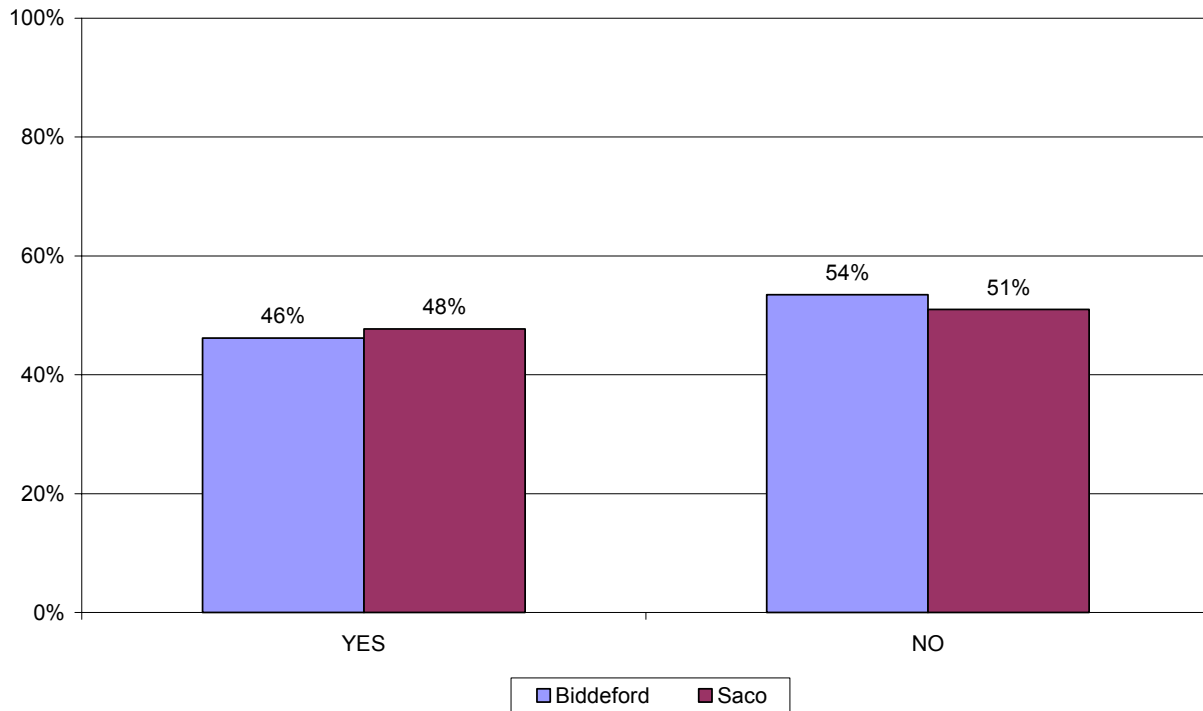
Among residents of Saco, 59% indicated they had read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Among those who had seen or heard something, 28% indicated they had seen or hear something about Maine Energy Recovery Company in general or had seen articles about Maine Energy Recovery Company. Twenty-two percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard something about closing the facility or moving the facility. Ten percent had seen or heard about the facility and controversy surrounding it while 6% of these residents indicated they had seen or heard something about the agreement renewal. 5% reported seeing or hearing about this survey.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Sixty-three percent of male respondents had read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company, compared to 53% of female respondents.
- Respondents age 35 to 49, 50 to 64, and over the age of 65 were more likely to have read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company than those age 18 to 35.
- Respondents with household incomes of \$60,000 to \$80,000 (69%) and over \$80,000 (72%) were more likely have read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company than those with household incomes of under \$20,000 (43%).
- Sixty-four percent of respondents with a college education have read, seen, or heard something recently about Maine Energy Recovery Company, compared to 49% of respondents with a high school education or less.

47% of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford or Saco regarding the Energy Recovery Company recently.

Q04 - Have you seen read, or heard anything recently about actions taken by Biddeford or Saco regarding the Maine Energy Recovery Company?



Q04 - Have you seen read, or heard anything recently about actions taken by Biddeford or Saco regarding the Maine Energy Recovery Company?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
YES	46%	48%	47%
NO	54%	51%	52%
DK-REF	< 1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

What have you seen or heard?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Efforts to close down or move facility	31%	25%	28%
Negotiations between cities and MERC, cities meeting	12%	20%	16%
Nothing specific, just talk, meetings, surveys	15%	16%	15%
Lawsuits	14%	16%	15%
Compliance with regulations governing pollutions, emissions	5%	6%	6%
Traffic issues	3%	2%	3%
Odor complaints, actions concerning odors	2%	2%	2%
Fines assessed on MERC	2%	0%	1%
Pollution complaints	1%	< 1%	1%
Efforts to reduce pollution, emissions	1%	0%	< 1%
Health concerns, issues	1%	0%	< 1%
Meeting obligations to cities	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Other	1%	4%	3%
DK	12%	9%	10%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Comments:

Forty-seven percent of residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding the Maine Energy Recovery Company. Among those residents who reported they had seen or heard something recently, 28% indicated this was in regards to efforts to close or move the facility. Sixteen percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard about negotiations between the cities and Maine Energy Recovery Company while 15% indicated they had heard nothing specific – just talk or hearing about meetings. Fifteen percent of these residents indicated they had heard about lawsuits or pending lawsuits.

Biddeford Residents

Forty-six percent of residents in Biddeford indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding the Maine Energy Recovery Company. Among those Biddeford residents who reported they had seen or heard something recently, 31% indicated this was in regards to efforts to close or move the facility. Fifteen percent indicated they had heard nothing specific – just talk or hearing about meetings while 14% of these residents indicated they had heard about lawsuits or pending lawsuits. Twelve percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard about negotiations between the cities and Maine Energy Recovery Company while

Saco Residents

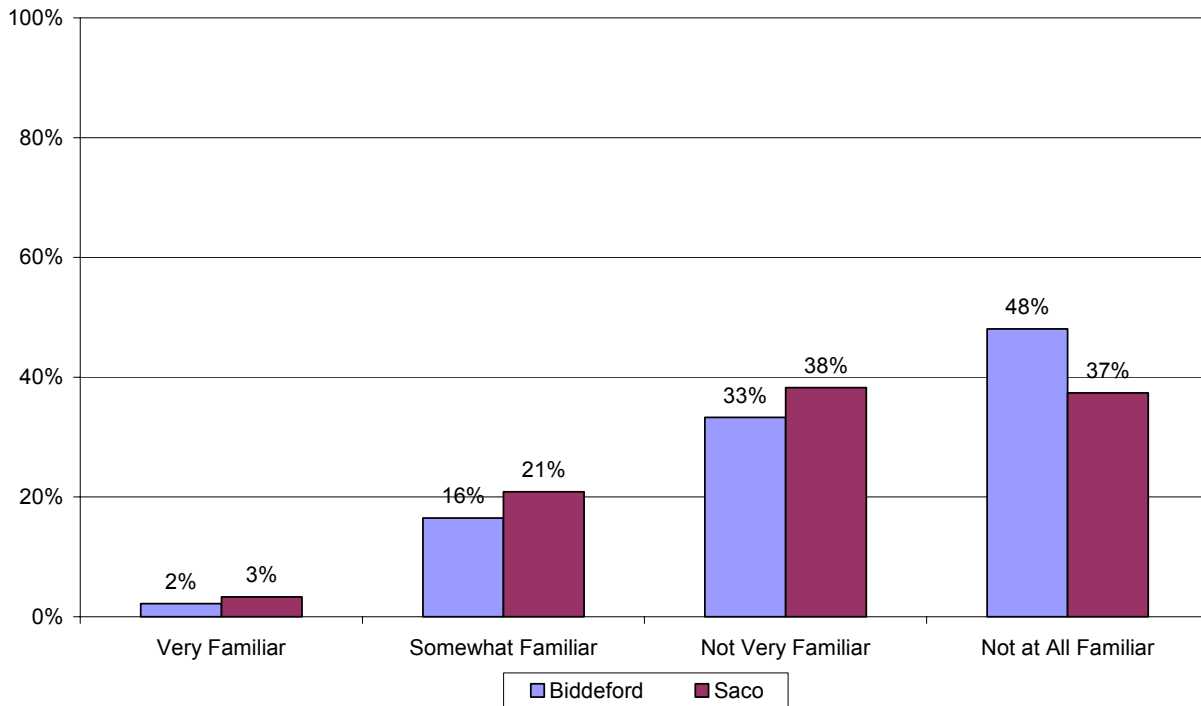
Forty-eight percent of Saco residents indicated they had recently seen, read, or heard something about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding the Maine Energy Recovery Company. Among those residents who reported they had seen or heard something recently, 25% indicated this was in regards to efforts to close or move the facility. Twenty percent of these residents indicated they had seen or heard about negotiations between the cities and Maine Energy Recovery Company while 16% indicated they had heard nothing specific – just talk or hearing about meetings. Sixteen percent of these residents indicated they had heard about lawsuits or pending lawsuits.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Fifty-five percent of male respondents had read, seen, or heard something recently about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding Maine Energy Recovery Company, compared to 40% of female respondents.
- Respondents age 35 to 49 (47%), 50 to 64 (57%), and over the age of 65 (64%) were more likely to have read, seen, or heard something recently about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding Maine Energy Recovery Company than those age 18 to 35 (30%).
- Respondents with household incomes of over \$80,000 were more likely have read, seen, or heard something recently about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding Maine Energy Recovery Company (65%) than those with household incomes of under \$20,000 (40%) and \$20,000 to \$40,000 (40%).
- Fifty-three percent of respondents with a college education have read, seen, or heard something recently about actions taken by Biddeford and Saco regarding Maine Energy Recovery Company, compared to 40% of respondents with a high school education or less.

Most residents (79%) are not familiar with the community host agreement between Biddeford/Saco and Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Q06 - First, how familiar would you say you are with the current community host agreement between Biddeford/Saco and the Maine Energy Recovery Company?



Q06 - First, how familiar would you say you are with the current community host agreement between Biddeford/Saco and the Maine Energy Recovery Company?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Very Familiar	2%	3%	3%
Somewhat Familiar	16%	21%	19%
Not Very Familiar	33%	38%	36%
Not at All Familiar	48%	37%	43%
DK-REF	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

What do you know about the current agreement?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Reduced tipping fees, pay less for trash	17%	36%	28%
Read about it, know about in general	18%	15%	16%
Comments about facility, problems, not agreement	14%	7%	10%
Comments about shutting it down, moving	4%	12%	8%
Reduced taxes	7%	7%	7%
Set to expire	6%	5%	6%
Covers emissions, odor	9%	1%	4%
Covers trash disposal	2%	2%	2%
Covers pricing, tax issues in general	0%	3%	2%
Cost for closure	4%	0%	2%
Compliance with regulations	0%	2%	1%
Involved in drafting agreement	2%	0%	1%
Comments about lawsuits, legal issues	0%	1%	1%
Other	1%	4%	3%
DK	17%	3%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Comments:

Among all residents, only 3% indicated they were very familiar with the community host agreement between the city and Maine Energy Corporation and only 19% indicated they were somewhat familiar. Thirty-six percent of residents indicated they were not very familiar and 43% indicated they were not at all familiar with the community host agreement.

Among those indicating they were familiar with the community host agreement, 28% indicated the current agreement provided for lower tipping fees and reduced charges for trash disposal, Sixteen percent indicated they knew about it in general. Ten percent mentioned comments about the facility (not the agreement) and 8% mentioned comments about closing or moving the facility (not the agreement).

Biddeford Residents

Among Biddeford residents, only 2% indicated they were very familiar with the community host agreement between the city and Maine Energy Corporation and only 16% indicated they were somewhat familiar. Thirty-three percent of residents indicated they were not very familiar and 48% indicated they were not at all familiar with the community host agreement.

Among Biddeford residents indicating they were familiar with the community host agreement, 18% indicated they knew about it in general. Seventeen indicated the current agreement provided for lower tipping fees and reduced charges for trash disposal. Fourteen percent mentioned comments about the facility (not the agreement), 9% indicated the agreement covered emissions and odor, and 7% mentioned that it provided for lower taxes.

Saco Residents

Among Saco residents, only 3% indicated they were very familiar with the community host agreement between the city and Maine Energy Corporation and only 21% indicated they were somewhat familiar. Thirty-eight percent of residents indicated they were not very familiar and 37% indicated they were not at all familiar with the community host agreement.

Among Saco residents indicating they were familiar with the community host agreement, 36% indicated the current agreement provided for lower tipping fees and reduced charges for trash disposal. Fifteen percent indicated they knew about it in general. Twelve percent mentioned comments about closing or moving the facility (not the agreement), 7% mentioned comments about the facility (not the agreement), and 7% mentioned that it provided for lower taxes.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Male respondents were more likely to indicate they were very familiar (5%) or somewhat familiar (25%) with the community host agreement between the city and Maine Energy Corporation than respondents who were female (1% and 14%, respectively).
- Respondents age 18 to 34 were more likely to be not at all familiar with the community host agreement (56%) than those age 50 to 64 (30%) and those over the age of 65 (37%).
- Respondents living in Biddeford were more likely to state that they were not at all familiar with the community host agreement (48%) than respondents in Saco (37%).

Options for the Future Community Host Agreement with Maine Energy Recovery Company

Top of mind, many residents feel that the facility should be moved to another location, that improved monitoring or regulation of pollution is required, or that the facility should be closed.

Q07 - In general, what do you think should be done in the future in regards to the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Move to new location	30%	30%	30%
Improved monitoring, regulation of pollution	12%	11%	11%
Close facility, find alternative to trash disposal	7%	11%	9%
Reduction, monitoring of odor	8%	4%	6%
Allow plant to continue operating	5%	6%	6%
Continue to operate if there are benefits residents	1%	2%	2%
Allow greater public input on agreements, operations	1%	1%	1%
Move to new location with financial help - state, federal	1%	1%	1%
Monitor to assess health concerns, risks	2%	1%	1%
Cities need to work together to develop joint position	1%	1%	1%
Need place for trash disposal	2%	< 1%	1%
Set a fixed date for closure	1%	1%	1%
Involve state, federal government	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Improve facility aesthetics	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Let contract expire without new agreement	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Negotiate better electrical rates	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Do not pay financial incentive to close plant	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Cities should purchase plant and close	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Publicly report emissions	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Place limitations on tonnage of trash going to facility	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Monitor, regulate truck traffic	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Evaluate long term impacts on community	1%	0%	< 1%
Doesn't matter	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Other	6%	3%	4%
Nothing	6%	6%	6%
DK	15%	19%	17%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Comments:

Residents were asked their opinion about what should be done in regards to the Maine Energy Recovery Company in the future. Residents gave a variety of opinions. Thirty percent of residents felt that Maine Energy Recovery Company should be moved to another location. Eleven percent expressed the need for improved monitoring and regulation of improvement. Nine percent of residents felt that the facility should be closed and an alternative means of trash disposal found, 6% wanted improved monitoring and a reduction of odor, and 6% felt the facility should be allowed to continue to operate.

Biddeford Residents

Among Biddeford residents, 30% felt that Maine Energy Recovery Company should be moved to another location. Twelve percent expressed the need for improved monitoring and regulation of improvement. Eight percent wanted improved monitoring and a reduction of odor, 7% felt that the facility should be closed and an alternative means of trash disposal found, and 5% felt the facility should be allowed to continue to operate.

Saco Residents

Among Saco residents, 30% felt that Maine Energy Recovery Company should be moved to another location. Eleven percent expressed the need for improved monitoring and regulation of improvement and 11% felt that the facility should be closed and an alternative means of trash disposal found. Six percent of Saco residents felt the facility should be allowed to continue to operate.

Specific Options for a Community Host Agreement

Respondents were asked to assess their support or opposition to two specific options for a future community host agreement between Maine Energy Recovery Company and the cities of Biddeford and Saco:

The current community host agreement is set to expire in June 2007 and a new agreement is anticipated to be adopted between Biddeford/Saco and the Maine Energy Recovery Company. Biddeford and Saco would like to get your impressions on two POSSIBLE options for this agreement.

Option:

This option would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions. This would reduce VOC's, a known pollutant by 95%. This would substantially reduce the ground level smog and ozone produced by the facility. It would also substantially reduce the odor emitted by the facility. The agreement would also increase the frequency of mercury testing. The key element of this option would be that the facility could continue to operate after 2013 through the useful life of the plant which may be 20 to 30 years IF the company chose to invest in the facility. Under this option, no date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Option:

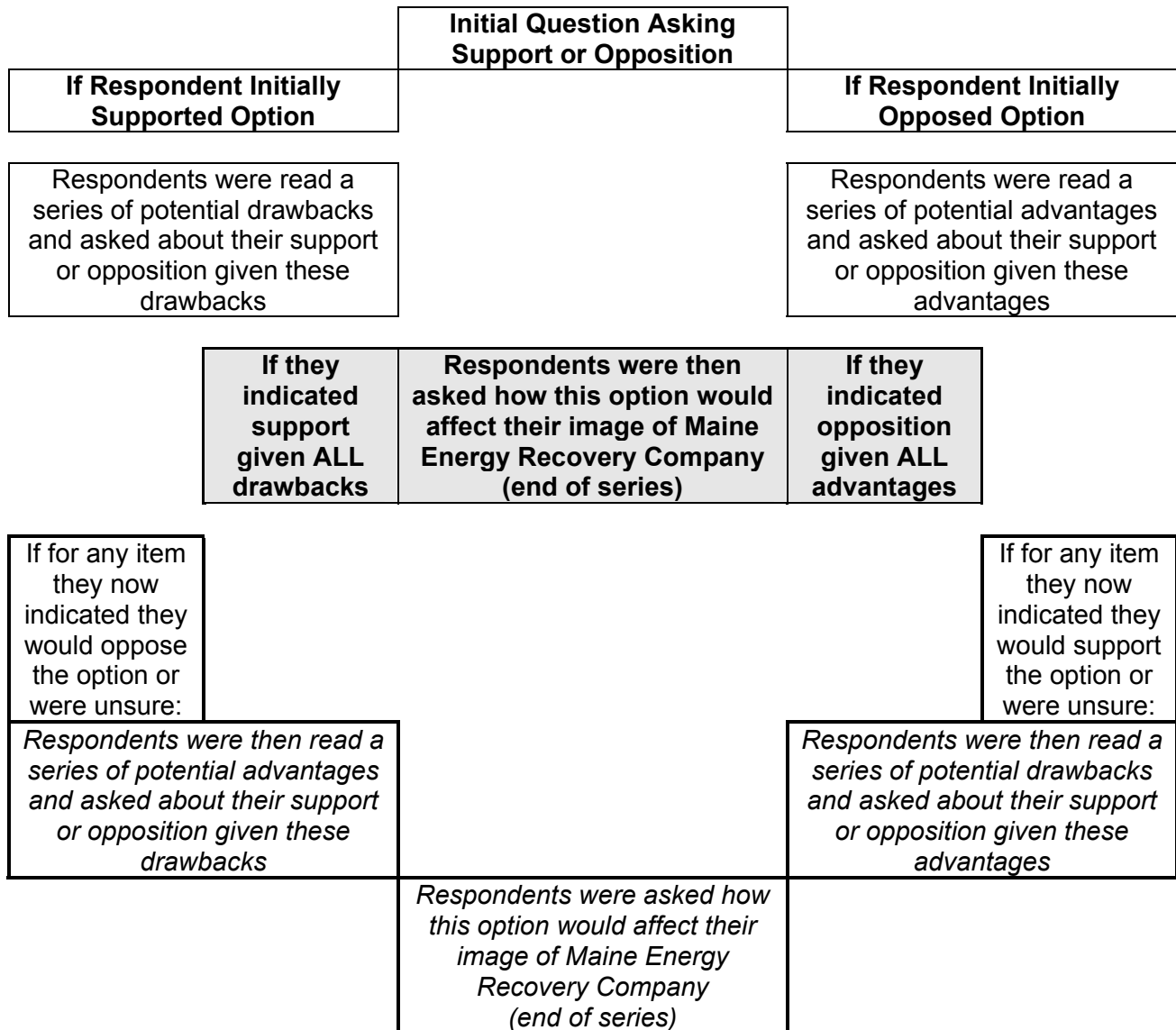
This option would set a timetable for closing the Maine Energy Recovery Company plant in Biddeford. Under this agreement Biddeford/Saco would make a cash payment to Maine Energy Recovery Company to close the facility by 2013. However, during the period up to 2013 they would also operate under the new environmental conditions I described above. The key element of this option would be that a date would be set for the facility to close in 2013 by offering a cash payment to the Maine Energy Recovery Company to close the facility.

Respondents were read the description for each of the two options and were then asked to evaluate each separately. For each option they were asked if they supported or opposed the option and how strongly they held this view (whether strongly or only somewhat). They were asked about the two options in random order.

After their initial assessment of one of the options, respondents were asked a set of follow-up questions about the options that asked them to reassess their support or opposition given potential advantages or drawbacks. Those who indicated initial support were asked about their support given potential drawbacks to the option. Those who indicated initial opposition were asked about their opposition given potential advantages to the option. If during the course of these follow-up questions their opinion changed this was noted and in these cases respondents were asked the other set of follow-up questions.

- If they initially supported the option but given one or more drawback they would now oppose the option or were unsure, these respondents were asked the follow-up questions presenting advantages.
- If they initially opposed the option but given one or more advantages they would now support the option or were unsure, these respondents were asked the follow-up questions presenting drawbacks.

The graphic below provides a summary of the process. Note that respondents who indicated they were unsure were asked both sets of follow-up questions.



This method of questioning is called threshold testing. It is designed to test the opinion of a respondent when they are given specific information about a potential option. It also tests which factors can influence their opinion. The method is often used when respondents are asked to evaluate options that have a variety of factors that might drive their opinion; in this case their support or opposition for a specific option that might be incorporated into the community host agreement. Often times top on mind opinions are derived from an evaluation of only a limited number of factors that might potentially influence an opinion. That is, respondent may only consider only a few things in arriving at their opinion. The first question in each series of questions about the two options was designed to gauge their top of mind response. The follow-up questions were designed to help better assess what elements they considered in forming their opinion and what factors they may not have considered in arriving at their initial opinion. There are two general outcomes for the process. The respondents' support or opposition for the specific option may remain unchanged. In this case respondents may have considered the full range of potential advantages or drawbacks to the specific option when providing their top of mind response. Or, there may be factors they did not consider but even after an evaluation this was not sufficient to change their initial assessment. The other outcome is that a respondent may change their opinion; from initially supporting the option to opposition or from initially opposing the option to support. In this instance it is an indication that a factor was not considered in their initial assessment of the option. The two primary outcomes of threshold testing are to arrive at what can be considered an informed opinion. That is, an opinion that is developed after hearing potentials advantages or drawbacks to each option. The second outcome goal is to determine which potential advantages or drawbacks are most meaningful to respondents in forming their opinions.

The questionnaire contained questions about two options for the future. Respondents were asked their initial opinion about an option and based on their response asked the appropriate follow-up questions that included statements about potential advantages and drawbacks. The questions and statements are summarized on the following two pages. The initial question asked of respondents (about each option) is presented at the top of the page. The tables present the statements of possible drawbacks or advantages read to respondents. Note that the order in which options were presented to respondents was randomized. That is, all respondents were not asked the questions in the same order. This was done in order to control for any potential order effects bias when presenting respondents with these options.

Option:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Drawbacks	Advantages
If the facility remains in operation, businesses MAY not choose to invest in and develop the property surrounding the Maine Energy Recovery Company.	The Maine Energy Recovery Company pays 1.3 million dollars in taxes to the city of Biddeford each year. <i>(Asked of Biddeford residents only)</i>
If the facility remains in operation, while pollution will be reduced substantially there will still be some smog and ozone emissions and odor.	The Maine Energy Recovery Company currently employs 85 people.
If the facility remains in operation, there will continue to be truck traffic in the downtown areas of Biddeford and Saco related to hauling waste to the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford.	Because of benefits that Biddeford and Saco have as host communities under the current agreement with the Maine Energy Recovery Company, less money is spent on the transfer and disposal of trash. That is, you pay about 45/30 dollars less per year for the pick-up and disposal of your household's trash.
If the facility remains in operation, there will continue to be an impact on infrastructure such as the roads, streets, and bridges in Biddeford and Saco.	Because the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility incinerates wastes, the volume of solid waste is reduced by 70%. This waste would otherwise require additional landfill space.
If the facility remains in operation, there will continue to be increased town expenses for public safety amounting to 50,000 to 150,000 dollars each year the facility is in operation.	

Each statement was preceded by "knowing this would you now support or oppose this option?"

Option:

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

Drawbacks	Advantages
In order to insure that Maine Energy Recovery Company would close the facility by 2013, Biddeford and Saco would have to pay the Maine Energy Recovery Company an incentive to close. The cost may be as much as 10 million dollars for Biddeford/Saco to be paid for through a bond. This would mean about 100 dollars for every household each year for the 20 years of the bond.	While the new environmental conditions would reduce smog and ozone, they would not be completely eliminated. It would also not completely eliminate odor associated with the facility. Closing the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility would mean the facility would no longer produce these types of pollution and odor.
If the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility were to close, Biddeford would lose the tax revenues now paid by Maine Energy Recovery Company which amounted to 1.3 million dollars this year. This might result in higher taxes that would have to be paid by residents if not offset by taxes from new business. This might be as much as 165 dollars per household each year for a house that is assessed at 200,000 dollars. <i>(Asked of Biddeford residents only)</i>	Closing the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 may free up property for other uses in downtown Biddeford. This may help new development and help revitalize the downtown area.
If the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility were to close, the cost for transferring and disposing of trash may increase. This might increase the cost of disposing of your household's trash by 45/30 dollars per year.	Closing the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 may help increase property values for the property in areas near the facility.
If the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility were to close, 85 jobs would be eliminated at the facility.	Closing the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 may help to reduce truck traffic in the downtown areas of Biddeford and Saco since trucks will no longer be hauling waste to the facility.
The Maine Energy Recovery Company facility helps reduce the volume of trash that must be disposed of by 70%. If the facility were to close, Saco and Biddeford would have to find another means of disposing of trash, most likely requiring additional landfill space.	

Each statement was preceded by "knowing this would you now support or oppose this option?"

The series of tables presented in the following pages provides an assessment of each of the two options tested in this survey. The tables present data for all respondents and then for sub-populations (based on how they responded to questions). The tables are designed to allow an assessment of:

- Respondents' initial reactions to each option (their top of mind response),
- Respondents' reactions to specific advantages,
- How specific advantages influence those who initially oppose an option,
- How specific drawbacks influence those who initially support an option, and
- Finally among those respondents whose opinions change given specific advantages or drawbacks, which factors are most influential in changing their opinion.

Definition of Table Columns:

All	All Respondents*
Initially Supporting	Respondents who indicated they strongly or somewhat support the option <u>(top of mind response)</u>
Initially Opposing	Respondents who indicated they strongly or somewhat oppose the option <u>(top of mind response)</u>
Change Opinion	Respondents who when asked about potential advantages or drawbacks changed their initial opinion (from supporting to opposing or unsure; from opposing to supporting or unsure)

*Note in presenting results for all respondents it is important to understand that all respondents were not necessarily asked all questions. For example a person who initially supported an option was not asked about their support given specific advantages since. The results assume that in that advantages would not lead a person who supports an option to now oppose it or that drawbacks would lead a person who opposes an option to now support it.

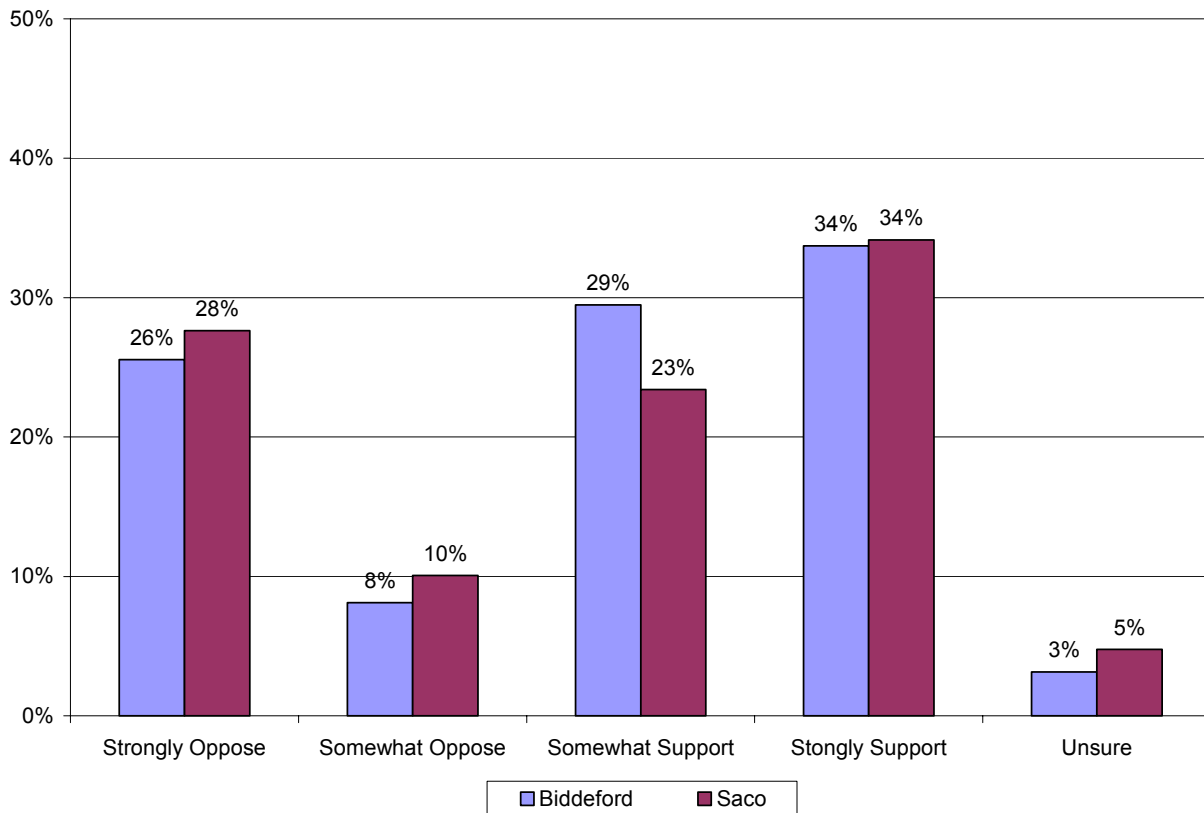
Columns reporting:

- % Support** - include those indicating they strongly or somewhat approved
- % Oppose** – include those indicating they strongly or somewhat oppose
- % Unsure** – include those indicating they did not know or refused to answer

It is important to understand that in presenting results for the two options that they were not asked about in an exclusive fashion. That is respondents are asked to evaluate each independently and not to choose one over the other (initially). This allows us to evaluate their specific views of each option without confounding their opinions with a forced choice. That is, respondents can evaluate each option on their own merit. As can be seen on the results, a majority of respondents would support EITHER of the two options. This is an indication that respondents evaluate both options positively. However, it is important to understand which of the two options they would most likely support. The survey included an item that asked respondents which of the two options they would most strongly support. This question was asked only after they expressed their opinion about both options and after hearing the potential advantages and/or drawbacks to both. This question allows respondents to directly contrast the two options (after their assessment of each individually and their potential consequences) and provide their opinion on which option they would most prefer. The question provides results of an informed comparison. A summary of the results of this question is provided after the summary of survey results for each option.

Top of mind, 60% of residents would strongly or somewhat support an option that would allow Mane Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 36% of residents would oppose this option.

Q09 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions?



	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Strongly Oppose	26%	28%	27%
Somewhat Oppose	8%	10%	9%
Somewhat Support	29%	23%	26%
Strongly Support	34%	34%	34%
Unsure	3%	5%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Comments:

Thirty-four percent of residents indicated they would strongly support an option that would you allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions and 26% would somewhat support this option. Twenty-seven percent of residents indicated they would strongly oppose an option that would you allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions and 9% would somewhat oppose this option. Four percent of residents were unsure.

When asked why they held this view, 13% indicated that if the facility reduced pollution then it would be OK to allow it to continue to operate. Eleven percent felt that there was a need for new environmental regulations. Nine percent felt the facility should be closed immediately or prior to 2013, 8% indicated that the facility save landfill space, and 5% indicated the facility was in a bad location and should be moved out of downtown Biddeford.

Biddeford Residents

Thirty-four percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would strongly support an option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions and 29% would somewhat support this option. Twenty-six percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would strongly oppose an option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions and 8% would somewhat oppose this option. Three percent of Biddeford residents were unsure.

When asked why they held this view, 14% of Biddeford residents indicated that if the facility reduced pollution then it would be OK to allow it to continue to operate. Eleven percent felt that there was a need for new environmental regulations. Ten percent felt the facility should be closed immediately or prior to 2013, 9% indicated that the facility save landfill space, and 5% indicated the facility was in a bad location and should be moved out of downtown Biddeford.

Saco Residents

Thirty-four percent of Saco residents indicated they would strongly support an option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions and 23% would somewhat support this option. Twenty-eight percent of Saco residents indicated they would strongly oppose an option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions and 10% would somewhat oppose this option. Five percent of Saco residents were unsure.

When asked why they held this view, 12% of Saco Residents indicated that if the facility reduced pollution then it would be OK to allow it to continue to operate. Twelve percent felt that there was a need for new environmental regulations. Eight percent felt the facility should be closed immediately or prior to 2013, 8% indicated that the facility save landfill space, and 5% indicated the facility provided jobs.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Respondents age 18 to 34 were more likely (72%) than those age 50 to 64 (53%) and 65+ (54%) to support an option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions.
- Respondents with household incomes over \$80,000 a year were more likely to oppose this option (45%) than those with incomes under \$20,000 a year (23%).

Q09 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions?

WHY?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
If facility reduces pollution and odor, then OK to operate	14%	12%	13%
Facility should have new environmental regulations	11%	12%	11%
close immediately, move, close sooner than 2013	10%	8%	9%
Operating saves land fill space, no other alternative	9%	7%	8%
Bad location - downtown, move out of downtown	5%	4%	5%
Have not met past agreements	4%	4%	4%
Agreement too open ended, need timetable	3%	4%	3%
Cannot afford cash payment, do not pay to close	4%	2%	3%
MERC benefits cities, taxes, financially	3%	3%	3%
Plant provides jobs	< 1%	5%	3%
MERC is misleading public, not forthcoming, not trustworthy	3%	2%	2%
City retains right to shut down, retains options	1%	3%	2%
Plant is good idea, needed	2%	2%	2%
Health risks, concerns with continued operation	2%	2%	2%
Issues with odor, closing would resolve	2%	1%	2%
Want plant to remain open	2%	1%	1%
Support closing by set date, best option, close by 2013	1%	2%	1%
Give MERC opportunity to abide by new regulations	1%	1%	1%
Issues with pollution, closing would resolve	2%	1%	1%
Would not support paying to close plant but want closed	1%	1%	1%
Provides electricity	1%	1%	1%
Must insure testing is actually done	1%	0%	1%
Cost benefits for trash removal	0%	1%	1%

**Q09 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions?
WHY?**

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Pollution, odor is getting worse	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Facility is a negative for communities	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Concerns over future monitoring	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Impacts of facility on property values	0%	1%	< 1%
Impacts of facility on truck traffic	1%	0%	< 1%
Greater benefits for MERC than cities	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Impacts of facility on business	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Moving, closing would attract business	0%	1%	< 1%
Should close, move in general	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Closing would result in higher property taxes	0%	1%	< 1%
Improve technology for reducing pollution	0%	1%	< 1%
Need more public involvement in choices, agreements	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Other	7%	9%	8%
DK	10%	8%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Advantages and drawbacks do have an impact on whether residents would support or oppose this option.

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Comments:

Residents were asked to evaluate their support of opposition for this option given certain advantages or drawbacks. The tables on the three preceding pages present a summary of support of opposition given certain advantages or drawbacks.

Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere (57% would support this option knowing this), that MERC employees 85 people (54% would support), and that residents enjoy lower trash disposal fees (54% would support). Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.

Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are increased town expenses for public safety (52% would oppose this option knowing this) and the impact of continued operation on infrastructure (50% would oppose). Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.

Among those residents who initially indicated support for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now oppose this option are increased town expenses for public safety (32% would now oppose this option knowing this) and the impact of continued operation on infrastructure (28% would now oppose).

Among those residents who initially indicated opposition for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now support this option are that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere (16% now would support this option knowing this), and that MERC employee 85 people (16% would now support).

Biddeford Residents

Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that MERC provides tax revenue to the city (58% would support this option knowing this), that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere (58% would support), that residents enjoy lower trash disposal fees (58% would support), and that MERC employees 85 people (57% would support). Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.

Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are increased town expenses for public safety (51% would oppose this option knowing this) and the impact of continued operation in infrastructure (50% would oppose). Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.

Among those Biddeford residents who initially indicated support for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now oppose this option are increased town expenses for public safety (32% would now oppose this option knowing this) and the impact of continued operation on infrastructure (29% would now oppose).

Among those Biddeford residents who initially indicated opposition for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now support this option are the tax revenue provided by MERC to the city (16% now would support this option knowing this) and that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere (15% now would support).

Saco Residents

Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere (56% would support this option knowing this), that residents enjoy lower trash disposal fees (51% would support), and that MERC employees 85 people (50% would support). Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.

Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are increased town expenses for public safety (53% would oppose this option knowing this), the impact of continued operation in infrastructure (50% would oppose), and that the facility would still produce some pollution and odor (50% would oppose). Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.

Among those Saco residents who initially indicated support for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now oppose this option are increased town expenses for public safety (32% would now oppose this option knowing this) and the impact of continued operation on infrastructure (27% would now oppose).

Among those Saco residents who initially indicated opposition for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now support this option are that MERC disposes of solid waste that would otherwise have to go elsewhere (17% now would support this option knowing this), and that MERC employee 85 people (11% would support).

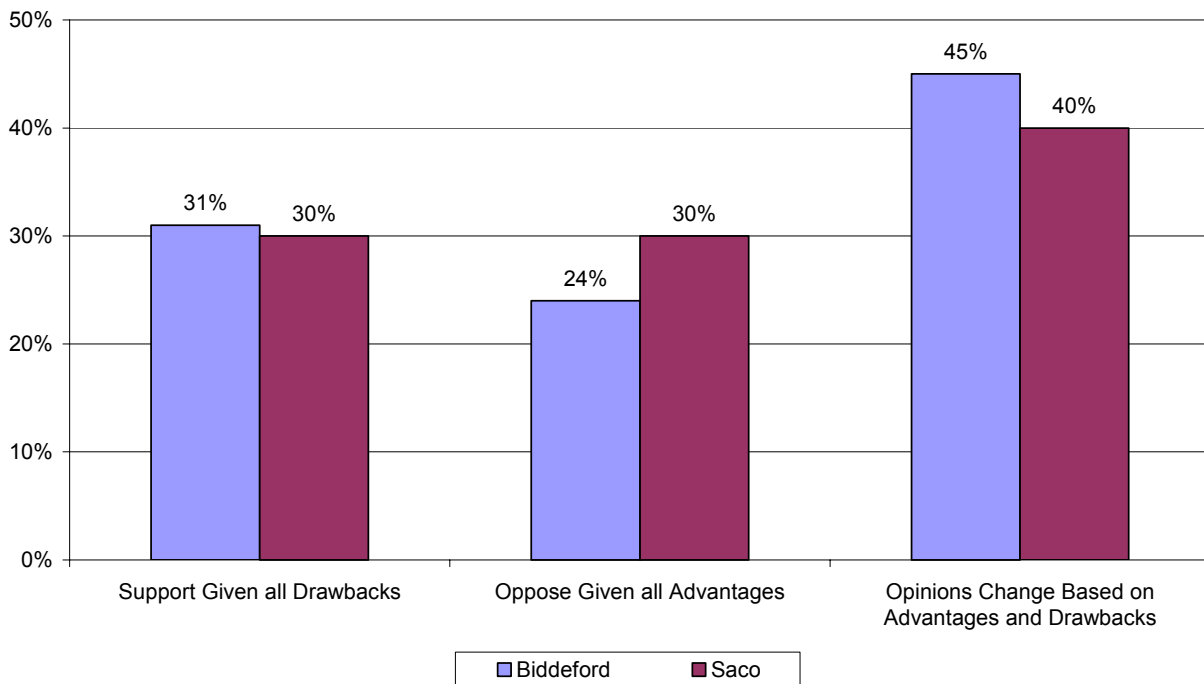
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Given all advantages and drawbacks 31% of residents would support an option that would allow Mane Energy Recovery Company to continue to operate through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. 27% of residents would oppose this option. Among 43% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions?



Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Support Given all Drawbacks	31%	30%	31%
Oppose Given all Advantages	24%	30%	27%
Opinions Change Based on Advantages and Drawbacks	45%	40%	43%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Comments:

Once presented with all potential advantages and drawbacks, 31% of residents indicated they would support this option while 27% would oppose this option. Among 42% of residents their support or opposition varied depending on specific advantages or drawbacks or they remained unsure whether they would support or oppose this option.

Biddeford Residents

Once presented with all potential advantages and drawbacks, 31% of Biddeford residents indicated they would support this option while 24% would oppose this option. Among 45% of Biddeford residents their support or opposition varied depending on specific advantages or drawbacks or they remained unsure whether they would support or oppose this option.

Saco Residents

Once presented with all potential advantages and drawbacks, 30% of Saco residents indicated they would support this option while 30% would oppose this option. Among 40% of Saco residents their support or opposition varied depending on specific advantages or drawbacks or they remained unsure whether they would support or oppose this option.

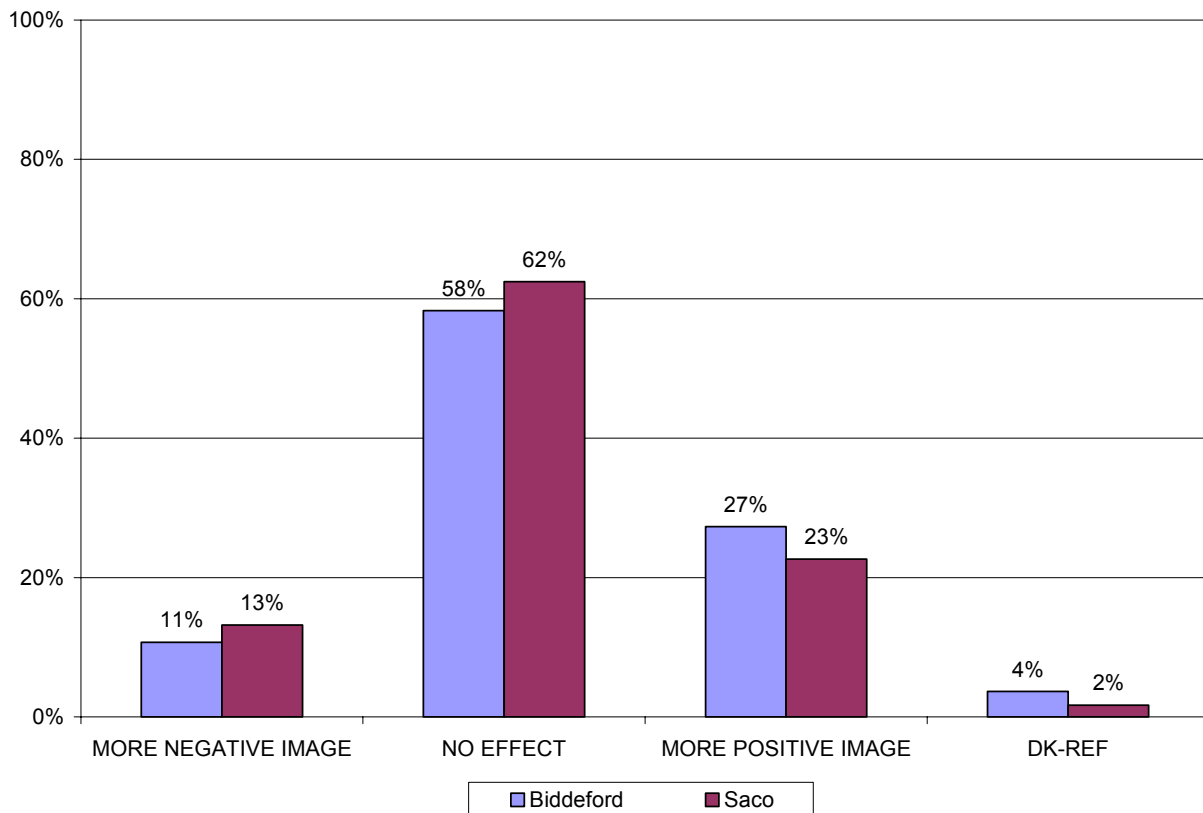
Significant Differences by Group:

- Male residents were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (36%) than women residents (26%). Male residents were also more likely to oppose this option given all advantage (30%) than women residents (24%).
- The percentage of residents supporting this option given all drawbacks tended to decrease with age while the percentage of residents opposing this option given all advantages tended to increase with age.
- Those whose annual household incomes were between \$60,000 and \$80,000 were less likely to support the option given all drawbacks (29%) and the more likely to oppose given all advantages (33%).
- Those living in Biddeford or Saco between 6 and 10 years were more likely to oppose this option given all advantages (39%). Those living in Biddeford or Saco between 21 and 30 years were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (37%).

Most residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Q19 - An agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions?

If adopted, would you say this would give you a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company, a more negative image, or would this option have no effect on your image of Maine Energy Recovery Company?



	Biddeford	Saco	Total
MORE NEGATIVE IMAGE	11%	13%	12%
NO EFFECT	58%	62%	60%
MORE POSITIVE IMAGE	27%	23%	25%
DK-REF	4%	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Comments:

Sixty percent of residents indicated that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company. Twenty-five percent of residents indicated they would have a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company if the option was adopted and 12% would have a more negative image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Biddeford Residents

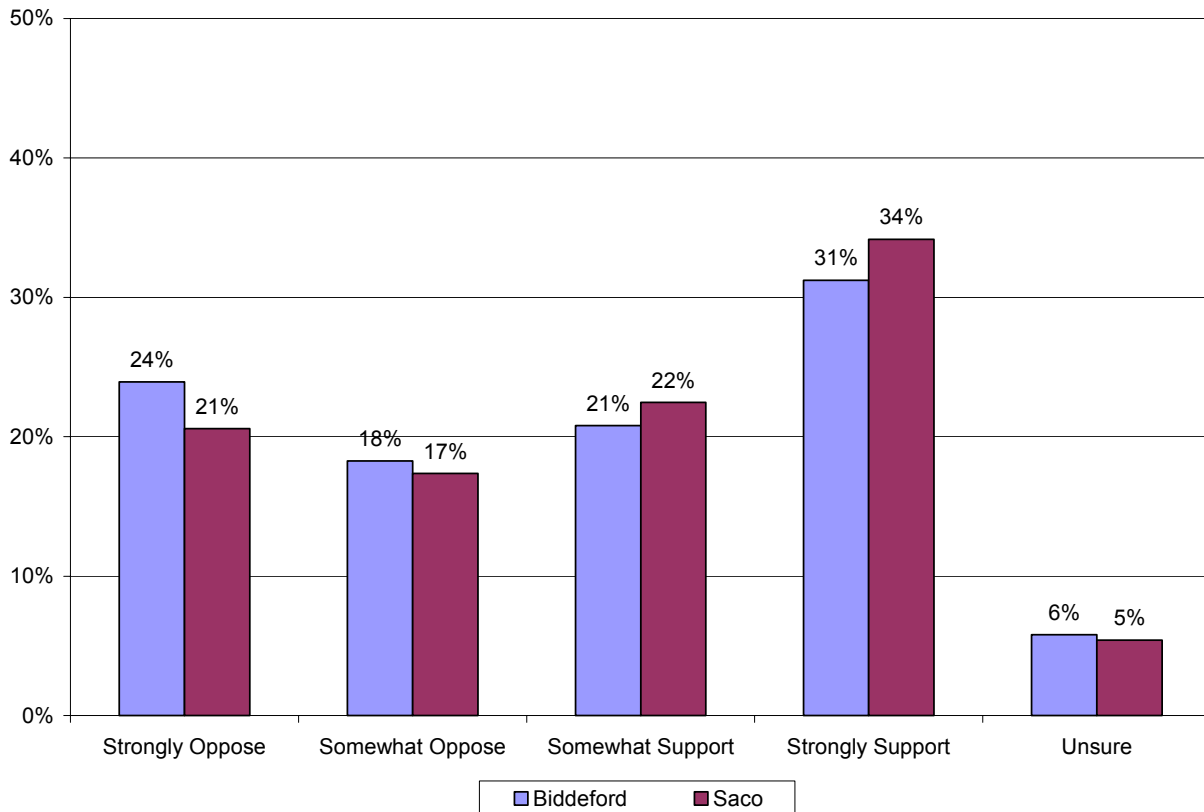
Fifty-eight percent of Biddeford residents indicated that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company. Twenty-seven percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would have a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company if the option was adopted and 11% would have a more negative image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Saco Residents

Sixty-two percent of Saco residents indicated that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company. Twenty-three percent of Saco residents indicated they would have a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company if the option was adopted and 13% would have a more negative image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Top of mind, 55% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 40% of residents would oppose this option.

Q20 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions?



	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Strongly Oppose	24%	21%	22%
Somewhat Oppose	18%	17%	18%
Somewhat Support	21%	22%	22%
Strongly Support	31%	34%	33%
Unsure	6%	5%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

Comments:

Thirty-three percent of residents indicated they would strongly support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions and 22% would somewhat support this option. Twenty-two percent of residents indicated they would strongly oppose an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions and 18% would somewhat oppose this option. Six percent of residents were unsure.

When asked why they held this view, 9% indicated they facility should be closed or moved and 9% indicated that the facility was in a bad location. Eight percent of residents indicated the facility saved landfill space and there was no other alternative while 6% indicated support for closure by 2013.

Biddeford Residents

Thirty-one percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would strongly support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions and 21% would somewhat support this option. Twenty-four percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would strongly oppose an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions and 18% would somewhat oppose this option. Six percent of Biddeford residents were unsure.

When asked why they held this view, 9% of Biddeford residents indicated they facility should be closed or moved and 9% indicated that the facility was in a bad location. Eight percent of residents indicated the facility saved landfill space and there was no other alternative, 7% felt the town could not afford a cash payment or the town should not pay the facility to close, and 7% indicated support for closure by 2013.

Saco Residents

Thirty-four percent of Saco residents indicated they would strongly support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions and 22% would somewhat support this option. Twenty-one percent of Saco residents indicated they would strongly oppose an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions and 17% would somewhat oppose this option. Five percent of Saco residents were unsure.

When asked why they held this view, 10% of Saco residents indicated they facility should be closed or moved and 9% indicated that the facility was in a bad location. Eight percent of residents indicated the facility saved landfill space and there was no other alternative, 7% indicated the facility should have new environmental regulations, and 7% indicated support for closure by 2013.

Significant Differences by Group:

There were no significant differences in the proportion of respondents who supported or opposed this option by any key demographics.

Q20 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions?

WHY?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Should close, move in general	9%	10%	9%
Bad location - downtown, move out of downtown	9%	9%	9%
Operating saves land fill space, no other alternative	8%	8%	8%
Support closing by set date, best option, close by 2013	6%	7%	6%
Facility should have new environmental regulations	4%	7%	5%
Cannot afford cash payment, do not pay to close	7%	3%	5%
Issues with pollution, closing would resolve	5%	5%	5%
If facility reduces pollution and odor, then OK to operate	5%	4%	5%
close immediately, move, close sooner than 2013	5%	4%	5%
Health risks, concerns with continued operation	3%	4%	3%
Issues with odor, closing would resolve	4%	2%	3%
Want plant to remain open	2%	3%	2%
MERC benefits cities, taxes, financially	3%	1%	2%
MERC is misleading public, not forthcoming, not trustworthy	3%	1%	2%
Plant provides jobs	2%	2%	2%
Plant is good idea, needed	1%	2%	2%
Have not met past agreements	< 1%	2%	1%
Cost benefits for trash removal	< 1%	2%	1%
Moving, closing would attract business	1%	1%	1%
Provides electricity	1%	1%	1%
Improve technology for reducing pollution	< 1%	2%	1%
MERC should decide when to close, no need for closure date	< 1%	1%	1%
Would not support paying to close plant but want closed	< 1%	1%	1%

**Q20 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions?
WHY?**

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Agreement too open ended, need timetable	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Impacts of facility on truck traffic	1%	0%	< 1%
Impacts of facility on business	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Look at other options first	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Closing would result in higher property taxes	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Must clean up environment, area around facility	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Give MERC opportunity to abide by new regulations	1%	0%	< 1%
City retains right to shut down, retains options	0%	1%	< 1%
Do not trust cities with agreement	< 1%	0%	< 1%
Do not believe they will actually close	0%	< 1%	< 1%
Other	11%	8%	9%
DK	6%	9%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Advantages and drawbacks do have an impact on whether residents would support or oppose this option.

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

Comments:

Residents were asked to evaluate their support of opposition for this option given certain advantages or drawbacks. The tables on the three proceeding pages present a summary of support of opposition given certain advantages or drawbacks.

Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic (59% would support knowing this), that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses (58% would support), that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC (57% would support), and that closure would eliminate all pollution and odor (52% would support). Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.

Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure (56% would oppose knowing this), closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal (53% would oppose), and that closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs (50% would oppose). Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.

Among those residents who initially indicated support for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now oppose this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure (34% would now oppose this option knowing this), that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal (29% would now oppose), and the closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs (26% would now oppose).

Among those residents who initially indicated opposition for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now support this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic (28% would now support knowing this), that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC (26% would support), and that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses (23% would now support).

Biddeford Residents

Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic (58% would support knowing this), that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses (58% would support) and that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC (56% would support). Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.

Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure (56% would oppose knowing this), closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal (55% would oppose), closure would result in a loss of tax revenue (54% would oppose), and that closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs (50% would oppose). Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.

Among those Biddeford residents who initially indicated support for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now oppose this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure (33% would now oppose this option knowing this), that closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs (29% would now oppose), that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal (28% would now oppose), and the loss of tax revenue (28% would now oppose).

Among those Biddeford residents who initially indicated opposition for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now support this option are that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC (26% would now support knowing this), that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic (25% would now support), and that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses (21% would now support).

Saco Residents

Factors that tend to most influence support for this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic (61% would support knowing this), that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses (58% would support), that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC (57% would support), and that closure would eliminate all pollution and odor (55% would support). Given each of these advantages a majority of residents would favor this option.

Factors that tend to most influence opposition for this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure (53% would oppose knowing this), and that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal (51% would oppose). Given each of these drawbacks a majority of residents would oppose this option.

Among those Saco residents who initially indicated support for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now oppose this option are the cost for a bond to pay for closure (34% would now oppose this option knowing this), that closure would require the need for an alternative means for trash disposal (29% would now oppose), and the closure would result in the loss of 85 jobs (23% would now oppose).

Among those Saco residents who initially indicated opposition for this option, the factors that would lead the largest percentage to now support this option are that closing the facility would reduce truck traffic (30% would now support knowing this), that closure may increase property values of property in the areas near MERC (27% would support), and that closure would free up property in downtown Biddeford for other uses (26% would now support).

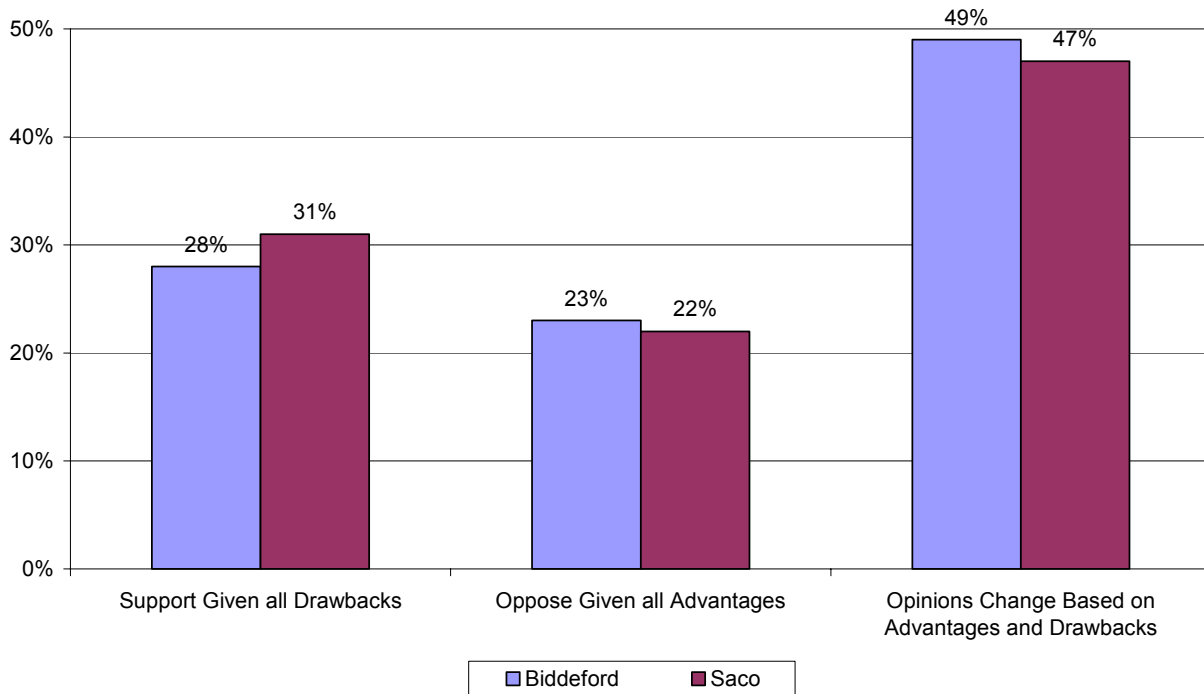
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Given all advantages and drawbacks 29% of residents would support an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013. 23% of residents would oppose this option. Among 48% of residents support or opposition varies based on advantages and/or drawbacks.

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions?



Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Support Given all Drawbacks	28%	31%	29%
Oppose Given all Advantages	23%	22%	23%
Opinions Change Based on Advantages and Drawbacks	49%	47%	48%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

Once presented with all potential advantages and drawbacks, 29% of residents indicated they would support this option while 23% would oppose this option. Among 48% of residents their support or opposition varied depending on specific advantages or drawbacks or they remained unsure whether they would support or oppose this option.

Biddeford Residents

Once presented with all potential advantages and drawbacks, 28% of Biddeford residents indicated they would support this option while 23% would oppose this option. Among 49% of Biddeford residents their support or opposition varied depending on specific advantages or drawbacks or they remained unsure whether they would support or oppose this option.

Saco Residents

Once presented with all potential advantages and drawbacks, 31% of Saco residents indicated they would support this option while 22% would oppose this option. Among 47% of Saco residents their support or opposition varied depending on specific advantages or drawbacks or they remained unsure whether they would support or oppose this option.

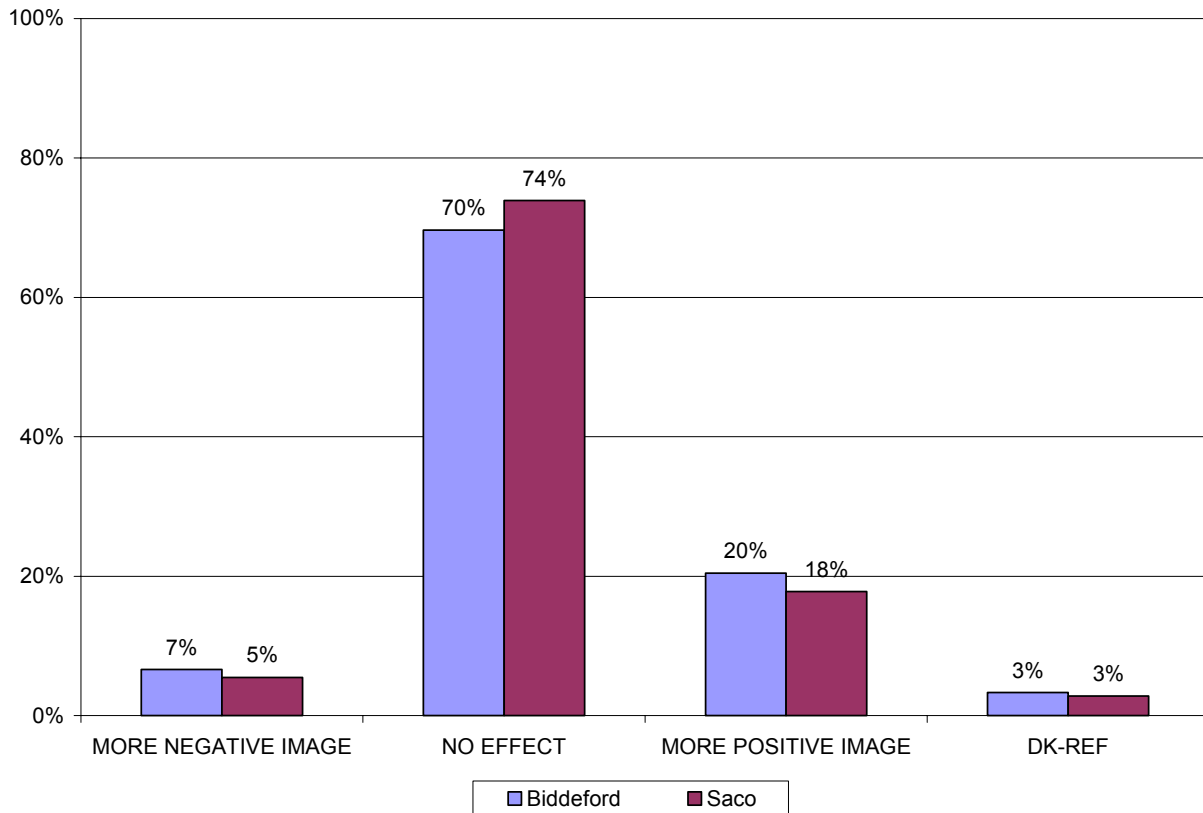
Significant Differences by Group:

- Male residents were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (33%) that female residents (26%). Male residents were also more likely to oppose this option given all advantage (26%) that women residents (30%).
- Residents age 30 to 49 were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (36%). Residents age 50 to 64 were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (32%).
- Those living in Biddeford or Saco between 6 and 10 years were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (38%). Those living in Biddeford or Saco between 21 and 30 years were more likely to support this option given all drawbacks (36%).

Nearly three in four residents indicate that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Q30 - Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions?

If this option were adopted, would you say this would give you a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company, a more negative image, or would this option have no effect on your image of Maine Energy Recovery Company?



	Biddeford	Saco	Total
MORE NEGATIVE IMAGE	7%	5%	6%
NO EFFECT	70%	74%	72%
MORE POSITIVE IMAGE	20%	18%	19%
DK-REF	3%	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

Comments:

Seventy-two percent of residents indicated that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company. Nineteen percent of residents indicated they would have a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company if the option was adopted and 6% would have a more negative image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

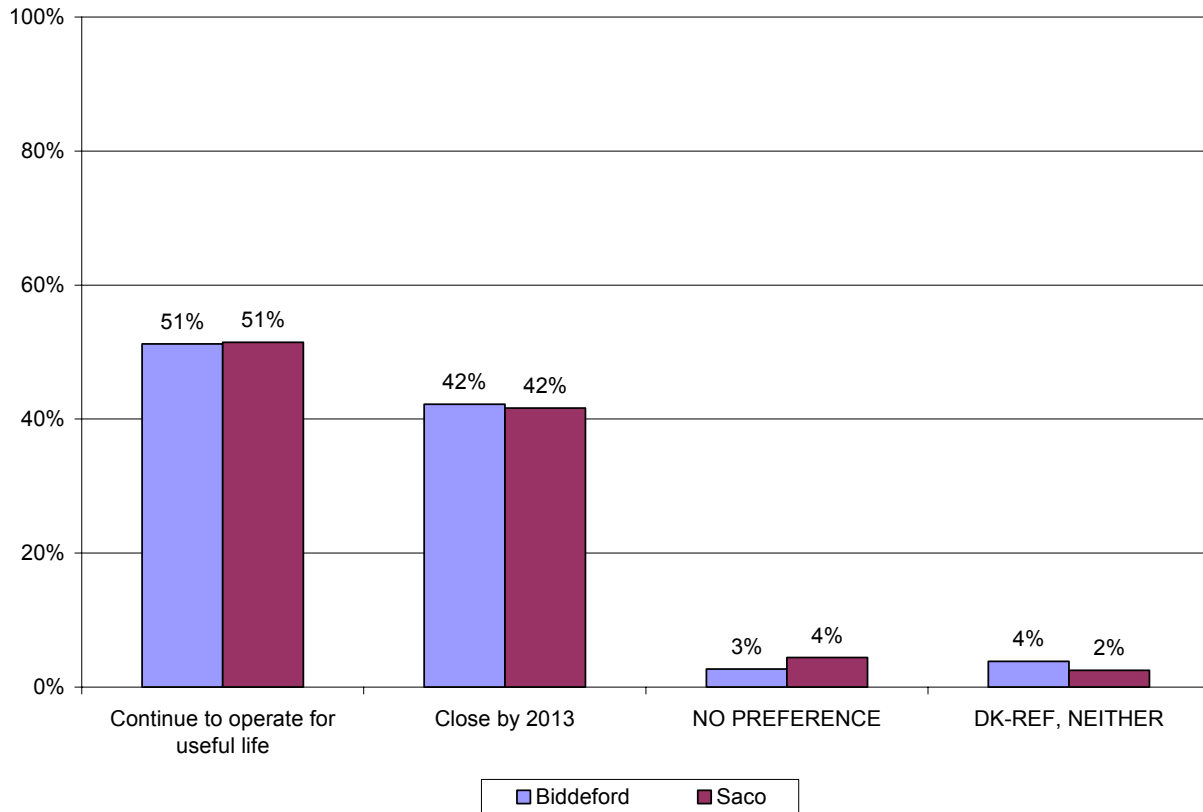
Biddeford Residents

Seventy percent of Biddeford residents indicated that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company. Twenty percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would have a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company if the option was adopted and 7% would have a more negative image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

Saco Residents

Seventy-four percent of Saco residents indicated that the adoption of this option would have no effect on their image of Maine Energy Recovery Company. Eighteen percent of Saco residents indicated they would have a more positive image of Maine Energy Recovery Company if the option was adopted and 5% would have a more negative image of Maine Energy Recovery Company.

In comparing the two options, residents slightly favor letting the plant remain open under new environmental conditions.



Q31 - Upon thinking about both of these options, which would you say you would most strongly favor? An option that allows the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility to continue to operate under new environmental conditions for its useful life or an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in 2013?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Continue to operate for useful life	51%	51%	51%
Close by 2013	42%	42%	42%
NO PREFERENCE	3%	4%	4%
DK-REF, NEITHER	4%	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life BUT under new environmental conditions? Under this option the odor, smog and ozone would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently. The facility could continue to operate after 2013 if the company chose to invest in the facility. That is, no specific date would be set for the facility to close BUT the cities would still retain the option to close the facility with two years notice for a cash payment.

Would you support or oppose an agreement that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 and until then allow it to operate under new environmental conditions? Under this option smog, ozone, and odor would be reduced and mercury testing would be conducted more frequently until the facility was closed in 2013.

Comments:

After residents evaluated both options, they were asked which of the two options they would most strongly favor. Residents would slightly favor an option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Fifty-one percent of residents indicated they would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Forty-two percent of residents would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Three percent of residents expressed no preference while 4% were unsure or would not favor either option.

Biddeford Residents

Fifty-one percent of Biddeford residents indicated they would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Forty-two percent of Biddeford residents would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Three percent of residents expressed no preference while 4% were unsure or would not favor either option.

Saco Residents

Fifty-one percent of Saco residents indicated they would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Forty-two percent of Saco residents would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions. Four percent of residents expressed no preference while 2% were unsure or would not favor either option.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Respondents between the age of 18 and 34 (61%) were more likely than those between the age of 50 and 64 (45%) and those 65 years or older (42%) to indicate that they would favor the option that would allow the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford to continue operating through its useful life but under new environmental conditions.

Impact of Cost on Support for Closure in 2013

Among those who support closure in 2013 even with the need for a bond, 59% indicated they would be willing to pay \$250 or more for this bond to insure closure. This represents 22% of all residents.

Q32 - Earlier you indicated that you would favor an option that would close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility by 2013 EVEN IF it were to cost your household \$100 annually for 20 years to pay for this bond. Would you still support this option IF the annual cost for the bond were...

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
200 dollars	8%	10%	9%
250 dollars	16%	8%	12%
300 dollars	19%	13%	16%
500 dollars	24%	38%	31%
NO MORE THAN \$100	25%	17%	21%
DK-REF	9%	14%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: This question was asked of only those residents who indicated they would support an option for closure even if it were to cost their household an additional \$100 per year for 20 years to pay for a bond to provide payment to MERC to close the facility in 2013.

Comments:

Residents who indicated they strongly or somewhat supported an option for closure in 2013 given the need for a bond were asked whether they would still favor closure at varying price points. Among these residents, 31% indicated they were willing to pay \$500 annually for 20 years to close the facility by 2013, 16% were willing to pay \$300 per year, 12% \$250 per year, and 9% would be willing to pay \$200 per year. Twenty-two percent of all residents would be willing to pay at least \$250 annually for 20 years for bond to close the facility by 2013.

Biddeford Residents

Among Biddeford residents who would support closure even given the need for a bond for a cash payment, 24% indicated they were willing to pay \$500 annually for 20 years to close the facility by 2013, 19% were willing to pay \$300 per year, 16% \$250 per year, and 8% would be willing to pay \$200 per year.

Twenty-two percent of all Biddeford residents would be willing to pay at least \$250 annually for 20 years for bond to close the facility by 2013.

Saco Residents

Among Saco residents who would support closure even given the need for a bond for a cash payment, 38% indicated they were willing to pay \$500 annually for 20 years to close the facility by 2013, 13% were willing to pay \$300 per year, 8% \$250 per year, and 10% would be willing to pay \$200 per year.

Twenty-three percent of all Saco residents would be willing to pay at least \$250 annually for 20 years for bond to close the facility by 2013.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Among respondents who would support closure even given the need for a bond for a cash payment, males were more likely than females to indicate they would be willing to pay \$300 (21% compared to 11%) or \$500 (38% compared to 24%) annually.
- Residents of Saco who supported closure were more likely than residents of Biddeford to indicate they would pay \$500 annually.
- Respondents with household incomes under \$20,000 were more likely to not support any payment of more than \$100 a year (53%) than those with household incomes of \$40,000 to \$60,000 (15%), \$60,000 to \$80,000 (15%), and those with income above \$80,000 (17%).

Among those who support closure in 2013 even given the associated costs, 54% indicated they would be willing to pay \$350 or more a years to insure closure (for a bond, increased trash collection fees and potentially increased taxes). This represents 20% of all residents.

Q32a - Earlier you indicated that you would favor this option EVEN IF it were to cost your household was \$290/\$130 per year. Would you still support this option IF the annual cost for your household were...

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
200 dollars	--	10%	5%
250 dollars	--	8%	4%
300 dollars	--	10%	5%
350 dollars	27%	0%	13%
400 dollars	7%	0%	3%
500 dollars	9%	44%	27%
750 dollars	22%	--	10%
NO MORE THAN \$290 or \$130	27%	16%	21%
DK-REF	8%	13%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: This question was asked of only those residents who indicated they would support an option for closure even if it were to cost their household an additional \$290 (Biddeford) or \$130 (Saco) per year to pay for the bond, increased trash collection fees, and increased taxes (in Biddeford).

Comments:

Residents who indicated they strongly or somewhat supported an option for closure in 2013 given all associated costs of closure (the bond, increased trash collection fees, and in Biddeford potentially higher taxes) were asked whether they would still favor closure at varying price points.

Biddeford Residents

Among Biddeford residents who would support closure even given these costs, 22% indicated they were willing to pay \$750 annually to close the facility by 2013, 9% were willing to pay \$500 per year, 7% were willing to pay \$400 per year, and 27% would be willing to pay \$350 per year.

Twenty-two percent of all Biddeford residents would be willing to pay at least \$350 annually to close the facility by 2013.

Saco Residents

Among Saco residents who would support closure even given these costs, 44% indicated they were willing to pay \$500 annually to close the facility by 2013, 10% were willing to pay \$300 per year, 8% were willing to pay \$250 per year, and 10% would be willing to pay 200 dollars per year.

Twenty-three percent of all Saco residents would be willing to pay at least \$250 annually to close the facility by 2013.

Significant Differences by Group:

- Among respondents who would support closure even given all associated costs of closure, males (37%) were more likely than females (18%) to indicate they would be willing to pay \$500 annually.

Respondent Characteristics

Gender

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Female	54%	54%	54%
Male	46%	46%	46%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Age

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
18-34	33%	26%	30%
35-49	27%	34%	31%
50-64	22%	21%	22%
65+	17%	17%	17%
DK-REF	1%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Do you own or rent your current residence?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
OWN	58%	75%	66%
RENT	40%	25%	32%
RK	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

YRS1A - How long have you lived in Biddeford/Saco?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
5 Years or Less	21%	22%	22%
6-10 Years	10%	20%	15%
11-20 Years	17%	23%	20%
21-30 Years	15%	12%	13%
31+ Years	36%	24%	30%
DK-REF-REF	1%		0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Marital Status

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Married	53%	57%	55%
Divorced	9%	12%	11%
Widowed	9%	8%	8%
Separated	2%	0%	1%
Living with a partner	8%	7%	8%
Never married	19%	14%	17%
DK-REF	1%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Do you currently have any children under age 18 residing in the household?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
YES	37%	42%	40%
NO	63%	57%	60%
DK-REF		1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

What is the highest year or grade of school you have completed?

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
GRADE SCHOOL OR LESS	2%	2%	2%
SOME HIGH SCHOOL	9%	3%	6%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR GED	29%	27%	28%
SOME COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	19%	17%	18%
TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GRAD OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE	10%	8%	9%
COLLEGE GRADUATE - 4 YEAR	23%	29%	26%
SOME GRADUATE COURSES	2%	4%	3%
GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	6%	9%	8%
DK-REF	0%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Was your TOTAL combined household income from all household members during the past 12 months...

	Biddeford	Saco	Total
Less than \$20,000,	17%	9%	13%
Between \$20,000 and \$40,000	29%	24%	26%
Between \$40,000 and \$60,000	21%	21%	21%
Between \$60,000 and \$80,000	7%	18%	12%
Between \$80,000 and \$100,000	6%	6%	6%
More than \$100,000	10%	8%	9%
DK-REF	10%	14%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%