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May Board meeting notes and updates

Eighteen colleagues, including reps from 9 member towns met at the Hanover Town Hall on May 17.

[Waste Zero](#) sponsored breakfast. **Courtney Forrester**, WZ's Programs and Municipal Partnerships Manager, explained a curbside textile collection service that pays rebates.

WZ produces PAYT and overflow bags for towns that limit or charge for disposal by volume. WZ also produces pink bags for [Simple Recycling's](#) curbside textile collection. SR services Brookline, Ashland, Framingham, Burlington, Medford, Merrimack, and other area towns.

Textiles comprise 5% of our disposed tonnage; only 15% are recycled. (This costs SSRC towns **over \$200,000/year** in tip fees.)

To conveniently divert this useful material from disposal, towns with municipal curbside disposal programs may sign an exclusive agreement for curbside textile / small housewares collection with SR. This does not preclude private curbside collections or donation bins. The

town receives a **\$20/ton rebate**, plus the avoided disposal cost. There are no additional fees. SR collects over 10 lbs/household on average in Mass. communities.

SR mails postcards and printed pink drawstring bags to all homes on municipal collection routes. SR trucks follow recycling route every collection day, leaving new bags plus one after each pickup. Communities can keep extras at town hall.

SR has a warehouse in Woburn, and is seeking one in Taunton. Collected materials are sorted and sent to similar destinations as those from collection bins. SR takes the good with the bad. 10-20%, are resold as is, the rest are cut into wiping cloths, or shredded into fill.

Contact Courtney at cforrester@wastezero.com, (o) 617-402-2171, (c) 781-504-5604



Recycling markets, outlets, costs (discussion)

Pace Glass Recycling proposed collecting and transporting source separated glass to their NJ facility at no charge. Contact [George Valiotis](#), 917 670 2541. (Update: Hingham sent 24 tons. The Director is awaiting a written quote)

Towns shared where they were currently sending recyclables, pricing. Single stream pricing ranged from \$67-80/ton.

Kingston is sending to semi sorted material Republic. Will pull glass out of commingle in July.

Hanson: ABC is charging \$70+, more than quote. Not paying difference. Having service issues.

CPR is still brokering for Hingham and Scituate. Glass is going to Carney in Raynham.

Rosemary Nolan proposal: Since single stream recycling (SSR) started around 2008, quantity has gone up, quality down. Facilities are closing with little notice. WM is now charging Braintree \$80/ton with low 7% contamination, up from \$40 a few months ago. Need to prepare town leaders for cost hikes, changing landscape. She is gathering info from area cities and towns, will research costs, send weekly email to interested towns.

She intends to explore creative alternatives. She will draft a report with data, which she and **Jeff Kunz** will present at Mayors' conference in September hosted by Braintree **Mayor Sullivan**.

Packaging stewardship legislation

[H447, An act to reduce packaging waste in the commonwealth](#), is in HW&M. It would share the cost of recycling/disposal of packaging material with producers. It is written to encourage more recycled/recyclable packaging. The Board unanimously approved a [letter of support](#) to South Shore legislators. ([more below](#))

Recycling Dividend Program planning (Todd Koep)

More points are needed to qualify this year, a little more difficult. Buy Recycled memo must be sent out. He and Claire are available to help. (Update: 14 of our 15 towns applied)

[Big Hearted Books](#) is in bankruptcy. The bookkeeper reportedly embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars. **Alternatives:** [Recycle That](#), now known as Helpsy (rebate, good reviews, contact [Matt Libby](#) at 617-895-6133), and [More Than Words](#) (social service, no rebate, contact [Erin Dyson-Enamorado](#)). Both companies have presented at [SSRC meetings](#).

Surplus property opportunities : federal and state programs offer free equipment through [Mass. OSD](#). OSD Presenter at MassBuys advised to bid low on State vehicles.

New Town officials : Abington has a new health agent, **Marty Golightly**.

Kingston has new Town Manager, **Tom Calter**. Interviewing health agents.

Tour of Recolor Paint, Hanover

After our may Board meeting, **Tania Keeble** and **Katherine Brown** hosted five of us on a tour of their sparkling new [Recolor Paint](#) facility (fka The Paint Exchange) in Hanover, where they process leftover latex paint into new paint products. See the pictures [here](#). Notes:

- Recolor employs 6, plus principals Brown and Keeble.
- Volume is approaching 3000 gal/month..
- Collected 600 net gallons at SSRC Hanover HHW collection.
- Receive, manually sort by color, mix in batches, strain through sieve, add preservative, package, label. Process up to 25 gal/minute. Labor intense.
- Use all plastic #5 recycled paint cans. The producers of their plastic cans have a take-back program and will pick up cans by the truckload. Boxes are reused.
- Latex polyurethane and stain are good additives.
- \$2/container fee for individual drop-off, discount for >100 cans.
- Free drop-off for towns that screen and transport.
 - Hingham brings latex paint from its paint shed
- Sell high quality wall paint, chalk finish paint, woodwork paint, house paint (backordered).
- Ship to Habitat for Humanity ReStores from here to South Carolina to Iowa.
- Will sell paint direct to municipalities at low cost.



Tour of C. Carney Environmental

Chris Carney, owner of [C. Carney Environmental](#) (aka Patriot Recycling), showed six of us around the crushing area of his 120 acre facility in Raynham this month. One of multiple processing and transfer sites, this one grinds asphalt, brick, concrete and glass into paving and constructions products.

Carney received a permit and invested \$1.5 million in equipment to process glass after learning that SMI in Franklin would no longer accept glass for recycling, and that glass was being landfilled. They are processing glass from Waste Management and Casella, which has much non-glass material in it. Source separated glass from our transfer station towns is much cleaner.



Glass is fed into a “cone” which crushes the glass, and conveys it through two screens. About 25-35% of the material is disposed as “overs”, except the ferrous fraction, which is separate with a magnet. The final output is ¼” minus, which is usually mixed at 1% into course gravel.

The crushing operation and facility in general are very well organized and run. Chris runs a tight ship. See pictures [here](#).

RECO report

By Julie Sullivan, Recycling Education and Compliance Officer, SSRC

In May, I wrapped up a successful education and enforcement project at the Kingston Transfer Station (see April report for details and results). I met with Kingston's Streets, Trees, and Parks Superintendent Paul Basler at the end of the month to discuss the nature of the violations and agree on the next steps for enforcement.

I touched base with Plymouth's Public Health Director Nate Horwitz-Willis to check the progress of our private hauler enforcement project. With the end of Q2 on the horizon, we are sending out final warnings to unresponsive haulers before issuing fines or permit suspensions. At the end of June, I will be meeting with the Plymouth DPH and DPW to discuss next steps.

At the moment, I am communicating with MRFs (WM and Republic) and town staff from both Norwell and Rockland to gather pre-OOPS tagging data such as load pictures and input on contamination from drivers. We are almost ready to order Norwell's outreach materials and their tagging program is slated to begin in early to mid-June.

In other news, I presented my grant project findings at the annual NRRRA Conference in Manchester, NH on May 21st. An engaged audience of about 40 (primarily transfer station towns) asked me lots of thoughtful questions about my findings and expressed a desire to conduct similar projects at their transfer stations. I also subbed for Claire at Duxbury/Kingston's HHW collection so she could attend her son's college graduation.

Rockland passes private hauler recycling regulation

On May 18, Rockland joined the Towns of **Hanson, Hull, Kingston** and **Plymouth** in requiring private haulers operating in the town to provide “bundled” trash and recycling service to all residential customers. The Board of Health regulation becomes effective on July 1. All haulers must provide annual instructions to customers on how and what to recycle, and report tonnages and destinations for trash and recycling, among other details, for the year to be eligible to renew their permits.

Problems, solutions explored in news, at State House

Rockland, Janice McCarthy featured on WGBH

On May 25, WGBH host Stephanie Leyden hosted a segment called "[Why recycling costs more than garbage](#)". It included an interview with Rockland Health Agent Janice McCarthy.

South Shore programs make Globe front page

On June 5, Braintree's **Rosemary Nolan** and SSRC Director **Claire Galkowski** were quoted in a front page story by **David Abel** in the Boston Globe. The article also featured Rockland and Plymouth's strained curbside programs.

The [online version](#) was entitled "**New China policies spark disarray in region's recycling industry**". The [print edition](#) headline was more stark: "**Recycling: A budget trasher**",

with the tag "China refuses to accept some material, creating a backlog and sending costs soaring". Both versions featured a sea of stranded recyclables at E.L. Harvey's Westborough facility.



Resource Recycling runs SSRC Director Op Ed

On the same day, respected trade publication Resource Recycling published an Op Ed by SSRC Director Claire Galkowski. It was entitled "[In My Opinion: A case for producer responsibility](#)".

"With so much focus on the recycling crisis, we tend to overlook the root cause of the problem: the glut of short-lived consumer products and packaging. Rather than looking for new places to dispose, it is imperative that we look at where it is coming from, and stem the flow. Mining, harvesting, processing and transport are where the biggest environmental footprints land.

In the current system, manufacturers who profit from the sale of their wares have little incentive to make durable products or minimal, easily recycled packaging, or to incorporate recycled feedstock in their packaging. Thankfully, a few corporations such as Unilever and Procter & Gamble are stepping up. Many more need a nudge to follow suit." [More](#)

Lawmakers, stakeholders discuss packaging bill

Also on June 5, about two dozen of us gathered in the historic "Members Only" room 348 at the State House, near the House Chambers. **Rep. Jonathan Hecht**, who cosponsored [H447, An act to reduce packaging waste in the commonwealth](#), and SSRC Director Galkowski organized the

meeting to discuss the recycling crisis, and a bill that would engage producers to help solve the problem through incentives to improve and reduce the materials in which their products are packaged. Staff from offices of nine legislators, including **House Ways and Means Chair Jeffrey Sanchez**, and reps from recycling facilities, municipalities, MassRecycle and the Mass. Product Stewardship Council participated.

Details of the meeting, as well as other similar initiatives occurring around the country to bring packaging producers into the loop, can be found [here](#).

This outreach is resulting in letters of support for H447 being sent to legislators, similar to [one from SSRC](#). **Rep. Bob Koczra** penned his own support letter to HW&M. The **Solid Waste Association of North America**, the **Association of Plastics Recyclers**, and **Product Stewardship Institute** are engaging with brand owners and others to accomplish similar outcomes.

These efforts aim to revive domestic packaging production using recycled feedstock. If we work together for the common goal of making packaging less wasteful, more easily recyclable, and with more recycled content, our recycling programs could come back from the current crisis stronger and better.

South shore schools receive ‘Green Team’ Awards

State environmental officials recognized students from 59 schools across the Commonwealth for outstanding environmental actions as members of the “[Green Team](#),” a statewide environmental education program sponsored by MassDEP.

Over 50,000 students at 267 schools joined the Green Team this school year.

Students took part in a range of activities, including:

- Expanding school recycling programs;
- Collecting textiles for donation and recycling;
- Starting a compost pile using organic waste from the school cafeteria, and using the compost it generates to nourish a garden to grow vegetables;
- Making their school driveways “Idle-Free Zones”;
- Increasing energy efficiency in their schools and communities; and



Activities incorporated classroom disciplines from the fields of science, engineering and mathematics to reading, writing and art, as well as other non-classroom, interrelated projects.

Kingston Elementary was one of 19 Grand Prize winners.

Also recognized: **Cohasset HS, Hull Memorial MS, Silver Lake regional MS, Norwell MS, South Shore Natural Science Center Preschool, Rockland HS.**

To learn more or to participate in the 2018-19 school year, teachers may sign up [here](#).

MassDEP helps navigate recycling storm

On June 6, MassDEP Commissioner **Martin Suuberg** sent the following communique to municipal leaders and legislators (excerpted):



I am writing to you regarding the state of recycling markets and the impact on municipalities and businesses across the Commonwealth. It is important to keep the lines of communication open and active as we face the challenges presented by recent changes in the recycling markets. ...

First, we'd like to acknowledge the critically important partnership among local government, the private hauling and processing industry, non-profits, regional groups, and state government in maintaining a recycling infrastructure that helps divert thousands of tons per day from disposal. This infrastructure supports significant economic activity while conserving natural resources and preserving our environment.

Reducing contamination in the recycling stream is an immediate priority to improve the current situation. Massachusetts' Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) report elevated contamination levels in recyclables. MRFs are working hard to modify operations to meet new contamination standards, identify alternative markets overseas and domestically that they can send materials, and evaluating/installing new sorting technologies.

... MassDEP will continue to work to bolster our strong partnerships as we work together through these changed circumstances to ensure the continued success of recycling in Massachusetts. To that end, I wanted to highlight a number of actions MassDEP is taking ... to ease the burden for municipalities.

To tackle contamination, MassDEP has created the [Recycling IQ Kit](#) to help municipalities implement a boots-on-the-ground initiative to educate residents about proper recycling practices. ... municipalities are implementing the program and getting strong results. MassDEP provides technical assistance and grants to hire staff and produce outreach materials. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

MassDEP encourages municipalities to participate in the [Recycling Dividends Program](#) (RDP) which provides funding for recycling that can be used to offset some increases in recycling costs. Last year we awarded \$2.3 million to 238 municipalities.

MassDEP is providing grants and low interest loans to businesses, including MRFs, to offset technology upgrades to produce cleaner recycling streams and to develop new markets for glass. We have set aside \$2 million for [Recycling Business Development Grants](#) this year. The current application closes June 22, 2018. Another \$3 million is available through the [Recycling Loan Fund](#).

For communities affected by the recent shut-down of the glass container plant in Milford, MassDEP is offering up to \$150,000 in [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program](#) grants for capital equipment for municipalities to establish glass processing operations to create a local market for glass as a construction aggregate. Processed glass aggregate (PGA) is approved for use as a substitute for sand and crushed aggregate under MassDOT highway specifications. Municipal DPWs can directly assist by utilizing PGA in construction projects.

Private businesses can receive up to \$400,000 for establishing glass processing operations through the [Recycling Business Development Grant](#) program. MassDEP has met with several businesses that produce foamed glass aggregate and other aggregate substitutes and are considering business operations in the Commonwealth.

Next month, we will launch a statewide outreach effort on the importance of “recycling right.” To simplify the message to the public, MassDEP facilitated an agreement among MRF operators on a universal “recycling list” to allow consistent messaging across the Commonwealth....

We will continue to be in touch and welcome your ongoing communication on any issue related to recycling. Please don't hesitate to contact your [Municipal Assistance Coordinator](#) or Greg Cooper, Director of MassDEP's Business Compliance Unit at 617-292-5988 or at Greg.cooper@state.ma.us if you would like to discuss your particular situation in further detail.

Sincerely,

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner

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EVENTS

(posted in right column of ssrcoop.info home page)

MassRecycle Southeast Municipal Recycling Council, Wed., June 20, 9:15-noon, EL Harvey and Sons, 68 Hopkinton Rd., Westborough. Roundtable on RDP grant funds, tour.

SSRC Breakfast Meeting Thurs., June 22, 8:50-10:30 am, Abington Town Hall.
Speaker/sponsor: Miller Recycling

SSRC Summer hours: The office will be closed from July 10 through 25. The SSRC office will be open 2-3 days/week (Mon-Thurs) from June 25 through August 31.