

SOUTH SHORE  
RECYCLING  
COOPERATIVE  
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## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT 1/30/2017

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) is a voluntary association of fourteen South Shore towns. It was established by Intermunicipal Agreement and Special Legislation in 1998 to help member towns improve their recycling programs, and reduce the amount, toxicity and cost of disposal.

Members of the SSRC are: **Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Kingston, Middleborough, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman.** Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*). Our Executive Board consists of Chairman Sharon White (Abington), Vice Chairman Merle Brown (Cohasset), Secretary Gene Wyatt (Kingston), and Treasurer Mary Snow (Cohasset).

In FY2016, the SSRC raised **\$72,642.27**: \$63,000 from municipal member dues, \$6,402.70 in sponsorships, \$3,125.62 in grant funding and 113.95 in interest. Those funds pay for the services of the Executive Director and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit our member towns. In addition to technical assistance, these activities **saved /earned Member Towns \$277,764** in 2016.

### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

**Household Hazardous Waste Collections** - The SSRC bids and administers a contract on behalf of its Member Towns for Household Hazardous Waste Collections. A new contract awarded to Stericycle in 2015 offers a much lower setup fee and unit costs than the State Contract. Member Towns saved staff time to bid, schedule and publicize collections. The Executive Director assisted at all twelve events, and administers the billing.

The SSRC enabled three Member Towns (Cohasset, Norwell and Rockland) to join their larger neighbors' HHW collections, relieving them of the time and expense of hosting their own. SSRC also coordinates five other Towns' alternating collections, Hanson the newest among them, plus Abington, Duxbury, Kingston and Whitman.

The SSRC arranges roll-off service at about \$350/event, \$550 less than the HHW contract cost.

**2,001 residents** attended **twelve collections** held in 2016. The contract also enabled **210 residents and businesses** to attend other Member Towns' collections using the **reciprocal arrangement**. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional **Recycling Dividend Program** points, and earned them an extra **\$13,300** in grant money through that program.

The total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2016 is estimated at **\$53,372**.

**Electronic Waste** - Shrinking markets for CRT glass posed a huge and costly challenge to municipal and retail collection programs in 2016. The processor for nine of our towns went out of business, and another that serviced three towns cut its municipal program. The Director engaged alternative vendors, and arranged an emergency pickup for Abington, Hanson, Rockland and Whitman. She continues to seek the best service and pricing from reputable service providers.

**General Recyclables** – Late 2016 saw some improvement in commodity pricing after a long period of low values. The SSRC kept the Member Town managers up to date on pricing trends through its subscription to the Yellow sheet, regular review of industry news, and contact with local outlets.

**Textiles** - Bay State Textiles has worked with SSRC to establish and promote transfer station and School Box Programs. BST pays \$100/ton to all box hosts for used textiles. The thirteen SSRC towns and school systems hosting this program diverted 537 tons of textiles in 2016 and earned rebates and incentives of **\$53,700**. In addition, the diversion of this material from disposal saved another **\$39,763**.

**Books** - When the previous service provider went out of business, the SSRC introduced two companies that provide a similar service for books and media. The one that most selected pays \$100/ton. Rebates and avoided disposal costs in 2016 from this service came to **\$88,327**.

**Mercury** - Covanta SEMASS extends free mercury recycling benefits to all SSRC members, even those that don't send their MSW to SEMASS. SEMASS directly pays for mercury bearing waste delivered to Complete Recycling Solutions in Fall River. The SSRC helped to get the direct pay accounts set up, and assists Member Towns in directing their material to avoid cost to the towns.

CRS direct-billed SEMASS **\$7,613** for Member Towns mercury recycling in 2016. In addition, SEMASS paid rebates to our contract communities of **\$2,038** for recycled mercury containing products. The director audited the deliveries and rebate payments.

**Compost and Brush** - The SSRC Board voted to extend its three contracts for **compost screening** and **brush grinding**. Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Kingston and Weymouth used these contracts in 2016.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

**17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Trash Bash”** – A hundred municipal, county and state officials, staff, volunteers and service providers mingled and learned about contamination issues and costs in the recycling stream. The entire cost of the event was covered by private sponsors.

**“Refrigerator door prizes”** - The SSRC continued to distribute thousands of 5”x8” handouts, purchased in 2013 with grants from MassDEP and Covanta SEMASS. The graphics depict items that are “too good” and “too bad for the trash”, and direct the reader to the SSRC website and phone for more information. They have been resulted in many calls and web visits.

**Kingston PAYT Forum**- at the request of a selectman and the DPW Director, organized this public forum to introduce the concept of unit based pricing for trash, with three speakers.

**Website** - [ssrcoop.info](http://ssrcoop.info) was completely revamped in 2016. The site provides both general

and town-specific recycling and household hazardous waste collection information, SSRC meeting minutes and annual reports, a monthly newsletter, and links to other sites. It logged an average of 1,300 visits per month in 2016, 1,078 which were first time visitors.

**Press Contacts** - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media. In addition to help in editing articles by Town officials, the SSRC released [Holey Socks, they go in the donation box](#) (a requirement for additional grant funds for our member towns), as well as articles about the availability of Event recycling containers, and our 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trash Bash.

**Resident Contacts** – The director fielded 160 calls and emails from residents in 2016 to answer questions about how to properly dispose of everything from paint to asbestos shingles, televisions to fire extinguishers.

**Public and Professional Presentations** - The Executive Director spoke to the following groups about recycling issues and/or SSRC activities:

- **MassRecycle R3 Conference:** the Mass. Product Stewardship Council
- **Cohasset Middle School Trash Patrol,** interview about sustainability
- **Southeast Municipal Recycling Council:** the Mass. Product Stewardship Council

**Marshfield Fair Recycling** - the SSRC exhibited and supported **recycling at the Marshfield Fair** for the thirteenth year. While public education is the priority, six tons of material was also recycled and composted. Since inception, 73 tons of Fair waste has been diverted to higher use. The Director provided support on her own time as a volunteer.

### **ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND NETWORKING**

The Executive Director's help is frequently sought by the solid waste managers. She stays current on local and national solid waste issues, attending conferences, meetings and webinars, touring local facilities, and reading professional publications. She advises Members on specific needs each town has.

A sample of the assistance she provided and problems she helped solve in 2016 includes:

- Attended meetings with the **Abington BOH, Hanson BOH, and Kingston BOH and BOS** at the request of our managers
- Helped **Duxbury, Hanson, Kingston, Plymouth, Rockland and Weymouth** complete and submit their DEP Data Surveys and/or DEP Grant applications
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed curbside collection contract for **Rockland**
- Provided advice and help on a **wide range of issues** including: private hauler regulation notifications, enforceability of minimum tonnage in a disposal contract, fire extinguishers, e-waste options, sharps collection, redeemable bottle and can collection services, tire outlets and rebates for propane tank recycling.
- Provided index and regional **commodity pricing** for materials of interest to our managers.

**Grant assistance:** The SSRC assisted several member towns in applying for MassDEP Sustainable Material Recovery grants. Membership in SSRC adds one-two points to each Member Town's Recycling Dividend Program total for participation in our HHW Reciprocity

Program, which earned our towns **\$13,200** of the **\$169,250** in grants nine of our Towns were awarded.

**Newsletter** - The SSRC publishes monthly **Updates** filled with information of interest to the South Shore solid waste community. The Updates are emailed to over 400 people, and are [posted online](#).

**Monthly Meetings** - The SSRC provides **networking opportunities** and information sharing at our well-attended (nearly) monthly meetings. Most meetings feature a guest speaker, usually a service provider or regulator. Solid waste collection, disposal, recycling service, outreach, pricing and proposed laws and regulations are discussed. Minutes are posted [here](#).

## **ADVOCACY**

In 2016, the Executive Director

- Represented the SSRC at **policy meetings and conferences** hosted by MassDEP, Environmental Business Council, US EPA, MassRecycle, Northeast Resource Recovery Association, Product Stewardship Institute, Reuse Conex, and the Southeast Municipal Recycling Council. She reports relevant information back to the Board.
- Worked with Product Stewardship Institute, Mass. Municipal Association, the Mass. Product Stewardship Council and other organizations to promote legislation the Board deems beneficial to its solid waste programs regarding paint, Right to Repair, the Clean Environment Fund and universal recycling.
- Joined municipal colleagues on Beacon Hill for Paint Stewardship Advocacy Day, visiting most members of the South Shore delegation.
- Was invited to and attended the Mass. Recycling Contamination Workgroup meeting.

The SSRC exists to assist its member towns in improving their solid waste disposal and recycling functions. It always welcomes suggestions on how it can better serve its Members.

Respectfully submitted,



Claire Galkowski, Executive Director, South Shore Recycling Cooperative

South Shore Recycling Cooperative Board of Directors 2016

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
<b>Abington</b>	Lorraine	Mavrogeorge	BOH	Waste Reduction Enforcement Coordinator
	<b>Sharon</b>	<b>White</b>	BOH	Agent, SSRC Chairman
<b>Cohasset</b>	<b>Merle</b>	<b>Brown</b>	citizen	SSRC Vice Chairman
	<b>Mary</b>	<b>Snow</b>	DPW	Highway Dept. Admin. Asst; SSRC Treasurer
<b>Duxbury</b>	Peter	Buttkus	DPW	Director
	Bruce	O'Neil	DPW	Assistant Director
<b>Hanover</b>	Victor	Diniak	DPW	Superintendent
	Kenneth	Storey	DPW	Transfer Station Foreman
<b>Hanson</b>	Donna	Tramontana	BOH	Health Agent
	Arlene	Dias	BOH	Commissioner
<b>Hingham</b>	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent
	Stephen	Messinger	Transfer Station	Foreman
<b>Kingston</b>	Paul	Basler	Streets, Trees & Parks	Superintendent
	<b>Eugene</b>	<b>Wyatt</b>	Recycling Committee	Appointee; SSRC Secretary
<b>Middleboro</b>	Christopher	Peck	DPW	Director
	Donna	Jolin	DPW	Office Manager
<b>Norwell</b>	Brian	Flynn	BOH	Agent
	Vicky	Spillane	Recycling Committee	Appointee
<b>Plymouth</b>	Sandra	Strassel	DPW	Solid Waste Coordinator
	Open			
<b>Rockland</b>	Rudy	Childs	citizen	Appointee
	Stephen	Nelson	BOH	Commissioner
	Victoria	Diebel**	BOH	Commissioner
	Janice	McCarthy**	BOH	Agent
<b>Scituate</b>	Kevin	Cafferty	DPW	Director; SSRC Chairman
	Sean	McCarthy	DPW	Asst. Director
<b>Weymouth</b>	Robert	O'Connor	DPW	Director Emeritas
	Kathleen	McDonald	DPW	Principal Clerk
<b>Whitman</b>	Bruce	Martin	DPW	Director
	Alexis	Andrews	BOH	Health Inspector

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South Shore Recycling Cooperative 2016 Annual Report      quantifiable benefits

	HHW cars	HHW reciprocity use	contract cost savings (vs. State Contract setup fee, unit vol. disc.)	roll off savings using SSRC arranged vendor (\$900-350)	HHW admin, on site staff time (18 hours /coll)	Recycling Dividend Program HHW awarded point values	HHW total value	Bay State Textile, Big Hearted Books textile tons	BST/BHB rebates, avoided disp cost	SEMASS Mercury processing subsidy, CRSdirect pmts	SEMASS' rebate paid 2016	Big Hearted Books tons	BHB rebate \$100/ton, avoided disp cost	grant application submission award	Total
Abington	65	17	\$1,045	\$900	\$210	\$800	\$2,955	32.1	\$5,329	\$266.75		32.1	\$5,329		\$13,879
Cohasset	38	10	\$564	\$900	\$315	\$800	\$2,579	38.9	\$7,274	\$0.00	\$144.60	38.9	\$7,274		\$17,272
Duxbury	165	18	\$1,817	\$900	\$315	\$1,600	\$4,632	85.1	\$13,276	\$953.42	\$145.80	84.9	\$13,244	\$8,800	\$41,051
Hanover	248	12	\$2,631	\$1,080	\$840		\$4,551	23.6	\$4,201			21.6	\$3,845		\$12,597
Hanson	46	4	\$1,028	\$1,450	\$1,080	\$800	\$4,358	13.9	\$2,155			13.9	\$2,155	\$7,000	\$15,667
Hingham	252	25	\$1,773	\$550	\$630	\$1,600	\$4,553	28.2	\$4,512	\$1,979.29	\$492.00	28.2	\$4,512		\$16,048
Kingston	65	13	\$645	\$900	\$315		\$1,860	36.1	\$6,173	\$476.45	\$197.50	34.8	\$5,951	\$3,200	\$17,858
Middleboro	83	2	\$1,139	\$550	\$945	\$1,600	\$4,234	25.3	\$2,530			14.5	\$1,450		\$8,214
Norwell	71	34	\$960	\$900	\$630		\$2,490	6.3	\$1,090		\$252.80	6.2	\$1,073		\$4,905
Plymouth	337	18	\$2,351	\$1,100	\$945	\$1,500	\$5,896	54.5	\$9,047	\$2,039.18	\$445.80	54.5	\$9,047	\$9,102	\$35,576
Rockland	53	23	\$804	\$900	\$630		\$2,334	0.6	\$136	\$436.00	\$12.10	0.0	\$1	\$4,850	\$7,769
Scituate	192	13	\$1,481	\$550	\$315	\$1,600	\$3,946	75.9	\$14,649	\$816.00	\$277.30	75.9	\$14,649		\$34,337
Weymouth	312	9	\$2,542	\$0	\$1,260	\$3,000	\$6,802	87.4	\$18,179	\$646.00	\$69.80	79.9	\$16,619		\$42,316
Whitman	74	12	\$1,072	\$900	\$210		\$2,182	28.9	\$4,913			18.7	\$3,179		\$10,274
<b>Total</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>\$19,852</b>	<b>\$11,580</b>	<b>\$8,640</b>	<b>\$13,300</b>	<b>\$53,372</b>	<b>536.8</b>	<b>\$93,463</b>	<b>\$7,613.09</b>	<b>\$2,037.70</b>	<b>504.11</b>	<b>\$88,327</b>	<b>\$32,952</b>	<b>\$277,764</b>