

**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**
ssrcoop.info



320 Dover Rd.
Westwood, MA 02090
781.329.8318
ssrecyclingcoop@
verizon.net

For immediate release

Contact **Claire Galkowski**, South Shore Recycling Cooperative
781-329-8318

ssrecyclingcoop@verizon.net

South Shore Recycling Cooperative honors four Environmental Heroes at 15th Anniversary Celebration

April 1, 2014

On March 27, 2014, the South Shore Recycling Cooperative celebrated 15 years of service to its member towns. As part of the festivities, the Board presented four distinguished local leaders with Environmental Hero Awards.

The Celebration began with a tour of the newly reconfigured Kingston Transfer Station, followed by a luncheon at Jones River Trading Co., a presentation by MassDEP's **John Fischer** about new Disposal Bans and other waste reduction measures, the award presentations, and a drawing for two compost bins. The event was sponsored by twenty local and regional service providers. Chairman **Kevin Cafferty**, Scituate's Acting DPW Director, opened the proceedings, and founding member and Vice Chairman **Merle Brown** of Cohasset provided an entertaining Retrospective.

After reviewing several worthy nominations, the Award Committee and Executive Board selected the following recipients:

*State Official: **Representative Josh Cutler, Duxbury***

Over the past several years Rep. Cutler has been an active proponent of environmentally preferable policies, notably the Updated Bottle Bill, helped spearhead a solar array project in Duxbury, sponsored legislation to promote electric vehicle use, and cosponsored the SSRC's "Universal Recycling" bill, H765, which is in the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

*Municipal Official: **Mayor Sue Kay, Weymouth***

After many months of research and planning, Mayor Kay instituted a cart program in Weymouth in 2013. Despite heavy resistance in the beginning, the Mayor was confident that the residents would make the transition and the Town overall would reap the benefits. In its short existence, the Town's trash tonnage has decreased by 25% and recycling tonnage has increased by 33%.

*Volunteer: **Donna Bangert, Scituate***

As chairman of the Scituate Beautification Commission, Donna has run ShipShape Day for several years. At this event, hundreds of residents and local organizations pick up litter on the beaches and the streets, in the parks and fields.

This past year, Donna worked with the volunteers to salvage the recyclables that were collected. Despite some pushback, this was a huge success, and resulted in significantly less material being

disposed, as well as being a learning opportunity for the residents. “Research by organizations like Keep America Beautiful indicate that where trash is present, people are more likely to litter”, Bangert said.

*Lifetime Achievement: **Gene Wyatt, Kingston***

Gene has put in countless hours as **chairman of the Kingston recycling committee** to enable residents and students to put their waste materials to their highest uses. Gene set up several recycling programs that raise money for the **PTO**. These programs have diverted over 200 tons of valuable materials from the waste stream. He also serves on the **Transfer Station Reconfiguration Committee** , the **Green Energy Committee**, the **Renewable Energy Loan & Grant Opportunity Committee**, and as one of Kingston’s Representatives to the **South Shore Recycling Cooperative** Board.

For more information, go to <http://ssrcoop.info/>

For photos, go to

<http://s1115.photobucket.com/user/lpjsmom/library/SSRC%2015th%20Anniversary%20Trash%20Bash>