



We're too good for the trash!



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### January Meeting notes, updates

After sponsoring breakfast, regional manager **Matt Libby** told a healthy crowd of SSRC managers about [Recycle That \(RT\)](#) book and textile recycling service. Based in Wilmington, with a warehouse in Franklin, RT is expanding, and seeking more locations for collection bins. RT has donation boxes in **Kingston, Plymouth, Cohasset, Scituate, and Falmouth**.

RT's boxes reduce waste costs, and provide income to municipalities and nonprofits. Rebates of 3¢/lb (\$60/ton) for books, 5¢/lb (\$100/ton) for textiles are paid quarterly. RT recycles library discards at Office Paper Recycling for no charge; there is no rebate for those.

Boxes come in two sizes, 5'w x 6'h x 6'd or 4'w x 05.5'h x 3'd. Books and textiles can all go in one box. Drivers sort books from textiles on site into gaylords that are tracked by town. RT can also do book- only or textile- only bins, labeled to the town's specifications.

RT has scheduled routes, and will make a special trip if a box is reported to be full. They employ 2 drivers, contract with 8 more, and have a warehouse staff of 3-8, depending on the season.

Exporters don't want winter clothes. RT buys (fumigated) jackets back from buyers in 100 lb. bales, and donates to people who need them. He brought one bale, and has 18 more at the warehouse, is seeking good homes for them. Kids', men's, and women's are baled separately.

Contact Matt at (617) 895-6133, or [matt.libby@recyclethat.com](mailto:matt.libby@recyclethat.com)

## Annual Report

The Board unanimously approved the Annual Report presented by Director Galkowski, and endorsed by Chairman Merle Brown. The Report showed that the SSRC is still an excellent value to its Member Towns. It was sent to Town Clerks on January 26, and can be viewed [here](#).

## Grind Screen contract awards

Four companies submitted 7 bids for 3 contracts, which were awarded as follows:.

**Tub grinding:** Two of three bids were nearly the same. Members have had good experience with both. The Board awarded to both **Wicklow Wood** and **New England Recycling**.

**Horizontal grinding:** The Board awarded to the lower of two bidders, **New England Recycling**.

**Compost Screening:** **Lion's Head Organics** submitted the lower of two bids, and won the contract. LHO has provided good services over the years.

Member Towns may contact the [Director](#) for contract documents.

New England Recycling	Lion's Head Organics	Wicklow Wood Recycling
Taunton, MA 02780	Cohasset, MA 02025	Northbridge, MA 01534
508-822-4834	781-545-4645	508-234-9172
<a href="mailto:jtutsch@glopes.com">jtutsch@glopes.com</a>	<a href="mailto:lionsheadorg@comcast.net">lionsheadorg@comcast.net</a>	<a href="mailto:wicklowwood07@gmail.com">wicklowwood07@gmail.com</a>

## Small scale outreach grant proposals

MassDEP awarded a \$2000 DEP SMRP grant to the SSRC to be spent in FY2018. With public outreach about **cleaning up recyclables** more urgent than ever, the Director proposed spending half on WATD 95.9 FM radio ads, and half on social media promotion.

WATD proposed \$1,120 for 40- 60 sec. ads, both with an additional 20 free ads, an interview and a link on their site. WATD reaches 45,000-60,000 listeners at most times.



**Jess Wozniak**, a social media professional with whom the Director has worked in the past, noted that social media drives more traffic to websites than search engines do. People average 5 hours/day on digital media, which has become a major source of information.



She proposed that she post original content on the [SSRC's Facebook page](#), with pictures and hashtags, teasers, events and boosting, which is more effective at engaging people than shares. She can target ages, interests, and locations. Settings can be adjusted for moderation.

The Board voted to spend \$1000 for WATD ads, and \$600 for social media, with a review in 3 months to see if there was an increase in Facebook and website hits before committing the remaining \$400. Facebook and SSRC website impacts are easily measured.

Jess can also work with individual towns to get the Recycling Dividend Program outreach point. RDP funds can be used to pay for the service. Contact her at [jesswozniak@gmail.com](mailto:jesswozniak@gmail.com).

## Recycling Dividend Program reporting, planning

Municipal Assistance Coordinator **Todd Koep** recommended that towns expand RDP programs now to get the highest benefits in the June grant round. [New guidance](#) has a few changes.

The textile point is a “regular” point now.

Towns need to do 4 things to get new Outreach point. Todd provided [worksheets](#).

Mark your calendars for **RDP Webinars**: 4/5 dropoff, 4/12 curbside. Helpful, but not required.

There is a wide range of things RDP funds can be used for, [here](#).

## Recycling IQ Kit Grants available through April

The MassDEP Recycling IQ Kit, which has been tested in eleven Massachusetts municipalities, provides steps, tools and resources to Improve the **Quality** of recycling in communities. Grants of **up to \$40,000** are available for production and distribution of “oops tags” on curbside recycling routes, and more.

The application submission period runs through **April 30** on the [Re-Trac](#) website.

Applications will be awarded on a rolling basis.



The first step to applying for this grant is to read the [Recycling IQ Kit](#). Please contact [Janice Pare](#) or your DEP [Municipal Assistance Coordinator](#) with questions.

## January RECO report- Kingston and Plymouth

By Julie Sullivan, Recycling Education and Compliance Officer

This month, I helped **Kingston** and **Plymouth** make progress with the enforcement of their private hauler regulations. I met with both **Henny Walters**, Kingston's Health Agent, and **Dr. Nate Horwitz-Willis**, Plymouth's Director of Public Health, to exchange ideas and come up with a plan of attack. I drafted a letter to haulers that includes a checklist of what is required by the regulations and a template quarterly report with weight slips. Both Plymouth and Kingston sent this letter via certified mail to all licensed private haulers in their towns in the same 24-hour period. So far, the majority of haulers have submitted proof of receipt. A few of them have submitted additional materials and I am looking forward to see who else responds in the coming weeks.

I am also revising and finishing up my initial draft reports on all of the projects I completed in 2017. So far, I have completed the initial phases of the RECO project in **Hingham, Cohasset, Duxbury, Abington, and Middleboro**. I am adding details on continued enforcement efforts and any relevant changes to these towns' recycling programs (for example, Duxbury Transfer Station's transition from single stream to source separated recycling in November).

## Kingston is putting haulers on notice

By Kathryn Gallerani, Wickedlocal Kingston, Jan. 29, 2018  
(excerpts)

KINGSTON – Three months shy of a year after new regulations went into effect, some private trash haulers aren't following the rules.

To level the playing field, the Board of Health and Recycling Committee are seeking the public's help in enforcing regulations for private trash haulers...

The **South Shore Recycling Cooperative** (is) assisting the Board of Health in enforcing these regulations. As **Claire Galkowski**, executive director of the SSRC, said, "We want to put the haulers on equal footing with each other, and with the town."

**Julie Sullivan**, SSRC's recycling education and compliance officer, said all licensed haulers have received copies of the regulations, and Health Agent **Henny Walters** contacted them to offer assistance in complying with the recycling mandate.

A letter will be going out to licensed haulers with instructions to comply or face fines, suspension or even revocation of their license.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Board of Health office if they see that haulers are picking up trash and recycling in the same trucks, or if haulers are not offering recycling. [More](#)

## Duxbury BOH considers hauler recycling rule

Inspired by Kingston's regulation, **Sustainable Duxbury** (SD) reached out to Director Galkowski and Municipal Assistance Coordinator **Todd Koep** to learn how Duxbury could clarify its rules, and harmonize them with those of Plymouth, Kingston, Halifax, Hanson and Hull.

The Board of Health already had a regulation requiring that Mass. waste ban regulations be followed "under all circumstances", and for private haulers to offer it. There was no mechanism for enforcement though, and bundled trash and recycling service was not required.

After a presentation by Mr. Koep, SD member **Susan Fontaine** contacted Duxbury Health Director **Tracy Mayo**, and asked if the Board of Health would consider revisiting its regulations, last revised in 2007. Director Galkowski suggested edits to their current regulations, and presented background information at the BOH's Feb. 15 meeting.

The Board will now decide whether to hold a public hearing to discuss revisions that would more clearly prohibit disposal of recyclables by all entities in Duxbury, and require all private haulers to include and verify recycling with all disposal services.



## SSRC organizes contingency planning meeting

Plymouth DPW Director **Jonathan Beder**, tapped SSRC Director **Galkowski** to bring towns in southeastern Mass. served by the same hauler to discuss common concerns regarding service and pricing. The historically tight recycling markets had exacerbated a situation that all involved hope to resolve. A series of setbacks had long delayed the opening of NBWS' own recycling facility at the Rochester Environmental Park, and the company had requested recycling rate increases that exceeded those permitted by their municipal contracts. There was also concern about disposal ban waivers.

On Jan 18, Galkowski convened ten officials from six towns, and five MassDEP officials at the Southeast Regional Office for a very productive discussion. The towns continue to collaborate, and all hope that NBWS succeeds in opening the Rochester facility next fall.

## RDP funds may be used for high recycling costs

Given the unprecedented recycling cost increases that some municipalities may be incurring due to China's National Sword and the interruption of glass processing service,



MassDEP has decided that municipalities may use Recycling Dividend Program funds to pay for recyclables processing costs that exceed \$49/ton. In other words, if the net processing cost is \$65/ton, RDP funds may be used to pay for \$15 of the \$65/ton cost.

**If your community plans to utilize earned RDP funds for this purpose, please:**

- email [Todd Koep](#) with your recycling cost per ton. This will help MassDEP track the cost of recycling and better understand the fiscal impacts.
- keep track of the amount of RDP funds used for this purpose so you can report on the 2018 RDP Spending Report (in February 2019) in the *Other* category.
- Work to reduce contamination in your recycling stream. Less contamination means less cost if your community pays per ton of recyclables. Start by reviewing MassDEP's [Recycling IQ Kit](#). Then, apply for an IQ Kit Grant. (see [previous article](#))

## Glass recycling halts with Milford plant closure

In January, **Ardagh Group** announced that it will close a glass container production facility in Milford on March 31, due to a decline in the US mass beer market. [BeverageDaily](#) Most Massachusetts glass went to **Strategic Materials** (SMI) in Franklin, where it was cleaned and converted to cullet, and then on to Ardagh to be made into new beer bottles.

With the impending closure, SMI notified most of its non-bottle bill customers that they will no longer accept glass. This has added to the woes of waste managers throughout the region, who

are scrambling to find alternative outlets. Some have received disposal ban waivers from MassDEP.

The SSRC is working with its drop-off towns, the **Northeast Resource Recovery Association** (NRRRA), and **MassDEP** to find an effective solution.

The most viable solution appears to be to pool our source separated glass, and have it crushed and screened to 3/8" minus "processed glass aggregate" (PGA). This is a sandlike material that sheds water better than sand. MassDEP has allowed its use for drainage and construction sub-base applications since 1994.



PGA has been used as such in NH for decades, with reportedly excellent results. The NRRRA contracts with a vendor with specialized mobile equipment that crushes the glass on-site.

This program was explained during a webinar on converting source separated glass to PGA, hosted by MassDEP, and featuring New London, NH DPW Director **Richard Lee**. New London hosts one of several municipal glass crushing sites in NH. Lee has used the material successfully in numerous projects going back thirty years. (see 9 minute [video](#))

Other speakers included **Mike Durfor**, Executive Director of the NRRRA, and **Tom Adamczyk**. Of MassDEP, who explained the universal Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) for PGA.

Our Transfer station towns collectively generate about 2000 tons of glass bottles and jars each year, some commingled with plastic and metal containers. If a host site to convert the glass to PGA is identified, and there are commitments to mix it with traditional aggregate material, the SSRC could administer a program that could save those towns at least \$60,000/year compared with the cost of disposal (which requires a DEP waiver). One of our Towns is working with a consultant to determine the feasibility of hosting a PGA site.

The Director is exploring other options as well.

## **MassDEP addresses recycling challenges**

Email from Brooke Nash, February 5, 2018 (condensed)

MassDEP is keenly aware of the challenges being faced by municipalities, haulers, and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operators as a result of China's National Sword policy. We acknowledge the critical partnership between local government, the hauling and processing industry, regional groups, and state government in maintaining a recycling infrastructure that insures a healthy supply chain of post-consumer materials to domestic and export end-users. Together, we will work through this obstacle to ensure recycling's continued success in Massachusetts.

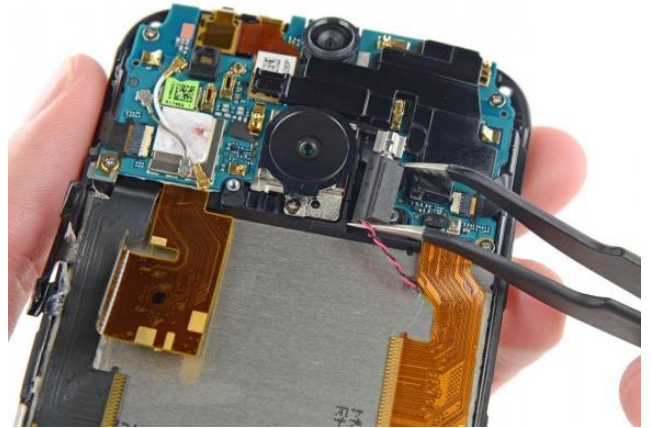
- China's tighter material specifications have affected the world market for recycling, reducing demand and causing over supply. This has driven prices down and affected the ability to move material since China has historically consumed so much material.
- Other factors including the extreme cold weather, temporary closure of the Boston port, high seasonal volumes, a shortage of shipping containers and a regional trucking shortage have created even more challenges to MRF operations.
- MassDEP (is meeting) extensively with MRF operators and haulers relative to processing capacity and market issues.
- MRFs are working extremely hard to modify operations to meet new standards, (locate) alternative markets in Asia and domestically, and install new sorting technology.
- MassDEP's Recycling Business Development Grants (RBDG) offer funding to MRFs to offset technology retrofits. We expect to issue the next application for the RBDG program in spring.
- **Mixed residential paper** and **unsorted plastics** are the materials most affected. Corrugated cardboard, metals, and #1 and #2 plastics are going to domestic markets. Industry observers believe there will be new investments in domestic market capacity. The Association of Plastic Recyclers has launched a program expand demand for recycled resins.
- A key component to adjusting to this new market place is to reduce contamination at home, school, and the workplace. MassDEP's Recycling I.Q. Kit is available to help municipalities implement a boots-on-the-ground program to fight contamination. (see [previous article](#))
- MassDEP is working with MRF operators on a universal "acceptable materials" list to allow consistent messaging across the Commonwealth about what is and isn't recyclable.
- If your community has received a price increase request, we suggest that you: 1) review your contract; 2) ask for supporting documentation to justify the increase; and 3) consider the value of an ongoing relationship when determining your response.
- In some cases, material collected for recycling has had nowhere to go. When no other options are available, MassDEP has authorized **limited and short term disposal** of materials on a case by case basis. This has affected less than 5% of the collected materials. Haulers or MRFs must notify municipal customers if their recyclables are being disposed.
- For communities affected by the impending shut-down of the glass plant in Milford, MassDEP is working to identify other options (see [previous article](#))



Please contact me or [your MAC](#) if you would like to discuss your situation.

## Rep. Cantwell responds to Digital R2R support request

On Dec. 8, the SSRC sent [letters of support](#) for the Digital Right to Repair bill, [H143](#), to members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. Marshfield **Rep. James Cantwell**, a Committee member, sent the following reply:



“Thank you for writing in on this important matter. ...this legislation sets an example for other states to follow, requiring manufacturers to provide diagnostic, repair, and service information to independent technicians and owners of devices. After looking at the bill in its entirety I have decided to support the legislation.

The Digital Right to Repair bill requires manufacturers of digital devices to provide information about our devices that is currently only available to independent technicians that are selected and authorized by the manufacturers. Current monopoly manufacturer’s hold on repair hurts consumers by inflating the cost of repair with incentive to make repair more expensive than replacement.

While I do give my support, I do also recognize the concerns ... about potential security risks for exposing service manuals and diagnostic information as well as the possible threat to IP and trade secrets. In the bill, there are accommodations made, but ones that can only be further worked out to help create balance within the legislation.

Sincerely, James M. Cantwell, State Representative”

### **EVENTS** (click [here](#) for details)

**SSRC Breakfast Meeting**, Thurs., March 1, 2018, Abington Town Hall, 600 Gliniewicz Way

**Southeast Municipal Recycling Council**, Wed., March 14, 8:45-noon, location TBA. Topic: 2020 Solid Waste Master Plan. Rsvp to [Kathi Mirza](#)

**MassRecycle/SWANA SNE R3** conference, Mon, March 26, Sheraton Framingham. Info [here](#).

**SSRC Breakfast Meeting**, Thurs., April 5, location TBA

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