



We're too good for the trash!



SSRC Updates September 2018

[June Board meeting notes, updates](#)

[Miller Recycling](#)

[EBoard election](#)

[Recycling markets, outlets, costs](#)

[SSRC, Member towns, awarded \\$150K in grants](#)

[RECO report: 7 towns in one summer](#)

[Miller Recycling hosts SSRC tour](#)

[Mayors to discuss recycling crisis](#)

[Website traffic, newsletter circulation soaring](#)

[Janine Bishop promoted to Grant program lead](#)

[MassDEP launches "Recycle Smart" campaign](#)

[Shorter recyclable list announced](#)

[MassDEP awards regional glass recycling grants](#)

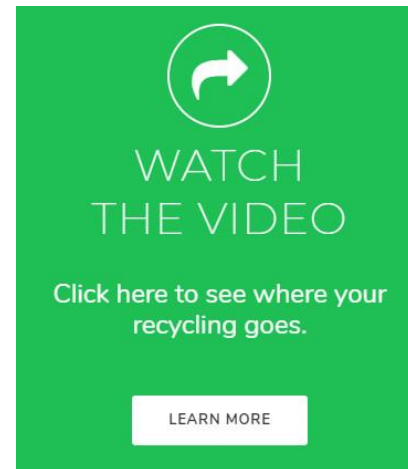
[Tariffs, trade war spurs Chinese investment in US](#)

[Low OCC prices help US mills](#)

[Keep Calm and Recycle On](#)

[Events](#)

Recycle
Smart



June Board meeting notes and updates

Miller Recycling ...

...covered breakfast for our meeting at Abington Town Hall. Twenty colleagues from ten towns were in attendance. The Board welcomed Abington's new Health Agent, **Marty Golightly**.

Veteran recycler **Bob Boucher**, recently hired by Miller, updated us about the 75 year old recycling company, located in Mansfield. Miller has been taking more municipal recyclables in past few months, and provided a very good quote to the SSRC. They accept mixed paper, cardboard, metal and plastic containers, rigid plastics, and some metals at their 86K sf facility. They don't take glass now, but AAA/ Frades Disposal in New Bedford will be processing it soon.

Markets have stabilized, but pricing is low. More separation is better; single stream recycling is tough to sort and move, and they are not equipped to handle it. Tip fees for mixed paper have been at \$25/ton. They have a domestic market for plastics. MR can also take cans separately; rates are adjusted weekly. MR doesn't haul, prices are delivered. Looking at doing roll offs.

Cohasset uses Miller, reported that they are "outstanding". Plymouth also sends there.

MR could do mixed paper/OCC at the mixed paper rate. Only takes commingle without glass. Curbside dual stream, with glass taken separately at a dropoff, is an option.

The Director set up a tour of the facility in August, see [separate article](#).

Contact Mr. Boucher at 508-488-7088, rboucher@millerrecycling.com.

EBoard election

Our current EBoard members were unanimously elected to continue in their roles.

Thanks and congratulations to **Chairman Merle Brown** (Cohasset), **Vice Chairman Paul Basler** (Kingston), **Treasurer Arlene Dias** (Hanson), and **Secretary Gene Wyatt** (Kingston)! Mr. Brown has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman throughout the SSRC's 20 year history.

Recycling markets, outlets, costs:

Miller Recycling: Mr. Boucher noted Chinese inspectors are pre-screening at Miller, inspecting every container load. Moisture content is of particular concern. Overseas mills plan to open recycled pulp mills in the US, then ship product overseas in the next 1-2 years.

EOMS: Mr. Marhoffer reported that markets are in a holding pattern, with no foreseeable changes. EOMS has been through 2 other crashes in the past 25 years, and is in a good position to ride out the storm. Cleaning up contamination is important. Turkey is opening markets.

Pace Glass Recycling: The new NJ company has offered pickup and processing of separated glass for no charge, 3 month quote. 25 ton minimum. Director can help arrange milk runs, and is awaiting a quote for a longer term. There will be a reasonable cost.

Carney tour: a few of us visited the Raynham operation, which grinds and screens glass from municipal programs. Carney is offering a \$20/ton discount to towns that take back and use the ground glass in projects. Showed sample of 1/4" minus processed glass aggregate. See [June newsletter](#) for details and photos.

MassDEP: Developed a new Universal Recycling list in collaboration with 7 of the 8 Mass. single stream MRFs. Back to basic dual stream recyclables, no cartons. DEP has also engaged a public relations firm, will provide synergistic messaging with Recycling IQ kit. (see [related article](#))

Q: Is DEP helping recycling markets in Mass. proactively? A (Mr. Koep): They offer business grants and loans, but market development is up to private industry. There have been no new permit applications in a long time.

SSRC, Member towns awarded \$150K in grants

The Baker-Polito administration announced the award of \$2.6 million in the first round of Sustainable Material Recovery Program grants for 2018. This represents Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) and Small Scale Targeted grants.

With assistance from our MAC **Todd Koep** and Director Galkowski, our towns earned \$150,700 of those grants. RDP awards are based on the number of households served, and on specific aspects of each town’s solid waste program that are considered most effective in reducing the volume and toxicity of municipal waste. Funds will be credited to each town’s budget, and may be spent on a wide range of recycling related expenses.

Abington	Middleboro	Norwell	Plymouth	Rockland	Weymouth	Whitman
\$7,800	\$11,000	\$6,000	\$15,600	\$7,800	\$28,000	\$5,400

Cohasset	Duxbury	Hanson	Hingham	Hull	Kingston	Scituate
\$8,400	\$11,000	\$9,600	\$14,300	\$1,000	\$8,400	\$15,400

[Click here for more details from Mass.gov](#)

RECO Reports

By Julie Sullivan, Recycling Education and Compliance Officer

Curbside contamination tagging:

June marked the start of our OOPS tagging project in **Norwell**. WM leaves contaminated recyclables at the curb, and are rewarded with pickup and a Thank You tag the following week if they clean up their act. During the first week, 20% of target routes were OOPS tagged.

After 4 weeks, contamination rates dropped to 12%. A big thank you is in order for **Ben Margro** and **Brian Flynn** of the Board of Health for going above and beyond to support and defend our work, as well as the drivers and the dispatch team at Waste Management. Read more about the project in [this article](#) from the Norwell Mariner.

I started **Rockland's** curbside tagging project in July, which generated a lot of buzz around town. In the first week, I tagged 29% of bins on some Monday and Tuesday routes. The Board of Health sent letters to repeat offenders warning them that their recycling may not be collected if they continue to contaminate. By the end of August, noncompliance had dropped to 22%, with third offenses at <2%.

Oops tagging in **Whitman began in late August**. If you take a drive through town, you'll see several "Do Not Bag Recyclables" signs posted at major intersections. In the first week, Norwell Board rep **Vicky Spillane** and I left behind educational tags and the contaminated recyclables on 29% of Wed-Fri pilot routes. Tagging will continue through September.

Hauler regulation enforcement:

In late June, 6 of 9 of **Plymouth's** licensed private haulers met with Plymouth DPH, SSRC staff, and concerned residents at the fabulous new Town Hall. Topics included the requirements of

Plymouth's private hauler regs, logistics of quarterly reporting, outreach for customers, and a new by-law targeting folks posing as haulers and dumping their waste in Plymouth.

I then collaborated with Health Director **Nate Horwitz-Willis** and assistant **Margaret Coe** to make it easier for haulers to comply. Recycling information for customers and a fillable PDF version of the private hauler checklist were added to the ["Private Hauling" section of the Plymouth DPH website](#), distilled from the regulation.

Subsequently, I met with Nate and DPW Director **Jonathan Beder**, Assistant Director **Silvio Genao**, and Administrative Assistant **Rachel Newell** about revising the regs to streamline private hauler enforcement between the two departments.

I'm working with **Joyce Sullivan** of the **Hull BOH** and **Craig Wolfe** of the **Hull Rotary Club** to set up a presentation on recycling for residents this month. I'm using the new materials from MassDEP's [Recycle Smart](#) outreach initiative.

Transfer station prep:

At the end of August, I visited the **Scituate** Transfer Station to perform a baseline assessment. Plastic bag contamination was afoot in the commingled recyclables, so I am designing outreach materials, and plan on beginning my patrol in late September.

One year follow ups:

In Hingham, the "Trash Only/No Recycling" and "Do Not Bag Recyclables" signs were still proudly on display. 82% of Hingham residents stopped at the recycling area, compared to 77% at the beginning of last year's project and 86% at the end, so some of our progress held! Transfer Station Foreman **Steve Messinger** reported that the educational handouts I left behind were very helpful for the residents. Keep up the good work, Hingham DPW!

In Cohasset, Assistant Foreman **Tony Fernandes** reported that PAYT compliance remained high after our project ended and TS staff continue to submit license plate numbers of violators to the DPW for enforcement. PAYT compliance is still higher than when I began the project last summer! The "Do Not Bag Recyclables" sign is now hung by the Plastics recycling area, and fewer residents leave bagged materials behind as a result. Cohasset Police were at the TS in the fall to enforce facility stickers, which Cohasset had struggled to enforce. 82% of residents stopped to recycle - the same rate as at the outset of last year's project. Last year's project ended with 88% of residents recycling, so we lost some ground, but remained steady.

Miller Recycling hosts tour

After business manager **Bob Boucher** [spoke at our June meeting](#), the Board requested a tour of the Miller Recycling facility in Mansfield. In August, he and President **Randy Miller** opened the doors of their 80K square foot facility to several SSRC folks.

The company's staff of 25 maintain a well organized, clean and flexible operation, moving 200 tons of material per day. 1200 solar panels provide half the power to its massive balers and other equipment to prepare material for resale. A CSX rail spur helps them efficiently move material to markets.

Most of the material Miller handles comes from commercial entities, such as baled boat shrink wrap, densified expanded polystyrene and returned auto parts. Commercial organics are transformed into animal feed or compost. Document shredding by sister company **Northeast Data Destruction** is done in a secure area.



Recently Miller has been expanding its service of municipal recycling programs for sorted cardboard, paper, and non-glass containers. Several of our dropoff towns are sending their material to Miller, which can provide containers and compactors.

Miller strives to put materials to their highest use as locally as possible, putting reusable items online for resale, or sending to an antique shop in Pawtucket. This approach brings the highest value and lowest environmental impact. Paper is sold to the Erving Industries mill in western Mass. to be recycled into tissue products. See photos [here](#).

Mayors to discuss Recycling Crisis

By Rosemary Nolan, July 24, 2018

I have been conducting research via public and private agencies/companies to learn of options to manage the recycling crisis. I have gathered information from other states and communities in Canada. I am keeping tabs on what the MRF's are proposing and what is expected of municipalities. I have read reports from consulting firms that were presented to communities.

I am preparing a report for a meeting that **Mayor Sullivan** of Braintree is hosting in conjunction with MMA on Sept 26. About 40 Mayors and Town Managers are expected to attend.

The report will be presented by my colleague **Jeff Kunz** on behalf of the Mayor at that meeting, to encourage the MMA to carry the ball forward, as they have the strength and contacts.

The goal is to form a Task Force that will approach our State Legislators, support MassDEP to enable them to do more (as DEP has had major budget and staff cuts over the past 10 years), and engage a university to conduct a 3-6 month study involving potential scenarios, all for the purpose of alleviating the escalating financial burden of municipalities.

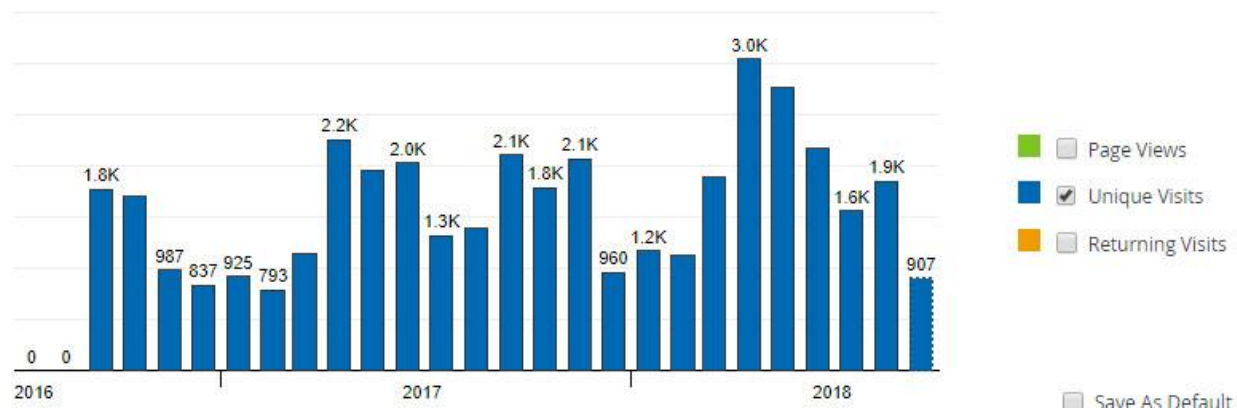
The study by the university would be funded by MMA or the Commonwealth and would address the loss of the China market, creating domestic demand for recycling commodities by

the processing companies' corporate structures, legislative steps, effective ways to deal with the public, and alternative uses for recycling materials.

Website traffic, newsletter circulation hit records

The SSRC's website, ssrcoop.info, logged a record [3000 visits](#) in April, 74% of them from new visitors. Possible drivers: 10 weeks of radio PSAs on WATD 95.9 FM, and 4 months of professional Facebook management, thanks to grants from MassDEP and Covanta SEMASS. Traffic has been increasing steadily year over year, with spikes in spring and fall. September is on track to hit 2700 visits, averaging 90 visits/day, mostly new (not returning).

And as of July 23, our Mailchimp subscriber list to the SSRC Updates **hit 500**, without even trying! The list has grown by over 200 since we started using Mailchimp in late 2014.



Janine Bishop promoted to new Grant Program lead

Our dear former Municipal Assistance Coordinator, Janine (Delaney) Bishop has accepted the position of Municipal Recycling Grant Manager in the Municipal Waste Reduction Branch at MassDEP. This position was vacated when **Tina Klein** retired last April. Congratulations to Janine on this promotion!

Janine and the rest of the Municipal Branch team have been hard at work evaluating the 2018 municipal grant applications and preparing award recommendations for the Commissioner's office. The first round of grant awards were announced recently, see [related article](#).

MassDEP launches "Recycle Smart" campaign, new list

Aug. 21, 2018, [Cole Rosengren](#), Waste Dive (excerpts)

- Massachusetts residents will now be asked to "Recycle Smart", a new statewide campaign funded by MassDEP. The initiative was launched at an event in Salem by **Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito**, MassDEP **Commissioner Martin Suuberg** and **Mayor Kim Driscoll**.

- The campaign centers around a **new list of recommended materials for recycling** programs to accept throughout the state. This doesn't include some common items, such as **cartons and plastic clamshells** but still includes glass. Items are searchable on a [newly created website](#).

MassDEP will put \$350,000 behind this campaign for 2018, bringing in PR firm Solomon McCown. The process began by consulting with MRF operators in December 2017, as market effects appeared as a result of China's scrap import policies, and disposal waivers started getting issued.

... focus group participants (were) particularly struck by the human element of MRF sorters having to deal with contamination. This angle is present in some of the Recycle Smart campaign materials in an effort to bring more attention to the post-curb safety consequences of poor recycling habits.

The new campaign is expected to include billboards and commercials, as well as free publicity via local media, and will serve as a complement to MassDEP's existing Recycling IQ Kit program. [More](#)



MassDEP awards grants for regional glass recycling

July 25, 2018

BOSTON –To help communities fill a gap in the glass recycling market, the Baker- Polito Administration today awarded \$257,000 to the towns of **Dennis and Groton** for development of regional glass processing facilities that will turn recycled glass into a useful product.

The closure of a large bottling manufacturer in Milford has had a significant impact on regional outlets for glass collected through most municipal recycling programs. MassDEP is working with private industry and local governments to establish new markets for recovered glass and support the local production of processed glass aggregate (PGA). PGA is approved for use as a construction or road-base aggregate material that can be used in public works operations.

The glass facility awards are part of the Commonwealth's SMRP, created under the Green Communities Act that directs a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates to recycling programs approved by MassDEP.

Tariffs, trade war spurs Chinese investment in US plants

By **Heather van Blokland**, KJZZ , Tuesday, September 4, 2018 (excerpts)

China's latest round of retaliatory tariffs against the U.S. includes "recovered fiber materials," basically, recycled paper, the newspapers and cardboard that we put in the recycle bin. ...

The tariff announcement hits an already weakened recycling industry after China announced it would no longer import (many) recycled goods from the United States earlier this year....

Some businesses are not waiting for the governments to resolve the dispute. China's largest paper manufacturer has asserted itself by buying up U.S. paper mills. That allows it to not only sell directly within the U.S. and also to ship paper remanufactured in the U.S. mills back to China without paying a tariff. [More](#)

Low OCC prices benefit U.S. mills

by [Colin Staub](#), Resource Recycling, August 14, 2018 (excerpts)

As more Chinese import restrictions roll in, domestic mills continue to pay less for recovered fiber..

The top North American publicly traded recovered fiber end users reported that benefits (from China;s import restrictions), such as lower feedstock costs, continued through the second quarter.

Most of the big players are also discussing potential strategies to supply Chinese producers with finished product made from recycled paper. China's manufacturers are struggling.

According to [the latest figures](#), the national average price for OCC is currently \$70.63 per ton and mixed paper is at \$1.56 per ton. [More](#).

Keep Calm and Recycle On: The Sky Isn't Falling

Recycling is a dynamic process forced to change as products evolve and markets fluctuate.

[Chaz Miller](#), Director, National Waste and Recycling Association, Waste360, Jul 17, 2018 (excerpts)

Recycling is in the news and not in a good way. Newspapers and television news shows are full of stories about its apparent death. If they are right, then recycling is doomed in this country. The good news is they are wrong.

...Recycling is not dying. Recycling is a dynamic process forced to change as products evolve and markets fluctuate. Recycling will successfully cope with these latest, very challenging, changes. But this time, can we learn from the past so that I don't have to recycle this column in response? [More](#)

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

12 Sep 2018, 09:00AM - 12:00PM, [MassRecycle Southeast Municipal Recycling Council](#)

13 Sep 2018, 08:50AM - 10:30AM, [SSRC Breakfast Meeting](#)

23 Oct 2018, 06:00PM - 08:00PM, [MASSRECYCLE 4th Annual Celebration & Fundraiser](#)
