



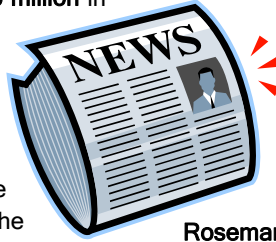
# SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE NEWS

Summer 2006

Serving the Communities of Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth and Whitman

## Paper campaign gets headlines

The news that South Shore towns spent over **\$2.6 million** in '05 to trash **36,000 tons of recyclable paper products** made the front page of the **Patriot Ledger**, and was reported by Sandy Coleman in the **Globe South Weekly** too. The SSRC released the results of the study, which was funded through a **grant from MassDEP** as part of an outreach effort to recover more paper and cardboard from the waste stream. The trashed paper would fill a football field to a height of 75 feet!



The figures were based on a [2002 Tellus Institute report](#), which estimated the relative quantities of the components of Mass. solid waste by weight. In the municipal waste stream, 31.5% of all the trash, recycling and yard waste is paper and cardboard. Using this estimate, our member towns, recycled paper only composed about 10.2% of total MSW, based on 2005 municipal data reported to DEP. So, less than **1/3 of our recyclable paper was captured for recycling**. Our three PAYT towns, however, captured 60% of their residents' paper.

The study also concludes that if that paper had been recycled, the towns could have earned up to \$400,000 in rebates, due to high demand. The 17,214 tons of paper and cardboard that was reported as recycled returned over \$50,000 to town coffers. (see [table](#), page 8). While details of tonnages and calculations may be debated forever, the message is clear: **there is still a lot of paper being thrown away, and it's costing a lot of money.**

**What else did we do about it?** To start, the **IBEW Local 103** agreed to put our "Recycle More Paper" message on their

electronic sign, next to their exemplary wind turbine on the SE Expressway.

We didn't just talk about Recycling More Paper, we showed that that it isn't just for newspapers at **six paper shredding/ recycling events** throughout June. With generous hours of our Municipal Assistance Coordinator **Rosemary Nolan's** time, help from Mass-DEP's grant lady **Amy Roth**, and \$13K in grant money, we set up, advertised and ran the events. It wasn't easy, but with donations of on-site shredding service by [Recall Secure Destruction Services, Inc.](#) in Milford, parking lot space from [Staples, Inc.](#), and help from Board members **Tom Burnett, Helga Jorgenson, Nancy Kramer and Bob Griffin**, residents shredded 10.5 tons of documents. We polled them on how they heard about the events (press release, newspaper or radio ads, signs, cable bulletin,...) and what they knew about paper recycling, and gave out refrigerator magnets showing how easy it is to recycle many more kinds of paper than was possible even a few years ago. (We have . . . several left!)

We also put up "**Recycle More Paper**" signs and banners, made by **South Shore Sign** in Marshfield, which you should have seen in your travels.

Preliminary results, with 8 towns reporting, show a 9% increase in paper recovery from June 05 to June 06, and a 5% dip in tons disposed!

## Capital Paper Recycling a local option

**Craig Lovett** of **Capital Paper Recycling** described the company's strategy for optimizing office recycling at our June Board meeting. Founded In 1989, Capital has the biggest market share of greater Boston high rises, and services public, private and municipal buildings. Estimating that every 100 employees generate 31 tons of paper waste/year, most clients reduce disposal costs when they implement a recycling program with CPR, which provides equipment ranging from desk bins to compactors and tailored marketing materials to educate property managers, cleaning crews and tenants. CPR picks up and transports paper to its Weymouth facility where it is sorted, baled, and shipped to paper mills.

New client services include an audit to estimate equipment and bin needs. They will determine best practices, set goals, educate property managers, staff, custodians, and implement the program with a kickoff. They then monitor and report on results, which typically show a significant increase in recycling and a 36% reduction in disposal costs. They also provide shredding services, and have compactors, bins and equipment available for monthly rental.

CPR would like to provide trash, recycling and shredding services to our municipal buildings and transfer stations (but not curbside programs). Craig can be reached at **781-844-4845** or at [craig@cprecycling.com](mailto:craig@cprecycling.com).

## Hull schools win paper contest

Submitted by **Nancy Kramer, Hull**

The **Hull School District Office** and **Hull Memorial Middle School** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Boston Area in [Abitibi Paper Retriever's](#)® 2006 Great Paper Drive, winning \$500 for Hull schools, in addition to the regular rebates from the paper collected. The Paper Drive ran from March 1 through April 30. 327 organizations that collected the most paper in their green and yellow Abitibi containers in the U.S. and Canada won prizes from \$200 to \$2,000.

Sixteen Abitibi containers are also retrieving paper at schools in **Hanover, Hingham, Rockland, Scituate and Whitman**, as well as churches, Stop & Shops and other places of business in SSRC towns. They captured 38 tons combined this June!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast the best yet

### Sen. Robert Hedlund receives award

The SSRC's 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast packed Cameron's on the Green on May 12. **Reps. Tom O'Brien and Kathleen Teahan**, and Monica Mullin from **Sen. Murray's** office met with municipal solid waste managers. Chairman **Merle Brown** of Cohasset introduced esteemed guest speaker **Rep. Frank Smizik** of Brookline, Chairman of the Joint Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

Chairman Smizik acknowledged that recycling and solid waste management are pressing issues. Noting that "the financial burden of managing 300,000 tons per year of electronics waste has been heavy on municipalities", his Committee sent the Electronics Takeback Bill to the Senate for a vote. Smizik is encouraged that House Speaker DiMasi recently brought the first environmental bill in 6 years, which restricts the sale of products containing mercury and requires manufacturers to provide recycling for them, to a vote (which passed! See related article, page 4).

Executive Director **Claire Sullivan** played one of 30 radio ads that had been airing since November, and displayed the previous day's front page article about the cost of wasting paper on the South Shore (see page 1). Noting the importance of State grants for such efforts, she outlined the Cooperative's legislative priorities, including increases in the recycling budget for State leadership in waste reduction efforts, updating the Bottle Bill and end of life product responsibility by manufacturers.

Vice Chairman **Steven Herrmann** of Hanover noted the waxing and waning enthusiasm with which recycling has been embraced by the public. "We seem to be reverting to a more environmentally and socially conscious time, and as a result the environment is getting better, thanks to people like **John McNabb**". He presented McNabb with a plaque for his twelve year involvement with the SSRC and its predecessor, the SSRDPPB. McNabb was instrumental in the creation of the SSRC as an independent government entity, and served as secretary from 1998-2005.

McNabb presented **Sen. Robert Hedlund** with the SSRC's fifth "Environmental Hero" award, noting his role in the creation of the Cooperative and his support of solutions to the growing burden of solid waste management on member towns. Sen. Hedlund has sponsored budget amendments to increase funding for recycling, a bill requiring retailers to take back unused non-latex paint, the Electronic Waste Takeback bill noted by Rep. Smizik, and the Updated Bottle Bill.

In his acceptance speech, Sen. Hedlund pointed out the prevalence of Boy Scout leaders and Eagle Scouts in the SSRC leadership, as well as himself and Rep. O'Brien, and reminded us of the Boy Scout rule to "Leave the campsite a better place than you found it". "I feel passionate about these issues, and want to thank the SSRC for this honor and their continued efforts in promoting recycling," he said.



Sen. Hedlund joins **Reps. Kathleen Teahan** (D-Whitman), **Tom O'Brien** (D-Kingston), **Robert Koczera** (D-New Bedford), and **Mark Carron** (D-Southbridge), our other "Environmental Heroes".

*Sen. Hedlund, John McNabb, Rep. Smizik, Rep. O'Brien, Merle Brown, Monica Mullin, Steve Herrmann, Rep. Teahan; Claire Sullivan, Joanne Dirk*

## New HHP flyers correct mistakes in old ones

Fabulous new flyers for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Household Hazardous Product collections are ready for distribution. They will replace last spring's batch, which have 3 wrong dates, and one smaller batch that indicates Sept 30 as Norwell's date. I'm still not sure how the errors occurred, but apologize for the confusion. The corrected flyer is included with this newsletter, and will be available in quantity at the August 17 meeting. The dates on the website were corrected when the error was discovered.

Attendance at our seven spring HHP collections was up, at 1,365 cars, with 47 visitors. The total for 2005 was 2,439.

Don't forget that the new contract rate is **\$42/car**, up from the \$40 we have paid for the past 2 years. Clean motor (and heating) oil will be billed at the bulk rate of \$75/55 gallon drum.

## New SSBRPartners



Welcome to our newest "members" of the South Shore Business Recycling Partnership:

[The South Shore YMCA](#) of Hanover,

[Koko Fitness Equipment](#) in Norwell, and

[A.G. Edwards](#) investment advisors, also in Norwell.

## Hull hires Fournier as DPW Director...

You may recall him as the guy who set up shrink wrap recycling at our marinas. Or the man from WasteCap of Mass. who helped us establish the South Shore Business Recycling Partnership. Now the Town of Hull will benefit from hometown "boy" **Marc Fournier's** high energy and long experience with staff, grounds and solid waste management in his capacity as its newly hired DPW Director.

He has his work cut out for him, as the newly defined position, formerly held by Highway Dept. Supt. Edward "Skippy" Parent, has been unoccupied for well over a year. And in addition to the Highway Dept. responsibilities, Fournier inherited the management of the Recycling Center, landfill and household hazardous product collection from the Sewer Dept.

Fournier has hit the ground running, and will surely benefit from the experiences of the other area solid waste managers and the SSRC. Welcome, Marc!

## ... and harnesses the power of the wind

In other news, the Town of Hull erected a second wind turbine on the old Hull landfill. Combined with the first turbine on Windmill Point, the 1.8 MW of electricity the turbine generates will provide 12% of Hull's total electrical power needs.

## Concord school furniture reused in Jamaica

The Town of Concord just completed construction of a new elementary school. Rather than discard the old school furniture, Recycling and Waste Program Administrator **Ann Dorfman** contacted Tim Moriarty at **Food For The Poor**, [www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org) (1-800-427-9104). At no cost, they provided two shipping containers to ship 112 desks, 350 chairs, 60 tables, 35 book cases, and more to their organization in Jamaica. The contractor coordinating the school move took responsibility for loading the containers. This was easy and saved thousands of dollars in container and disposal costs.

Ann's number is 978-318-3241, [ann.dorfman@concordnet.org](mailto:ann.dorfman@concordnet.org)

## LOCAL Duxbury takes trash for credit (or debit)



The town of Duxbury just made it easier for residents to pay to dispose of construction and demolition (C&D) debris at the Transfer Station. In addition to checks, beginning August 2 **credit and debit cards** are accepted. All Duxbury needed was a cell phone line and a portable \$1,000 **Lipman Nurit 8000 Retriever payment system**, which sends the payment directly to the General Fund.

After reviewing other towns' fee structures, DPW Director **Tom Daley** also recommended adjusting the fee structure for C&D. There is now a \$5 charge for plumbing fixtures, and for each 30 gallon barrel of C&D over the new one barrel limit. Pickup truck rates range from \$25-\$70/load, depending on truck size and whether it's "level loaded" or "heaping". Larger loads are charged \$140/ton, with a \$70 minimum.

Previously, a vehicle with a sticker was allowed to dispose of up to 4 barrels of C&D per day, with a loosely enforced \$70 per load minimum for truckloads.

In the first week, Daley saw a **50% reduction** in the 27 tons/week of C&D disposed, and a **\$1000 increase** in revenue actually collected, now that only one free barrel per day is allowed.

## Marshfield raises commercial, C&D rate

Marshfield's Solid Waste Advisory Committee analyzed costs and revenue streams of the Town's curbside and dropoff solid waste program. It identified waste brought to the transfer station by private haulers and residents as showing a net loss, so on July 1, the commercial rate to dispose was raised from \$125/ton to \$150/ton, with a \$100 minimum.

Residential vouchers to dispose of construction and demolition debris also increased from \$25 to \$100 per trip. This change is necessary to pay for the increased cost for receiving, handling, transporting and disposing of C & D debris as required by new MA DEP Waste Bans.

Payment must be made by check in the exact amount before access is allowed; commercial haulers can also establish a pre-paid account that is debited at each visit.

## Hull BOH approves hauler recycling reg

The Hull Board of Health voted to update its 1981 trash hauler permit requirements to comply with State Waste Ban regulations (310 CMR 19.017) on June 8. SSRC Board member **Nancy Kramer** volunteered to draft the new regulations, using Marshfield's as a guide. The Hull Health Board reviewed this and other changes at several meetings, which Kramer and SSRC Executive Director Sullivan attended.

The new rules require waste haulers to **include recycling** in their collection service, and to provide recycling containers at a cost set by the hauler. Permittees must also provide bulky and yard waste collection (at cost to customers).

The Board increased waste hauler permit fees from \$50 to \$100/company in November, after a survey of other towns' fees by Kramer and Sullivan. The new rules take effect in January 2007, when current permits expire.

## STATE

### Mercury phase-out bill becomes law

Gov. Romney signed legislation to curb mercury pollution in Mass. on July 28. *An Act Relative to Mercury Management*, will reduce emissions resulting from the use and disposal of mercury-containing products. The bill was first filed in the Mass. legislature in 2001 by Rep. Doug Petersen (D-Marblehead) and Sen. Susan Tucker (D-Andover). After several false starts, it passed unanimously in the House and Senate this year. As Rep. Frank Smizik, Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Nat'l Resources and Agriculture pointed out at our Legislative Breakfast in May, this is the first significant environmental bill passed in 6 years in Massachusetts.

"I'm proud that Massachusetts is finally joining the growing number of states around the country who are seeking to end this preventable toxic pollution," said sponsor Rep. Petersen. Five New England states lead the nation on eliminating mercury; other states across the country are now following suit with similar laws.

In its final version, the bill phases out the use of mercury-containing thermostats, switches, and blood pressure cuffs (all which have non-mercury alternatives). It also requires manufacturers of those products to set up and finance collection pro-grams to keep discarded products out of the waste stream, and car makers must capture mercury switches (used in trunk and hood lights). Finally, fluorescent lamp manufacturers must educate the public about the mercury content and proper disposal of the lamps. If 70% recycling by 2011 is not reached, they must provide grants to municipalities to collect them.

Mercury is a neurotoxin linked to learning disabilities and developmental delays in children, and heart, nervous system and kidney damage in adults. Mercury enters the environment mainly via waste incinerators and power plants. Massachusetts' 5 largest incinerators together emit 587 pounds of mercury a year according to DEP data.

### State Recycling Budget status quo

Despite requests by SSRC and MassRecycle every step of the way, the State's Recycling Budget line item (2010-0100) barely got a cost of living raise from the FY06 funding level. Even requests for a budget amendment to some of our "environmental heroes" and others who have paid lip service to the importance of funding this function were turned down.

Before the Romney administration zapped most dedicated funds, and the fiscal crisis in 2003, Statewide recycling efforts by MassDEP and EOEAs were funded by unclaimed bottle deposits, which went into the Clean Environment Fund (CEF). The \$36M/year collected from that source now goes straight to the General Fund. The highest funding level for waste reduction efforts at the State level was \$15.8M in FY02. Momentum to create sustainable waste management infrastructure, local markets and behavior change has since slowed to a crawl.

Ironically, the Executive Director was so busy with a grant project that nearly swallowed her up, which was funded by this line item, she didn't have time to make a personal pitch for more funding at the critical times. It's hard to say if it would have helped.

The final budget for FY07 included \$2.36M for "recycling and related purposes", about \$20,000 more than FY06. DEP did get a significant, much needed "raise" though, from \$30 million to \$34 million. But funding for the Department in general and for waste reduction in particular are still far below 2002 levels in real dollars.

Massachusetts ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per capita spending on the environment.

*Editorial: I hope some of that \$4 million trickles down to help our waste reduction efforts.*

### E-Waste bill still alive

H4764, *An Act to Require Producer Responsibility for the Collection and Recycling of Discarded Electronic Equipment*, is still being considered at the State House. The bill requires producers of desktop and laptop computers, flat panel and CRT TVs, printers, scanners, and other peripherals to pay for collecting and recycling their equipment, thus providing a financial incentive to redesign their products to be non-toxic, more durable, and easier to recycle. The legislation also requires labor and environmental standards for recycling, which would reduce the practice of exporting our e-waste to developing countries.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the bill was reported favorably by the Committee on Environment, Nat'l Resources & Agriculture, and went to the House Committee on Ways & Means, chaired by Rep. DeLeo of Winthrop. The bill had not come to the floor for a vote by the end of the formal legislative session in July. However, Kara Reeve at Clean Water Action reports that they met two weeks before the end of the session with Ways and Means staff, a Chief Policy Counsel from the Speaker's office, and with Chairman DeLeo himself.

No legislators have voiced objections to the legislation, and Ways and Means staff indicated that the Bill could still pass during informal session, which ends December 31st.



## Executive director presses Guv candidates on recycling

Executive director Claire Sullivan has polled six gubernatorial candidates, three in person, about their positions on the role of State government in waste reduction and recovery of recyclables. She met Democrat **Deval Patrick** (for the second time), Independent **Christy Mihos** and Green Rainbow candidate **Grace Ross** at the **Environmental Gubernatorial Forum** at MIT on July 12. Democrat **Chris Gabrieli** also participated in the debate, which was hosted by *Living on Earth's Steve Curwood*. Attorney General **Tom Reilly** was busy with the tunnel disaster, and Lt. Governor **Kerry Healey** had declined the invitation.

The candidates all demonstrated a respectable knowledge of environmental issues, although solid waste management did not come up specifically. Sullivan was prepared with a one-pager entitled "**The State of Waste in Massachusetts**", which she delivered to all the candidates as President of MassRecycle (insert).

To date, only Mr. Gabrieli has responded:

"Conservation and recycling are critical components of any environmental effort. Unfortunately, these aspects have been overlooked by the Romney-Healey administration. It is time for the Commonwealth to be a leader in the integration of statewide recycling programs and the job-creating industries that support these efforts. As governor, I look forward to working with MassRecycle and cities and towns across the state to improve their recycling capabilities, while also encouraging residents to take advantage of the opportunity to recycle and contribute to our environmental well-being."



## NRRA reaches more Mass. recyclers at Silver Anniversary Conference

MassRecycle's partnership with the **Northeast Resource Recovery Association's (NRRA)** on their **25th Annual Recycling Conference** in Nashua, NH succeeded in bringing more of us from "south of the border" to their always-excellent show. A track of workshops focused on Massachusetts issues, and instructors flew in from Arizona to conduct two SWANA transfer station certification courses, which ran the entire week.

The Executive Director hasn't missed this conference in six years. She gave a Power Point presentation on the paper campaign (see page 1), and came away with a better understanding of several old and new waste reduction strategies. A few lessons, in a nutshell:

- **RecycleBank** rewards residents that have **single stream recycling**;
- EPA enthusiastically **supports PAYT** [\[see article page 6\]](#)
- **Food and yard waste co-collection** are on the horizon;
- The relationship between **trash and global warming** can be [quantified](#).
- **Demonstration of how life cycle costs** of consumer products far exceed just their end of life management.

Mark your calendar now for next year's Conference, **June 4 & 5**, at the Nashua Sheraton again. It is time well spent!

## FY07 DEP Muni WR Grants

MassDEP continues to be creative in stretching its few recycling/waste reduction grant dollars. New/improved grant items include:

- Public area recycling containers- **3 new types**
- **Waste Reduction Outreach Toolkits**
- Diesel vehicle retrofitting, **also for off road construction vehicles**
- **Climate Protection projects (TA)** – membership in ICLEI (*U.S. Cities for Climate Protection*) is required ([www.iclei.org/usa](http://www.iclei.org/usa)) (*Executive Director's note: it's a good idea to join this important effort anyway!*)

Grant items "recycled" from previous years:

- Wheeled recycling carts
- Consumer education (calendars/postage, program info, junk mail reduction)
- PAYT- Waste Reduction financial assistance
- Compost bins
- Kitchen scrap buckets
- Healthy lawn workshop
- Rain barrels (\$10 discount off wholesale), water conservation kits (also available through MWRA)
- School recycling assistance (Green Team)
- School Chemical Management
- Idling reduction campaign toolkit (workshop attendance is mandatory). For more info go to [www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/)

**Technical Assistance (TA)** grants for waste reduction projects will continue to be offered too, both with and without financial assistance.

Although only one application is accepted per municipality, **applicants are encouraged to share the opportunity with other departments** that may benefit, i.e. BOH, DPW, recycling committee, electric and water departments, school superintendent, planning board and watershed groups.

TA applications submitted by August 15 will be considered first. The general drop-deadline for receipt of all applications is **Sept. 15, 5 pm** if by mail, **midnight** if submitted through eDEP, which they encourage. Go to [mass.gov/dep/service/compliance/edeponlf.htm](http://mass.gov/dep/service/compliance/edeponlf.htm). The Executive Director took copious notes at a grant workshop on eDEP, which she'd be glad to share. DEP's **Steve White** is also available for technical support at **617-574-6888**.

**Faxing grant applications is not an option.**

## EPA study confirms PAYT impact

A 2005 recycling participation study conducted for the MassDEP confirmed that Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) is a very effective waste reduction tool. Among the phone survey's most significant findings:

	PAYT	Non-PAYT	All communities
Residents say they always recycle	60%	39%	
Residents say they always recycle newspapers	91%	73%	
Residents recycle more because of PAYT	35%	n/a	
Would recycle more if they had to pay for trash but got free recycling	n/a	59%	
Never recycle now, but would if PAYT	n/a	75%	
Feel that recycling benefits society			89%
Feel that recycling benefits their community			84%
Know that paper is banned from disposal			11%
Know that bottles and cans are banned			15%
Know that leaves and yard waste are banned			30%
Know that CRTs are banned from disposal			60%

Regardless of what residents claimed to be their motivation, the recycling rates for in PAYT communities are consistently higher than those in non-PAYT communities. The EPA study concluded that communities in Massachusetts that do not currently use PAYT could certainly benefit from it.

## EVENTS

- \* \*\* **SSRC MSW Manager Meeting**, Thurs., Aug. 17, 1 pm, Marshfield Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- \* \*\* **Marshfield Fair Recycling Volunteer setup**, Thurs., Aug. 17, 3 pm, Marshfield Fairgrounds, Rt. 3A; Ann McGovern, 617-292-5834; [annmcgovern@state.ma.us](mailto:annmcgovern@state.ma.us)
- \* \*\* **Marshfield Fair**, Fri., Aug. 18-Sun., Aug. 27
- \* \*\* **SSRC MSW Manager Meeting**, Wed., Sept. 13, 9 am, Hull?
- \* \*\* **DEP Municipal Waste Reduction Grant Application deadline**, Fri., Sept. 15, hard copies must be received by 5 pm by Amy Roth, MassDEP, 1 Winter St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor (no faxing); eDEP applications must be submitted by midnight.
- \* \*\* **SWANA Mass. Chapter Solid Waste Conference**, Oct. 16-17, Sturbridge, MA
- \* \*\* **EPP Vendor Fair and Conference**, Wed., Oct. 25, DCU Center, Worcester, MA; Marcia Deegler, MA OSD, 617-720-3356; [Marcia.deegler@osd.state.ma.us](mailto:Marcia.deegler@osd.state.ma.us)

***"We have to act together to solve this global crisis. Our ability to live is what is at stake"***  
-Al Gore, in "An Inconvenient Truth"

## The State of Waste in Massachusetts

- Over **12 million tons** of solid waste/year is generated in Massachusetts. About **half is recovered** through recycling, composting and reuse, including asphalt, brick and concrete, yard waste, metal, paper and plastic, TVs, car batteries, white goods and tires. Most of these materials are banned by regulation from disposal, but . . .
- **Well over half of our recyclable commodities** (paper, metal, plastic,...) **still wind up in the trash**<sup>1</sup>. About **1.5 million tons of recyclable paper alone** is buried or burned, at a cost in excess of **\$110 M/year**. This wasted material has a **commodity value of over \$75 million**.
- Of the >6 million tons of materials disposed in Mass./year, **1.5-2 million tons is exported** to other states, as we lack the capacity to manage it in state. This **unsustainable practice** is why the Mass. DEP's **Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan** ([www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/regs.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/regs.htm)) recommends **less disposal, more recycling and more use of recycled products**, and no net export of trash.
- **Producing virgin products** from raw materials, and **disposing in landfills and incinerators** file:///C:/Documents and Settings/Claire Sullivan/My Documents/My Web Sites/ssrc/images/no trash.gif produce much greater amounts of pollutants than recycling and composting do, including **greenhouse gasses, mercury and dioxin**. Recycling also requires far less **energy** than producing virgin products.
- **1,437 recycling businesses** and organizations in Massachusetts provide **19,500 jobs** with an annual payroll of \$557 M, and **\$3.5 B in receipts**.<sup>2</sup>

### Funding for Recycling in Massachusetts has taken a nosedive:

- The **Clean Environment Fund (CEF)** was created in 1990 by the Legislature to fund recycling, composting, and waste reduction infrastructure, outreach and programs through EOEA and DEP. Funded by unclaimed bottle deposits, it took in over **\$37M in FY05**, and had a **surplus of \$25M** when it was **absorbed into the General Fund** as proposed by Gov. Romney.
- The appropriation for recycling (line item 2010-0100) peaked in **FY02 at \$15.8 M**, but dropped to **\$2.1M in FY04**. The FY07 Budget stands at \$2.3M.
- In its heyday, this line item funded **Municipal Recycling Incentive Programs**, grants for municipal recycling equipment such as roll-off containers, mailings to residents, and municipal trainings. Now, the reduced line item maintains support staff of about 25, who set waste policy and provide technical assistance to municipalities, private sector and nonprofits. Grants are minimal.
- DEP has been doing a lot with a little, but the efforts pale in comparison with what needs to be done to achieve sustainable waste management programs in Massachusetts.

The Evolution of the Waste Can



## Recommendations:

- **Increase funding** for Statewide recycling programs (Line Item 2010-0100) to 2002 levels of \$15M/year
- **Reinstate the Clean Environment Fund** (MGL Ch 94 Section 323F), and redirect it to its original purpose of funding for that line item. Wise use of this money would revive the development of recycling infrastructure and education, and increase recovery of useful materials currently disposed by up to 2.5 million tons per year.
- **Raise the bottle deposit handling fee** paid by distributors to redemption centers from \$.0225 to \$.03/unit, and use the \$1.375M subsidy the redemption centers now receive to fund other recycling related programs and services that have greater impact.

For more information, go to [ssrc.info/solid\\_waste\\_primer.htm](http://ssrc.info/solid_waste_primer.htm).

- Claire L. Sullivan,  
President, MassRecycle [www.massrecycle.org](http://www.massrecycle.org)  
Executive Director, South Shore Recycling Cooperative [www.ssrc.info](http://www.ssrc.info)  
508-785-8318; [ssrcclaire@comcast.net](mailto:ssrcclaire@comcast.net)

<sup>1</sup> Tellus Institute report, "Waste Reduction Program Assessment and Analysis for Mass." 2003  
(<http://www.tellus.org/index.asp?action=4> )

<sup>2</sup> [www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/econbene.doc](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/econbene.doc)

## PAPER WASTE ON THE SOUTH SHORE

Town Name	Tons trash + recycling + yard waste collected by town (MSW)	Estimated Tons Paper Generated (31.5% of MSW)	Tons of Paper Recycled	Tons of Paper disposed with trash	\$/ton to dispose of trash	Cost to Throw Away Paper	% of paper captured in 2005
ABINGTON	9,784	3,082	989	2,093	\$76.50	\$160,148	32.1%
COHASSET	4,477	1,410	841	569	\$95.17	\$54,176	59.6%
DUXBURY	10,293	3,242	1,276	1,966	\$89.62	\$176,209	39.4%
HANOVER	10,429	3,285	1,013	2,272	\$97.00	\$220,397	30.8%
HINGHAM	12,924	4,071	1,288	2,783	\$86.00	\$239,343	31.6%
HOLBROOK	3,061	964	587	377	\$80.42	\$30,336	60.9%
HULL*	no data		338	insuf data	n/a	no data	
KINGSTON	7,767	2,447	338	2,109	\$29.67	\$62,562	13.8%
MARSHFIELD	17,734	5,586	1,933	3,653	\$76.00	\$277,644	34.6%
NORWELL	5,322	1,677	777	900	\$34.52	\$31,066	46.3%
PLYMOUTH	20,329	6,404	2,200	4,204	\$23.00	\$96,684	34.4%
ROCKLAND	7,991	2,517	883	1,634	\$76.50	\$125,014	35.1%
SCITUATE	9,398	2,960	1,739	1,221	\$79.43	\$97,021	58.7%
WEYMOUTH	41,684	13,130	2,307	10,823	\$82.67	\$894,764	17.6%
WHITMAN	8,254	2,600	706	1,894	\$85.00	\$160,991	27.2%
<b>TOTAL/AVG.</b>	<b>169,447</b>	<b>53,376</b>	<b>17,214</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>\$72.25</b>	<b>\$2,626,353</b>	<b>32.3%</b>

\* no municipal trash program