

**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**
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2015 ANNUAL REPORT

1/21/2016

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*).

In FY2015, the SSRC raised **\$71,597.76**: \$63,000 from municipal member dues, \$5,809.87 in sponsorships, and \$2,787.89 in grant funding. 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 \$203,135** in 2015.

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 four Member Towns to join their larger neighbors' HHW collections, relieving them of the time and expense of hosting their own. SSRC also coordinates four other Towns' alternating collections.

The SSRC arranges roll-off service at about \$300/event, \$540 less than the HHW contract cost.

1,923 residents attended **twelve collections** held in 2015. The contract also enabled **198 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 **\$16,200** in grant money through that program.

The total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2015 is estimated at **\$45,896**.

General Recyclables – 2015 was a difficult year for the recycling industry. Low commodity pricing due to the strong dollar, low oil prices, a changing waste stream, and increasing contamination conspired to increase costs and reduce rebates. The SSRC did a complex Request for quotes on various mixes of paper, cardboard, bottles and containers, and received good quotes from three service providers which were distributed to Member Towns.

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 463 tons of textiles in 2015 and earned rebates and incentives of **\$46,324**. In addition, the diversion of this material from disposal saved another **\$37,645**.

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 2015 from this service came to **\$11,743**.

Electronic Waste - at the Board's request, the SSRC Director conducted a detailed Request for Quotes for e-waste collection and recycling. The Director compiled and distributed details from the four quotes received to our Member Towns.

Mattresses – when the company that recycled Member Towns' mattresses dropped that service, the Director sought quotes and helped our managers bring in new recyclers at the same cost.

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 **\$9,339** for Member Towns mercury recycling in 2015. In addition, SEMASS paid rebates to our contract communities of **\$3,888** 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**. Several member towns used these contracts in 2015.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

16th 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. Our three highest performing municipalities were recognized for their work to reduce waste and improve the environment. 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.

Reusable shopping bags – with another grant from MassDEP supplemented by a sponsorship by Bay State Textile, the SSRC purchased and distributed to our Member Towns 2,000 reusable shopping bags with the message "Reduce plastic waste- use me; Reuse me over and over; Recycle me in a textile drop box when I'm worn out".

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 four speakers.

Website - ssrcoop.info provides town-specific recycling and household hazardous waste collection information, SSRC meeting minutes and annual reports, press releases, a monthly newsletter, and links to other sites. It logged 5,295 visits in 2015, 4,655 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 the following in 2015:

[Kingston Transfer Station now takes antifreeze, large rigid plastics](#), Aug. 18, 2015

[Containers Available for event recycling](#), Aug. 21, 2015

[Marshfield Fair makes a habit of recycling](#), Sept. 21, 2015

[Recycle plastic bags the right way](#), Nov. 12, 2015

[SSRC, eight member towns, commended for waste reduction successes](#), 12/31/2015

Resident Contacts – The director fielded 140 calls and emails from residents in 2015 to answer questions about how to properly dispose of everything from paint to asbestos shingles, televisions to railroad ties. One Weymouth resident commented “you’ve been wicked helpful”.

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

- **Northeast Resource Recovery Association**, Paint Stewardship Bill
- **Bridgewater-Raynham High School**, general consumption and waste issues
- **Cohasset Middle School Trash Patrol**, interview about sustainability
- **Hanover Sylvester School Robotics Team**, cardboard recycling issues

Marshfield Fair Recycling - the SSRC exhibited and supported **recycling at the Marshfield Fair** for the twelfth year. While public education is the priority, six tons of material was also recycled and composted. Since inception, 67 tons of Fair waste has been diverted to higher use.

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 many 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 2015 includes:

- Organized a **multi-town curbside collection contract meeting** in response to the unexpected bankruptcy of **Norwell, Rockland and Whitman’s** hauler to explore the potential for collaboration on a new contract. Managers from four towns attended.
- Attended meetings with the **Kingston BOS** and **Plymouth BOH** at the request of our managers
- Met on site with **Hanover’s** new Transfer Station foreman and **Plymouth’s** new solid Waste Coordinator to review systems, vendors and options
- Assisted **Hanover, Kingston and Scituate** in finding a new mattress recycling service provider
- Helped **Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanson, Kingston, Plymouth, Rockland and Scituate** complete and submit their DEP Data Surveys, making them eligible for grants
- Completed and submitted **Whitman’s** DEP Grant application. Whitman was awarded \$48,300.
- Provided recycling bin source and price information to **Rockland**
- Located a mercury training session for **Abington**
- Collected, evaluated and shared **recycling and disposal cost, tonnage and fee data**

- Provided advice and help on a **wide range of issues** including: DEP Waste Ban Compliance Plans, cooking oil recycling, going rates for recyclables, private hauler regulation notifications, enforceability of minimum tonnage in a disposal contract, fire extinguisher recycling, e-waste options, oil paint collection overcharges, automated trash collection, and C&D pricing.
- 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 **\$568,131** in grants thirteen of our Towns were awarded. In addition, the SSRC was awarded **\$84,000** for projects that will benefit all our Member Towns.

Newsletter - The SSRC publishes monthly **Updates** filled with information of interest to the South Shore solid waste community. The Updates are emailed to 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 2015, the Executive Director

- Represented the SSRC at **policy meetings and conferences** hosted by MassDEP, Environmental Business Council, MassRecycle, Northeast Recycling Council, Northeast Resource Recovery Association, Product Stewardship Institute, Solid Waste Association of North America and the Southeast Municipal Recycling Council. She reports relevant information back to the Board.
- Worked with Product Stewardship Institute, Mass. Municipal Association and other organizations to promote legislation the Board deems beneficial to its solid waste programs.
- Testified at three legislative hearings on paint stewardship, E-Waste producer responsibility, the bottle bill, and universal recycling.
- Was invited to and attended the three Mass. Recycling Contamination Workgroup and the MassDEP EO562 Advisory Committee meetings, and is active on the Mass. Product Stewardship Council Steering Committee.

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 2015

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

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South Shore Recycling Cooperative 2015 Annual Report quantifiable benefits

	HHW cars	HHW reciprocity use	contract cost savings (vs. State Contract setup fee, unit costs, vol. disc.)	roll off savings using SSRC arranged vendor (\$840-300)	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 tons	BST/BHB rebates, avoided disp cost	SEMASS Mercury processing subsidy, CRSdirect pmts	SEMASS' rebate paid 2015	Big Hearted Books tons	BHB rebate \$100/ton, avoided disp cost	grant application submission award	Total
Abington	111	20	\$1,539	\$540	\$270	\$800	\$3,149	26.95	\$4,474	\$679.00		7.92	\$1,315		\$9,617
Cohasset	31	14	\$871	\$540	\$270	\$800	\$2,481	37.09	\$6,861	\$384.00	\$143.10				\$9,869
Duxbury	73	19	\$462		\$270	\$1,600	\$2,332	87.67	\$17,824	\$910.00	\$590.50				\$21,657
Hanover	191	3	\$2,495	\$1,080	\$720	\$400	\$4,695	24.96	\$3,794	\$408.00		11.02	\$595		\$9,492
Hanson	174	4	\$1,648	\$1,080	\$1,080	\$400	\$4,208	12.63	\$1,958		\$229.00	1.55	\$255		\$6,650
Hingham	219	26	\$917	\$540	\$540	\$1,600	\$3,597	27.22	\$4,655	\$1,832.00	\$247.30	42.49	\$7,265		\$17,596
Kingston	112	11	\$443	\$540	\$270		\$1,253	32.84	\$5,583	\$1,086.00	\$325.40	12.19	\$853		\$9,100
Middleboro	16	7	\$889	\$540	\$270	\$1,600	\$3,299	13.10	\$1,310						\$4,609
Norwell	50	21	\$797	\$835	\$180		\$1,812	2.85	\$487	\$428.00	\$260.10				\$2,987
Plymouth	325	21	\$2,946	\$1,080	\$810	\$1,500	\$6,336	29.03	\$4,790	\$1,714.00	\$1,322.30				\$14,162
Rockland	40	19	\$753	\$835	\$180		\$1,768	0.12	\$26	\$436.00	\$197.90	0.36	\$61		\$2,489
Scituate	207	9	\$880	\$835	\$270	\$1,500	\$3,485	83.85	\$15,856	\$816.00	\$255.30				\$20,412
Weymouth	279	14	\$2,450		\$1,080	\$3,000	\$6,530	68.92	\$13,646	\$646.00	\$294.80	8.74	\$1,398		\$22,515
Whitman	60	15	\$681		\$270		\$951	16.01	\$2,706		\$22.50			\$48,300	\$51,979
Total	1923	198	\$17,771	\$8,445	\$6,480	\$13,200	\$45,896	463.24	\$83,969	\$9,339.00	\$3,888.20	84.26	\$11,743	\$48,300	\$203,135