



**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**  
1/18/2018

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) is a voluntary association of fifteen 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, Hull** (which joined in May), **Kingston, Middleborough, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman**. Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*). Our Executive Board over the year consisted of Chairmen Sharon White (Abington) and Merle Brown (Cohasset), Vice Chairmen Merle Brown and Paul Basler (Kingston), Secretary Gene Wyatt (Kingston), and Treasurers Mary Snow (Cohasset) and Arlene Dias (Hanson).

In FY2017, the SSRC raised **\$86,809.27**: \$68,950 from municipal member dues, \$1,200 in sponsorships, \$11,638.56 in grant funding and \$77.60 in interest. 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 \$243,158** in 2017.

### **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 also saved staff time to bid, schedule and publicize collections. The Executive Director assisted at all twelve events, and administers the billing.

The SSRC enabled three Member Towns (Cohasset, Norwell and Rockland) to join their larger neighbors' HHW collections, relieving them of the time and expense of hosting their own. SSRC also coordinates five other Towns' alternating collections, Hanson the newest among them, plus Abington, Duxbury, Kingston and Whitman.

The SSRC arranges roll-off service at \$350-550/event, far less than the HHW contract cost.

**2,044 residents** attended our **twelve collections** in 2017. The **reciprocity policy** also enabled **272 residents and businesses** to attend other Member Towns' collections. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional **Recycling Dividend Program** points, and earned them an extra **\$22,500** in grant money through that program.

The total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2017 is estimated at **\$62,700**.

**Electronic Waste** - Shrinking markets for CRT glass continued to challenge municipal and retail collection programs in 2017. The Director continues to scan the marketplace for the best service and pricing from reputable service providers.

**General Recyclables** – Major disruption in the recyclables market by China began in the last quarter, and is challenging many of our Members’ programs, especially those that collect paper, cardboard and containers together in a single stream. The SSRC is keeping the Member Town managers up to date on pricing trends through regular review and communication of industry news, and pricing, contact with local outlets. We are helping our Towns’ programs and residents adapt to more stringent standards through the services of our grant-funded Recycling Education and Compliance Officer.

**Textiles** - Bay State Textiles (Pembroke) 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.

Big Hearted Books and Clothing (Sharon) also connected with Member Towns through the SSRC to provide textile collection at \$160/ton rebate.

SSRC towns and school systems hosting these programs diverted 526 tons of textiles in 2017 and earned rebates and incentives of **\$52,700**. In addition, the diversion of this material from disposal saved another **\$39,000**.

**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 2017 from this service came to **\$14,162**. When the vendor stopped paying, the SSRC intervened successfully.

**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 **\$9,237** for Member Towns mercury recycling in 2016. In addition, Covanta SEMASS paid rebates to our contract communities of **\$1,619** 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**. Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Kingston, Rockland and Weymouth used these contracts in 2017.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

**Recycling Education and Compliance Officer (RECO)** – The SSRC received a 2-year, \$82,000 grant from MassDEP to hire a dedicated field staffer to work directly with residents to improve recycling quality and quantity. Since her hire in February, Julie Sullivan has spent several weeks each in **Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanson, Hingham, and Middleboro**. Her work, using outreach materials and methods from DEP’s Recycling IQ Kit, has resulted in measurable improvements in most of those towns. She will be working in most of our other Member Towns in 2018.

If better habits are maintained, this should reduce disposal and processing costs for towns that enlist her services.

**“Refrigerator door prizes”** - The SSRC distributed thousands of 5”x8” handouts, purchased with grants from MassDEP and Covanta SEMASS. The graphics provided by the Recycling IQ Kit are intended to clarify what is and is not recyclable, and direct the reader to the SSRC website and phone for more information.

**Signage** – All our Member towns have or will receive “Do not bag recyclables” and/or “No recyclables in the trash” signs for transfer stations and/or other public display, also through the

MassDEP grant. SSRC also designed and provided new mercury recycling signs to our SEMASS contract Towns. See end of report for graphics.

**Website** - [ssrcoop.info](http://ssrcoop.info) provides both general and town-specific recycling and household hazardous waste collection information, meeting minutes and annual reports, a monthly newsletter, and links to other sites. It logged 18,726 visits and 43,177 page views in 2017, of which 76% were new visitors. Page visits were 16% higher than 2016.

**Press Contacts** - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media. It released or was a subject of the following print articles:

- 10/5/17 **Life in plastic, it's fantastic... or is it?** by Julie Sullivan, Whitman-Hanson Express
- 7/18/17 **When you factor in the cost of disposal, repair is the smart move,** Claire Galkowski, Boston Globe
- 7/11/17 **Abington to improve recycling through The Recycling Partnership,** Wicked Local Abington
- 6/17/17 Op Ed: **How Not Recycling impacts your wallet,** Julie Sullivan, Cohasset Mariner
- 6/13/17 **Getting recycling out of the trash bin in Cohasset,** Mary Ford, Cohasset Mariner
- 5/26/17 **Hull re-joins SSRC, providing access to Hazardous Waste collections**
- 2/17/17 **SSRC hires Recycling Education and Compliance Officer**

And in these Cable TV productions:

- 10/26/17 **Recycling on the South Shore** (9 min), featuring Kingston DPW Director Paul Basler, SSRC RECO Julie Sullivan. reported by Brian Sullivan, PCN/PACTV
- 6/10/17 **Hingham HHW collection** (11 min) HCAM TV
- 5/17/17 **Harbor Interests- Recycling** featuring RECO Julie Sullivan (30 min), HCAM TV
- 4/2017 **Let's clean up our recycling** (30 sec. PSA), Julie Sullivan, PACTV

**Resident Contacts** – The director fielded 160 calls and emails from residents in 2017 to answer questions about how to properly dispose of everything from asbestos shingles to rugs, air conditioners to welding torches. The majority involved hazardous materials.

**Marshfield Fair Recycling** - the SSRC supported **recycling at the Marshfield Fair** for the fourteenth year with signage and containers. While public education is the priority, six tons of material was also recycled and composted. Since inception, 78 tons of Fair waste has been diverted to higher use. The Director provided support on her own time as a volunteer.

### **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 conferences, meetings and webinars, visiting local disposal and recycling 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 2017 includes:

- Attended meetings with the **Cohasset BOS and DPW, Hull BOH, and Kingston BOH** at the

request of our managers.

- Met with managers upon request in **Abington, Cohasset, Hull, Kingston, Middleboro** and **Plymouth** to assist with particular issues.
- Provided advice and help on a **wide range of issues** including: private hauler regulation notifications, e-waste options, sharps collection, recyclable billing and rebates, .
- Provided index and regional **commodity pricing** for materials of interest to our managers.

**Grant assistance** - The SSRC helped **Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanson, Kingston, Middleboro, and Scituate** complete and submit their DEP Data Surveys and/or DEP Grant applications. Maximizing grant funds is a frequent topic at our Board meetings as well.

Membership in SSRC adds one to two points to each Member Town's Recycling Dividend Program total for participation in our HHW Reciprocity Program, which earned our towns **\$22,500** of the **\$259,500** in grants thirteen of our Towns were awarded.

**Newsletter** - The SSRC publishes monthly **Updates** filled with information of interest to the South Shore solid waste community. The Updates are emailed to 450 subscribers, and are [posted online](#).

**Monthly Meetings** - The SSRC provides **networking opportunities** and information sharing at our frequent well-attended meetings. Most meetings feature a service provider or regulator as a guest speaker. Solid waste collection, disposal, recycling service, outreach, pricing, grant opportunities and proposed laws are discussed. Minutes are posted [here](#).

## **ADVOCACY**

In 2017, the Executive Director

- Represented the SSRC at **policy meetings and conferences** hosted by MassDEP, Environmental Business Council, MassRecycle, Northeast Resource Recovery Association, Reuse Conex, and the Southeast Municipal Recycling Council. She reports relevant information back to the Board.
- Worked actively with the Mass. Product Stewardship Council and our Beacon Hill delegation to promote legislation the Board deems beneficial to its solid waste programs regarding electronics, packaging, mattress and paint producer responsibility, and electronics right to repair.

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 2016

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
<b>Abington</b>	Lorraine	Mavrogeorge	BOH	Waste Reduction Enforcement Coordinator
	<i>Sharon</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>BOH</i>	<i>Agent, SSRC Chairman (ret)</i>
<b>Cohasset</b>	<b>Merle</b>	<b>Brown</b>	citizen	SSRC Vice Chairman/Chairman
	<b>Mary</b>	<b>Snow</b>	DPW	Highway Dept. Admin. Asst; SSRC Treasurer FY17
<b>Duxbury</b>	Peter	Buttkus	DPW	Director
	Bruce	O'Neil	DPW	Assistant Director
<b>Hanover</b>	Victor	Diniak	DPW	Superintendent
	Kenneth	Storey	DPW	Transfer Station Foreman
<b>Hanson</b>	<b>Arlene</b>	<b>Dias</b>	BOH	Commissioner, Treasurer FY18
	Matthew	Tanis	BOH	Health Agent
	<i>Donna</i>	<i>Tramontana</i>	<i>BOH</i>	<i>Health Agent (ret)</i>
<b>Hingham</b>	Stephen	Messinger	Transfer Station	Foreman
	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent
<b>Hull</b>	James	Dow	DPW	Director
	Nancy	Sullivan	BOH	Health Director
<b>Kingston</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Basler</b>	Streets, Trees & Parks	Superintendent, Vice Chairman
	<b>Eugene</b>	<b>Wyatt</b>	Recycling Committee	Appointee; SSRC Secretary
<b>Middleboro</b>	Donna	Jolin	DPW	Office Manager
	Christopher	Peck	DPW	Director
<b>Norwell</b>	Brian	Flynn	BOH	Agent
	Vicky	Spillane	Recycling Committee	Appointee
<b>Plymouth</b>	<i>Sandra</i>	<i>Strassel</i>	<i>DPW</i>	<i>Solid Waste Coordinator FY17</i>
	Hayley	Frizell	DPW	Solid Waste Coordinator FY18
	Dr. Nate	Horwitz-Willis	PHD	Public Health Director
<b>Rockland</b>	Rudy	Childs	citizen	Appointee
	Stephen	Nelson	BOH	Commissioner
	Victoria	Diebel**	BOH	Commissioner
	Janice	McCarthy**	BOH	Agent
<b>Scituate</b>	Kevin	Cafferty	DPW	Director; SSRC Chairman
	Sean	McCarthy	DPW	Asst. Director
<b>Weymouth</b>	Robert	O'Connor	DPW	Director Emeritas
	Kathleen	McDonald	DPW	Principal Clerk
	Fred	Happel	DPW	Solid Waste Coordinator
<b>Whitman</b>	Bruce	Martin	DPW	Director
	Alexis	Andrews	BOH	Health Inspector

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alter-nate

South Shore Recycling Cooperative 2017 Annual Report      quantifiable benefits

	total HHW cars	HHW reci- pro- city use	contract cost savings (vs. State Contract setup fee, unit costs, vol. disc.)	roll off savings using SSRC arranged vendor (\$900- 350)	HHW admin, on site staff time (16 hours /coll)	Recycling Dividend Program HHW awarded point values	HHW total value	Bay State Textile, Big Hearted Books textile tons	BST/BHB rebates, avoided disp cost	SEMASS Mercury proces sing subsidy, CRSdirect pmts	SEMASS' rebate paid 2017 (SEMASS contract towns only)	Big Hearted Books tons	BHB rebate \$100/to n, avoided disp cost	grant applica- tion submis- sion award	Total
Abington	62	20	\$717	\$900	\$200	\$1,200	\$3,017	35.4	\$5,876	\$167.39		22.5	\$3,735		<b>\$12,795</b>
Cohasset	42	14	\$672	\$350	\$300	\$1,200	\$2,522	34.2	\$6,395	\$1,220.10	\$0.00	0.0	\$0	\$7,800	<b>\$17,937</b>
Duxbury	65	32	\$805	\$900	\$300	\$2,200	\$4,205	85.8	\$13,385	\$883.88	\$294.60	0.0	\$0	\$11,000	<b>\$29,769</b>
Hanover	209	8	\$2,585	\$1,450	\$800		\$4,835	22.6	\$4,023	\$0.00		15.5	\$1,209		<b>\$10,066</b>
Hanson	46	4	\$1,097	\$900	\$200	\$1,200	\$3,397	13.6	\$2,108	\$0.00		2.5	\$388	\$7,800	<b>\$13,692</b>
Hingham	278	26	\$2,431	\$550	\$600	\$2,200	\$5,781	26.3	\$4,208	\$1,513.37	\$560.30	40.0	\$6,400		<b>\$18,463</b>
Hull	163	30	\$1,491	\$0	\$600		\$2,091	6.5		\$0.00					<b>\$2,091</b>
Kingston	118	16	\$1,720	\$900	\$300	\$1,200	\$4,120	36.9	\$6,310	\$727.96	\$24.50	8.5	\$612	\$11,400	<b>\$22,442</b>
Middleboro	125	6	\$1,139	\$350	\$600	\$2,200	\$4,289	13.5	\$1,350	\$0.00		0.0	\$0	\$8,800	<b>\$14,439</b>
Norwell	36	14	\$650	\$900	\$200	\$1,200	\$2,950	7.5	\$1,298	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0	\$0		<b>\$7,695</b>
Plymouth	287	21	\$2,459	\$1,100	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$6,559	55.3	\$9,180	\$2,957.80	\$490.10	0.0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$16,447</b>
Rockland	52	19	\$1,175	\$350	\$200	\$1,200	\$2,925	8.2	\$1,861	\$701.08	\$6.80	1.3	\$217	\$5,400	<b>\$11,419</b>
Scituate	189	5	\$2,086	\$900	\$300	\$2,200	\$5,486	73.3	\$14,147	\$774.45	\$241.10	0.0	\$0	\$11,000	<b>\$30,924</b>
Weymouth	313	15	\$3,079	\$0	\$1,200	\$3,500	\$7,779	87.7	\$18,242	\$290.57	\$0.00	7.7	\$1,602		<b>\$27,623</b>
Whitman	30	3	\$1,016	\$350	\$200	\$1,200	\$2,766	19.5	\$3,315	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0	\$0		<b>\$16,936</b>
<b>Total</b>	2015	233	\$23,122	\$9,900	\$7,200	\$22,500	<b>\$62,722</b>	526.3	<b>\$91,698</b>	<b>\$9,236.59</b>	<b>\$1,618.60</b>	98.00	<b>\$14,162</b>	<b>\$63,200</b>	<b>\$243,158</b>

**BRING CLOTHES, SHOES AND TEXTILES TO A DONATION BOX**

**SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE**  
www.ssrcoop.info

Serving the towns of:  
Abington Cohasset  
Duxbury Hanover  
Hanson Hingham  
Hull Kingston  
Middleboro Norwell  
Plymouth Rockland  
Scituate Weymouth  
Whitman

**RETURN PLASTIC BAGS TO RETAILERS**

**IT'S ALL YOU RECYCLE**

**RECYCLE**  
THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

**SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE**

**Cans**  
Aluminum and Steel Cans  
empty and rinse

**Glass**  
Bottles and Jars  
empty and rinse

**Paper**  
Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, and Flattened Cardboard

**Plastic**  
Kitchen, Laundry, Bath, Bottles and Containers  
empty and replace cap

**NO!**

- Do Not Bag Recyclables No Garbage
- No Plastic Bags (return to retail)
- No Food or Liquid (empty all containers)
- No Clothing or Linens (use donation programs)
- No Tangles (no hoses, wires, chains, or electronics)

www.ssrcoop.info  
781.329.8318

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. 50% 100% recycled paper.

**RECYCLE**  
THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING ALL OF THESE:

**SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE**

**TOO GOOD or TOO BAD for the Trash**

**Paper**  
Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, and Flattened Cardboard

**Cans**  
Aluminum and Steel Cans  
empty and rinse

**Plastic**  
Kitchen, Laundry, Bath, Bottles and Containers  
empty and replace cap

**Glass**  
Bottles and Jars  
empty and rinse

**Mercury**

**Electronics, Appliances**

**Yard Waste**

**Textiles, Books**

**Do Not Bag**

**No Food or Liquid**

**No Tangles**

www.ssrcoop.info  
(781) 329-8318

printed on recycled paper  
Funded by a grant from Corvata SEMASS

Signs

**DON'T BAG** **Recyclables**

**NO PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING**

Thank you for recycling. This sign funded by MassDEP

**TRASH ONLY**

**NO RECYCLING**

**MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAMS**

Mercury is a toxic, heavy silver liquid. Learn how to easily and properly dispose in your town at **781.329.8318**, or [www.ssrcoop.info](http://www.ssrcoop.info), **RECYCLING A-Z**

**SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE**