



SSRC Updates March 2019

[February Board meeting notes, updates](#)

[Bay State Textiles](#)

[2018 Annual Report](#)

[Plymouth's Sterilis sharps system](#)

[Recycling IQ Kit grant](#)

[Position on disposable bag bans](#)

[RECO Report: Scituate, Norwell, Middleboro, Plymouth](#)

[SSRC shows how to get synergy with RecycleSmart](#)

[Partner Spotlight](#)

[SE Municipal Recycling Council: bulky waste, mattresses](#)

[SWANAPalooza: remaking recycling](#)

[SWANA SNE, PSI Producer Responsibility summit](#)

[MasssRecycle Summit: solutions to recycling challenges](#)

[Events](#)



Please excuse this issue's lack of graphics and polish. The Director spent six days in conference, slipped on ice and fell on her head while reading a text message, and committed to more worthy projects than she could possibly do in the time allotted.

February Board meeting notes and updates

Bay State Textiles ...

Sponsored breakfast at Abington Town Hall. **Shannon Trask**, BST's new Recycling Development Coordinator, introduced herself. She continues Kathryn's work with municipalities, schools. BST still pays bin hosts \$100/ton for collected material. Located in Pembroke, BST is upsizing to Kingston soon. They will switch from Google sheets to a new reporting program with monthly totals soon. Emails to her predecessor Kathryn Larsen are forwarded to her.

In addition to placing donation boxes at schools, transfer stations and recycling centers, BST can do one-day to one-week events with trailers. Drivers have iPads, and use time stamps to ensure pickups. BST has a long relationship with many of our towns, provide good service, and

pays on time. If there is an issue with a box or trailer, they fix quickly. Contact Shannon at 617-877-2432, Shannon.baystatetextiles@gmail.com

2018 Annual Report

The 2018 Annual Report details the assistance and support the SSRC provided to our towns in this most challenging year for recycling, and how we continue to deliver value far in excess of the annual dues our members pay. Our municipal programs are stronger when we work together. The report is available in pdf format [here](#). The Board approved its distribution for publication in Member town's reports.

Plymouth's Sterilis sharps management system

Dr. Nate Horwitz-Willis has been Plymouth's Health Director for just over a year and a half. In addressing opioid epidemic, he realized that Plymouth had no safe place for sharps disposal. Needles were found in streets, retail stores, lodging facilities. HIV, HepB, HepC infection rates are higher with improperly disposed needles. State Law requires municipalities to provide sharps disposal.

Options were costly. He visited the Sandwich Fire Dept (FD), which was testing a [Sterilis](#) device, which sterilizes and grinds medical sharps to render them disposable with regular trash..

A Sterilis machine is now installed at main Fire Department in Plymouth. The FD gives residents proper sharps containers. Residents can deposit full sharps containers in secure receptacle both inside and outside the FD. Many are diabetic, or have cats that need regular injections. The FD also uses the machine for other types of medical waste they find in the line of duty.

The machine is quiet, low energy. The dashboard can be set for various types of medical waste. Trained staff place full sharps containers in an autoclave bag, place the bag in a tub in top of the unit, press a few buttons, and walk away. Bag contents are sterilized in the top autoclave, then the bottom of the tub opens to drop the bag into a grinder. A bag of benign trash (mixed plastics, metal bits) comes out the bottom, and can go to landfill or waste-to-energy.

The device communicates with Sterilis in real time. Dr. Nate reported good product support, and advanced analytics.

In the first 3 months, the Plymouth FD processed 161,000 needles, 200-250 people/month.

Cost was \$55K for machine, plus wi-fi and other retrofits, totaling about \$200K, plus FD staff time. Easy, judgement free access reduces the risk of needle sticks and disease exposure to beach and municipal staff and the public. See pictures [here](#).

There could be an opportunity for intermunicipal partnerships using this machine.

Board Comments: Pharmacies and manufacturers are profiting from sale of sharps, and should provide relief, take responsibility. At least provide sharps containers with sale. Municipalities

are burdened with cost. Statewide bills? None filed this session that we are aware of. Has been discussed, Big Pharma very resistant. Local stores say “cumbersome”, costly.

Grant money: MAIA offers a \$10K harm reduction grant.

Drug dropoff: Abington does at PD, people are hesitant to go there. Plymouth is discussing. Can be mixed in trash to SEMASS. Illegal dumping, flushing are problems.

Recycling IQ Kit Grant

Our DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator **Todd Koep** announced that generous [IQ Kit grants](#) to clean up both curbside and dropoff recycling are available on a rolling basis. The 8 week program targets one or two materials. The grant includes 60 hours of Todd’s time, and up to \$20K for curbside, \$8K for dropoff staff time, signage, and outreach.

Mattapoisett is starting in late June. It succeeded in Abington in 2017. Todd recommends applying by ReTrac soon to start by summer.

Position on plastic bag bans without paper bag fees

Director Galkowski summarized the [previous meeting’s discussion](#), at which five plastic bag ban proponents explained their strategy for passing state legislation by passing local bylaws. The Director posited that paper bags also have very negative cost and environmental impacts, and without the ability to mandated fees, municipal trash programs will wind up handling considerably more paper. Five Member towns have passed bag bans, and 3 more are considering them.

The Board requested that the Director bring a specific motion to the next meeting.

RECO report Scituate, Norwell, Middleboro, Plymouth

By Dorie Stolley, the Recycling Education and Compliance Officer

In March, I finished outreach work at Scituate transfer station, started curbside evaluations and began private hauler compliance. In Scituate, I spent three days a week for four weeks (a total of 82 hours) at the transfer station educating and encouraging people as they dropped off their recycling and noting license plate numbers of violators.

I also began evaluations for curbside recycling pickup in Norwell and Middleboro. These are the follow-up evaluations a year after Julie’s outreach work and OOPS tagging to see if the improvements persisted.

In Plymouth, I met with Board of Health Chair, Birgitta Kuehn; DPW Director, Jonathan Beder; Asst. Director, Dennis Woods; Business Manager, Jodie Volta; and Administrative Assistant Rachel Newell, to further strategize on how best to administrate and boost private hauler compliance. It was decided that I should start by working with Jodie and Rachel. Together they could figure out what were the tasks that needed to be completed and in what order and how

long each might take. With that information DPW, DPH and BOH could construct a workflow and determine which staff would do which tasks and if new staff or funding was needed.

Lessons learned over the past four weeks were numerous, and are included in the town reports. Some of the more interesting include the power of positive reinforcement for residents who are trying very hard to recycle properly. The majority of people coming to the Scituate transfer station demonstrated through deed and speech that they are trying to follow recycling regulations. Often a thumbs-up, a “thank you for recycling” or similar positive gesture elicited a smile and a thank you in return, along with questions about “advanced recycling” topics. Currently, with recycling rules in flux, it is even more important to encourage and reward correct recycling, so that residents will continue trying even when rules change or become confusing.

With curbside, Dorie found some people carrying out obviously deceptive maneuvers, such as hiding bags of trash under a layer of recyclable items. However, the bulk of the violations were based on outdated rules (e.g., recycling Styrofoam or bags, tying newspaper up in twine) or an incomplete understanding of how recycling works along with the desire to recycle as much as possible. Examples of this are common in the plastics category and include toys, rakes, kitchen containers, and lawn ornaments.

More education can help with this and has. In Norwell, the bin-top placard has a graphic depicting the exclusion of bags, while Middleboro’s placard has this rule in words only. I found a lower percentage of plastic bags in Norwell’s bins than in Middleboro’s.

In the coming weeks, I will complete curbside evaluations in Rockland and Whitman and begin transfer station evaluations.

SSRC shows how to get synergy with RecycleSmart

Partner Spotlight: South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC)

(from a MassDEP post)

Looking for some inspiration? Look no further than the [South Shore Recycling Cooperative \(SSRC\)](#) who is leading the way when it comes to sharing the Recycle Smart message! The SSRC helps 15 towns on the South Shore improve their recycling programs and reduce waste. The SSRC has incorporated the Recycle Smart message by:

- Featuring the Smart Recycling Guide as a background image on the [SSRC Facebook page](#);
- Regularly sharing Recycle Smart MA social content;
- Including information on top recycling contaminants (such as food and liquids) on the [SSRC home page](#);
- Embedding the Recyclopedia search widget and the Smart Recycling Guide on their [Recycling 101 webpage](#);

- SSRC Executive Director, Claire Galkowski, uses the Recycle Smart partner logo in her email signature;
- Advocating for the Recycle Smart initiative in opinion pieces and interviews with media, and even calling in to comment during a recent WBUR radio piece on recycling!

SE Municipal Recycling Council discusses bulky waste

Mattresses were the main topic at the March gathering of area recycling professionals, led by DEP Municipal Assistance coordinators **Kathi Mirza** and **Todd Koep**.

Grants, reuse and recycling outlets, fee structures, and Extended Producer Responsibility legislation were explored. Claire's notes are [here](#).

SWANAPalooza features sessions on remaking recycling

The Director got a hefty dose of recycling education at the 4-day Solid Waste Association of North America conference in Boston last month, SWANAPalooza. Colleagues across the continent confirmed that we are all pulling together to make lemonade from the lemons China handed our industry. Her 10 pages of notes are [here](#).

Here is the Table of Contents:

David Biderman (SWANA Director), panel: The new normal in recycling	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Plastic in the Ocean (I came in late).....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Venture capital.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Contamination Communication.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Value chain collaboration for recyclability	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Food waste recovery.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Tips for Aspiring Writers, Barry Shanoff, SWANA counsel	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Shrinking capacity, rising costs in New England	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Communication for behavior change	Error! Bookmark not defined.
China ban impact on paper recycling.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Extended Producer Responsibility Challenges	Error! Bookmark not defined.

SWANA SNE, PSI EPR Summit

On the 4th day of SWANAPalooza, the Southern New England Chapter of SWANA, led by Bourne's Phil Goddard, together with Boston-based Product Stewardship Institute, hosted a Summit on the future of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in our region. About 100 stakeholders attended, including the Mass. Municipal Association, and the Mass Product Stewardship Council. The Director drank from the firehose of information provided by the deeply experienced speakers from California, British Columbia, and PSI on the panel.

Some Massachusetts EPR legislation was discussed, including bills on paint, mattresses, packaging and printed material.

The Director's notes are on pages 11-16 [here](#).

MassRecycle Summit: solutions to recycling challenges

"We're all in this together." That was the takeaway at the MassRecycle annual conference, at which over 250 recycling and municipal professionals converged this week in Framingham.

MR President **Gretchen Carey** eloquently opened the proceedings, with keynotes from **MassDEP Commissioner Marty Suuberg**, and **MMA Director Geoff Beckwith**.

A panel from multiple sectors discussed facets of contracting for recycling in the "new" reality, including **Jim Nocella** from Waste Management, **Gunther Wellenstein** who runs the Lowell solid waste program, **Greg Cooper** of MassDEP, and consultant **Tom Mackie** of Mackie Shea.

Mass. Product Stewardship Council Chairman **Phil Goddard** spoke about Extended Producer Responsibility efforts underway in the Commonwealth, some which are being led in conjunction with mattress and paint manufacturing organizations.

Greater New Bedford's **Marissa Perez-Dormitzer** and Newton's **Waneta Trabert** explained how their municipalities improved the quality of their residents' recyclables through education and enforcement, using MassDEP's **Recycling IQ Kit grants**.

MassDEP's **Brooke Nash** concluded the day, contrasting the media's gloomy portrayals of trashed recyclables with the reality that there is demand for many of our materials. The entire recycling industry is leaning in to adapt to the new normal. Manufacturers are coming to the table to make products that are compatible with material recovery. Recyclables are moving. "We're all in this together".

(Claire's notes are [here](#))

EVENTS

Workshop: **Using recycled materials in road and infrastructure projects**, Tues, Apr. 9, CT DEEP, Hartford CT. NEWMOA/NERC. Register [here](#). Agenda [here](#).

SMRP/RDP Grant Information Webinar, Tues, Apr. 9, 1-3 pm. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Register [here](#) Hosted by MassDEP.

Using recycled content materials in road & infrastructure projects, workshop, Tues., Apr 9, CT DEEP, Hartford. Hosted by NERC and NEWMOA. Register [here](#). Agenda [here](#).

SSRC Breakfast Meeting, Thurs., May 2, Rockland Town Hall

SMRP Grant info session, Thurs., May 2, 9:30-noon, Braintree Town Hall, 1 JFK Memorial Dr. (recommend doing the April 9 webinar due to SSRC meeting conflict)

DEP SMRP Grant due date, Wed., June 12. File through ReTrac: connect.re-trac.com/login. Contact [Claire Galkowski](#) (SSRC Members Only) or [Todd Koep](#) for assistance