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RECYCLING
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September Board meeting notes and updates

Good Point Recycling ...

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

Robin Ingenthron founded [Good Point Recycling](#) (GPR), an electronic waste recovery company, in 2003. A lifelong waste hater and environmental justice advocate, Ingenthron began his recycling career in the early 1980s. By 1992, with experience at Somerville-based-based Earthworm and a night school MBA, he was appointed MassDEP Division Director. He studied the markets, navigated a market crash, and helped author the Mass. CRT disposal ban.

After a family relocation to Middlebury, VT, he started GPR, which operates in Vermont, Mexico and now in Brockton.

GPR is R2 Certified, employs 40 staff, and has survived 3 market shakeouts. They hold the Vermont State Contract, and have never dumped a client or a load.

GPR puts e-waste to its highest use. The diverse workforce fixes old equipment, or deconstructs it for parts. GPR sold \$51K in flat screen parts last month. Harnessing reuse value helps to keep rates stable.

Last year, GPR took over the former CRT Recycling site in Brockton, which now has 2 balers, a hard drive shredder, 2 new trucks and 4 workers, soon to be 10. The VT facility will shift to reuse and disassembly; Brockton will focus on scrap processing.

GPR is servicing Brookline and Quincy. Rates will be 23c/lb to new customers after December. Pricing for one day events is 21c/lb plus \$75/person for staffing. They do Special Olympics fundraisers at which a church or school offers its parking lot and does publicity. A portion of the fees go to the local Special Olympics team for travel, uniforms, etc.

Contact Robin at 802-377-9166, robin@good-point.net Director visit photos [here](#).

Recycling markets, costs:

Rosemary Nolan researched impacts of the recycling crisis. The average cost for single stream recycling under new contracts is \$70-90/ton. Waste Management is surcharging \$225/ton for contamination over 10%.

Mayor Joseph Sullivan is hosting the September MMA Mayors meeting in Braintree. Recycling is the main topic (see [related article](#)). She and **Jeff Kunz** recommend a 3 month study by MIT or NEU to explore alternatives. Need new markets, and more investment in retooling at Material Recovery Facilities. Transfer stations are in more control without single stream.

Mr. Ingenthron posited that China doesn't have enough raw material, will come back.

Disaster debris planning:

DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator **Todd Koep** reported on that week's Municipal Recycling Council meeting. Towns need a **documented disaster plan** to get **FEMA 75% funding**. DEP's **John Fischer**, who wrote the original disaster debris plan for MEMA, gave a [presentation](#).

A plan identifies roles, responsibilities, contracts, resources, aggregation sites and a closure plan.

DEP has a [7 page checklist](#). Westborough's plan with contractor info is [here](#).



In the first 72 hours, focus on clearing roads. Debris should be sorted, to minimize the need to burn or landfill, and brought to previously identified aggregation sites. DEP allows storage for up 90 days without permit, as long as they are notified. MEMA's latest guidance is [here](#).

Tabletop exercises are available, and help figure out who does what.

RecycleSmart media launch:

MassDEP's **Ellie Donovan** announced that the [RecycleSmart](#) statewide education campaign was launched. DEP is reaching out to Towns to engage in a **Partners program**. All Mass. MRFs collaborated on what is actually recyclable, which informed the searchable [Recyclopedia](#). Ms. Black noted that not all the info is consistent with drop off programs. ([related article](#))

20th Anniversary planning:

FY19 marks the 20th anniversary of the SSRC! How can we celebrate? Can you help? The Director can budget 40 hours. (The last big event took 110 hours). Most costs need to be covered externally. Should we do a latex paint/e-waste collection? Open house? This will be discussed further at the Oct. 25 meeting in Kingston. The Director is having the logo updated.



NAHMMA Conference:

The **North American Hazardous Materials Management Ass'n** held its annual conference in Portland, ME in August. The Director did a [presentation](#) about the SSRC's HHW Traveling Show. Other presentations reminded her **why we do these collections**: to prevent poisoning, fire hazards, and illegal dumping, and to keep our sanitation and transfer station workers safe. Permanent facilities are a massive, costly endeavor. Maine spent \$255K on a permanent facility, which is open monthly nonwinter. They also operate 51 satellite collections, and pay \$30/5 gal. Participation in VT and ON is about 7-8% of households. (SSRC is at about 2%) In Ontario, **Extended Producer Responsibility** (EPR) laws fund 6 permanent recycling/HHW facilities. EPR bills for HHW in Oregon and Vermont are stalled.

RECO Report: Rockland, Whitman, Scituate

By Julie Sullivan, Recycling Education and Compliance Officer

Director's note: On Oct. 1, Julie began work as Braintree's Stormwater Management outreach coordinator. She is committed to completing the final quarter of this grant project. We are seeking an [Assistant RECO](#) to help her finish.

In September we finished two curbside OOPS tagging/cart rejection projects. We began tagging in **Rockland** in July on four Monday and Tuesday A weeks (Rockland has bi-weekly recycling). Contaminated setouts dropped in half overall, from 29% to 14.5%! A big thank you goes out to **Janice McCarthy** and the Rockland BOH staff, **Vicky Spillane** of the Norwell Recycling Committee, **Janis Owens** from Sustainable Duxbury, and **Bobby Williams** from Republic Services, whose teamwork made this project such a success.

In **Whitman**, we tagged sections of the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday routes for four weeks. Residents told me they noticed the "Don't Bag Recyclables" signs at busy intersections. Thursday and Friday's tagged setouts dropped from 34% to 18%. However, rates on Wednesdays remained almost the same - in week 1, 19% of carts were tagged, but in week 4,

20% were tagged. I would still consider the project a win, since so many folks were educated about recycling in the process. I'd like to thank **Bruce Martin, Loni Bezanson**, and all the Whitman DPW staff who helped make this possible, as well as **Adrienne Bahnemann** at Waste Management for communicating with drivers.

Finally, we are designing handouts for the **Scituate** Transfer Station, which is awaiting approval.

Mayors discuss recycling issues

Mayor Joseph Sullivan hosted the September **MMA Mayor's Meeting** at Braintree Town Hall. Recycling costs and opportunities were the main topic. Mayors and staff from 21 cities attended. [Photos](#)

Mayor Sullivan reported that since 2016, Braintree went from being paid to paying \$75/ton for recyclables. China isn't buying it, so we need to clean it up, and tackle the challenge with MassDEP.



MassDEP Commissioner Marty Suuberg shares municipalities' concerns about the challenges and costs of recycling and disposal. Two of the State's 8 remaining landfills are closing this year. We need to develop domestic markets for recyclables. Mass. used to have 30 paper mills, but now has 3. The goal of the current Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) is to **reduce disposed waste** by 1 million tons/year by 2020 to avoid the need to export it. Stakeholders are working on the 2020-2030 plan now.

DEP is working hard to keep recycling's environmental benefits viable. State law prohibits disposal of recyclables. If recycling programs are rolled back, it will take many years to re-establish them.

DEP is working with municipalities, haulers, and recycling facilities, providing financial and technical support and leadership. **Cleaning up recycling is crucial** for worker safety, to reduce operational costs and increase value. Municipalities can provide synergy with DEP's outreach programs.

There was discussion about the 20 year old moratorium on incineration. DEP carved out a 450,000 ton/year allowance for gasification, pyrolysis and other new technologies to convert waste to energy in 2010, but no applications have been filed. The moratorium will be discussed in the SWMP update process. Anaerobic Digestors can be permitted outside the solid waste process. Incinerating usable material is less sustainable than recycling. **Mayor Ruthanne Fuller of Newton** pointed out the need to promote waste reduction and reuse. Residential food waste programs are developing slowly.

Brooke Nash explained the programs MassDEP has developed to help our recycling programs and infrastructure through these difficult times. The [Recycling IQ Kit](#) and support program provides both outreach and "curbside feedback", which is essential to really improve behavior. It has provided **\$582K** plus technical support to 19 municipalities, and has resulted in significant Improvement in Quality. The program requires political will to leave contaminated setouts at the curb. "It works".

The [Recycling Dividends Program](#) grants (RDP), provided \$2.5 million to 192 municipalities this year. The merit-based grants can be used for outreach, equipment, and help covering excess recycling costs.

The [Recycle Smart Mass](#) outreach campaign was launched earlier in month. Like the IQ Kit, it focuses on the worst problems: plastic bags, food and liquids, and tangles. Municipal partners can plug in to its video content and social media posts to communicate with residents, and its searchable [Recyclopedia](#), developed with Mass. MRF operators to standardize acceptable lists of recyclables. ([related article](#))

Julie Greene, the City of **Lynn's** former solid waste manager (now a DEP MAC), and **Marissa Perez-Dormitzer**, **Greater New Bedford's** District Coordinator, detailed how they improved the quality and value of residential recycling with the Recycling IQ Kit and grant in their cities. The multi-month efforts reduced the frequency of contaminated setouts by 40-80%.

Waneta Trabert, **Newton's** solid waste manager and Vice President of **MassRecycle**, announced that Newton would start the IQ Kit program the following week. She already spends an hour each Monday setting up social media posts for the week on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Gramblr.

She asked **why municipalities are burdened with the cost of managing all this material and not the manufacturers?** The **Mass. Product Stewardship Council** (MassPSC) and its municipal partners advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility laws. MassPSC is working on **paint, mattress, packaging** and **printed material** EPR bills that would shift some or all end of life cost back to producer.

Jeff Kunz, Braintree's Director of Trash and Recycling, pointed out that the rising costs to municipalities are unsustainable. Municipalities cannot solve this problem in isolation, but together at a regional, state and national level, engaging universities and legislators. He proposed convening a Statewide **Recycling Task Force** to advocate for a DEP budget increase, and commission a University study to identify solutions. He is willing to lead. Contact Jeff at jkunz@braintreema.gov to join the Force.

Election day an easy outreach RDP point opportunity

Election Day (November 6, in case you've been distracted) is a great time to remind residents to **"Don't Bag Recyclables"** by placing a sign at each of your **polling places**. Take a picture to record the occasion.

Placing signs in public places, or at municipal transfer station, helps earn the **Recycling Dividends Program Outreach point**, and helps improve the quality of your town's recyclables. If your town is in a new contract with Waste Management, it can also save your town on contamination surcharges. Contact the [Director](#) if you need signs.



While we're on the subject, to earn this point, a town must complete a few other outreach activities as well. Becoming a [RecycleSmart Partner](#) can fulfill at least one! This involves:

- Following the RecycleSmartMA social media channels and sharing content.
- Adding a link to RecycleSmartMA.org to your recycling webpage.
- Adding the [Recyclopedia](#) search tool "widget" to your webpage (contact [Janice Pare](#))

Pace Glass has national ambitions, starting in Northeast

By [Cole Rosengren@ColeRosengren](mailto:ColeRosengren@ColeRosengren), Waste Dive, Oct. 4, 2018 (excerpts)

...During conversations about what can be done to make (glass recycling) economically viable, one name is getting mentioned more and more – Pace Glass.

The New Jersey glass processor has one facility in Jersey City and is set to open a new one in Andover, New Jersey next year. Pace plans to spend \$90 million on that new operation, which has been touted as the largest of its kind in the world. Once fully operational, the plant is expected to process (up) to 750,000 tons per year.

Pace's Jersey City plant has been online since 2016. CEO **George Valiotis** is tired of the narrative that glass recycling is broken. As municipalities are faced with contract renegotiations due to broader changes in the recycling market, he urges them to keep glass in the mix.

"We will be expanding very soon and we will be able to take in everyone's material in the entire Northeast." [more](#)

Rising costs rev up product stewardship efforts

Skyrocketing costs and shrinking markets for everything from paper to electronics are driving efforts to share end of life costs with producers. Some brand owners are beginning to step up to discuss recyclability and recycled content of their packaging, while the paint, mattress and battery industry setting up industry-sponsored take back programs.



The **Solid Waste Association of North America**

(SWANA) hosted a Summit at its August Conference at which Procter & Gamble and others discussed initiatives to close the loop on packaging material. While producers want to set the pace with voluntary programs, legislative requirements would drive the process faster. Canada and the EU have Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in place which have shifted waste costs to producers, relieving municipalities of the cost and reducing waste.

The Massachusetts House Ways and Means committee failed to report out any EPR bills last legislative session. Several will be (re-)filed for January's filing deadline. MA will join CT and CA, and possibly others, in filing packaging EPR bills. Mattresses, paint and electronic waste may also be on the docket.

Some of our colleagues have spoken up for this recently as well:

David Biderman, Executive Director of **SWANA**, in Waste Dive: Stopping short of calling for legislated EPR, "I think large brands have externalized the cost of disposal of containers onto the waste side and I think we need to stop that," said Biderman, calling out Amazon in particular. [More](#)

Mike Durfor, **NRRA**'s Executive Director, advocated for NH legislation in the latest Full of Scrap edition:

...support the E-WASTE take back program that (ME, VT, CT and RI) benefit from. When the recent surcharge hit NH E-WASTE, it went directly to municipal budgets. In those states nearby, the increase went to the manufacturers.

PaintCare is another program that fully covers the cost of picking up all paint including latex! ... this program would remove all of the dried, kitty littered tons of latex paint cans from the trash budget and all the oil-based paints from the expensive HHW pick up days. [More](#)

And **Scott Cassel**, Director of Mass. based **Product Stewardship Institute**, wrote (excerpts):

... the current recycling economic model relies on taxpayers and municipal governments to pick up the cost of managing waste products and packaging from which companies reap the profits. ... communities are at a huge disadvantage compared to brand owners that benefit from the throw-away economy while paying none of the waste management costs. [More](#)

What Chinese import policies mean for Massachusetts

Waste Dive, updated 10/5/2018 (excerpts)

- ABC Disposal threatens to cancel service for multiple municipalities unless they agree to higher rates mid-contract. Plymouth chooses to cancel its contract, according to Wicked Local. New Bedford attempts to force the company's hand through an injunction, but loses in court. In late August, ABC countersues New Bedford. South Coast Today reports that the company is seeking additional payment based on market costs, as well as the ability to terminate its contract early. (May-Aug.2018)
- NECN reports that the city of Lowell is now paying an estimated \$75 per ton to recycle with Waste Management, which will increase annual costs by at least \$500,000. The company's Billerica MRF has been experiencing an average inbound contamination rate of 14%. (Sept. 2018)
- DEP announces \$2.6 million in grants, along with a "Recycle Smart" campaign that includes a standardized list agreed to by the majority of state MRFs. (Aug. 2018)
- ABC Disposal is taking a stronger stance on quality. South Coast Today reports that the company will reject Carts with contamination. Most recently, New Bedford's mayor reported that cart rejection rates have dropped dramatically in recent weeks. (Sept. 2018)
- Attleboro is working to get its contamination down from 25% or more to the required 10% for fear that Waste Management will try to force a contract renegotiation, according to The Sun Chronicle. Meanwhile, the town of Barnstable will be switching to a source-separated system at its drop-off center. (Sept. 2018)
- The city of Newton has begun inspecting recycling carts, using MassDEP's Recycling IQ materials to educate residents. The city has had to pay more than \$65,000 in contamination fines so far this year, according to Newton Patch. **(NEW - Oct. 2018)** [More](#)



Nine Dragons to produce recycled pulp at U.S. mills

by [Colin Staub](#), Resource Recycling, October 16, 2018 (excerpts)

A major Chinese paper company will add recycled pulp production lines at two U.S. virgin fiber mills it purchased earlier this year, and both will consume mixed paper and OCC.

ND Paper, the U.S. subsidiary of Chinese paper titan Nine Dragons, [will invest](#) \$300 million in its recently acquired Biron, Wis. and Rumford, Maine virgin paper mills. The company will add three recycled pulp production lines producing 3,100 metric tons per day. One line will be installed at the Rumford facility, and two will go into the Biron mill.

The move comes shortly after Nine Dragons [entered negotiations to purchase](#) its first U.S. recycled paper mill, in Fairmont, W.Va. [More](#)

End-market effort grows plastic demand

by [Colin Staub](#), Resource Recycling, Oct. 17, 2018

The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) says its **Demand Champions** effort has helped pull more plastic through the recycling system in its first year.

The group on Oct. 10 [announced the year-end results](#) of its Recycling Demand Champions Campaign, which launched in 2017 to develop new end markets for recycled plastics.

As part of the effort, 10 major brand owners [increased](#) their post-consumer resin usage by 6.8 million pounds... the material went into products such as garbage cans and trash bags, gaylords and gaylord liners, packaging, pallets, park benches, picnic tables and more.

... **Berry Global, Keurig Dr. Pepper, Procter & Gamble and Target** have committed to continue into the second year of the demand program... They will be joined by eight new players: Avangard Innovative, Denton Plastics, Eco-Products, Nestlé, PAC Worldwide, QRS Recycling, Unilever and UPM Raflatac. [More](#)

PBS Videos about plastic worth watching

- [Why it will take more than basic recycling to cut back on Plastics](#) (10 minutes), PBS Newshour, 10/4/18
- [Loss of Chinese export market drives new ideas for repurposing recyclables](#) (8 minutes), PBS Newshour 10/11/18 (highly recommended)



EVENTS

23 Oct 2018, 6:00PM - 8:00PM, [MASSRECYCLE 4th Annual Celebration & Fundraiser](#)

25 Oct 2018, 8:50AM - 10:30AM, [SSRC Breakfast Meeting](#); speaker/sponsor Republic Services

03 Nov 2018, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, [Litter Prevention & Cleanup Summit](#)

12 Dec 2018, 9:00AM - 12:00PM, [Southeast Municipal Recycling Council](#)