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(please pardon any typos, this was a quick turnaround, bare bones issue)

April Board meeting notes

RMG Enterprise sponsored breakfast at the Kingston Town Hall.

Mike Doran, **RMG Enterprise** (e-waste, glass processor)- provides e-waste transport and recycling for Hanson, Norwell, Rockland and Whitman at 19c/lb. The price includes palletizing the collected equipment.

They are finally seeing a dip in CRT tonnage, getting more LCDs. The CRT world has stabilized. RMG will palletize on site of generation.

RMG is expanding its service offerings to munis.

Freon recycling: RMG can now provide Freon removal, but large appliances like refrigerators are inefficient to haul due to size low density. RMG can take air conditioners at NC on separate pallets from e-waste in the same truck, provide certificate of recycling.

School e-waste cleanouts: Starting in early summer RMG will provide free shredding of hard drives to its existing customers at their Nashua facility.

Glass: RMG sends CRT glass to Spain, where it is pulverized and used as feedstock for ceramic tiles. Investigated potential for doing the same with bottle glass, but the cost to haul is prohibitive, double the cost to landfill. He is working on alternatives. As LF costs go up, this option may become feasible. Hingham sent a sample, the facility can deal with non-glass parts. There are no domestic manufacturers of this product yet.

Contact Mike at 603-417-3051, mdoran@rmgenterprise.com.

HHW billing proposed procedure changes:

Stericycle requested that the SSRC or host towns do visitor billing, pay for each collection at one time, rather than many small bills. Stericycle rejected the Director's recommendation that all visitors be billed at the end of each season, too much money would be held back. Towns can't send a check made out to Stericycle to the SSRC address, the vendor number includes the address. Bill from SSRC, to SSRC? Vice Chairman Basler volunteered to attend a meeting with the Director and Stericycle contract manager next week to discuss options, obstacles.

Single stream, glass status discussion.

Report from MassRecycle conference: sorted, baled recyclables are moving, but slowly. Revenues, values are depressed. Recommend maintenance of programs, clean up contamination. Capacity is being developed.

Cohasset is still stockpiling glass. Will go to Carney in Raynham direct for \$80/ton. Kingston proposal from CPR was for \$85/ton plus \$85/load if glass is separated from commingle. Hingham is sending to Carney. Duxbury has CPR deliver to Carney. Hanson – glass is still in commingle. Plymouth site is still under consideration. Need to find end market for PGA, Director recommended specifying use in gravel for projects.

Updates: Capital Paper Recycling dispatched its salesman Justin Mosely to notify those that deliver recyclables to its Weymouth facility that it will no longer accept material there. CPR will continue to haul recyclables directly to end markets.

Miller Recycling in Plainville is now accept plastic and metal containers, paper and cardboard (no glass). Contact Bob Boucher rboucher@millerrecycling.com.

Carney Environmental/ Patriot Recycling in Raynham is crushing glass and mixing it 1% with gravel for road projects. New Heights and RJ Messina have pledged to purchase and use it. The Director is working with Chris Carney to schedule a tour.

Recycling Dividend Program planning

MAC Todd Koep reminded that DEP SMRP grant applications are **due June 13 on ReTrac**. Town Managers must send **Buy Recycled memo** to all procurement folks.

Dawn Quirk is new RDP grant manager at DEP. The Director put links to grant documents [here](#).

Can use RDP funds to buy containers and roll offs. Q: Would DEP expand equipment grants to include replacements, be more flexible? Mr. Koep will run by DEP.

Compost: promote \$25 sale on town websites. Must do a workshop or put CT DEEP video on local cable. SSRC will run a compost PSA on WATD.

Outreach point requires 4 items. Do Not bag signs- place in busy places 2x/year, photograph, date. The SSRC has two PSAs on WATD this month that count as an activity.

Textiles: most every town qualifies; SSRC running radio PSA, tracking tonnage. Towns should post a link to Beyond the Bin on their websites <https://recyclesearch.com/profile/ma>.

Minimum to qualify for RDP funds raised to 8 points from 6.

IMA extension status

All fifteen Member Towns have signed the Intermunicipal Agreement for FY19-23.

SSRC on the air for ten weeks

SSRC Director Claire Galkowski and Covanta SEMASS' Patti Howard were interviewed on [95.9 fm WATD](#) last Friday morning to discuss the content of the current five weeks of Public Service Announcements.

Thanks to funding from Covanta's Material Separation Program, WATD is airing three more one-minute PSAs 60 times- 40 paid by the MSP, 20 donated by the station. WATD's **Kevin Chase** recorded and edited the composting ad; the 2 mercury ads were written and produced by [Grand Cove Productions](#).

Once again, our team of radio stars, SSRC Chairman **Merle Brown**, SSRC staffer **Julie Sullivan**, Abington Board Rep **Lorraine Mavrogeorge**, and Recolor Paint principal **Tania Keeble** lent their lovely voices to the "[Hot tip on compost bins](#)" PSA. The previous month they had recorded three other now-classic spots, "[Bag the plastic bags](#)", "[You can't recycle garbage](#)", and "[Good, bad or ugly, donate all your textiles](#)".

Food waste and compostable paper is the single largest component by weight of our disposed trash (26%!). Partnerships between MassDEP and our municipalities to sell low cost compost bins help put this wasted resource back into the natural cycle, rather than up in smoke. The SSRC's [compost bin web page](#) explains how to make that most of that material, and where to get a low cost compost bin.

[Two PSAs](#) about how to manage mercury are also running with the compost piece. They direct residents to the SSRC's [mercury page](#). Nearly 7,000 lbs. of mercury has been kept out of SEMASS' furnaces, and thus out of our air, water and food chain, thanks to the 17 year old Material Separation Plan program. The PSAs will reinforce and remind residents that our

municipalities provide convenient and proper disposal, also largely funded by the SEMASS Material Separation Plan.

The recordings and scripts are posted on the SSRC [website](#).

RECO report –Kingston, Norwell, Rockland, and Hull

By Julie Sullivan, SSRC Recycling Education and Compliance Officer

April marked the official start of education and enforcement at the Kingston Transfer Station. WickedLocal Kingston published my op-ed [“The importance of cleaning up the recycling stream”](#). My initial observation showed me that although commingle contamination was previously thought to be the biggest problem, residents skipping the recycling area altogether was an even bigger problem.

At the outset, 68% of cars were stopping at the recycling area, which is lower than the previously evaluated towns. After several weeks of education and enforcement by the trash compactors, our hard work appeared to pay off. During my final observation, 79% of cars stopped at the recycling area - in other words, 34% fewer residents drove by the recycling area after the program!

I also hung "Do Not Bag Recyclables" signs in front of the two commingle containers. According to an employee and my own periodic visual checks, the signs seemed to be working. At any given time, I would only be able to spot one or two bags in the entire container after we put the signs up. Hopefully they continue to catch residents' attention for the foreseeable future!

I'd like to thank the Kingston Streets, Trees, & Parks Superintendent Paul Basler, Transfer Station Foreman Al Raasch and his excellent Transfer Station employees, and the Kingston Recycling Committee for helping make the education and enforcement project a success.

Throughout April and at present, I am doing lots of preparation for **Norwell** and **Rockland's** curbside OOPS tagging programs, which are both slated to begin early this summer.

I assisted **Hull Health Director Joyce Sullivan** with educating Hull residents on how to recycle, as their mandatory bundled recycling regulation went into effect on April 15th.

I also teamed up with our WATD radio stars again (Merle, Lorraine, Tania, and Claire) to record an ad about composting. Never a dull moment in the world of recycling!

ABC called to Plymouth BOS hearing

ABC Disposal has provided curbside trash and recycling collection to Plymouth and several south coast municipalities. The contracts, which were signed when recycling markets were healthy and ABC was about to construct its own facility, confer ownership of the recyclables to ABC upon collection with no mechanism for cost recovery.

With costs for recycling high, values low, and the Zero Waste Solutions facility incomplete, the cost has strained the company. ABC invoked force majeure in January to try to recover costs related to the recyclables. After several months of negotiations, the Plymouth Board of Selectmen has called ABC in

for a public hearing about the contract. The financial health of ABC and the future of the curbside collection program at risk. The BOS expressed concern that the additional cost could be open ended.

[Related article](#)

Hull mandate aims to ‘bundle’ trash, recycling pick up

By Mary Whitfill. Patriot Ledger, April 4, 2018

HULL – Paying for in-home recycling will soon be mandatory after a new board of health-sponsored regulation takes effect Sunday, April 15.

Joyce Sullivan, Hull’s health agent, said the town will now mandate that trash haulers bundle the cost of recycling into the price of trash pick up. Rates may go up, but not paying for recycling pick up will no longer be an option for residents.

“We don’t have any recycling set up in town, and we should be doing it anyway,” Sullivan said. “People won’t recycle if they have to pay more, so the way to encourage that is to bundle it together.”

Hull closed its landfill because of capacity issues in 2000 and the town no longer handles trash pick up. There are four different companies that residents can hire to pick up their trash. Pricing is based on how often and how much trash is picked up. Sullivan said it is possible companies will charge more for the extra service.

Most of the companies already offered recycling as an add-on to basic trash pick up. [More](#)

Good intentions, bad habits fuel recycling crisis

By Neal Simpson, Patriot Ledger, May 7, 2018

Recycling bins and barrels along Quincy’s Centre Street were brimming with plastic bags, glass bottles, cardboard boxes, paper towels and Styrofoam containers, all waiting to be picked up Friday morning and carted away to be made into new products.

But what some Centre Street residents, along with many others, apparently don’t know is that Styrofoam containers and paper towels can’t be recycled, and all those plastic bags will likely gum up machinery used to sort recyclables so they can be sold as raw material. In fact, including those things are making it difficult if not impossible to sell recycled material in the U.S., leading to a waste crisis for recycling companies and even municipalities and driving up the cost to have recyclable materials hauled away.

“It is definitely at a crisis point,” said Claire Galkowski executive director of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative. “We’ve got all hands on deck. We’re working to establishing new markets and outlets for the stuff.”

Communities across the South Shore have largely adopted what is known as “single-stream” recycling — a system that allows residents to put all recyclables in a single bin rather than

sorting it into paper, glass and metal. City and town officials said the system would encourage residents to recycle more, a move seen as good for the environment and municipal waste disposal costs, which are based on weight. Recycling also earned money for cities and towns; processors paid for material and sold it to manufacturers, particularly in China, which needs the raw materials to fuel production in its emerging economy. But all that is changing. [More](#)

The elephant in the room: a case for producer responsibility

By Claire Galkowski, Executive Director, South Shore Recycling Cooperative

With so much focus on the recycling crisis, we tend to overlook the root cause of the problem: the glut of short-lived consumer products and packaging. Rather than looking for new places to dispose, it is imperative that we look at where it is coming from, and stem the flow. Mining, harvesting, processing and transport are where the biggest environmental footprints land.

In the current system, manufacturers who profit from the sale of their wares have little incentive to make durable products or minimal, easily recycled packaging, or to incorporate recycled feedstock in their packaging. Thankfully, a few corporations such as Unilever and Procter & Gamble are stepping up. Many more need a nudge to follow suit.

Neither are consumers incentivized to reduce their use and disposal of unnecessary "stuff." The proliferation of convenient single-use products and non-recyclable packaging is clogging our waterways, contaminating our recycling plants and filling our landfills.

Add to that the diminishing disposal capacity in Massachusetts, as most of our remaining landfills face closure within the decade. We are facing a day when the massive amount of stuff that we blithely buy, use once and toss will have no place to go.

Then there is the phenomenon of "wishful recycling". This may be the result of consumers who pay for their trash by the bag avoiding the fee, or genuinely desiring to "recycle" as much as they can (I admit to some past infractions myself). In my experience though, most are just confused about which of the plethora of products and packaging can be effectively recycled. Items like take out coffee cups and cardboard with plastic overwrap are clearly hurting our recycling industry's ability to effectively sort the good stuff, and is a factor in China's embargo on our recyclables.

Producers are selling us millions of tons of products for billions of dollars. Most will be disposed within six months. Packaging, alone, accounts for about 30 percent of our waste and about 60 percent of our recycling stream.

Once products and packaging leave the warehouse, most producers are free of responsibility for what happens to them. A few exceptions are carbonated beverages that are redeemed for

deposit, and rechargeable batteries and mercury thermostats that are recycled through manufacturer-sponsored programs. These are good examples of product stewardship. Municipalities, haulers and recycling processors are left holding the plastic bag, dressing-coated takeout container, plastic-lined paper cup, and glass bottle that currently has no local recycling market.

It's time for that to change. We need the packaging industry to partner with those of us who manage their discards to help solve this massive problem.

There is a bill in the Massachusetts House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, [H447](#), An Act Reducing Packaging Waste in the Commonwealth, that assigns a fee to packaging sold in Massachusetts. The fee is based on the recyclability, recycled content, and cost to manage at end of life. It provides an incentive for more lean and thoughtful packaging design, and to create domestic markets for our recyclables. The proceeds provide funding for improved recycling infrastructure development, municipal solid waste relief and public enlightenment.

With help from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the South Shore Recycling Cooperative and many municipalities are working hard to adjust the habits of our residents, an uphill climb. Recycling companies are struggling to navigate this massive market contraction, and they are wondering if they can continue to operate until viable domestic outlets are established. Municipal recycling costs are skyrocketing, straining budgets with no clear end in sight.

With help from the consumer product manufacturers that helped to create this crisis, it will be possible to resurrect and revitalize our recycling industry, create domestic markets for its products, and make our disposal system more sustainable.

oStates look at EPR, funding cuts, mandates

by [Jared Paben and Colin Staub](#), February 6, 2018, Resource recycling

California: The Golden State is advancing a bill calling for **mandates on the use of recycled content in beverage containers**. The legislation, [Senate Bill 168](#), requires the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) by 2023 to establish minimum recycled-content standards for metal, glass or plastic containers (state law already requires glass bottles contain 35 percent recycled content). The bill also requires that CalRecycle by 2020 provide a report to lawmakers about the potential to implement an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program to replace the current container redemption program. The state Senate on Jan. 29 voted 28-6 to pass the bill, which is now awaiting action in the Assembly.

Connecticut: A workgroup convened by the Senate Environment Committee has been meeting for more than a year to **consider policies, including EPR, that would reduce packaging waste and boost diversion**. [The group](#) includes industry representatives, environmental advocates,

MRF operators, government regulators and more. It most recently met in December and discussed what should be included in its final recommendations to state lawmakers. EPR, which is on the table for packaging and printed paper, was discussed at length. The group is working to finalize its recommendations and could present them to lawmakers during the current legislative session.

[More](#)

Nestle promises 100% recyclable packaging by 2025

By Patti Zarling, Waste Dive, April 11, 2018

Nestle announced plans to make 100% of its packaging recyclable or reuseable by 2025, with a vision that none of the food giant's packaging — including plastics — ends up in landfills or as litter.

CEO Mark Schneider said plastic waste is one of the biggest sustainability issues the world faces, and tackling the problem requires a collective approach. He said Nestle will focus on three goals: eliminating non-recyclable plastics; encouraging use of plastics with better recycling rates; and eliminating or changing complex combinations of packaging materials. The announcement did not include specific benchmarks or action items.

The company's ambitions include helping with the development of strong collection, sorting and recycling schemes in countries where it operates; working with industry leaders to explore different packaging solutions; labeling product packaging with recycling information; and promoting a market for recycled plastics by increasing their use in food packaging. [More](#)

EVENTS

(posted in right column of ssrcoop.info home page)

Opportunities for Recycled Glass webinar, Northeast Recycling Council, Wed., May 16, 2-3 pm. Register [here](#)

Tour of Recolor Paint (fka The Paint Exchange) following 5/17 meeting, 135A Winter St., Hanover

MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant application deadline Wed., June 13. [ReTrac Connect](#). Grant info and documents [here](#).

Tour of Patriot Recycling/Carney Environmental glass processing, Thurs, June 7, 10 am, 1958 Broadway, Raynham (site of dog track). RSVP [Claire Galkowski](#) by 6/5.

SSRC Breakfast Meeting Thurs., June 22, 8:50-10:30 am, Abington Town Hall. Speaker/sponsor: Miller Recycling