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## REPORT OF SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE 2020

2/5/2021

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) is a voluntary association of seventeen 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, Kingston, Middleborough, Norwell**, new member **Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth**, and **Whitman**. (Braintree is a Member as of 1/1/21). Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*).

In FY2020, the SSRC raised **\$99,903.01**: \$77,600 from municipal member dues, \$650.00 in sponsorships, \$19,103.32 in grant funding, \$2,360.00 in donations, and \$189.69 in interest. Those funds paid for the services of the Executive Director, the Recycling Education and Compliance Officer, and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit our member towns. In addition to technical assistance, these activities **saved /earned Member Towns \$220,705** in 2020.

### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

**Household Hazardous Waste Collections** - Capacity of vendors to conduct household hazardous waste (HHW) events continues to be tight. Our initial plan for six Spring HHW collections with a costly new vendor was pared down to one, due to COVID 19. A late, new State Contract for hazardous waste, combined with SSRC's collective buying power, enabled us to obtain the services of a less costly provider for the six Fall collections on short notice. We have revised the check-in process and instituted pre-registration, both which have greatly improved traffic flow.

The SSRC administers arrangements on behalf of its Member Towns for Household Hazardous Waste Collections. It coordinated multi-town collections for thirteen of our Member Towns in 2020, creating further savings. Member Towns saved staff time to bid, schedule and publicize collections. The Executive Director assisted at five of the seven events, and coordinates the billing. The SSRC hired a Household Hazardous Waste Specialist and contracted with another volunteer/contractor to share the load of covering events.

**1,684 residents** attended our **seven collections** in 2020, only 20% fewer than at 2019's 12 events. The **reciprocity policy** also enabled a record **443** of those residents to attend other Member Towns' collections. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional **Recycling Dividend Program**

points, and earned them an extra **\$24,200** in grant money through that program.

The total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2020 is estimated at **\$81,405**.

**General Recyclables** – Historic challenges of 2018 and 2019 to our recycling programs began to abate in mid 2020. At that time, demand for mixed paper and especially cardboard, our largest volume commodities, began to climb, thanks to new investment in domestic capacity. The pandemic had more negative than positive impacts, depending on material. The cost of single stream recycling has only recently dipped back below that of disposal.

The SSRC Director continues to monitor and report market fluctuations, seek out advantageous vendor options and pricing, and assist with resident education to improve material quality.

In October, the Director and three colleagues began drafting a multitown Request for Proposals that provides a more fair allocation of risk, better transparency, and the leverage of aggregated tonnage. It will be released this month. Five of the fifteen participating towns are SSRC Members.

The SSRC continued to help our Towns' programs and residents adapt to more stringent quality standards through multimedia outreach and guidance by the Executive Director.

**Other Materials** – The SSRC has enabled its Members to save money, find better service and/or earn rebates for:

- Electronics – set up and staffed a one day collection in Hull
- Motor oil- better service, pricing
- Oil paint- better service, pricing
- Propane tanks- new vendor in a difficult market
- Textiles- maintain stable rebates
- Tires- new vendor

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

**Radio Public Service Announcements** – With funding from MassDEP and Bay State Textiles, the SSRC re-aired 4 PSAs for 6 weeks on WATD FM. They covered plastic bags and food in recycling, textiles and composting. This helped our towns to qualify for MassDEP incentive grant funding.

**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 62,000 page views by 28,000 visitors in 2020. 77% of visitors were new.

**Facebook:** The SSRC posts waste reduction and recycling tips regularly on its [Facebook page](#), which has 421 followers.

**Press Contacts** - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media. The Director was featured in a [Boston Globe Magazine article](#) and a piece in trade magazine [Waste360](#) in 2020. They are posted in the In the News section of the website.

**Resident Contacts** – The Director fielded over 400 calls and emails from residents and businesses in 2020. Most were about HHW, but she also advised how to properly dispose of everything from brake shoes to an inflatable kayak, and how to encourage fellow apartment dwellers to recycle properly.

### **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 provided advice and help on a **wide range of issues** including recycling and disposal contracts, regulatory language, oil and antifreeze vendors, and much more.

The Director challenged a major processor on its shift from billing based on Index pricing to "Actual" pricing, and advocated for stronger regulatory reporting requirements by processors.

She also held an executive session for officials from 22 municipalities that provide single stream recycling service about how the processor's complex billing system is being used to their disadvantage, how to counter it in their contracts, and why better regulation is needed. This led to the initiation of the multitown RFP referenced above.

**Grant assistance** - The SSRC helped **the majority of Member Towns** 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 qualified our Member Town's for an additional **\$38,350** in Recycling Dividend Program funds, which provided a total of **\$186,150** in grants to fourteen of our Towns.

**Newsletter** - The SSRC publishes bi-monthly **Updates**, which are emailed to 870 subscribers (up from 625 in 2019), including many residents.

### **ADVOCACY**

The Executive Director works actively with other organizations and our Beacon Hill delegation to promote legislation the Board deems beneficial to its solid waste programs. 2020's focus legislation concerned packaging, mattress and paint extended producer responsibility (EPR). She recently collaborated on a redraft of a comprehensive paper and packaging EPR bill, to be filed in January 2021.

The Director represents the Board on the MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee. She proposed more detailed reporting requirements by recycling processors in testimony and discussions with MassDEP.

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 L. Galkowski, Executive Director

## South Shore Recycling Cooperative Board of Directors 2020

| TOWN              | FIRST         | LAST                 | C/O                    | POSITION                                   |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Abington</b>   | Marty         | Golightly            | BOH                    | Health Agent                               |
|                   | Angela        | Dahlstrom            | BOH                    | Recycling Education and Compliance Officer |
| <b>Cohasset</b>   | Merle         | Brown                | citizen                | SSRC Past Chairman                         |
|                   | Andria        | Benn                 | DPW                    | Highway Dept. Admin. Asst                  |
| <b>Duxbury</b>    | Peter         | Buttkus              | DPW                    | Director                                   |
|                   | Norm          | Smith                | DPW                    | Assistant Director                         |
| <b>Hanover</b>    | Victor        | Diniak               | DPW                    | Superintendent                             |
|                   | Kurt          | Kelley               | DPW                    | Assistant Superintendent                   |
| <b>Hanson</b>     | <b>Arlene</b> | <b>Dias</b>          | BOH                    | Commissioner, SSRC Treasurer               |
|                   | Gil           | Amado                | BOH                    | Health Agent                               |
| <b>Hingham</b>    | Stephen       | Messinger            | Transfer Station       | Foreman                                    |
|                   | Randy         | Sylvester            | DPW                    | Superintendent                             |
| <b>Hull</b>       | Chris         | Gardner              | DPW                    | Director                                   |
|                   | Joyce         | Sullivan             | BOH                    | Health Director                            |
| <b>Kingston</b>   | <b>Paul</b>   | <b>Basler</b>        | Streets, Trees & Parks | Superintendent, SSRC Vice Chairman         |
|                   | <b>Jean</b>   | <b>Landis-Nauman</b> | Recycling Committee    | Chairman, SSRC Secretary                   |
| <b>Middleboro</b> | Christopher   | Peck                 | DPW                    | Director                                   |
|                   | Donna         | Jolin                | DPW                    | Office Manager                             |
| <b>Norwell</b>    | Ben           | Margro               | BOH                    | Health Agent                               |
|                   | Vicky         | Spillane             | Recycling Committee    | Appointee                                  |
| <b>Pembroke</b>   | Angela        | Sestito              | Selectmen's Office     | Principal Clerk                            |
|                   | open          |                      |                        |  |
| <b>Plymouth</b>   | Jonathan      | Beder                | DPW                    | Director                                   |
|                   | Rachel        | Newell               | DPW                    | Administrative Assistant                   |
| <b>Rockland</b>   | Delshaune     | Flipp                | BOH                    | Health Agent                               |
|                   | Stephen       | Nelson               | BOH                    | Commissioner                               |
|                   | Scott         | Margolis             | BOH                    | Commissioner                               |
| <b>Scituate</b>   | Sean          | McCarthy             | DPW                    | Asst. Director                             |
|                   | <b>Kevin</b>  | <b>Cafferty</b>      | DPW                    | Director; SSRC Chairman                    |
| <b>Weymouth</b>   | Kathleen      | McDonald             | DPW                    | Principal Clerk                            |
|                   | Fred          | Happel               | DPW                    | Solid Waste Coordinator                    |
|                   | Robert        | O'Connor             | DPW                    | Advisor                                    |
| <b>Whitman</b>    | Alexis        | Andrews              | BOH                    | Health Inspector                           |
|                   | Bruce         | Martin               | DPW                    | Director                                   |

|              | HHW residents to home town event | HHW reciprocity use by residents | roll off savings using SSRC<br>multitown, new vendor setup fee<br>avoidance* | HHW admin, on site staff time<br>(see below) | Recycling Dividend Program HHW<br>awarded point values @ \$50/hr | Bay State Textile tons (facilitated by SSRC) | HHW total value | BST rebates, avoided disp cost | RDP textile awarded point values<br>(radio ads, data coll, etc) | Exec. Dir. MSW consults, assistance<br>(\$55/ hour), cost savings | resident calls and emails | Total     | consultation topics |  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--|
| Abington     | 23                               | 40                               | \$1,000  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$4,263         | 33.1                           | \$6,272   | \$600   | \$330                     | \$11,465  | 25                  | cart recycling, SSR cntract, in house curbside/TS      |
| Cohasset     | 70                               | 17                               | \$2,575  | \$150  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$5,112         | 34.2                           | \$6,199   | \$600   | \$275                     | \$12,186  | 18                  | data survey, oil recy, grind-screen                    |
| Duxbury      | 148                              | 38                               | \$1,100  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$2,200                                      | \$5,486         | 39.7                           | \$6,545   | \$1,100   | \$9,523                   | \$22,654  | 50                  | data survey, grants, mattresses, index pricing         |
| Hanover      | 79                               | 10                               | \$1,800  | \$900  | \$1,100  |  | \$3,889         | 23.1                           | \$4,295   |   | \$28                      | \$8,212   | 19                  | data survey  |
| Hanson       | 38                               | 19                               | \$1,500  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$4,757         | 16.8                           | \$3,255   | \$600   | \$550                     | \$9,162   | 16                  | survey, grants, TS IFB, vendors, bulky rigids          |
| Hingham      | 116                              | 48                               | \$600  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$2,200                                      | \$4,964         | 25.9                           | \$4,259   | \$1,100   | \$55                      | \$10,378  | 34                  | grants   |
| Hull         | 81                               | 11                               | \$1,200  | \$150  | \$1,100  | \$700  | \$3,242         | 13.0                           | \$1,302   | \$350   | \$1,540                   | \$6,434   | 30                  | ewaste collection, grant help                          |
| Kingston     | 40                               | 7                                | \$700  | \$150  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$3,197         | 41.3                           | \$7,271   | \$600   | \$688                     | \$11,756  | 9                   | data survey, grants, book bin @ school, antifreeze     |
| Middleboro   | 10                               | 18                               | \$1,200  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$2,200                                      | \$5,428         | 32.1                           | \$4,007   | \$1,100   | \$193                     | \$10,727  | 11                  | Oops tags, data survey, grants, SSR contracts          |
| Norwell      | 28                               | 30                               | \$1,200  | \$150  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$3,708         | 13.7                           | \$2,465   | \$600   | \$220                     | \$6,993   | 9                   | data survey, contract review, paint                    |
| Pembroke     | 0                                | 69                               | \$4,000  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$2,200                                      | \$8,269         | 43.4                           | \$8,412   | \$1,100   | \$605                     | \$18,386  | 22                  | site visit, textiles, bulky, grants, ewaste, SSR costs |
| Plymouth     | 197                              | 39                               | \$3,880  | \$150  | \$1,100  | \$600  | \$5,966         | 84.1                           | \$14,442  | \$600   | \$110                     | \$9,016   | 52                  | toxic hand sanitizer, trommel screening                |
| Rockland     | 25                               | 34                               | \$600  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$3,859         | 12.3                           | \$2,340   | \$600   | \$330                     | \$21,643  | 16                  | loose mercury, grants, FAC87, data survey              |
| Scituate     | 143                              | 68                               | \$1,890  | \$900  | \$1,100  | \$2,200                                      | \$6,301         | 83.2                           | \$16,854  | \$1,100   | \$550                     | \$26,147  | 30                  | data survey, oil collection, equipment, hauler regs    |
| Weymouth     | 153                              | 20                               | \$4,000  |  | \$1,100  | \$3,500                                      | \$8,773         | 105.9                          | \$18,196  | \$3,500   | \$28                      | \$16,287  | 38                  | paint collection                                       |
| Whitman      | 25                               | 16                               | \$1,700  | \$150  | \$1,100  | \$1,200                                      | \$4,191         | 22.3                           | \$3,986   | \$600   | \$28                      | \$8,805   | 22                  | mercury  |
| <b>Total</b> | 1176                             | 484                              | \$28,945   | \$9,000                                      | \$17,600   | \$24,200                                     | \$81,405        | 624.0                          | \$110,099   | \$14,150  | \$15,052                  | \$220,705 | 401                 |  |

| HHW detail                   | SSRC    | vendor | savings |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Trash rolloff                | \$500   | \$900  | 500     |
| Trash & OCC rolloffs         | \$750   | \$900  | 150     |
| *Spring setup fee            | \$4,000 |        |         |
| *Fall setup fee (new vendor) | \$1,800 |        |         |

staff time: 347 hrs/16 towns = 22 hrs/town \* \$50/hr= \$1100/town