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REPORT OF SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE 2021

2/2/2022

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) is a voluntary association of 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.

In 2021, the SSRC expanded its membership from sixteen to eighteen towns, as it welcomed Braintree and East Bridgewater. Members of the SSRC are now: **Abington, Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Middleborough, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman.** Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*).

In FY21, the SSRC raised **\$86,879.67**: \$80,025 from municipal member dues, \$490.40 in sponsorships, \$2,000.00 in grant funding, \$1,200.00 in donations, and \$64.27 in interest.

Total expense was **\$84,904.14**. This paid for the services of the Executive Director, the Hazardous Waste Specialist, and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit our member towns detailed below.

In addition to technical assistance, these activities **saved /earned Member Towns \$98,970** in CY2021.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collections - Capacity of vendors to conduct household hazardous waste (HHW) events continues to be tight. The State Contract for hazardous waste, combined with SSRC's collective buying power, enabled us to obtain the services of a reliable, collaborative and less costly provider, ACV Enviro, for our twelve collections. We revised the check-in process and instituted pre-registration, both which have greatly improved traffic flow.

The SSRC arranges for and administers Household Hazardous Waste Collections on behalf of its Member Towns. It coordinated multi-town collections for eleven of our Member Towns in 2021, creating further savings. Member Towns saved staff time to contract, schedule, publicize and staff collections. The Executive Director, Hazardous Waste Specialist and/or HHW Assessor assisted at all the events. The Executive Director coordinates the billing.

1,552 residents attended our **twelve collections** in 2021. The **reciprocity policy** also enabled a record **592** of those residents to attend other Member Towns' collections. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional MassDEP **Recycling Dividend Program** points, and earned them an extra **\$27,700** in the 2021 grant cycle.

The total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2021 is estimated at **\$69,550**.

General Recyclables – Historic challenges to our recycling programs since 2018 turned the corner in mid 2021, when our Towns began to receive rebates for recyclables again. Demand continued to climb, thanks to new investment in domestic capacity and consumer interest in recycled content.

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.

The Director and three colleagues released a multitown Request for Proposals for single stream processing. The RFP specified a more fair allocation of risk, better transparency, and the leverage of aggregated tonnage. Five of the fifteen participating towns were SSRC Members. Only one bid, which was unresponsive was received. This demonstrated the lack of viable competition in our area, and reluctance to provide municipalities with any of the requested terms. The Director is now pursuing regulatory and legislative relief to achieve the intent of the RFP.

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 such things as:

- Electronics – set up and staffed three one-day collections, one in Hull, and two in Plymouth.
- Glass- assisted in connecting with transfer station in Middleboro, lower cost, bottle-to-bottle recycling (rather than a gravel additive)
- PAYT bags – interceded with MassDEP on vendor overcharges
- Mattresses – resolved pickup issues

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Radio Public Service Announcements – With funding from MassDEP and Bay State Textiles, the SSRC produced and aired **3 new PSAs** for 6 weeks with WATD FM. They covered “bring your own bag”, proper preparation of recyclables, and perplexing plastics. It also aired previously produced infomercials on textiles and composting. In addition to educating residents, this helped our towns to qualify for MassDEP incentive grant funding.

Website - 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 84,000 page views by 41,000 visitors in 2021, a **27% increase** over 2020. 75% of visitors were new.

Facebook: The SSRC posts waste reduction and recycling tips regularly on its [Facebook page](#), which has 516 followers.

Press Contacts - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media. The Director contributed to a [Patriot Ledger article](#), and arranged for/cowrote 2 PSAs for PACTV. Click or hover on the [In The News tab](#) for more outreach information.

Resident Contacts – The Director fielded hundreds of calls and emails from residents and businesses in 2021. Most were about HHW, but she also advised how to properly dispose of everything from oil drums, fiberglass, railroad ties, and literally a ton of old magazines to bricks, televisions, food waste, lead pipes, VCR tapes, and coal.

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 requested advice and help on a **wide range of issues**, including disposal contracts and overcharges, single stream contracts, program recommendations, fee setting, and private hauler regulations, to name a few.

Grant assistance - The SSRC helped **twelve 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 **\$14,150** in Recycling Dividend Program funds, which provided a total of **\$193,350** in grants to fifteen of our Towns.

Newsletter - The SSRC publishes bi-monthly **Updates**, which are emailed to 1,210 subscribers (up from 870 in 2020), including many residents. The open rate is 42-29%.

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. 2021's focus legislation concerned packaging, mattress and paint producer responsibility, and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) transparency in contracting with municipalities. She testified at the hearings on the pertinent bills, as well as an updated bottle bill that would encompass wine and liquor bottles, nips, and noncarbonated beverage containers, and raise the deposit to 10¢. The latter was recently reported favorably out of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee. See our [Advocacy page](#) for more information.

The Director represents the Board on the MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee. She proposed and is leading the charge for 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 2021

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
Abington	Marty	Golightly	BOH	Health Agent
	Chris	Schultz	BOH	Recycling Ed/Compliance Officer
Braintree	Jeffrey	Kunz	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
	Rosemary	Nolan	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
Cohasset	Merle	Brown	citizen	SSRC Past Chairman
	Ashley	Kenney	DPW	Highway Dept. Admin. Asst
Duxbury	Peter	Buttkus	DPW	Director
	Norm	Smith	DPW	Assistant Director
Hanover	Victor	Diniak	DPW	Superintendent
	Kurt	Kelley	DPW	Assistant Superintendent
Hanson	Arlene	Dias	BOH	Commissioner, SSRC Treasurer
	Gil	Amado	BOH	Health Agent
Hingham	Matt	Cahill	Transfer Station	Foreman
	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent
Hull	Chris	Gardner	DPW	Director
	open		BOH	Health Director
Kingston	Paul	Basler	Streets, Trees, Parks	Superintendent, SSRC Vice Chair
	Jean	Landis-Naumann	Recycling Cmte	Chairman, SSRC Secretary
Middleboro	Christopher	Peck	DPW	Director
	Donna	Jolin	DPW	Office Manager
Norwell	Ben	Margro	BOH	Health Agent
	Vicky	Spillane	Recycling Cmte	Appointee
Pembroke	Angela	Sestito	Selectmen's Office	Principal Clerk
	open			
Plymouth	Jonathan	Beder	DPW	Director
	Dakotah	Stockel	DPW	Administrative Assistant
Rockland	Delshaune	Flipp	BOH	Health Agent
	Scott	Margolis	BOH	Commissioner
Scituate	Kevin	Cafferty	DPW	Director; SSRC Chairman
	Sean	McCarthy	DPW	Asst. Director
Weymouth	Katie	McDonald	DPW	Principal Clerk
	Bob	O'Connor	DPW	Energy Manager
Whitman	Bruce	Martin	DPW	Director
	Dan	Kelly	BOH	Director

South Shore Recycling Cooperative 2021 Annual Report quantifiable benefits

	HHW residents to home town event	HHW reciprocity use by residents	multitown setup fee avoidance*	roll off savings multitown, using SSRC @ \$55/hr (16 hr/town, double if 2 events)	HHW admin. PR, on site staff time awarded point values	Recycling Dividend Program HHW	HHW total value	Bay State Textile tons (facilitated by SSRC)	BST rebates, avoided disp cost	glass savings SMI (Nov-Dec)	RDP textile awarded point values (radio ads, data coll, etc)	Exec. Dir. MSW consults, assistance (\$55/hr), cost savings	Total	consultation topics
Abington	20	28	\$850	\$900	\$930	\$1,200	\$3,880	43.0	\$9,010		\$600	\$743	\$5,223	Multitown bid, grants, data survey, disposal overcharges, recycling contract, site visit
Braintree	205	7	n/a	n/a	\$930	-	\$930	91.2	\$11,313		\$0	\$825	\$1,755	Multitown bid, review contract proposals, batteries, site visit
Cohasset	17	33	\$600	\$150	\$930	\$1,200	\$2,880	27.3	\$5,022		\$600	\$523	\$4,003	disposal contract, grant, propane, paint, mattresses, oil, compost, glass
Duxbury*	0	76	\$900	\$450	\$930	\$2,200	\$4,480	34.2	\$5,989		\$1,100	\$550	\$6,130	data survey, grants, mattresses, glass, disposal contract, index pricing
E. Bridgewater	37	6	\$1,800	\$900	\$930	-	\$3,630	16.6	\$2,886		\$0	\$1,403	\$5,033	Multitown bid, cost data, muni fees, program recommendations, site visit, website edits
Hanover	168	9	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$1,860	-	\$7,260	23.1	\$4,355		\$0	\$330	\$7,590	C&D fees, latex coll, food waste, disposal contract, TS Study Committee consult, glass
Hanson	17	23	\$1,050	\$900	\$930	\$1,200	\$4,080	16.8	\$3,255		\$600	\$688	\$5,368	Multitown SSR bid, data survey, grant, mercury
Hingham	171	36	\$0	\$150	\$930	\$2,200	\$3,280	25.9	\$4,786		\$1,100	\$248	\$4,628	cost data, Ner connection, glass, compost
Hull	61	21	\$0	\$150	\$930	\$700	\$1,780	13.0	\$1,302		\$350	\$2,870	\$5,000	ewaste collection, grant submission, mercury
Kingston*	0	20	\$900	\$450	\$930	\$1,200	\$3,480	41.3	\$7,334		\$600	\$275	\$4,355	data survey, hauler regulation, mattresses, glass
Middleboro	131	16	\$0	\$0	\$930	\$2,200	\$3,130	32.1	\$4,007		\$1,100	\$110	\$4,340	site visit
Norwell	36	37	\$1,150	\$150	\$930	\$1,200	\$3,430	13.7	\$2,492		\$600	\$248	\$4,278	data survey, food waste, PAYT bags, grant, yard waste/invasives, flourescent tubes
Pembroke	55	50	\$0	\$500	\$930	\$2,200	\$3,630	43.4	\$8,514		\$1,100	\$660	\$5,390	Multitown bid, data survey, recycling committee consult
Plymouth	338	54	\$0	\$300	\$1,860	\$600	\$2,760	84.1	\$15,556	\$1,000	\$600	\$1,155	\$5,515	data survey, ewaste collections, glass, site visit
Rockland	12	37	\$650	\$900	\$930	\$1,200	\$3,680	12.3	\$2,396		\$600	\$1,183	\$5,463	Multitown bid, hauling contract, data survey, grants, compost site, regs, vendor bill
Scituate	111	58	\$1,200	\$900	\$930	\$2,200	\$5,230	83.2	\$17,473	\$922	\$1,100	\$853	\$8,105	hauler regs, data survey, food waste, PAYT bags, site visit
Weymouth	157	46	\$0	\$0	\$930	\$7,000	\$7,930	105.9	\$18,196		\$3,500	\$523	\$11,953	Multitown bid
Whitman	16	35	\$1,800	\$150	\$930	\$1,200	\$4,080	22.3	\$4,041		\$600	\$165	\$4,845	mercury
Total	1552	592	\$14,500	\$8,750	\$18,600	\$27,700	\$69,550	729.4	\$127,926	\$1,922	\$14,150	\$13,348	\$98,970	

HHW detail	SSRC	vendor	savings
Trash rolloff	\$500	\$900	500
Trash & OCC rolloffs	\$750	\$900	150
setup fee	\$1,800		
staff time: 340 hrs/(18 towns + 2 double events) =17 hrs/town * \$55/hr= \$930/town			
* hosted HHW FY 21 & 22, but not CY21			
New Members FY22			