



PO Box 247
Westwood, MA 02090
781.329.8318
director@ssrcoop.info
ssrcoop.info

2023 REPORT OF SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE

January 18, 2024

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.

Eighteen towns are SSRC Members: **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 FY23, the SSRC raised **\$94,646**: \$87,300 from Member Town dues, \$3,310 in sponsorships, \$4,000.00 in grant funding, and \$36 in interest.

Total expense was **\$85,473**. This paid for the services of the Executive Director, the Hazardous Waste Specialist and assessors, and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit our member towns detailed below.

In addition to services and advocacy outlined below, membership in the SSRC **saved /earned Member Towns more than \$252,804** in CY2023. See page 6 for details.

The SSRC celebrated its **25th anniversary** in May, headlined by MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. Municipal, legislative and DEP leaders, vendor-sponsors and past board members attended.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collections - Capacity of vendors to conduct household hazardous waste (HHW) events continues to be tight. Anticipating a continued supply shortage, the SSRC is in the process of planning a regional HHW Depot to replace most of our “pop-up” events. SSRC applied for and was awarded a grant of \$250,000 from MassDEP, as well as technical assistance. Additional funds will be raised from other sources. The Hanover Transfer Station is being considered to host the facility.

The SSRC arranges for and administers Household Hazardous Waste Collections on behalf of its Member Towns. It coordinated multi-town collections for twelve of our Member Towns in 2023, creating further savings. Member Towns saved staff time to contract, schedule, publicize and staff collections. The Executive Director, Hazardous Waste Specialist and/or HHW Assessors assisted at all events. The Executive Director coordinates the billing.

1,832 residents attended our **twelve collections** in 2023. The **reciprocity policy** also enabled **668** 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 **\$30,330** in the 2023 grant cycle.

In addition to the convenience of access to eleven events for Member Town residents, the total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2023 is estimated at **\$74,710**.

General Recyclables – The “blended value” of traditional recyclables (paper, cardboard, bottles and containers) was steadier than usual in 2023, starting the year at \$10.32/ton, and ending at \$36.56/ton. This value is usually deducted from the ~\$105/ton processing cost (sorting, baling and delivery to end markets). The average net cost of mixed recycling was about \$71/ton, which is still less than the cost of disposal, which averaged \$93/ton.

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 is pursuing regulatory and legislative relief to achieve fairer, more transparent pricing, as well as total relief from these costs through a packaging and paper producer responsibility bill.

In December the Director released a bid for pre-sorted recyclables, as well as transfer station hauling and construction, demolition and bulky waste. This provides lower pricing and the convenience of not having to bid these services out individually.

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

- Glass- connected seven Member towns with a new glass recycling facility in Hopedale, which offered to pay for pre-sorted material. Negotiated a reduction in cost with the vendor which most of the towns use from \$40/ton to zero. Potential savings to those towns is \$52,000-\$71,000/year.
- Textiles – SSRC connected Member Towns with a new service provider (BBBSF) that pays our Towns (General Funds) higher per-ton rebates than the Towns were receiving, as well as curbside service with a smaller rebate, providing more options for collection. SSRC negotiated a rebate increase from \$100/ton to \$160/ton with BST, our mainstay dropoff service provider. (Tonnage and rebate data from BBBSF had not been received by date of publication and is not included in the total reported savings.)
- Books- SSRC introduced a service provider, BSB, for book collection that pays \$40/ton to the Towns. The service provider that they had been, or still are, using pays no rebates.
- Tires – Collaborated with Plymouth County Mosquito Control on 4 free tire collections. Residents throughout the service area recycled 884 tires through the program, saving them and their towns about \$5K.
- Mattresses – SSRC set up multitown curbside collections for our eleven towns that don't provide that service. 2600 households recycled 3472 mattresses at a reasonable cost. The Director conducted a Request for Quotes for the service, resulting in 3 quotes. This confirmed that Towns and residents were being charged the lowest rates available.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Radio Public Service Announcements – With funding from MassDEP and Covanta SEMASS, the SSRC aired **8 PSAs** for 6 weeks with WATD FM and its 2 sister stations. They covered “bring your own bag”, textiles, proper preparation of recyclables, plastics and composting. In addition to educating residents, this helped our towns to qualify for MassDEP incentive grant funding. Listen at ssrcoop.info/radio-ads/

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. Traffic increased 14% over 2022, with 86,870 page views by 42,794 visitors in 2023. 76% of visitors were new, same as for 2022.

Facebook: The SSRC posts waste reduction and recycling tips regularly on its [Facebook page](#), which has 659 followers.

Press Contacts - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media.

Resident Contacts – The Director fielded hundreds of calls and emails from residents and businesses in 2023. Most were about hazardous waste, but she also advised how to properly dispose of everything from hockey tape to carpet, taxidermy to couches. She also mentors Cohasset Middle School students doing research projects each semester.

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 single stream contracts and invoices, safe lithium battery disposal, fee setting and illegal tire dumping, to name a few.

Grant assistance - The SSRC helped **ten Member Towns** submit their MassDEP Data Surveys and/or Grant applications. Maximizing grant funds is a frequent topic at our Board meetings. Our Member Towns were collectively awarded **\$231,200** in MassDEP grants. Funds may be used for a broad range of recycling-related equipment, outreach, activity, memberships and conferences, and for hazardous waste management costs.

Membership in SSRC qualified our Member Town’s for an additional **\$79,230** in Recycling Dividend Program funds.

Newsletter - The SSRC emailed eight **SSRC News** issues, posted at ssrcoop.info/newsletters/ to 1,768 subscribers (up from 1,521 in 2022), including many residents. The open rate averages 59%. They cover a wide range of topics, including local, state and national waste issues, how to be a better recycler, and where our materials go.

ADVOCACY

The Executive Director promotes legislation the Board deems beneficial to its solid waste programs. She works with our Beacon Hill delegation and is an active adviser to the Mass. Product Stewardship

Council. 2023's focus legislation concerns **packaging/paper, mattress and paint producer responsibility**, and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) **transparency** in contracting with municipalities. She testified at the hearings on those bills. She also provided written testimony supporting an **updated bottle bill** that would encompass wine and liquor bottles, nips, and noncarbonated beverage containers, and raise the deposit to 10¢. See our Advocacy page at srcoop.info/advocacy/ for more information.

The Director represents the Board on the MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). She is advocating for more detailed reporting requirements by recycling processors in discussions with MassDEP, and for the establishment of an official Hazardous Waste subcommittee to the SWAC.

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 2023

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
Abington	Chris	Schultz	BOH	Health Agent
	Eddie	Murphy	BOH	Waste Reduction Coordinator
Braintree	Jeffrey	Kunz	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
	Rosemary	Nolan	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
Cohasset	Merle	Brown*	citizen	SSRC Past Chairman
	Brian	Joyce	DPW	Director
Duxbury	Peter	Buttkus*	DPW	Director
	Sheila	Sgarzi*	DPW	Director
	Norm	Smith	DPW	Assistant Director
Hanover	Kurt	Kelley	DPW	Assistant Superintendent
				open
Hanson	Arlene	Dias	BOH	Commissioner, SSRC Treasurer
	Gil	Amado	BOH	Health Agent
Hingham	Stephen	Messinger	Transfer Station	Foreman
	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent
Hull	Chris	Gardner	DPW	Director
	Joan	Taverna	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
	Sabrina	Chilcott	Selectmen's Office	Assistant town Manager
Plymouth	Dakota	Stockell*	DPW	Solid Waste Administrator
	Leona	Cleveland*	DPW	Solid Waste Administrator
	Kerin	McCall	Marine/Env Affairs	Technician
Rockland	Delshaune	Flipp	BOH	Health Agent
	Christine	Stuart*	BOH	Commissioner
	David	Taylor*	Highway Dept.	Superintendent
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

*partial year, new appointments forthcoming

	HHW residents to home town event	HHW reciprocity use by residents	multitown setup fee avoidance* SSRC arranged vendor (see below)	roll off savings multitown, using @ \$65/hr (1.5 hr/town, double 1/2 event)	HHW admin., PR, on site staff time awarded point values	Recycling Dividend Program HHW	HHW total value	Bay State Textiles, Bay State Books avoided disp cost**	glass savings SMI (4 mos. x \$40/ton)	RDP textile, outreach awarded point values (radio ads, data coll. etc)	Exec. Dir. MSW consults, assistance (\$65/ hour), cost savings	Total	consultation topics	
Abington	13	29	\$600	\$900	\$975	\$1,200	\$3,675	42.38	\$6,102		\$1,800	\$293	\$11,870	commodity values, mattresses, compost site, curbside contract extension
Braintree	0	30	\$1,500	\$900	\$490	\$3,600	\$6,490	98.89	\$6,361		\$5,400	\$163	\$18,413	commodity values, curbside contract, school HHW, compost site mgmt
Cohasset	17	38	\$900	\$400	\$975	\$1,200	\$3,475	29.92	\$4,048	\$2,206	\$1,800	\$1,193	\$12,722	commodity values, RDF fees, Hg reimbursement, compost site mgmt, EcoFest
Duxbury	36	62	\$1,050	\$150	\$975	\$2,200	\$4,375	38.93	\$5,391	\$4,328	\$3,300	\$260	\$17,654	commodity values, food waste collection, data survey, grant help, hauling invoice
E. Bridgewater	15	20	\$1,500	\$150	\$975	\$0	\$2,625	25	\$3,238			\$390	\$6,253	commodity values, cart contract, data survey, Hg bill, site visit
Hanover	134	8	\$1,500	\$1,050	\$1,950	-	\$4,500	21.98	\$3,428			\$195	\$8,123	commodity values, TS Study Cmte, data survey, unrecyclable mattress
Hanson	17	22	\$900	\$900	\$975	\$1,200	\$3,975	13.44	\$1,862		\$1,800	\$813	\$8,449	commodity values, fuel surcharge, data survey, grant help, fees, TS cmte, illegal dumping
Hingham	113	47	\$0	\$150	\$975	\$2,200	\$3,325	28.73	\$4,250		\$3,900	\$130	\$11,605	commodity values, C&D, compost screening contract
Hull	39	12	\$0	\$150	\$975	\$490	\$1,615	16.19	\$648			\$195	\$2,458	HHW dates in grant application, data survey, fluorescent tubes
Kingston	58	11	\$1,500	\$900	\$975	\$1,200	\$4,575	34.0	\$4,171	\$2,022	\$1,800	\$1,106	\$13,674	commodity values, food waste collection, data survey, mattresses, freon
Middleboro	0	21	\$1,500	\$900	\$490	\$2,200	\$5,090	54.57	\$3,547		\$3,300	\$65	\$12,002	mattress pickups
Norwell	25	47	\$1,000	\$400	\$975	\$1,200	\$3,575	24.31	\$3,142		\$1,800	\$390	\$8,907	commodity values, glass, curbside cost allocation, data survey, site visit, fee list, grant help
Pembroke	23	64	\$450	\$900	\$975	\$2,200	\$4,525	59.71	\$8,141		\$3,300	\$98	\$16,063	commodity values, gasoline
Plymouth	377	78	\$0	\$300	\$1,950	\$600	\$2,850	124.9	\$17,476	\$2,680	\$1,800	\$195	\$25,001	commodity values, ballasts, lithium batteries, grant help
Rockland	20	35	\$500	\$900	\$975	\$2,200	\$4,575	26.26	\$3,722		\$3,300	\$455	\$12,052	commodity values, invoice and WM proposal reviews, exploding cell phone, DPW waste,...
Scituate	155	40	\$600	\$900	\$975	\$2,200	\$4,675	66.76	\$10,169	\$7,021	\$3,300	\$163	\$25,327	commodity values, disposal and hauling contracts, data survey help, grant help
Weymouth	98	83	\$0	\$0	\$975	\$4,900	\$5,875	143.8	\$16,270		\$10,500	\$293	\$32,938	commodity values, tires, vegetable oil, site visit, grinding contract
Whitman	24	21	\$1,500	\$900	\$975	\$1,540	\$4,915	18.95	\$2,350		\$1,800	\$228	\$9,292	commodity values, mercury, site visit
Total	1164	668	\$15,000	\$10,850	\$18,530	\$30,330	\$74,710	868.2	\$104,316	\$18,257	\$48,900	\$6,621	\$252,804	

HHW detail	SSRC	vendor	savings
Trash rolloff	\$500	\$900	400
Trash & OCC rolloffs	\$750	\$900	150
setup fee	\$1,500		

staff time: 380 hrs/(18 towns + 2 double events) =19 hrs/town * \$55/hr= \$1045/town