



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

Regional Household Hazardous Waste Depot proposal

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Scheduling "pop-up" HHW events across the state is becoming more challenging and costly. These events are staff and driver intense for the contractors. The SSRC's fall 2022, and spring and fall 2023 seasons were impacted by this. Cost increases are imminent.

For the past few months, the SSRC has discussed shifting our HHW program from a "travelling show" to a regional HHW Depot.

The intent of setting up a such a Depot is to provide a **more consistent and cost-efficient** way for our Towns to provide **convenience** to residents, **keep hazardous waste out of our trash and groundwater**, and **reduce house fire risks**.

The HHW Depot would enable residents of SSRC Member Towns to attend an **event every month of the year**.

- The **Hanover DPW** supports hosting this facility at its **transfer station**, subject to Select Board approval.
- Plymouth would continue to host 2 events/year for the southern tier. Hull and Weymouth will each continue to host 1 event/year. Braintree's participation depends on negotiations with Clean Harbors.
- The Center would be open 7-8x/year, year-round, to replace most of the "travelling show" in the northern tier of our service area. It would require **less vendor staffing** and be **more efficient and economical**.
- SSRC Director Claire Galkowski has visited **similar facilities** in [Brockton](#), [Newton](#), [Lexington](#) (8 towns), and [Devens](#) (14 towns).
- Galkowski has been in discussion with MassDEP officials about the **SMRP grant** for the equipment and planning costs. Proper HHW management is a priority in MassDEP's Solid Waste Master Plan.
- SSRC would provide some trained staff, and would hire a chemist and some technicians from a hazardous waste contractor to assist. We would **still need staffing from all of our towns** to help with check-in, as we always have.
- We would **re-work our billing system** to continue to be **as fair as possible**. Setup fees would be replaced by actual labor costs for the contractor, and bulk rates should provide cost savings, with partial drums stored on site until full.
- To proceed, we will need **letters of support** from our affected towns, and a commitment of some percentage of the grant request, either **monetary or in-kind** for the capital costs. The amount per town would likely be in the \$1,500-3,500 range. RDP funds could be used for this investment.

As of 5/4/23, the following 12 Member Municipalities indicated their support: Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, (Hanover-subject to BOS approval), Hanson, Hingham, Norwell, Pembroke, Rockland, Scituate and Whitman.



Figure 1 Example of a permanent HHW Center