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2024 REPORT OF SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE

January 16, 2025

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 current SSRC Members: **Abington, Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston**, new member **Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth**, and **Whitman**.

Middleborough was a Member through June 30. Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*).

In FY24, the SSRC raised **\$95,150**: \$87,300 from Member Town dues, \$1,200 in sponsorships, \$4,000.00 in grant funding, and \$1,562 in interest.

Total expense in FY24 was **\$94,037**. 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 \$323,000** in CY2024. See page 6 for details. Supporting documents are available upon request.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collections - The SSRC arranges for and administers Household Hazardous Waste Collections on behalf of its Member Towns. Of the twelve collections in 2024, it coordinated four multi-town events involving eleven towns, 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.

2,405 households attended our **twelve collections** in 2024. The **reciprocity policy** also enabled **924** of those residents to attend other Member Towns' collections, the most ever. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional MassDEP **Recycling Dividend**

Program points and earned them an extra **\$29,480** in the 2024 grant cycle.

Capacity of vendors to conduct household hazardous waste (HHW) events is tight. Anticipating a continued supply shortage, the SSRC is 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, \$120,000 from the Community Compact Cabinet through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, as well as technical assistance from both. Participating Member Municipalities and the SSRC itself are providing additional funds. The Hanover Transfer Station is the most likely site.

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 2024 is estimated at **\$66,120**.

General Recyclables – The “blended value” of mixed traditional recyclables (paper, cardboard, bottles and containers) was ranged from \$39-\$59/ton in 2024, offsetting the processing cost of about \$120/ton to sort, bale and deliver to end markets. Costs for separated recyclables sorted by residents are typically lower, values higher. The average net cost of mixed recycling was about \$69/ton, which is still less than the cost of disposal, which averaged \$96/ton among out Members.

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 relief from these and other material management costs.

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

- Propane tank collections – To address widespread lack of access to proper propane tank and fire extinguisher recycling service, SSRC piloted 2 collections in conjunction with HHW events. Over 100 households delivered 411 units at no cost to the towns.
- Tires – Collaborated with Plymouth County Mosquito Control on 4 free tire collections. Residents throughout the service area recycled 359 tires through the program, saving them and their towns about \$2K.
- Textiles – SSRC connected Member Towns with new service providers (BBBSF, Helpsy) that pay our Towns higher per-ton rebates than the Towns were receiving, as well as curbside service with a smaller rebate, providing more options for collection. Combined rebates and disposal cost savings totalled \$168,425.
- Mattresses – Two mattress recycling companies (HandUp and Tough Stuff) presented at Board meetings, offering more competitive rates for our municipalities’ programs.
- Food waste – Two food waste management companies (RecycleWorks and Black Earth Compost) presented at Board meetings, offering more competitive rates and programs for our municipalities’ programs.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Radio Public Service Announcements – With funding from MassDEP and Covanta SEMASS, the SSRC aired **8 PSAs** for 6 weeks on 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 remained high, with 82K page views by 44K visitors in 2024. 80% of visitors were new.

Facebook: The SSRC posts waste reduction and recycling tips regularly on its [Facebook page](#), which has 724 followers.

Press Contacts - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media. An [Op-Ed](#) cowritten by the Executive Director and 9 colleagues about the need for extended producer responsibility policies nationwide was published in Waste Dive.

Resident Contacts – The Director fielded hundreds of calls and emails from residents and businesses in 2024. Most were about hazardous waste, but she also advised how to properly dispose of everything from fire extinguishers to fiberglass, Teflon pans to a treadmill. She also mentors Cohasset Middle School students doing research projects each semester.

ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND NETWORKING

Consultations with the Executive Director are 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**, from fee setting and hauling contracts to host community agreements.

Commodity pricing – The Director subscribes to Secondary Materials Pricing, and sends out quarterly summaries of index pricing and blended value tables to the Managers. This information indicates what towns should be paying/receiving for their recyclables.

Grant assistance – Our Member Towns were collectively awarded **\$175,570** in MassDEP grants in 2024. Membership in SSRC qualified our Member Town’s for **\$59,560** in Recycling Dividend Program funds.

Maximizing these grant funds is a frequent topic at our Board meetings, and the Director shares specific action items via email. The SSRC summer intern entered all Member Towns’ information in the [Beyond the Bin](#) recycling directory, to qualify them for grant money. The Director helped several Member Towns submit their MassDEP Data Surveys and/or Grant applications. Funds may be used for a broad range of recycling-related equipment, outreach, activity, memberships and conferences, and for hazardous waste management costs.

Newsletter - The SSRC emailed eight **SSRC News** issues, posted at ssrcoop.info/newsletters/ to 1,999 subscribers (up from 1,768 in 2023), including many residents. 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. The open rate averages 58%.

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. 2024’s focus legislation concerned **packaging/paper, mattress and paint producer responsibility**. See our Advocacy page at ssrcoop.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 2024

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
Abington	Chris	Schultz	BOH	Health Agent
	Eddie	Murphy	BOH	Waste Reduction Coordinator; Vice Chair FY25
Braintree	Jeffrey	Kunz	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
	Rosemary	Nolan*	DPW	Solid Waste Manager (FY24)
Cohasset	Brian	Joyce	DPW	Town Engineer
	open			
Duxbury	Sheila	Sgarzi	DPW	Director
	Norm	Smith	DPW	Operations Manager
East Bridgewater	John	Haines	DPW	Director
	Lynn	Lundberg	DPW	Business Manager
Hanover	Kurt	Kelley	DPW	Assistant Superintendent
	Victor	Diniak	DPW	Superintendent
Hanson	Arlene	Dias	BOH	Commissioner, SSRC Treasurer

	Gil	Amado	BOH	Health Agent
Hingham	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent
	Ashley	Sanford	DPW	Assistant Superintendent
Hull	Chris	Gardner	DPW	Director
	open			
Kingston	Paul	Basler	Streets, Trees, Parks	Superintendent, SSRC Vice Chair (FY24)
	Jean	Landis-Naumann	Recycling Cmte	Chairman, SSRC Secretary
Marshfield	To be appted			(FY25)
Middleboro	Christopher	Peck*	DPW	Director (FY24)
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	James	Downey	DPW	Asst. Director
	Kerin	McCall	Energy & Environment	Technician
	Leona	Cleveland (alt)	DPW	Solid Waste Administrator
Rockland	Delshaune	Flipp	BOH	Health Agent SSRC Chairman (FY25)
	David	Taylor	Highway Dept.	Superintendent
Scituate	Kevin	Cafferty	DPW	Director; SSRC Chairman (FY24)
	Sean	McCarthy	DPW	Asst. Director
Weymouth	Katie	McDonald	DPW	Procurement Analyst
	Bob	O’Connor	DPW	Energy Manager
Whitman	Bruce	Martin	DPW	Director
	Dan	Kelly	BOH	Director

*partial year, new appointments forthcoming

South Shore Recycling Cooperative 2024 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 arranged vendor (see below)	HHW admin. PR. on site staff time using SSRC (15 hrs/town, double if 2 events)	Recycling Dividend Program HHW awarded point values	Recycling Dividend Program HHW awarded point values	Bay State Textile, Bay State Books, Helpsy rebates; avoided disp cost **	HHW total value	Bay State Textile, Bay State Books, Helpsy rebates; avoided disp cost **	glass savings SMI (\$40/ton)	RDP textile outreach awarded point values (radio ads, data coll. etc)	Exec. Dir. MSW consults, assistance (\$65/hour), cost savings	(\$65)	Total	consultation topics
Abington	17	41	\$1,500	\$150	\$910	\$1,200	\$3,760	68.5	\$9,676			\$1,200	\$780	\$15,416	commodity values, BTB entry, curbside fee setting	
Braintree	196	36			\$910	\$3,600	\$4,510	140.0	\$9,673			\$3,600	\$488	\$18,270	commodity values, BtB entry, curbside fee setting, rires, cost saving recommendations	
Cohasset	29	39	\$900	\$400	\$910	\$1,200	\$3,410	38.2	\$5,938	\$5,031	\$1,200	\$260	\$15,839	commodity values, BtB entry, RDF mutual aid (Scituate)		
Duxbury	65	62	\$1,200	\$900	\$910	\$2,200	\$5,210	72.8	\$8,143	\$10,040	\$2,200	\$455	\$26,048	commodity values, BtB entry, finance director research data, recommendations, RDP reports,		
E. Bridgewater	13	34	\$650	\$900	\$910	\$840	\$3,300	30.6	\$4,580			\$840	\$195	\$8,915	commodity values, BtB entry, trash app help	
Hanover	159	12	\$1,500	\$800	\$1,820	-	\$4,120	39.9	\$5,530	\$3,828			\$748	\$14,226	commodity values, BtB entry, TS fee setting and progra recommendations, data survey, antifreeze	
Hanson	17	50	\$1,500	\$900	\$910	\$700	\$4,010	47.1	\$7,732			\$700	\$520	\$12,962	commodity values, BtB entry, site visit, , illegal tire dumping, data survey, BR memo submittal,...	
Hingham	112	63	\$0	\$150	\$910	\$2,200	\$3,260	41.3	\$7,844	\$5,669	\$2,200	\$358	\$19,331	commodity values, BtB entry, food wste, mattresses, Eco+ bill, RDP grant help		
Hull	84	48	\$0	\$150	\$910		\$1,060	16.2	\$971					\$2,031	BtB entry, data survey, RDP spend report, HHW primer	
Kingston	34	23	\$1,500	\$400	\$910	\$1,200	\$4,010	160.2	\$15,562	\$3,716	\$1,200	\$585	\$25,073	commodity values, BtB entry, data survey, RDP spend report, BR memo, HCA		
Marshfield	joined in November, no data yet						\$0						\$293	\$293	commodity values, site visit	
Middleborough		16	\$1,500	\$900		\$2,200	\$4,600					\$2,200		\$6,800	Withdrew as of 7/1/24	
Norwell	0	81	\$1,500	\$900	\$910	\$1,200	\$4,510	32.2	\$4,509			\$1,200	\$748	\$10,966	commodity values, BtB entry, data survey, BST/Helpsy, site visit-DPW, 100# propane tank	
Pembroke	41	92	\$300	\$900	\$910	\$2,200	\$4,310	84.5	\$12,176			\$2,200	\$325	\$19,011	commodity values, BtB entry, fee setting, recommendations, curbside and disposal contracts, ...	
Plymouth	400	73	\$0	\$300	\$1,820	\$600	\$2,720	233.4	\$31,520	\$6,040	\$1,200	\$423	\$41,903	commodity values, BtB entry, new staff primer, swap shop shed		
Rockland	23	45	\$0	\$900	\$910	\$2,200	\$4,010	47.7	\$6,587			\$2,200	\$1,105	\$13,902	commodity values, BtB entry, invoices, curbside contract, data survey, BR memo, grant appl., PW	
Scituate	118	56	\$600	\$900	\$910	\$2,200	\$4,610	89.8	\$13,423	\$11,552	\$2,200	\$260	\$32,045	commodity values, BtB entry, disposal, hauling contracts, data survey, BR memo		
Weymouth	148	96	\$0	\$0	\$910	\$4,900	\$5,810	152.1	\$20,153			\$4,900	\$423	\$31,285	commodity values, BtB entry, propane tanks, fee setting, cost saving recommendations, nip ban	
Whitman	22	35	\$850	\$900	\$910	\$840	\$3,500	34.8	\$4,407			\$840	\$358	\$9,104	commodity values, BtB entry, site visit, antifreeze, BR memo submittal, vendor info	
Total	1478	902	\$13,500	\$10,450	\$17,290	\$29,480	\$70,720	1363.6	\$168,425	\$45,876	\$30,080	\$8,320	\$323,421			

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

staff time: 281 hrs/(18 towns + 2 double events) =14 hrs/town * \$65/hr= \$910/town