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## 2025 REPORT OF SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE

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The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) is a voluntary association of South Shore municipalities established by 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 bound by an Intermunicipal Agreement: **Abington, Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston**, new member **Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth**, and **Whitman**. Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*).

In FY25, the SSRC raised **\$107,051**: \$87,450 from Member Town dues, \$9,500 in HHW administration fees, \$2,100 in sponsorships, \$4,470.00 in grant funding, \$1,460 from special collections, and \$2,818 in interest.

Total expense in FY24 was **\$96,356**. This was paid for the services of the Executive Director, the Hazardous Waste Specialist and HHW Assessors, and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit our Member Towns as detailed below.

In addition to services and advocacy outlined below, membership in the SSRC **saved /earned Member Towns nearly \$191,000** in 2025. 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 (HHW) Collections on behalf of its Member Towns. Of the twelve collections in 2025, it coordinated four multi-town events involving eleven towns, creating further savings.

A **new contract** awarded to Clean Harbors provided considerable savings for the fall season compared with their standard State Contract (WMR001) pricing, amounting to **reduced cost of \$44,423**. 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.

A record **2,772 households** attended our 2025 HHW events. The **reciprocity policy** also

enabled a **943** of those residents to attend other Member Towns' collections. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional MassDEP **Recycling Dividend Program** points, earning them an extra **\$28,860** in the 2025 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, and technical assistance from both. Participating Member Towns and the SSRC itself are providing additional funds. The Hanover Transfer Station is the intended site, pending Hanover Select Board approval later this month.

In addition to the convenience of access to twelve HHW events for Member Town residents, the total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2025 is estimated at **\$116,983**.

**General Recyclables** – The "blended value" of mixed recyclables (paper, cardboard, bottles and containers) ranged from \$17/ton to \$49/ton in 2025, offsetting the processing cost of about \$120/ton to sort, bale and deliver them to end markets. The average net cost of mixed recycling was about \$87/ton, which is still less than the cost of disposal, which averaged \$105/ton among our Members. Costs for recyclables sorted by residents at transfer stations are typically lower, values higher.

The SSRC Director continues to monitor and report market fluctuations, seek out advantageous vendor options and pricing, and assist with contracting, invoice review, and resident education.

The Director is pursuing regulatory and legislative policies that achieve relief from these and other material management costs.

**Food waste** – At about a quarter of disposed tonnage, diverting food from trash provides opportunity for significant cost savings. SSRC conducted a competitive bid for curbside food waste collection in the spring. Black Earth Compost was awarded the Preferred Vendor contract, which many of our Member Towns posted on their websites for their residents to use. SSRC publicized the service widely in December.

SSRC promoted and sold 40 low-cost compost bins and 45 kitchen scrap buckets to residents in the spring.

**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 conducted 4 collections in conjunction with other events. Over 150 households delivered 566 units at no cost to the towns.
- **Tires** – Collaborated with Plymouth County Mosquito Control on 3 free tire collections collocated with HHW events. Residents throughout the service area recycled 329 tires

through the program, saving them and their towns about \$2000.

- **Zero Waste Day** – SSRC conducted a recycling event in Hull in May. We collected tires, appliances, electronics, latex paint and mercury containing products, and sold compost bins. 67 residents attended on a rainy day.
- **Textiles** – SSRC connected Member Towns with textile 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.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

**Radio Public Service Announcements** – With funding from MassDEP and ReWorld SEMASS, the SSRC aired **8 PSAs** for 5 weeks on WATD FM and its 2 sister stations around Earth Day. 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/](https://ssrcoop.info/radio-ads/)

**Website** - [ssrcoop.info](https://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 at 35K visitors in 2025. 70% of visitors were first-timers.

**Facebook**: The SSRC posts waste reduction and recycling tips regularly on its [Facebook page](#), which has 825 followers.

**Resident Contacts** – SSRC staff fielded hundreds of calls and emails from residents and businesses in 2025. Most were about hazardous waste, but she also advised how to properly dispose of everything from condo recycling to smoke detectors, damaged and recalled batteries to medical sharps. 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 recycling invoices to disaster debris planning and disposal contracts. In 2025, she did site visits in Cohasset, Hanover, Hanson, Marshfield, Norwell and Weymouth.

**Board Meetings** – The SSRC Board met in hybrid meetings throughout the service area eight times in 2025. Attendance and discussions are summarized in the [minutes](#) and [newsletters](#).

**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 **\$185,460** in MassDEP grants in 2025. Membership in SSRC qualified our Member Town’s for **\$43,590** 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 Director helped several Member Towns submit their MassDEP Data Surveys, RDP Spending Reports 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/](http://ssrcoop.info/newsletters/) to 2,174 subscribers (up from 1,999 in 2024), including residents, municipal and state officials. 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 56%.

**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. 2025’s focus legislation concerned **battery, paint, packaging and paper producer responsibility**. She also contributed to [EPR Commission](#) discussions, influencing its recommendations to the Legislature. See our Advocacy page at [ssrcoop.info/advocacy/](http://ssrcoop.info/advocacy/) for more information.

The Director represents the Board on the MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). She successfully advocated for the establishment of an official [Household Hazardous Waste Workgroup](#) of 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 2025**

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
<b>Abington</b>	Chris	Schultz	BOH	Health Agent
	<b>Eddie</b>	<b>Murphy</b>	BOH	Waste Reduction Coordinator Vice Chair (FY25)
<b>Braintree</b>	Jeffrey	Kunz	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
	John	Wentworth	DPW	Solid Waste Manager (FY26)

<b>Cohasset</b>	Brian	Joyce	DPW	Town Engineer
	open			
<b>Duxbury</b>	Sheila	Sgarzi	DPW	Director
	Norm	Smith	DPW	Operations Manager
<b>East Bridgewater</b>	John	Haines	DPW	Director
	Lynn	Lundberg	DPW	Business Manager
<b>Hanover</b>	Kurt	Kelley	DPW	Assistant Superintendent
	open			
<b>Hanson</b>	<b>Arlene</b>	<b>Dias</b>	BOH	Commissioner, SSRC Treasurer
	Gil	Amado	BOH	Health Agent
<b>Hingham</b>	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent (FY25)
	Ashley	Broyer	DPW	Superintendent
	Lance	Mortland	DPW	Asst. Superintendent (FY26)
<b>Hull</b>	Chris	Gardner	DPW	Director
	<b>Rachel</b>	<b>Gerold</b>	BOH	Director; SSRC Secretary (FY26)
<b>Kingston</b>	open			
	<b>Jean</b>	<b>Landis-Naumann</b>	Recycling Cmte	Chairman, SSRC Secretary (FY25)
<b>Marshfield</b>	To be appted			
<b>Norwell</b>	Ben	Margro	BOH	Health Agent
	Vicky	Spillane	Recycling Cmte	Appointee
<b>Pembroke</b>	Angela	Sestito	Selectmen's Office	Principal Clerk
	Sabrina	Chilcott	Selectmen's Office	Assistant town Manager
<b>Plymouth</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>Downey</b>	DPW	Asst. Director; SSRC Chair (FY26)
	Kerin	McCall	Energy & Environment	Technician
<b>Rockland</b>	<b>Delshaune</b>	<b>Flipp</b>	BOH	Health Agent; SSRC Chairman (FY25), Vice Chairman (FY26)
	David	Taylor	Highway Dept.	Superintendent
<b>Scituate</b>	<b>Kevin</b>	<b>Cafferty</b>	DPW	Director
	Sean	McCarthy	DPW	Asst. Director
<b>Weymouth</b>	Katie	McDonald	DPW	Procurement Analyst
	Bob	O'Connor	DPW	Energy Manager
<b>Whitman</b>	Bruce	Martin	DPW	Director
	Dan	Kelly	BOH	Director

	HHW residents to home town event	HHW reciprocity use by residents	multitown setup fee avoidance*	other FY26 HHW contract savings vs State Contract WMR001	roll off savings multitown, using SRC arranged vendor. (see below)	@\$65/hr (15 hrs/town, using SRC HHW details, RR-ops, state rate)	Recycling Dividend Program HHW avoided point miles	Recycling Dividend Program HHW avoided point miles	HHW total value	glass savings Sibelco (\$640/ton)	RDP textile outreach awarded point values (radio ads, data coll. etc)	Exec. Dir. MSW consults, assistance (\$65/hr), cost savings	Total	
Abington	19	57	\$1,550	\$1,163	\$900	\$845	\$840	\$5,298		\$420	\$780	\$6,498	consultation topics	
Braintree	187	33		\$1,472		\$845	\$3,600	\$5,917		\$1,800	\$390	\$8,107	commodity values, food waste management, grant help	
Cohasset	33	45	\$600	\$1,008	\$400	\$845	\$1,200	\$4,053	\$4,240	\$600	\$520	\$9,413	commodity values, fee setting, food waste collection, recycling contract, grant help, PAYT, grants, PW rates	
Duxbury	29	74	\$500	\$1,903	\$900	\$845	\$2,200	\$6,348	\$8,520	\$1,100	\$585	\$16,553	commodity values, fee setting, grant help, batteries, enterprise funds, grant and data survey, bag costs	
E. Bridgewater	51	33	\$2,350	\$2,060	\$900	\$845		\$6,155			\$683	\$6,838	commodity values, RDP and data reports, mercury spill, disposal contract, fee setting data, bag costs	
Hanover	164	9	\$1,150	\$2,768	\$1,050	\$1,690		\$6,658	\$5,600		\$98	\$12,356	commodity values, fee setting, carts, propane tanks, curbside, recycling & disposal contracts, grants, data	
Hanson	25	48	\$1,950	\$1,302	\$900	\$845	\$1,200	\$6,197		\$600	\$975	\$7,772	commodity values, TS IFB/contract, BOH meeting, grant help, data survey, bag costs	
Hingham	114	55	\$0	\$1,292	\$150	\$845	\$1,540	\$3,827	\$13,080	\$770	\$98	\$17,775	commodity values, disposal contract, black plastic, food waste collection	
Hull	106	36	\$0	\$2,893	\$150	\$845		\$3,888			\$813	\$4,701	data survey, batteries, disaster debris planning, curbside program consult, grant application, Select Bd mtg	
Kingston	26	49	\$1,000	\$1,335	\$900	\$845	\$1,200	\$5,280	\$3,720	\$600	\$358	\$9,958	commodity values, RDP spend report, recycling contract, billing, swap shop	
Marshfield	245	38		\$10,167		\$845	\$3,600	\$14,612		\$1,800	\$228	\$16,640	commodity values, Town manager primer, HHW contract, grant help	
Norwell	n/a	83	\$2,800	\$1,054	\$900	\$845	\$1,200	\$6,799		\$600	\$228	\$7,627	commodity values, grant help, recycling center access	
Pembroke	125	80	\$1,500	\$1,763	\$150	\$845	\$1,540	\$5,798		\$770	\$98	\$6,666	commodity values, mattress management, mercury spill kits, battery management	
Plymouth	415	73	\$0	\$8,712	\$300	\$1,690	\$600	\$11,302	\$7,720	\$600	\$715	\$20,337	commodity values, disposal contract, recycling options, grants, data survey, WZ contract, propane tanks	
Rockland	16	38	\$1,150	\$829	\$150	\$845	\$2,200	\$5,174		\$1,100	\$325	\$6,599	commodity values, invoice reviews, data survey, grant appl., nip ban, recycling contract review	
Scituate	97	78	\$900	\$1,859	\$900	\$845	\$2,200	\$6,704	\$8,720	\$1,100	\$228	\$16,752	commodity values, grant, data survey, site visit	
Weymouth	151	82	\$0	\$1,786	\$0	\$845	\$4,900	\$7,531		\$2,450	\$195	\$10,176	data, fee setting, toilets n dsinks, grant help, food waste collection	
Whitman	12	24	\$2,550	\$1,057	\$150	\$845	\$840	\$5,442		\$420	\$163	\$6,025	commodity values, mattresses, food waste, data survey, grant help, buy recycled memo	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1815</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$44,423</b>	<b>\$8,800</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	<b>\$28,860</b>	<b>\$116,983</b>	<b>\$51,600</b>	<b>\$14,730</b>	<b>\$7,475</b>	<b>\$190,788</b>		

HHW detail	SSRC	vendor	savings	
Trash rolloff	\$500	\$900	\$400	
Trash & OCC rolloffs	\$750	\$900	\$150	
setup fee per event	\$1500 spring; \$2800 fall			
new contract avg per car rate vs WMR001 rate	\$46.82	\$78.30	40%	(see HHW FY26, Fall 25, column N)
staff time: 246 hrs/(18 towns + 2 double events) =13 hrs/town * \$65/hr= \$845/town; Hano and Ply X2				