



**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**

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Meeting minutes of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative February 18, 2026 at Plymouth Town Hall and via Zoom.

Attendees:

Abington	Chris Schultz	
Braintree	no attendee	
Cohasset	Tracey Connors	
Duxbury	no attendee	
East Bridgewater	Lynn Lundberg*	
Hanover	no attendee	
Hanson	Arlene Dias*	Treasurer
Hingham	Ashley Broyer*	
	Lance Mortland*	
Hull	Rachel Gerold*	Secretary
Kingston	Jean Landis Naumann*	
Marshfield	no attendee	
Norwell	Vicky Spillane*	
Pembroke	no attendee	
Plymouth	James Downey*	Chairman
	Janine Delaney	
	Kerin McCall*	
Rockland	no attendee	
Scituate	no attendee	
Weymouth	no attendee	
Whitman	no attendee	
Mass DEP	Todd Koep	
SSRC	Claire Galkowski	

(*Appointed Board Representatives)

James Downey, chairman called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM and led introductions.

Voted: to approve the minutes of the 01/07/2026 meeting (unanimous)

Speaker/sponsor: Andew Brousseau of **Black Earth Compost (BEC)** presented on decentralized local composting as the only truly circular solution for food waste management. He described it as like “putting money in the back for our food future, returning nutrients to the soil to grow new crops.

MassDEP is contemplating the expansion of the food waste ban to all businesses, and eventually to residents in the next few years. BEC seeks to manage municipal compost sites with long term

leases in every 5-10 towns they service. With 8 sites in operation in Mass. and a goal of 50% household participation, they need 22 more. This would reduce costs and fuel use, and benefit host communities in several ways. Each site requires 2-4 acres, and would take in 10-20 tons per day. Their processing starts with indoor dewatering and biofiltration, reducing odors, so they can have some proximity to neighbors. This also prevents vermin attraction. The material is then mixed with 3 parts yard waste. They can mix in street sweepings if it passes testing for contaminants, which it usually does. The finished compost is more nutritious than straight yard waste. BEC can take a wider range of materials than anaerobic digestors (ADs), including bones and compostable bags. Their small trucks can pick up from up to 1000 households/day.

If interested in hosting a site, contact Andrew at andrew@blackearthcompost.com, or (978) 290-4610.

Update SSRC Buy Recycled Policy: The board unanimously voted to approve updating the SSRC's old Buy Recycled Policy to the proposed updated [Sustainable Purchasing policy](#).

Towns that wish to receive future DEP SMRP grants need to do the same. Most Buy Recycled Policies date from the 1990s.

FY27 dues, fees: Claire reminded the Board of her planned retirement next January, highlighting the need for competitive compensation to attract a qualified replacement. Dues, and her salary, have not kept up with inflation. They were \$4,000 in 1998, and are now \$4950, plus a recently instituted \$500 HHW Admin fee.

The board unanimously voted to increase SSRC dues from \$4,950 to \$5,500 for FY27.

DEP MAC report: Todd Koep: All but one of our Towns got their Data Surveys and RDP Spending reports in on time. He'll be helping Towns update their Buy Recycled/Sustainable Purchasing policies in the coming months. They must be ratified before June 1 for towns to qualify for grants.

HHW Depot Participating Muni IMAs: Inter -Governmental agreement is set to be signed by Hanover Select Board on 2/24/26. No estimates at this time on construction.

Executive Director's Report: The new website launched on Jan. 26.

After spring HHW host service agreements are signed by Clean Harbors, they will need to be signed by host and co-host towns.

EPR Commission report recommended passage of extended producer responsibility laws for paint, batteries, mattresses and electronics, and that a Needs Assessment for packaging be funded and conducted to inform a future law.

New business: East Bridgewater is contracting with Trees R Us for brush grinding.

Next meeting set for April 1, 2026, Willcut Commons Cohasset/Zoom

Adjourn at 10:55AM.

Submitted by Rachel Gerold, Secretary