



Serving the towns of Abington Cohasset Duxbury Hanover Hanson Hingham Kingston Norwell Plymouth Rockland Scituate Weymouth and Whitman since 1998

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Newsletters

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## Towns rally to update Bottle Bill

The SSRC Board voted unanimously to direct its state legislators to vote in favor of H3515, which updates the 27 year old Massachusetts Container Beverage Law. In addition, chief elected officials in the Towns of **Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Norwell, Plymouth, Scituate, Whitman**, and about 100 other Massachusetts municipalities have gone on record as supporting this measure. Weymouth's Mayor Kay publicly acclaimed the bill as well.



The SSRC has voiced support for this measure for ten years, but a vote has yet to be taken by the Telecom, Utilities and Energy Committee in the sixteen years that such bills have been sent there. Chaired by the south shore's own **Senator Morrissey**, the TUE held a hearing in October which was packed with supporters, including SSRC Chairman **Merle Brown**, Kingston Recycling Cmte. Chairman **Gene Wyatt**, Tri-Town Alliance's **Rosemary Nolan**, and SSRC Executive Director **Claire Sullivan**. Thirty-five State officials, legislators, organizations, businesses and citizens testified in favor of the bill, while eight business reps spoke against it. Chairman Morrissey promised that this time there would be a vote, which will allow the bill to continue its journey through the legislative process.

70% of containers covered by deposits are redeemed, and some are also recycled. Conversely, at least 2/3 of non-deposit containers wind up as litter or trash. This is costly to our towns, which get stuck with the mess.

MassDEP recently posted a study entitled "[Benefits of an Expanded Bottle Bill on Municipal Refuse and Recycling Costs and Revenues](#)". It concludes that net costs to Mass. municipalities to manage non-deposit beverage containers are **\$4.3 million to \$7 million/year**.

Noncarbonated drinks now make up about 35% of beverages sold. Adding their containers to the redemption system would triple their recycling rate, diverting millions of containers from ball fields and roadsides to new products.

Other supporters of the update include the **MassRecycle, MassDEP, Mass. Municipal Association, Mass. League of Women Voters, Mass. Sierra Club, MassPIRG, the Environmental League of Mass., and the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Springfield and Worcester.**

Most important to the SSRC member towns, updating the Bottle Bill will reduce the cost of managing this material as litter and waste at the taxpayers' and ratepayers' expense.

## HHW contract out to bid

The SSRC is in its second of 2 extensions to its regional Household Haz Waste collection contract with Clean Harbors. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new contract was requested by ten vendors so far. Proposals are due at the Hanover DPW on November 20 at 1 pm.

SSRC Board members **Randy Sylvester**, the Director of the Hingham DPW, and **Paul Basler**, Superintendent of the Kingston Streets, Trees and Parks Dept., volunteered for the Evaluation Committee.

Member towns have historically run 12-15 HHW collection events using the SSRC contract each year, with participation of over 2,000 vehicles. The new contract will add a "small quantity" pricing option, which towns may select in lieu of the 10% over-limit allowance.

## Website updates

While camping out in temporary digs, the Executive Director managed to update and improve the website over the summer. Check out the new banner (p.4), and the uniform format for each member towns' recycling page. More improvements are planned for the "Oddball Waste" section, thanks to sponsorship by **Covanta SEMASS** through the **Material Separation Plan**.

Please notify her of any changes to your program that should be on your town's web page. Go to [ssrc.info](#).

## Apple D'Or Tree advises on grinding

**Apple d'Or Tree, Inc.**, won the SSRC bid for brush grinding last winter. President Santo Anza, introduced the company to the SSRC board at the September meeting. In its 20 years of operation, Apple D'Or has grown to 40 employees, and has managed Boston's compost for 10 years.

Grinding isn't just for brush any more. Ground leaves with grass clippings is nutritious for plants. Compost the ground leaves first to cook out weed seeds. It gets hotter faster, but absence of air pockets prevents fires, is usable by spring, and completely composted by summer. Towns may mix screened street sweepings with compost for roadside loam.

Another good trick is to pile fall leaves in a cone, put Christmas trees next to leaves (in same pile, it may ignite). When leaves and trees are ground up together, they make fragrant compost. Substitute for bark mulch, which costs more and sucks the nitrogen out of soil.

With the volume of yard waste brought to transfer stations, he emphasized the need to keep it clean. Ground brush contaminated with plastic, styrofoam, and tree lights are a real problem to get rid of. It can't be used for biomass fuel, a major outlet for the material. It is crucial to train staff to dump out bags, inspect residents' material, and identify contamination before it goes in the pile, to avoid load rejection.

After grinding for Hingham this season, he was able to buy their finished material for another project.

The Board will review Apple D'Or's performance and vote whether to go back out for bid at the November 19 meeting.

Contact Mr. Anza at 508-229-2440, [appledortreeinc@aol.com](mailto:appledortreeinc@aol.com). Contact Claire for the contract.

## MEETING NOTES

### To mix or not to mix? Managers share sort stories

At our October meeting, our transfer station managers had a lively discussion about the relative merits of **single, dual and multi-stream (SS, DS, MS) recycling** collection, as well as **enforcement** strategies.

Duxbury switched to **SS recycling** in January '08. A few months later, the Town implemented "save as you throw": all disposed trash must be in a special bag, the cost of which covers hauling and disposal. DPW Director **Peter Buttkus** said there was some resistance at first, but up-front and on-site education resulted in residents ultimately embracing the new programs. Recycling tonnage increased 50%, and disposal dropped by even more. It's unclear how much improvement is due to either SS or SAYT, since they were introduced within months of each other. He reported very few problems with Integrated Paper Recycling (IPR) service.

In the SS system, paper, cardboard, bottles and cans are collected together. WMRA in Avon, Integrated Paper (IPR) and Casella all accept SS recycling now. IPR installed 2 compactors for Duxbury, and provides 40CY cans and hauling to their facility. Even when rebates were suspended with the market crash, it still costs much less than the cost to haul and dispose. Staffing needs are lower than for a multi-sort system, but the compactor still requires monitoring.

Hanover residents must do a bit of **sorting** of recyclables. **Steven Herrmann**, Hanover's Transfer Station foreman, has a staff of 2 to 3 to monitor sortation, and gets good revenue from [AAA Recycling](#) in New Bedford, which also provides hauling.

**Staffing** levels vary widely at area transfer stations. Hanson has a one man crew, plus a part timer on Fri & Sat. Kingston has a two man crew, but one of them is usually hauling material. Hanover has 2 to 3. Pembroke has PT monitors, and hired a youth to flatten cardboard. Hingham is the envy of many, with a staff of 7.

The **cost for SS** brought to WM Recycle America in Avon this month is **\$25/ton. DS bottles & cans cost \$22/ton**, while **paper/OCC pays \$25/ton**, to process. Paper and OCC now make up about 60-70% of the weight of SS.

What do they do with **uncooperative residents?** Hingham TS staff record the license plate and nature of violation. Then **Randy Sylvester**, Hingham's DPW Director, sends letters to violators informing them of the TS rules and the State's [waste ban regulations](#). The second offense requires a meeting in his office. If they won't **sign a form** that they understand the rules, or they rack up a third offense, they **lose access** to facility. Selectmen don't reverse his decisions. After four years of persistence, compliance is much better.

Kingston STP Superintendent **Paul Basler** would like their recycling area to be more convenient, and have enough capacity for recyclables. The SSRC is assisting him in assessing various program options.

Managers wished for more **DEP enforcement** of Waste bans, including letters to elected officials and financial consequences for noncompliance. They also miss the **equipment grants, and public outreach**.

On the curb-side, **Abington and Weymouth** are both collecting SS recycling. Rather than invest in wheeled carts for all households, they are providing Single Stream Recycling stickers for residents to affix to existing trash containers. Weymouth reports some shifting of trash to recycling using this system. The rest of our curbside towns collect paper and cardboard separately from bottles and cans (DS).

## LOCAL

### Michelle goes to Plymouth

After serving nearly ten years as Abington's health agent, **Michelle Roberts** was hired for that position in Plymouth. She started on October 1, and aside from issuing permits to private haulers, she's out of the trash, recycling, composting and haz waste business now. While she and her "peeps" at SSRC will miss each other, she probably won't miss that.

### Cohasset bailout hits snag

The operation was a success, but the patient died. The Town of Hull had to close its Recycling Center at the end of June to help bridge a budget chasm. The SSRC had been asked to seek alternatives for the 450 residents who willingly paid \$50/year for the service.

Last spring the Executive Director presented a proposal to the Town Managers from Hull and Cohasset, **Phil Lemnios and Bill Griffin**, and DPW Superintendents **Joe Stigliani and Carl Sestito**. After several meetings and presentations to both Selectboards, an agreement was reached to extend Saturday hours, and allow Hull sticker-holders to access Cohasset's Recycling Facility, with the caveat that 300-500 Hull residents sign up.

The exercise was a model of inter-municipal cooperation, with great leadership by both Town Managers. Unfortunately, by the time the agreement was in place in September, many recyclers had signed up for private service. When only about 100 Hull-ites bought stickers, the deal had to be cancelled.

### Pearls of wisdom from Oyster fest

**Sustainable Duxbury (SD)** produced a nearly zero-waste event this fall. Last March, Island Creek Oysters enlisted the help of the volunteer group to "green up" their fifth annual festival on Duxbury Beach. This presented a significant opportunity, with 3,000 tickets to be sold, 3 live bands, 15 area chefs cooking 40,000 oysters, and Harpoon Beer flowing.

Island Creek was receptive to using all compostable dinnerware, cutlery, and cups. SD chose "[Tater Ware](#)" made from potatoes.

The SSRC loaned dozens of 35-gallon wheeled trash barrels and recycling bins. [Planet Police](#), a local resource mgnt. company, provided three large dumpsters for compostables, recyclables and trash. 30 volunteers helped empty the barrels during the event, including 3.5 tons of oyster shells. The shells were brought to the [Jackson Estuarine Laboratory Project](#) in New Hampshire to help restore oyster beds.

In addition to the shells, 80% of the waste was composted, 15% was recycled, and only 5% had to be disposed. That's as close to Zero as events get!

Festival-goers needed some convincing that most waste could be put in the bins marked "Compostables", which resulted in some dumpster diving to sort things out.

Island Creek and SD are already planning how to make next year's festival an even smoother **Zero Waste** event.

### Marshfield Fair recycles for 6th year

Recycling Hero **Ann McGovern** led another successful recycling effort at the Marshfield Fair. 25 dedicated volunteers, many from the SSRC Board, helped fairgoers and vendors divert 6 tons of cardboard, bottles, cans and pre-consumer food waste from the trash barrels into the recycling and compost bins. **Del Prete and Sons Trucking** of Rockland donated 2-30 CY containers for the 10 day event and provided 3 hauls to WM Recycle America in Avon (2 for cardboard, one for bottles and cans).

Volunteers put recycling containers from a 2004 MassDEP grant to the SSRC next to trash barrels, and vendors were asked to flatten their cardboard for collection by the Grounds Crew. By now, most vendors are cooperative, but some still need assistance from the volunteers. .



Organic waste from the Agricultural, Horticultural Exhibits, Roche Bros. Produce Market, and other food vendors was collected by 2 volunteers each day and added to three compost on-site bins. Compost from last year's Fair was bagged and given to fairgoers. Manure from the 4-H barns and other animal exhibits are composted on the Fair grounds (out back), as always.

Recycling Initiative Awards were given out to 32 vendors this year for their excellent recycling efforts. Many vendors have received recycling ribbons for the past 4 or 5 years, which they proudly display.

Passage of **updates to the old Bottle Bill** would make the recycling effort **sustainable** and less dependent on volunteers and corporate goodwill.

## Norwell has 2 BigBellys...



... and I'm not referring to **Tim Manning** of Seahorse Power and **Joanne Dirk**, Chairman of the Norwell Recycling Committee, pictured. The town of Norwell purchased 2 [BigBelly](#) solar trash compactors with attached recycling bins using MTC grant money. The equipment was installed at the Little League and High School football fields in October. Using a built-in solar panel, the container compacts the trash by a factor of 5, reducing the frequency of collection. An attached container collects recyclables. An electronic sensor can be added to send a message when it's near capacity. In addition to reducing staff and haul costs, the units will be used as a teaching tool at the High School. The combined trash and recycling unit cost about \$5,200. It is also available through State Contract [FAC61](#).

For the past several years, municipalities received matching funds through the [Mass. Technology Collaborative](#) (MTC) when their residents participated in the Clean Energy Choice program. The money may be used for renewable energy projects and outreach. It has been replaced with a new program through MassDOER, so **MTC funds must be spent by November 30**.

Boston, Cambridge and Quincy have installed dozens of BigBellys in their public spaces to reduce litter and collection costs.

## Plymouth gets tough

The automatic surveillance system at Plymouth's 3 transfer stations records the license plate of every car entering and electronically compares it with the list of those who paid for transfer station stickers. Each week the list of scofflaws is forwarded to the DPW, which sends violation notices. The fine is \$50.

Since **Secure-a-lot** installed the Automatic License Plate Reader by, Plymouth has eliminated stickers, cut staffing costs, and has cited over 1000 unauthorized users of the three transfer stations. Many violators were nonresidents who had learned that the enforcement was lax in Plymouth.

The Town now **sells permits online** to access the Solid Waste Transfer Stations. Thanks to the electronic system, no sticker is required. The cameras work with moving traffic and a zoom lens to read the license plate numbers of cars entering the town's three transfer stations. A review program automatically flags violators.

The system eliminates the need for gate attendants, saving 80 man-hours/week, and sticker sales done online reduce labor at Town Hall. More stickers have been sold, and the number of unauthorized vehicles is dropping. No control gates slow up traffic and no trenching for cables and power needed to be cut.

**Arthur Douylliez**, Facilities Manager for Plymouth DPW, sends citations to the unauthorized users. Violators who fail to pay receive a court summons. If they don't show up, the Registry of Motor Vehicles is notified, and they cannot renew their registration until they have settled up.

Next on Arthur's wish list is a searchable database of all vehicles that access the facilities, to monitor frequency of use and identify repeat violators.

For more information about the [Secure-A-Lot](#) system, contact Bruce Schulman, 800-585-2577.

## Tier 1 towns work with Cape munis

The four SSRC towns that signed long term contracts with SEMASS when it was a sketch on a blueprint will reach the end of their sweet deal in 2014. Their tip fees are still in the \$30/ton range. SEMASS has proposed a "gentler" end to the ultra low tip fees to all its Tier 1 municipalities, with a five year ramp up to a below-market rate in a new 20 year contract. The new contract would begin this January, and SEMASS has sought confirmation of their interest with a MOU.

Despite language that it is non-binding, most Cape Cod towns have resisted signing the MOU. They have been collaborating on a regional alternatives analysis, begun and facilitated by the **Cape Cod Commission**. Camp Dresser McKee has been hired to complete the analysis with funds that had been set aside by the CCC. At the Executive Director's request, the SSRC Tier 1 towns of **Hanson, Kingston, Norwell and Plymouth** will be included in the analysis to ascertain whether the SEMASS proposal is the most advantageous option, or whether their will be viable options that would make it advisable to go out to bid in 2013, perhaps as a region. CDM presented preliminary findings in late October, with the final report due out in late November.

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## REGION AND STATE

### WMRA expands recyclables list

Pat Milmoie was peppered with questions about acceptable recyclables at MassRecycle's tour of **Recycle America** in Avon in August. Since WM's retrofit to sort **single stream recycling**, they have found markets for most wide neck #1-7 plastic containers, milk and juice cartons. At press time, Milmoie indicated that "officially" they still only take narrow neck plastics.

The company, and most others as well, still **does not recycle expanded polystyrene**, aka "Styrofoam" (which is mostly air).

The biggest challenge WMRA faces in the residential recycling stream is **plastic bags**, which **jam up equipment**. The facility accepts baled film plastic from commercial customers, but is not equipped to manage it loose. Full plastic bags are treated as if they contained hazardous trash, for safety reasons, and are discarded. The sort lines move too fast to open and evaluate the contents.

Municipalities can help keep recycling costs down by **educating their residents** to bring all their clean [plastic bags](#) to the grocery store and keep them out of their recycling setouts.

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### New recycling grants: SMRP

After years of budget cuts, MassDEP had to pull the plug on its skeletal Municipal Sustainability (Recycling) Grant program for FY10. All that is left of the program that once provided everything from roll-offs to compost bins to municipalities is In-Kind Technical Assistance through its Municipal Assistance Coordinators.

In early 2010, barring further staff reductions, MassDEP hopes to introduce a new waste reduction and recycling grant program resulting from the **Green Communities Act** and subsequent regulations. Dubbed the **Sustainable Materials Recovery Program**, SMRP will support the Solid Waste Master Plan. It may also offer assistance for outreach, market development, commercial generators and core services needed state-wide. The details are still being worked out. An estimated **\$6-8M/year in funding** would come from a 50% share of Class II Renewable Energy Credits from qualifying municipal waste combustors, including SEMASS.

Municipalities will be notified through their chief elected official and the primary recycling contact when the municipal grant application is available. MassDEP will also post updates [here](#).

The grant cycle will be at least annual, but grants may be for more than a year and will not be constrained by the fiscal calendar.

### Waste Ban Sting

Two facilities in SSRC towns, **Comcast** in Norwell and **Lowe's** in Weymouth, were among the 78 violators cited by the MassDEP) after a statewide Waste Ban sweep in July.

Waste Ban Inspectors found widespread violations of the State's regulations, which prohibit the disposal of recoverable materials including paper, cardboard, televisions and computers. Violators included a wide spectrum of public and private institutions, educational and medical facilities.

MassDEP staff inspected 1,358 solid waste loads delivered for disposal across the state. 78 generators were sent written notices of non-compliance (NON) for excessive amounts of banned materials that should have been diverted. Entities that receive a NON must respond with their plan of action to stop the disposal of banned materials. If violations continue, DEP may take further enforcement action.

Millions of tons of recyclable commodities are still disposed of in Massachusetts each year, demonstrating the need for more state oversight of the waste bans. The entire list with descriptions can be found [here](#).

Businesses can find information [here](#) about how and where to manage their waste materials through re-use outlets, commodity brokers or recycling service providers. A list of local service providers is [here](#).

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### Mass. Material Trader site launched

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) and MassDEP announced the launch of the Massachusetts Material Trader, a FREE on-line exchange network funded by the EPA.

Businesses with surplus inventory, manufacturing by-products, office furniture etc. may post these items at [www.massmaterialtrader.com/?](http://www.massmaterialtrader.com/?). Items listed at deadline included free workstations, ceiling tiles, \$15 gaylords and cedar shavings @ \$20/CY. Check it out!

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### State updates hazwaste, DTM contracts

State contract FAC53 pricing sheets are updated on the MassDEP website. This contract is for the collection of a wide range of hard-to-manage wastes and replaces two contracts (FAC26 and FAC36) that expired in the Spring.

The categories most likely to be used by municipalities can be found [here](#).

#### State Contract #FAC53: Hazardous, Mercury and Electronic Waste Recycling & Disposal, July 2009

Category 1: Hazardous Waste Collection & Disposal

Category 2: Household Hazardous Waste Events

Category 6: Mercury Containing Products Collection & Recycling

Category 7: Electronic Waste Collection & Recycling

For more information visit [comm-pass](#), go to "search for contracts", keyword "FAC53".



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## MassRecycle stickers

Due to popular demand, MassRecycle has replenished its supply of reduced cost Recycling Collection Stickers. They can be used on totes, set-out containers and dumpster in schools, residential areas, businesses, public spaces, etc. Many municipalities distribute the colorful stickers to residents to repurpose existing containers. Most are 18" x 4", except Food Waste and Waste Ban at 8"x6".



For Municipal Orders: Go to  
[www.massrecycle.org/muniorder.html](http://www.massrecycle.org/muniorder.html)

For non-municipal orders: go to  
[www.massrecycle.org/biz\\_order.html](http://www.massrecycle.org/biz_order.html)

## Recycling values back up to '07 levels

Recycling processors are getting more money for bales than last year at this time. Looking at the market indices from the past 3 years compiled by Jan Carter at the **NRRA**, prices for recyclables were steady from late '05 until early '07, went crazy from spring '07 to fall '08, took a deep plunge a year ago, and have now climbed back to "pre-bubble" levels of early 2007. They seem to have stabilized through the fall. Think back, and learn from the experience: **Don't count on revenue from recyclables, and use returns wisely.**

Ferrous scrap prices rose this summer due to low inventories and a modest rise in demand. With industrial metal scrap production down and few buildings being demolished, steel producers have looked to obsolete scrap for feedstock, resulting in steady price increases.

The same is true for recovered paper. Low supply and an aggressive surge of Chinese demand forced domestic mills to pay higher prices through the summer. Indices for Sept-Nov have been steady.

The value of some recycled resins has increased as a result of rising feedstock costs for plastics producers. But the seasonal glut of recovered PET bottles has resulted in flat pricing.

Sources: *Bi-Weekly Market Comments from Northeast Resource Recovery Association, Adam Clark, 10/19/2009, 11/2/2009; Resource Recycling Electronic Newsletter, August 27, 2009*

## EVENTS

**\*\* SSRC MSW Manager/Board meeting**, Wed. Dec. 16, 9 am, Hanson Town Hall

*"If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production."* -Berkeley Ecology Center