



SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE NEWS

Summer 2008

Serving the Communities of Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth and Whitman

Hull makes SSRC 16 towns strong

At Hull's Spring Town Meeting, voters unanimously approved a resolution sponsored by SSRC proponent **Nancy Kramer** to re-join the SSRC in FY09, and authorized BOS Chairman **Joan Meschino** to sign the SSRC's updated Intermunicipal Agreement. Hull had been a member from FY02 until FY08, when a tight budget forced the town to pull out. Hull's Advisory Board worked with Town Manager **Phil Lemnios** to secure funding for FY09.

Hull will again benefit from working with the other fifteen member towns on trash, recycling, yard waste, and hazardous waste management. A household haz prod collection is scheduled for May 30, 2009 with Cohasset.

"Hull has been so much at the forefront of environmentally progressive actions, our wind power program being a prime example", noted Hull resident **Jan Dragin**. "Being without an acceptable way to dispose of hazardous materials doesn't fit that profile. It's been a hardship for many of us. Having SSRC access again will be a great relief."

FY09 speaker requests

The following speaker lineup is proposed for FY09 SSRC meetings:

Steve Wenzel, **Casella/ REP** (Sept);
Jim Proulx, **MBP BioEnergy** (Oct);
Sidi Mateo, **Veolia**;

John Craig, **Pheonix** (PAYT bags);

Seth Dawber, **Clean Harbors**;

Tony Pusateri, **South Shore Scrap Planet Aid**;

Patrick Milmo, **Recycle America**;

Jon Belber, **Holly Hill Farms** (school composting);

a speaker from a town that has gone through the transition to PAYT.

Marshfield Fair recycling institutionalized



Recycling bins appeared for the first time at the Marshfield Fair in 2004, thanks to a grant obtained from MassDEP by the SSRC. With the unwavering dedication of MassDEP's **Ann McGovern**, a group of steadfast volunteers, many from the SSRC, and support from Fair management, the program continues to divert tons of "treasure" from the Fair's trash cans.

Our volunteers had an easier job this year, as the Fair got serious about requiring vendors to flatten their cardboard, and the grounds crew took more responsibility for the morning collection of bottles, cans and cardboard. One large food vendor

even hired staff to manage its cardboard, which was a relief to those of us who had done it for them to save it from the trash.

Known as the DEP's "Queen of Compost", it was only natural that once bottle, can and cardboard recycling were well established, McGovern set up a new program for organics composting. Working with Fair vendors that generated large amounts of lemon and watermelon rinds, onion peels and such, McGovern installed 3 "New Age" Composters near the Administration Building, and organized a system for getting the material from the vendors to the bins. Inspired by a similar program at the **Lowell Folk Festival**, volunteers bagged the resulting "black gold" the year after, affixing labels explaining the process for Fairgoers to add to their gardens. It has caught on so well that there was barely enough room for the estimated 1250 lbs of organics collected this year!

Since its inception in 2004, the Marshfield Fair has now rescued about 30 tons of valuable material from the trash. This year's Fair recycling and compost tonnage will likely surpass all previous years.

We applaud **Carleton Chandler** and the other Fair officials for incorporating waste reduction into the Fair's operations.

Eboard re-elected

With no new volunteers to lead the SSRC, all four officers agreed to serve another year on the Executive Board. The SSRC Board unanimously re-elected Chairman **Merle Brown** of Cohasset, Vice Chairman **Steven Herrmann** of Hanover, Treasurer **Joanne Dirk** of Norwell and Secretary **Robert Griffin** of Marshfield.

This will make the 11th year that Ms. Dirk has served as Treasurer. Mr. Brown and Mr. Herrmann stepped up in 2003, and Mr. Griffin took his post in 2005. The SSRC is fortunate to have such a dedicated team of leaders!

MEETING NOTES

SEMASS continues to divert mercury

At our June Board meeting, **Patti Howard**, Covanta SEMASS' Material Separation Plan (MSP) manager, updated our towns about the MSP's programs. All 9 waste combustors in Mass. must minimize emissions of mercury (Hg) as a condition of their DEP operating permits. Funding for MSP programs was initially included in Change-in- Law (CIL) surcharges when SEMASS upgraded its emissions controls in 2000.

The goal of the MSP is to get Hg out of trash before it goes in. This complements the new law that prohibits **ALL** mercury-added products from being disposed with trash. Municipal collection and exchange programs are well established, so SEMASS is now reaching out to businesses through trade groups, Rotary Clubs, etc. **Towns are encouraged to allow small businesses to use their Hg recycling programs.** SEMASS also reimburses 50% of recycling costs directly to business.

Highlights of the current MSP include:

- 🔧 Continued reimbursement for Hg recycling costs (including "second tier" towns of Hull and Marshfield)
- 🔧 Continued thermometer exchanges.
- 🔧 500+ programmable thermostats available for exchange.
- 🔧 Alternatively, a \$5 rebate to towns and businesses for thermostats. **Rebates may be run through SSRC to offset membership cost.**
- 🔧 For large quantities of thermostats, SEMASS will pay costs directly to the processor with proper notification.
- 🔧 Blood pressure cuff exchanges for schools, medical and veterinary facilities.
- 🔧 Reimbursement for reclamation of Hg from water meters.
- 🔧 Partial reimbursement for printing and mailing flyers.
- 🔧 Universal Waste Sheds for storage of mercury-bearing waste, including fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), thermometers and thermostats.
- 🔧 SEMASS is working with the P.O. and hardware stores to provide collection boxes for CFLs. **Home Depot and IKEA stores already accept CFLs** (see p. 5). The individual risk is low, but the cumulative effect will be high.
- 🔧 Hg training and awareness workshops for safety and compliance - everyone who handles Hg should attend.

Since the installation of equipment and implementation of the MSPs, Hg emissions from the SEMASS waste combustor have been **reduced by 98%**. The facility converts a million tons of waste into over 500K MWH of electricity each year. (Emission rates from coal fired power plants are vastly higher.)

SEMASS has reimbursed its municipal customers about \$500K to recycle over 2,500 kg of mercury.

Contact Patti Howard at 508-291-4427, or 508-962-7398; phoward@covantaenergy.com.

Tri-town Alliance explained

At our July meeting, consultant **Rosemary Nolan** told the Board about how she interacted with the **Tri-Town Alliance. Quincy, Braintree and Weymouth** all had new mayors, and all had curbside collection contracts that expired at the same time. Seeing a perfect opportunity to try new approaches to save money, the three Mayors had Rosemary draft an RFP in an intense 2½ months.

She researched several collection contracts, and met weekly with **Bob O'Connor** (Weymouth), **John Sullivan** (Quincy), **Jeff Kunz** (Braintree), and **Janine Delaney** (DEP) from December through final award in April. Program differences such as recycling frequency and bulky pickup were bid in separate line items. Collection and processing were bid separately. The Mayors were cautious at first, and had the option to pull out, but once the process started, they wanted it to work. Existing haulers Waste Management and Allied tried aggressively to break up Alliance.

Evaluation of bids took 4 weeks. Each town has its own contract with the awarded vendor, **Capitol Waste** of East Boston. Capitol picks up **recyclables, scrap metal, CRTs and propane tanks curbside** and delivers them to **Recycle America** in Avon and **Old Colony Scrap** in Taunton for processing. RA and OCS pay the municipalities for material. Propane tanks and CRTs are consolidated in each town before being hauled. Tri-Town locked in a fixed rate for processing with RA.

The outcome was more successful than expected. The towns now pay less for the same service: Quincy will save \$168K, Weymouth \$150K, and Braintree \$90K this year as compared with last year. The contract is for 5 years with 2-2 year extensions.

All three towns have now switched to **single stream (SS)** recycling. Wheeled carts are usually supplied for SS programs, but would have added \$1M to cost. Instead, residents can convert an existing trash can to recycling with a sticker. The response has been "overwhelmingly positive", with the towns seeing an increase in recycling right away.

Capitol Waste pays her for 28 hours/week through the contracts, which is divided equally among the 3 towns, plus 50¢/HH to each municipality for outreach, which started with sending home info with students at the end of school.

Now that they know how well it works, the 3 towns anticipate doing more group procurements.

LOCAL

School composting catching on Marshfield, Hingham and Scituate schools teach science and waste reduction



Martinson Elementary School teacher Kim Richards and John Belber of Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset check the food scraps collected by Charlie Argyle, left, and Jonathan Stern

Last May, the fourth-grade class at **Martinson Elementary School** in Marshfield started a compost pile next to their playground. After lunch, students carry the fruit and vegetable scraps outside in buckets, dump them in the pile and cover them with straw.

Fourth-grade teacher and organizer **Kim Richards** started the project with a \$1,000 grant from Bridgewater State College. Richards said the project will help students learn about plants,

photosynthesis and the food chain. They will also learn to calculate and graph the amount of recycling compared to trash, graph the temperature during composting, and calculate the savings to the town.

John Belber, the education director at **Holly Hill Farm** in Cohasset, showed the kids how to pack a pile. Dave MacDonald of **Summit Landscaping** built the compost bin.

“The compost makes soil,” student Sara Coletta said. “We can have less trash because we have to pay by the pound of what we put in the trash can.”

Debbie Sullivan, Marshfield’s solid-waste recycling and enforcement officer, plans to work with the other 6 Marshfield schools to compost their cafeteria food waste over the next few years.

The **Jenkins Elementary School** in Scituate also makes its own compost for a community garden thanks (again) to Jon Belber, and with support from the PTO. Vegetables grown in that and other local gardens also go to the **Scituate Food Pantry**.

Hingham’s **Plymouth River School** also composts, and Belber’s name came up again. Last fall, each second grade class started its own compost bin. The product was used in the school’s organic garden in the spring. In the classroom, students learn about soil composition and the importance of composting. The Recycling Committee has since obtained more compost bins through the MassDEP to expand the program, and the school plans to start an indoor worm bin for the winter months.

Next on the list of Belber’s participating schools are **South Elementary** in Hingham and **Hatherly** in Scituate.

Duxbury PAYT: it’s working!

Duxbury residents have embraced waste reduction with an unexpected fervor since the town implemented “Save as you throw” on the heels of single stream recycling in April. The results so far have exceeded all expectations.

In the first four months, trash tonnage declined by over 2/3 in comparison to the same time in 2007. That’s right, disposal dropped from an average of 92 tons /week to about 30, and from 5 hauls/week to 1.5. The town is saving \$20,000/month on disposal alone, not including savings from the reduction in trips by town vehicles to Covanta SEMASS in Rochester.

According to DPW Director **Peter Buttkus**, there has been no increase in illegal dumping or other problems as a result of the new systems.

Hingham Recycling Committee ponders PAYT

Hingham’s 40% recycling rate (including compost) is good, but Hingham’s Long Range Waste Disposal Planning and Recycling Committee thinks it can be better. With a **goal of 70% waste diversion**, the Committee is debating whether to recommend a volume based disposal fee system (PAYT). Transfer station users would be charged for what they put in the trash, but not for materials that they recycle.

Disposed waste tonnage dropped from 8,769 tons in 2006 to 7,621 tons in 2007. “If citizens continue to improve their recycling practices and the current trends continue, we may be able to avoid a major overhaul of the system,” past committee chairman **Patrick Durkin** said.

Recycling is mandatory in Hingham. Last year, **150 citations** were issued at the transfer station for violations of mandatory recycling. First-time offenders get a warning. A second offense requires a meeting with **Randy Sylvester** at the DPW to review recycling policies and procedures. Third time violators are banned from the transfer station for a year and must apply for reinstatement.

The committee’s priority going forward is public education. “We want to help people realize how easy it is to reduce and recycle and what an impact that can have on our town budget as well as on the environment,” Durkin said.

Plymouth HHP copay

The last two HHP collections in Plymouth have had to close early, due to a convergence of a reduced budget and increased participation. The spring collection saw a normal number of cars but many came with over 2 household equivalents (HHE) of material. One HHE is defined as up to 15 gallons of liquid or 30 lbs of solid material. Normally, most participants bring 1 HHE, with about 15% bringing 2, and very few with more.

To prevent another early shutdown, the Plymouth Board of Selectmen is instituting a co-pay requirement for residents bringing more than 2 HHE's of haz waste. Beginning this fall, a \$20 co-payment is required for each HHE in excess of 2. Representatives from Plymouth Office of Emergency Mgmt, the DPW and the SSRC will accept checks made out to Clean Harbors, and apply them to the town's bill.

Holbrook trash service in question

With an ever-shrinking budget, Holbrook selectmen are considering suspending municipal trash and recycling collection service. Currently, Allied Waste is paid from the General Fund to pick up trash and recycling at the curb. Disposal at SEMASS is paid from PAYT bag sales. The collection contract expired on June 30, and the DPW extended it through September as it awaits a decision from the BOS.

If municipal service is canceled, residents will be on their own to contract for waste service from private haulers.

Scituate hires DPW Director

Longtime Scituate resident **Al Bangert** was chosen from a pool of about 20 candidates for the position of DPW Director, which he assumed on July 1. Bangert managed manufacturing plants around the world for Procter and Gamble for over 30 years, and has been active in Town government as chairman of the ZBA and liaison to the MBTA during the final stages of the Greenbush commuter rail project. He was involved in the streetscapes project in Greenbush Village and the Scituate Marina Park, both of which will be part of his duties as director. He also owns his own furniture-making business in Scituate.

REGION

SEMASS proposes Tier 1 extension

On August 7, Covanta SEMASS unveiled a proposal for a contract restructuring and extension to its Tier One communities. The SSRC towns of **Hanson, Kingston, Norwell and Plymouth**, plus fifteen Cape towns and a dozen others, signed long term contracts in 1984, and still enjoy Tier One rates in the \$35/ton range. Those contracts are set to expire in 2014, at which time the towns could potentially face tip fee spikes up to the \$95-100/ton range if they wait and negotiate individually.

Under the proposal, in Jan. 2010, current rates would go up by \$5/ton, then by \$10/ton in each of the next 4 years, for a net increase of \$45/ton. Thereafter, rates would escalate annually based either on the Boston CPI or a flat rate in the 3%/year range. New contracts would be executed for 2010-2030. If future municipal contracts with non-Tier One communities are at a lower rate, Tier One towns would be guaranteed the lowest rate. Change in Law surcharges still apply in all contracts.

Other considerations to be negotiated include sharing of revenue derived from ash or RECs. Council of SEMASS Communities (COSC) chairman **Jeffrey Osuch** indicated he would schedule another meeting after Covanta has a chance to consider comments from the August meeting. The SSRC plans to hold an executive session to discuss the proposal in September.



Taunton meets bidders

The City of Taunton and its consultant, **Alternative Resources, Inc.**, issued an RFQP in June for design, construction and operation of a waste management facility to replace its landfill. Sixty participants attended a Pre-Proposal Information Meeting in July, and another 20 phoned in, representing MassDEP and companies in the US, Canada and overseas.

According to consultant **Jim Binder**, ARI has since issued an Addendum to answer questions

asked at the Meeting. Preliminary qualification submittals by interested companies are due on September 30th. Since alternative technologies that would derive energy from waste are being considered, ARI continues to work with MassDEP regarding the relevance of the Incinerator Moratorium and proposed revisions to the Solid Waste Master Plan.

Taunton has identified a preferred site, and a purchase option is expected in September. The City would like to begin discussions over the next year with communities interested in sending waste to this facility. The facility is planned to be operational no later than 6/30/2013.

The City Attorney, Steve Torres, and ARI's Binder will be doing a presentation on the project at the upcoming SWANA Meeting in September. For more information contact Taunton City Attorney Steve Torres at 508-821-1036, or DPW Director Fred Cornaglia at 508-821-1434.

Mansfield Automates

Submitted by Kathi Mirza

Mansfield's first 12 months of **automated trash collection** with 64-gallon carts has shown great results. For April '07- March '08, trash declined 26% (2,027 tons) and recycling increased 13% (280 tons) compared with the previous year. About 5.5% of the trash decrease is due to municipal building and school trash now going out separately.

Residents' trash now averages 34 lbs/HH/week, comparable to some PAYT towns. (*n.b.: The SSRC average is 40 lbs/HH/week.*) The town converts to automated single stream recycling in July, and expects an increase in recycling and further decrease in trash.

On September 17, the MassRecycle **SE Municipal Recycling Council** will meet in Mansfield to learn more about their program and see collection in action.

LG takes back TVs

LG Electronics is offering free recycling of **LG TVs** and other products. They also take back **ZENITH and GOLDSTAR**, which they also own.

Consumers can drop off up to 5 items for free 160 **Waste**

Management Recycle America locations, including one in **Taunton**. Sony also takes its products this way. WM takes back other electronics too, for a fee.

For more information, go to us.lge.com/green/



Home Depot, IKEA, take back CFLs

With lots of publicity about the little bit of mercury in the energy efficient **compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)**, coupled with the new law banning their disposal, munis braced for an onslaught of dead CFLs. In a great example of product stewardship,

Home Depot and IKEA stores both launched in-store, consumer CFL recycling programs.

SEMASS is working with other hardware stores to start similar CFL takeback programs.

For more information on end of life management for CFLs and other "oddball waste", go to ssrc.info/how/.

STATE

Grant aps due on 9/11

MassDEP Municipal Sustainability Grants are available for FY09, thanks to continued funding of Line Item 2010-0100. Mass-DEP encourages applications to be submitted electronically through eDEP, and may phase out paper applications entirely next year. One applica-tion covers grant items and Technical Assistance (TA).

Offerings and changes this year include:

- Indoor, outdoor public space containers separate.
- Customized postcards (best for curbside).
- PAYT TA is separate from funding.
- No change in composting items. Training needed.
- School cleanouts – individual schools, not districts.
- Hybrid vehicles – up to \$40K/vehicle.
- Diesel retrofit for collection vehicles
- Enforcement officer subsidy (again)– need 25K population; multiple towns may apply together.
- Rain barrels, water conservation kits - popular
- Technical Assistance- up to 80 hours. Be concise in application, no need to fill in all lines.

Go to www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/recawgr.htm. Call **Edith DeMello** at 508-946-2725 with questions.

FY09 Budget hanging in

The House 1 budget released last January proposed a reduced recycling budget of \$1.96M for FY09. Thanks to the Senate ways and Means, the final appropriation for 2010-0100 is \$2.12M, just about level with the FY08 funding.

Janine goes to Boston

Our loss is John Fischer's gain. After passionately serving our fifteen towns, plus 22 others, as our DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC) for 2 years, **Janine Delaney** has taken a position at MassDEP headquarters in downtown Boston. She now works alongside Hull's former DPW Director **Marc Fournier** in the Toxics and Waste Planning branch.

Mass Recycles Paper: Phase 2

The Mass Recycles Paper Campaign, which began at the SSRC, unveiled **seven ads** for municipalities and sponsors to use. The goal of MRP is to **divert a million tons a year of paper from the trash** in Mass.

With funding from MassDEP and "parent" MassRecycle, the Campaign hired ad firm **CDHM** to develop a new visual identity for MRP. The ads are downloadable for use in print, web and outdoor advertising - www.mass-recyclespaper.org/toolkit. **Got Books** will be running one of them in 100 Community Newspapers, the Metro will provide free ad space in its Boston paper, and movie trailers are planned for the fall thanks to sponsors **Covanta Energy** and the **Mass. State Lottery**. The Campaign will be seeking sponsors for a paid advertising blitz in early 2009. (cont'd)

(cont'd from p. 5) MassDEP also funded the printing of 300,000 **bill inserts** for distribution to municipalities that request them. **Hingham, Norwell, Rockland and Weymouth** have already jumped at this opportunity. At press, there were only 50K left.

US EPA is also funding the printing of 3000 Post-It pads for promotional use. The website, www.massrecyclespaper.org, is being over-hauled to incorporate the new look, due online in September. Contact Campaign Manager at paper@massrecycle.org.

We're not picky... about Paper

Recycle. It Matters More Than Ever.

MASS RECYCLES PAPER

MASSRECYCLES PAPER.ORG

<h2>YES please recycle</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxes (cereal, pasta, toiletries, office supplies, etc.) • Brochures and fliers (including glossy paper) • File folders and manila envelopes • Mail, magazines and catalogues • Newspapers and inserts • Shredded paper in closed paper bag • Metal spiral notebooks and writing tablets • Telephone books • Cardboard boxes 	<h2>It's OK to recycle paper with</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper clips • Staples • Plastic envelope windows • Self-stick labels • Metal spiral notebooks 	<h2>NO thanks</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy wrappers • Envelopes with bubble wrap • Paper towels, napkins, tissues • Paper cups or plates • Tyvek™ mailing envelopes • Label backings • Photographs
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See www.massrecyclespaper.org for the full list of recyclable paper.

Provided through a grant from MassDEP. Printed on 100% FSC recycled paper

EVENTS

- ***SSRC Household Hazardous Product Collections**, six Saturdays from Sept. 6 through Nov. 8
- ***MassDEP FY09 Municipal Sustainability Grant Due Date:** Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008; www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/recawgr.htm
- ***MassRecycle Southeast Municipal Recycling Council**, Wed., Sept. 17, 8:45, Mansfield Town Hall; RSVP Kathi Mirza, 508- 821-9469 macse2@tmlp.net
- ***SSRC MSW Manager Meeting**, Thursday, Sept. 18, 9 am, Hanson Town Hall; Speaker Stephen Wenzel, Casella/REP
- ***Financial Implications of Recycling webinar**, EPA Recycling / Solid Waste Management Educational Series, Thurs, Sept. 18, 1-3:30, **free** www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu/
- ***SWANA Mass. Chapter Annual Conference**, Tues., Sept. 23, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough; swanastore.stores.yahoo.net/massachusetts.html
- ***14th Annual EPP Vendor Fair and Conference**, Tuesday, Oct 7, 7:30am – 3:30pm, DCU Center, Worcester. Free to Mass. gov'ts. Sponsored by Mass. OSD; www.mass.gov/eppfair

“Reluctantly we acknowledge that there are also scars which mark the surface of our earth, erosion, deforestation, the squandering of the world's resources in order to fuel an insatiable consumption”

-Pope Benedict XVI, World Youth Day, Sydney, Australia

Produced by Claire Sullivan, Executive Director
South Shore Recycling Cooperative
508-785-8318; fax 508-785-2296
ssrcclaire@comcast.net