



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

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Base hit for Bottle Bill update

After striking out for 16 years, an updated Bottle Bill (UBB) finally got to first base. With a more fans than ever cheering it on, Senate Chair **Michael Morrissey** gave the UBB a base hit when he called for the historic vote by the Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy (TUE) Committee on July 14. Similar bills, including some filed by **Senator Robert Hedlund**, had not been reported out in the 16 years they've been held in TUE. The Committee amended and gave a favorable report to the bill that the SSRC endorsed as a money saving measure for its member municipalities.

The [bill](#) added a 5¢ deposit to water, flavored water and sports drink containers under 2 liters, which now make up over a third of the beverage market. It also raised the handling fee paid to redemption centers, to 3¢ from 2.25¢, which it has been for over 20 years. Unclaimed deposits, estimated at over \$15 million/year, would have been allocated to municipal waste reduction and environmental programs through a resurrected "**Clean Environment Fund**", which was eliminated by Gov. Mitt Romney in 2002.

South Shore **Representatives Garrett Bradley** and **Allen McCarthy** also went to

bat for the UBB. It made it through the Senate Rules & Ethics Committee, but got stuck in Senate Ways & Means during the last week of the legislative session, which ended July 31.

Based on a [DEP study](#), our member towns spend about **\$250K/year** to manage the non-refundable containers as litter, trash and recycling. Passage of this bill would shift most of that cost to the beverage producers and provide an incentive to keep those containers off the ground and out of the trash.

The SSRC voted to support an expanded bottle bill several years ago, and has been asking our legislators to pass it ever since. Most of our member towns, and [140 others](#) in Mass., have signed resolutions supporting the measure. The "fan club" also includes the Mass. Municipal Association, MassRecycle, League of Women Voters, MassPIRG, Sierra Club, and many more.

Like Red Sox Nation, the [UBB Coalition](#) is hopeful that a bill will make it around the bases next session.

Nantucket: the possible dream

Our Board members just had to see it for themselves. Of all the "trash" generated on Nantucket, only 8% ends up in their island landfill. And thanks to their landfill mining/recycling operation, they are taking more out than they are putting in! How do they do it? The Executive Director brought fourteen members and associates (at their own expense) to [the Nantucket Solid Waste Recycling and Composting Facility](#) last month.

Waste Options founder **Nelson Widell** and associate **Jason Pease** traveled from their [new 550 ton/day composting facility](#) in Delaware to give us the grand tour of their public-private partnership with the Town of Nantucket.

Faced with the looming closure of its landfill around 1990, Town leaders decided to get serious about waste reduction or face the enormous cost of shipping its trash off island for disposal. In 1999, the state of the art Facility opened for business.

The resulting [program](#) approaches "zero waste". It employs a combination of **mandatory source separated recycling** by all **residents and businesses, composting of all organic waste**, and prohibition against certain non-recyclable plastics by local businesses.

Trash is only accepted in clear plastic bags, which are rejected if recyclables are spotted in them. This is mixed with sewage sludge and fed into a digester, a 185' long, 12' diameter pitched rotating drum, in which decomposition of organic material is optimized and accelerated. After a few days, unfinished compost emerges. This is screened, stray ferrous metals are pulled out, and the non-compostable residue is landfilled. A few weeks in the finishing bay yields a rich, marketable compost.

Over half of the island's waste is construction and demolition debris. Clean wood is sorted out to be reused or chipped, the rest is sent off island for processing.

Given the vision, resources and resolve, similar efficiencies could be achieved on the mainland.

Photo is of landfill mining operation. More photos [here](#).

See a 6 minute video at [e-awakening.com](#).



SSRC proposes Latex Paint grant project

MassDEP is administering a new grant program, funded by Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from 6 Mass. energy from waste facilities, including **Covanta SEMASS**. The SSRC applied for a **Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP)** grant for \$13,700 to partner with [The Paint Exchange \(TPE, 781-545-1272\)](#) in Scituate on a pilot paint collection and recycling project.

Towns that offered used latex paint to their residents as a drop-swap have found that supply outstrips demand. Only Weymouth still accepts it from residents, packing it up in gaylords and sending it for recycling at a cost of over \$1000/ton. Residents who bring it to the other towns' paint and hazardous waste collections are told to absorb it with kitty litter and dispose in the trash. Estimated cost to do this is about \$40,000/year for our towns.

Katharine Brown and Tania Keeble started TPE last year to reprocess leftover latex paint that they generated, and **sell the re-mixed paint at half of retail price**. These furniture artists hope to expand TPE's reach and volume. To do so, they need funds, a steady and increased supply of waste paint, a secure, dry place to store excess leftover paint, and a sales volume that keeps pace with supply.

The grant proposal seeks to convert paint destined for disposal into good quality paint available at a discount.

MassDEP has completed its review of proposals, and awards will be made in the fall, after further review by the chain of command.

Stay tuned for more details if the SSRC is awarded the grant.

Grinding & screening contracts awarded

Ten companies bid on 3 contracts to do brush grinding and compost screening for SSRC members. The Board awarded one year contracts with 3 one-year options to the lowest responsive and responsible bidders at our [March meeting](#):

Tub grinding: New England Recycling. \$2,700/day, 1000 hp. Hingham uses tub grinder for leaves, which speeds up the compost process, may avoid screening need. Award based on daily rate, horsepower and loader capacity. Deborah Dutra, 508-822-4345, [Tom Clancy](#).

Horizontal grinding: Letourneau Products. \$4,000/day, 1050 hp. Award based on daily rate, horsepower and loader capacity. [Mark Letourneau](#) 508-763-9737.

Trommel Screening delivery and rental: Daniels Recycling \$1,120/day; \$2,240/day w/loader and operator. [Steve Daniels](#) 508-255-7033.

Please contact [Claire](#) for equipment details, hourly and weekly rates, wood chip removal and auxiliary equipment.

Fall HHW collections

This fall we will be starting a new HHW contract with a new contractor, [PSC Environmental](#). It will feature a dedicated contract/site manager – [John MacDonald](#) (781.879.4435), a lower rate - \$43/household equivalent, and a new option for municipalities – Small Quantity. This option may be selected instead of the 10% over-limit allowance. It is defined as up to 5 gallons or 10 lbs. of acceptable waste brought in a single vehicle. The cost will be \$23/vehicle.

Norwell will be joining Rockland at Hanover's fall collection due to declining participation. Hanson was unable to fund its collection this fiscal year. The abbreviated [collection schedule](#) is:

9/18 **Abington** at **Whitman DPW**
 10/16 **Plymouth** DPW
 10/23 **Weymouth** DPW
 10/30 **Norwell** and **Rockland** at **Hanover** Transfer Station

SSRC steps out

SSRC Executive Director Claire Sullivan had a busy spring and summer promoting responsible waste management in our communities and beyond. In addition to hazardous waste collections and the Nantucket tour, the SSRC exhibited at **Sustainable South Shore's Sustainable Living Expo** in Hull and at the **Earth Day Celebration** at the **South Shore Natural Science Center**, where Sullivan also did a presentation. After that, she joined **SAGE** volunteers to help wrap up their "**Abington Clean-up Days**" (article follows).

Sullivan and SEMASS' **Patti Howard** did a repeat performance of their hour long [Trash Talk](#) in May at the request of **Responsible Energy Alternatives Coalition of Hingham** (REACH) to a packed house at the idyllic Glastonbury Abbey.



Sullivan and Howard in Hingham

The SSRC hosted a well-attended tour of [Covanta SEMASS](#) in May.

Executive Director Sullivan presented at Selectmen's and Board of Health hearings in **Abington and Hanson** at their request. She was also invited to speak at a meeting of the **Boston Area Sustainability Group**, and at a **New England Environmental Business Council Solid Waste Seminar**.

Sullivan and **Chairman Merle Brown** joined a large crowd of supporters sporting "Update the Bottle Bill" pins at a **State House press event**, as well as the meeting of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee at which they gave it a favorable report, both in July.

MEETING NOTES

RecycleBank rewards good behavior

Rick Gaudette presented [RecycleBank's](#) (RB) rewards program to the board at its [April meeting](#).

Founded in 2004, RB's mission is to create a sustainable society by influencing recycling, consumption, and lifestyle. Its income is derived from service fees and sponsorships. RB serves a million people in 90 cities in US and UK.

RB encourages reluctant recyclers by rewarding them based on the amount they recycle. It began as a program for single stream with carts, and now includes dual stream, bins and barrels. RFID tags assigned to each household are put on recycling containers. Participation and/or weight is recorded when the cart is emptied.

RB contracts directly with municipalities, and also works through haulers. The hauler installs recording equipment on their trucks (@~\$10K). They often need to adjust their trash and recycling routes due to large increases in recycling. Every pound recycled earns 2.5 RB points. [Rewards](#) are provided by both national and local businesses, such as Coca Cola, Kashi, Sun and Earth, Stonyfield, Target, Whole Foods, CVS, and Dunkin Donuts, and can be fulfilled online or by phone.

Program cost ranges from \$7-9/HH/year. Mr. Gaudette demonstrated how even one of our high-performing towns could increase recycling such that it would be revenue neutral. Lower-performing towns would realize savings through reduced disposal cost. Haulers that keep revenue for recyclables may have incentive to adopt RB.

Transfer station towns are not currently served, but RB is doing pilot projects to find the right economic model to support them. In towns that source separate, its effect may not warrant the cost. RB is a good complement to new PAYT programs, since it defuses political controversy by offering an offset to the costs. RB can be an alternative or adjunct to PAYT.

Contact [Rick Gaudette](#) at 781-354-0838.

Mercury update



[Patti Howard](#), SEMASS' **Material Separation Plan (MSP)** coordinator, updated the Board on the mercury program.

About 53 lbs. of mercury have been recovered so far this year through the MSP. Patti is working with the SSRC's executive director to offer cash bounties for thermostats from HVAC contractors, businesses and residents. It is [illegal](#) for anyone to dispose of mercury-bearing products in the trash, and she welcomes new ideas on helping with compliance.

Covanta did four **Mercury Handling trainings** with MassRecycle this summer, and will work with the SSRC to host additional workshops for members in good standing to remind staff about labeling and handling methods. SSRC negotiated eligibility for all member towns to participate in the Covanta SEMASS MSP program regardless of their SEMASS contract status. To schedule a pickup of mercury containing items, call [Complete Recycling Solutions](#) (CRS) 508-997-7700. Remind them to invoice Covanta SEMASS directly.

SEMASS can provide storage sheds for schools, but recommends use of custodian closets and regular pickups, as sheds are a target for mischief.

Patti can be reached at 508-291-4427.

Stop Spewing Carbon sputters

Western Massachusetts organizations opposed to the siting of a "biomass" (wood-burning) power plant in Palmer sponsored an initiative petition to limit Renewable Energy Credit (REC) qualification for all combustion facilities. **"An Act to Limit Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Renewable and alternative Energy Sources"** would affect energy from waste facilities such as SEMASS by restricting REC qualification to those emitting less than 250 lbs CO₂/MWH. All combustion processes emit around 1000-2000 lbs CO₂/MWH.

Covanta, Wheelabrator, and other stakeholders retained a consultant to organize opposition to the proposed initiative. Covanta's **Meg Morris** introduced **Owen Pollock**, project manager for Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications, at our May meeting.

Pollock did a poll, and was prepared to do a media campaign to counteract misinformation being disseminated by **Stop Spewing Carbon**, the sponsor organization, such as clear-cut mountains.

Covanta is a net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reducer when the life cycle of materials and landfill (LF) disposal are included in the equation. LFs are GHG producers, and are unable to recover energy value from trash efficiently.

Mr. Pollock pointed out that passage would eliminate the newly available grant money (SMRP, see page 2), and leave some positions at MassDEP unfunded.

Legislators held a hearing on the initiative in February, and determined that it should not pass. Conservation Law Foundation, Union of Concerned Scientists and other similar groups opposed it. The SSRC voted to join in opposition. Supporters of the initiative then failed to gather the needed 13K signatures to put it on the November ballot.

Taunton facility plan on schedule

At our June meeting, Jim Binder of **Alternative Resources, Inc (ARI)**, and [Theodore Aleixo](#) of [Interstate Waste Technologies \(IWT\)](#) updated the Board on the Taunton Municipal Solid Waste Facility progress. The regional project is sited in Myles Standish Industrial Park at Rts. 24/495, and leased to IWT by the City of Taunton. Designed to enhance recycling, increase diversion and produce energy, the project will be seeking waste disposal contracts.

Taunton reviewed 6 proposals, and selected IWT's high-temp gasification plan in March, concurrent with MassDEP Commissioner Burt's approval. Post-recycled MSW will be further culled for recyclables; anticipated diversion is 50-60%. Residuals are gasified to hydrogen, carbon mono- and di-oxides, methanol and ammonia "syn-gas", using IWT's [Thermoselect](#) technology. This will be converted to 34MM gal/year of ethanol by microbes and sold to refineries to blend with gasoline. Elemental sulfur, zinc, salts and metals are also recovered. The remaining 18% vitrified product can be used as aggregate for use as fill, in asphalt and concrete.

Operation by 7/1/2013 is ambitious but possible, driven by the State's desire for ethanol production and the imminent closure of the Taunton landfill. Fall River's landfill is already closed, and is a partner. About half of its 1,770 TPD capacity is committed now, and IWT is seeking nonbinding letters of intent to make up the difference. Seven towns have already indicated interest. The estimated tip fee is in the range of \$60/ton, with possible reduced rates for towns that document recycling rates in the 50% range, as it is costly to do a front end dirty sort. The operation will create 100 permanent jobs, and 300 construction jobs.

Contact [Jim Binder](#) for a sample letter of support.

Cartridge World cuts printing costs

At our March meeting, **Rachel Glasser** told the Board how **Cartridge World (CW)**, a local franchise in Weymouth, helps municipalities save on printing costs.

Ink and toner are costly. She provides free quotes, pickup and delivery of remanufactured ink and toner cartridges at a 30-50% savings over new, plus an additional 10% discount for municipalities. CW provides a bright yellow bin for empty cartridges.

It takes 1 gallon of oil to make a toner cartridge. Ink and toner are toxic. All cartridges are recyclable and reusable. CW reuses cartridges, remanufacturing them with High Quality ink and toner specific to each cartridge. CW guarantees function; Rachel will help with any failures on site. It's illegal for manufacturers to void warranty due to use of remanufactured cartridges.

To order, the customer emails [Rachel](#) with request of any size. She arrives the next day with the order, collects spent cartridges, and watches first page print to make sure it works. She can track spending for any and all municipal departments, and is working with Rockland, Abington, and Scituate. The Scituate Public Schools save \$6K every time they back up.

Spent cartridges have value, and can qualify for rebates.

LOCAL

Meet Abington's new Health Agent

The Abington Board of Health hired **Sharon White** as its new Agent last spring, after our friend and colleague **Michelle Roberts** took the Health Agent position in Plymouth. Sharon brings a personal enthusiasm for waste reduction to the SSRC Board.

In her 31 years in Public Health, she has served 6 communities in western and northeast Mass., and all of Franklin County. Well-versed in solid waste issues, Sharon has experienced the thrill of enforcing trash ordinance violations and capping landfills.

Welcome, Sharon!

Hanson nixes transfer station fee

With a budget gap to close, the Hanson BOH heard public comments on a proposed transfer station fee in May. SSRC Executive Director Sullivan confirmed that the town has no legal obligation to provide disposal services, and that most neighboring towns do charge a fee.

Some of the 20 or so residents in attendance understood the need for such a measure, and others suggested a volume-based PAYT system. However, a few vocal opponents stalled the vote, which was not taken at a second hearing in the face of greater opposition. Other measures will be implemented, including the cancellation of the fall household hazardous waste day.

Kingston earns Green Communities designation

Kingston has been named one of Massachusetts' first "Green Communities" for its conservation efforts and commitment to renewable energy solutions.



One of 35 municipalities across the commonwealth to earn the designation, the designation makes Kingston eligible for \$8.1 million in grants for renewable energy and efficiency programs. Recycling Committee Chairman **Gene Wyatt**, a frequent participant in SSRC programs, was instrumental in achieving this accomplishment.

Abington Clean-up inspires community

First **Dan and Marilyn Brielmann** spawned **SAGE - Saving Abington with Green Energy**. This dedicated group, which includes SSRC Board rep **Susan Brennan** and Assistant Town Manager **Dori Jamieson**, has surpassed its mission in many ways, most visibly in its extraordinary community June event, "Abington Cares for the Earth Clean-up Days". The event engaged hundreds of local residents, and organizations from the Scouts to the Senior Center, the Police Department to hauler **Waste Solutions. CRTRecycling** was on hand to collect old electronics, and **Sullivan Tire** took tires at no charge.

Teams of participants took on the town's parks, fields, playgrounds and roadsides, picking up hundreds of tires, TVs and appliances from wetlands, raking and weeding overgrown public lots, planting flower beds, filling hundreds of bags with litter. Thousands of non-deposit drink containers were collected and put on display to demonstrate their prevalence before being recycled.

SSRC Executive Director Sullivan and **State Rep. Allen McCarthy** joined the group at the Police Station to congratulate SAGE and the volunteers on their amazing effort. They noted that the collected containers would have netted over \$200 had there been a deposit on them, or more likely wouldn't have been left on the ground in the first place.

Said Brielmann afterward, "I saw firsthand your energy, enthusiasm and dedication as ... transformed your areas into something we can all take pride in."

To see video footage of the event go to [e-awakening](#)

Norwell changes to weekly single stream

A new contract for curbside collection of trash and recyclables between Norwell and hauler Mike DelPrete & Sons provides residents with weekly recyclables pick up instead of biweekly. In addition, paper, flattened cardboard, bottles and cans can all go together in one **single stream** recycling container. Residents can use their green recycling bin, or they may apply a recycling sticker, available at the Board of Health office at Norwell Town Hall, to an existing trash barrel.

Weekly collection was made possible by the efficiency of collecting all recyclables in trash packer trucks.

The Town hopes that this new recycling program will increase recycling, reduce trash, and save the Town money.



Jason "Boomer" Lindsay of Mike DelPrete & Sons picks up single stream recyclables in Norwell

Weymouth collects unwanted meds at HHW day

A survey conducted in the Weymouth Public Schools in 2009 mirrored the findings of a national study, concluding that Weymouth youth are accessing prescription



drugs from home medicine cabinets far more than any other source. At the direction of Mayor Sue Kay, the Town collected unwanted medications in conjunction with its spring Hazardous Waste Day.

Lyn Frano, Coordinator of the Health Department's federal **Drug Free Communities Support Program** (DFC) grant, organized the medication collection component in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, Police, South Shore Hospital and volunteer Pharmacist, **Dave Morgan**. The grant paid for Lyn's time to plan, promote and set up the event, and for some supplies.

On April 10, Weymouth residents drove through a Highway Garage bay, and handed unwanted meds to four volunteer couriers, who brought the items to the pharmacist for counting, separating and logging the type and quantities.

The Police took possession of the collected substances for disposal after the event. Funding for the two Police Officers (required by the Drug Enforcement Administration) was provided by South Shore Hospital.

Approximately 800 items (over 24,000 dosage units) of over the counter medications and 85 prescriptions (2900 dosage units) of narcotics, stimulants and tranquilizers were collected.

The next Weymouth Medication/ Hazardous Waste collection will be on **October 23**. Volunteer organization **Scituate Health Services** is coordinating a similar event in Scituate on **August 28**.

The **US Drug Enforcement Agency** is coordinating medication collections nationwide on **September 25**. **Hanover Town Hall and the Plymouth Police Dept.** on Long Pond Rd. are both hosting events.

Participating communities need to file a simple request for a one-time **waiver** from MassDEP for a drug-take back program. Questions about the program should be directed to Jim Paterson (617/556-1096) or Sarah Weinstein (617/574-6862).

Food Waste: The next frontier



Food waste accounts for over 12% of our MSW. Backyard compost bins make a dent, but municipal food waste collection could take a real bite out of your disposal tonnage. As efforts are under way to increase local food waste composting capacity, it is worth considering how to make use of it when it is available.

Supermarkets are not allowed to take residential food waste. However, it can be accepted at a site assigned transfer station or conditionally exempt recycling center. **Whately, Northfield and New Salem** in Franklin County, as well as the **City of Cambridge**, collect residential food waste at their drop-offs using wheeled carts.

The Towns of **Hamilton and Wenham** are doing a **curbside food waste collection pilot**. The 525 participants collect food scraps, grass clippings and leaves for pickup every week. They are taken to Brick End Farms in Hamilton, where they are converted to compost. The cost is \$75/resident for the year. In North America, [over 60 municipalities](#), including **San Francisco and Toronto** are successfully collecting food waste in separate bins at the curb.

The biggest challenge is finding sites that can compost food waste without having odor issues with the neighbors. **Anaerobic digestion** is a promising technology that generates compost and captures methane for fuel without producing odors. The **Nantucket and Marlborough co-compost facilities** successfully use an in-vessel technique to optimize the process. Up-front costs can be a deterrent, though. With the [right management practices](#), though, food waste can be incorporated into a yard waste compost facility's operation, with potential for large net savings on disposal costs, and a much higher use of this environmentally valuable waste material.

REGION AND STATE

Get your compost bins

[Backyard composting](#) saves towns money on disposal. Your community can sell compost bins at cost using the State Contract. The pricing is about 50% of retail, and residents find it to be a good value.

The state contract for [compost bins](#) and kitchen scrap buckets is [FAC61](#) (formerly FAC31), in effect through Sept. 30, 2010. The previous vendors, **New England Plastics** and **Norseman Plastics/Orbis Corp** are still on contract, and a third vendor has been added, **New England Rain Barrel**, with a bin called Bio-Orb and truckload sale style program (like their rain barrel sale program).

New Age Composters (Bin-11, Bin-24, Bin-30), by New England Plastics Corp., New Bedford, MA 02745

Contact: Trudy Wood, Tel: 508-998-3111. 21 or more: Bin-11: \$46; Bin-24: \$53; Bin-30: \$59

Earth Machines, Kitchen Collectors by Norseman Plastics, Rexdale, Ontario, Canada

Contact: Art McKenzie, Tel: 888-675-2878 x722. Earth Machine: \$40.00; Minimum order: 25.

Kitchen scrap bucket: \$8.00, 26 per case

Bio-Orb by New England Rain Barrel Co., Peabody, MA 0196.

Contact: Joan Friele, Tel: 877-977-3135. Price: \$89.95, includes a composter program identical to NERB's rain barrel programs (vendor takes, orders, payments and delivers for distribution event)

For more information on backyard composting, contact [Ann McGovern](#) at MassDEP.



Get rid of your propane tanks

A string of posts to the MassRecycle listserv indicates that **Rindge Energy** is the favorite for recycling propane tanks of all sizes, including the 1# camping type tanks. Rindge was recommended by Interstate Refrigerant Recovery when they stopped accepting propane tanks, and many of our SSRC towns have been using them.

Rindge picks up 20# tanks for free, 1# at \$0.50, and 5, 10, 15 # tanks at \$1. They prefer pickups of over 20-30 tanks / pickup. Call (603) 899-9959.

Coleman has discontinued its Green Key® tool for 1# camping type tanks, which was designed to allow for safe recycling of the canisters. Recyclers didn't appreciate having those in the recycling stream.

Recyclers want bottle caps



The [Association of Post-consumer Plastic Recyclers](#) (APR) reports **that plastic containers with caps should be squeezed and have the caps replaced on prior to recycling.**

There are growing domestic markets for recycled plastics, especially those types of plastics found in bottles, containers, and their closures.

Bottle caps compose a large portion of the 5 ocean garbage gyres around the world, in which plastics outweigh life forms by at least an order of magnitude. The infamous [Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) is roughly the size of the US, and has an Atlantic counterpart. Eliminating a source of plastic pollution is the most practical way to prevent these giant swaths of pollution from growing larger.

MassRecycle, MassDEP combine conferences



MassRecycle teamed up with MassDEP to offer its 5th Annual [Municipal Conference](#), **University**



of Resource Management (URM) in conjunction with the 10th Annual Organics Summit, **Local Energy Takes Root** in April. URM focuses on municipal recycling coordinator education. The Organics Recycling Summit is the largest conference dedicated to food waste and organics recycling in New England. The joint event attracted nearly 300 municipal, volunteer and commercial sector attendees.

The combined event provided a powerful mix of workshops that enabled cross-pollination of knowledge and ideas between the municipal and private sectors. Food and yard waste comprise nearly 30% of the municipal solid waste stream. Organics, particularly food, is a largely untapped waste stream that promises to be the next frontier of diversion.

Draft SWMP out for comment

MassDEP has issued its draft "[2010-2020 Solid Waste Master Plan: A Pathway to Zero Waste](#)" for public comment. The document calls for keeping in place the state's current moratorium on new municipal waste combustion facilities, expanding public and private sector recycling and re-use of waste materials, ensuring greater producer responsibility for materials management, and increasing promotion of recycling businesses and green jobs.

MassDEP has held 2 public hearings, and will hold three more, including one on September 9 from 5-7 pm at its Southeast Regional Office, 20 Riverside Drive in Lakeville.

The Public Comment Period will close on September 15, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Comments on the Draft Master Plan may be submitted to:

[John Fischer](#), Branch Chief, Waste and Toxics Planning, MassDEP, One Winter St., Boston, MA 02108 (617) 292-5632.

EVENTS

- ***MassDEP Public Hearing**, 2010-2020 Solid Waste Master Plan: A Pathway to Zero Waste, Thurs, Sept 9, 5-7 pm, SERO, Riverside Dr., Lakeville
- ***MassRecycle Southeast Municipal Recycling Council**, Wed, Sept. 15, 9-noon, Norwood
- ***SSRC MSW Manager Meeting**, Thurs., Sept 23, 9 am, Hanover Town Hall; Complete Recycling Solutions; Thurs., Oct. 21, 9 am, Hingham DPW

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

– Robert F. Kennedy



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