



SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE NEWS

Winter 2007

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

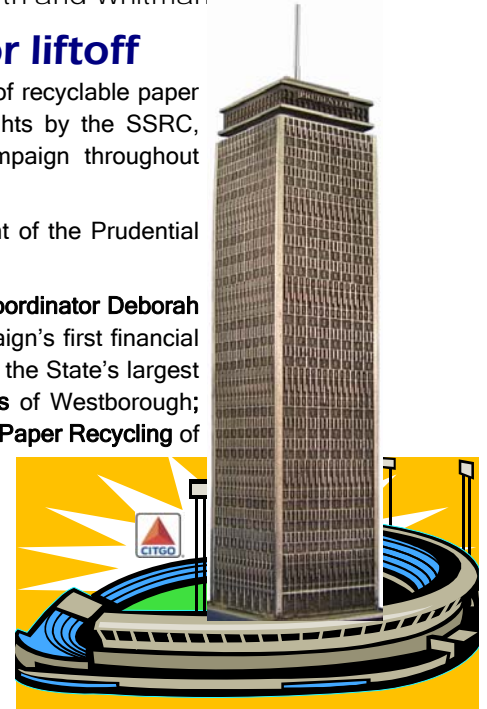
Paper Recovery Campaign ready for liftoff

A million tons a year, that's all we ask. MassDEP estimates that 1.5 to 2 million tons of recyclable paper are trashed each year in the Commonwealth, at a cost of over \$100M. After test flights by the SSRC, Cambridge and Newton, MassRecycle is poised to launch the Paper Recovery Campaign throughout Massachusetts. MassRecycle's president is also the SSRC's Executive Director.

What does a million tons of paper look like? Picture Fenway Park filled to the height of the Prudential Tower. (*see cheesy graphic at right, somewhat to scale*)

Sponsorships totaling \$36,000 so far have enabled the Campaign to hire **Campaign Coordinator Deborah Walker**, who has extensive experience in fundraising and PR. Stepping up as the campaign's first financial backers are **US EPA; Covanta at SEMASS, North Shore Recycled Fibers/ Newark Group**, the State's largest producer of recycled paper products; **Save That Stuff** of Boston; **E. L. Harvey and Sons** of Westborough; **Waste Management Recycle America, Integrated Paper Recyclers** of Woburn; and **Capital Paper Recycling** of Weymouth. **FCR/ Casella** and **Abitibi Paper Retriever** pledged in-kind assistance. When another \$14K is raised, **MassDEP** has pledged \$25K in matching funds. And with help from MassDEP's Municipal Assistance Coordinators, the campaign will combine Statewide press and media messages with local outreach. The Campaign Steering Committee has selected public relations firm **RDW Group** to help plan a spring Kickoff Event at the Newark Group's Haverhill Paperboard Mill and get the message out. RDW has done the RI Resource Recovery Facility's PR for seven years.

MassDEP has also stepped up its enforcement of the **Waste Bans**, which prohibit the disposal of recyclable paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, yard waste and several other materials.



Grinding, screening contracts awarded

The envelope please... Four companies bid on the SSRC's grinding and screening contracts last month. At our January meeting the Board awarded the contracts to the lowest responsive and responsible bidders based on the evaluation criteria in the Invitation. **Letourneau Wood Processing Corp.** again got the contract for both medium and high volume grinding, at \$1.06/ CY output (based on the Manufacturers' Verifiable Output), bidding \$3,400/day for grinding with a 2005 CBI 6800T Magnum Force 1050 hp grinder and a CAT 330BL Excavator. Stephen Schneider can be reached at **508-763-9737**.

Lion's Head Organics will also continue to service our towns, bidding \$1,500/day for use of his 2004 McCloskey MCB-616 trommel with stackers. Call Michael Bleakie at **781-545-4645**.

The other bidders were JM Cook Co. and Sam White & Sons. Contracts may be obtained from the Executive Director, ssrcclaire@comcast.net, 508-785-8318.

Recycling ads play ball

The SSRC Board voted to continue running its paper recycling ads on **WATD 95.9 FM**, which played in the Thanksgiving Day football game. They are also running during all the local **high school and UMass basketball games** through March.

You can also read and hear our ads by going to ssrc.info, click on Radio Ads.

SEMASS to host SSRC Appreciation Dinner

It's not often that solid waste managers are wined and dined in recognition of their service. So when the SSRC Board learned that the new SEMASS Material Separation Plan Coordinator, **Patti O'Hara**, had invited them out for dinner, they enthusiastically accepted. The event has been scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 5-7:30 at Joe's American Bar and Grille, 2087 Washington St., Hanover. Let Claire know that you're coming if you haven't already.

We will be honoring a special guest, and welcoming a new associate (see next article).

Farewell, Rosemary Welcome, Janine

Our friend and hardworking Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC), **Rosemary Nolan**, had planned to be sipping margaritas in Mexico by now, but the slow real estate market is keeping her in the cold for a little while longer. Unfortunately, the wheels were already in motion for her to leave her DEP MAC post before she realized her predicament, but she landed a temporary job with the lucky Town of Easton to keep the wolves away from her door.

The Southeast Region won't be left out in the cold either, as DEP has hired **Janine Delaney** as our new MAC. Janine had previously served as Hanson's Conservation Agent. She will work out of the Braintree office, and can be reached at 781-794-8040 (office), 781-690-0799 (cell) or idelaney@braintreema.gov.

The CREW picks up electronics

South Shore residents now have the option of disposal of unwanted TVs and electronics at the door. At our January meeting, **Steve Beck** introduced his service company, **The CREW**, which collects and recycles electronic equipment and white goods for non-profits. Beck noted that managing end of life electronics was costing his business development clients a bundle, so he researched alternatives that could also benefit organizations such as his kids' music program. Within 3 months, his efforts generated \$30K through one day collection events. Beneficiary nonprofits find a location and get 2 volunteers. He brings a truck and charges \$10 per item (more for console TVs, discount for a carload). He brings the discards to CRTRecycling in Brockton, and 60-70% of the fees collected goes back to the sponsoring organization. Events have brought in from \$900-\$18K in a day for HS music programs, Boys and Girls Club, and Cystic Fibrosis. Councils on Aging can collect on site, and he will pick up. He notifies the municipality in which an event is planned ahead of time. They are working with VNAs, and may add sharps collection.

The CREW now provides pickup at the door for residents and businesses on the day of an event for \$29 and up. The company is insured, and will soon be a 501(c)3 nonprofit. The SSRC will schedule them to collect at Holbrook, Hull and Marshfield HHP days. Call 781-837-4728, email pickup@recyclingelectronics.com, or go to www.recyclingelectronics.com/, click "Collection Day Events"

Big Belly eats public trash

Green, solar powered compactors with mailbox-like openings are being spotted all over Boston, Brookline and the suburbs. **Jim Poss** of **Seahorse Power Company**, which manufactures the Big Belly for public area trash and recycling, came to our December meeting to tell us about them.

The compactors are a bottom-heavy 500 lbs., easy to move on dollies or hand jacks, and very durable. An optional locking mechanism keeps animals out, and the opening discourages illegal dumping, and eliminates blowing trash and seagull scavenging in beach settings. With a capacity of up to 180 gallons (loose), and an optional attached recycling basket, the Big Belly saves labor, fuel and maintenance by reducing the number of pickups fourfold. The units themselves are being tested for use as recycling compactors. Full loads typically weigh 45 lbs. An LED light indicates the capacity remaining, and transmitters to indicate when a unit is full are in development.

Lexan-protected solar panels on top of the unit charge the battery, which powers the compactor and stores enough charge for a month of operation. At \$3,600 - \$3,900, Big Bellies can be purchased on the State contract, FAC31. There are 50 units in Boston and over 300 in DCR parks and municipalities worldwide. Maintenance cost is about \$300 for fifty (50) units over a seven (7) month period.

For more information call **508-335-2400**, or go to seahorsepower.com.

Planet Police capture food waste

West Bridgewater recycling company **EOMS** is spinning off a division to rescue tons of stale muffins and used coffee grounds from area eating establishments. EOMS Principal **Lou Tarentino** introduced the organics collection service that **Planet Police** provides to the SSRC Board at our November meeting, when they had just begun food and organics composting with bakeries. Planet Police uses totes and small dumpsters for collection of day old donuts, muffins and coffee grounds. They pick up, weigh and haul the leftovers to composting facilities. They are starting with bakeries and food manufacturers, and plan to add restaurants soon.

Gathering data for a pilot study now, Tarentino states that the service will save businesses money. Just one bakery off-loads about 1200 lbs of stale products per day. Because sanitation is a concern, Planet Police may use biodegradable bags for collection, which can also be composted.

Route density is necessary to make it work. Schools have great potential for reducing their waste significantly with this service, if proper sorting practices can be established.

Parent company EOMS has operated for 11 years, starting with cardboard collection. It now provides compactors, and collects bottles and cans, trash, computers, fluorescent tubes, mattresses, and oddball stuff, mainly from office buildings and commercial establishments.

Planet Police can be reached at 508-587-9697.

Retrievers starving for paper



The **Paper Retriever** containers came bounding into town in the Fall of 2005, offering businesses, schools and churches easy access to paper recycling, and providing **Abitibi** a source of material for its newsprint factories. With **78 containers** now placed on the South Shore, and hundreds statewide, the next step is to fill them up often enough to make the system efficient enough to justify the cost of containers, collection and the rebates of **\$5-20/ton** paid to the hosts or their favorite charities.

In an ideal world, if each container was filled up to the 1.5 ton capacity weekly, the South Shore Retrievers would net over 450 tons of paper (and \$9,000) each month. But in its first year of operation, we came up a bit short. Make that woefully short. Taking into account how long each container has been in place, the average capture was **less than 1 ton per container** per month, or a total of 50 tons/month. Hull school Administration won the prize, collecting about 5 tons/month for the year.

In order to keep the Retriever program healthy, Abitibi will be evaluating the performance of each container, and **moving those that are fetching less than 2 tons per month**. So if you love your Retriever, make sure you feed it enough, or it might get a new owner! Contact Abitibi at 617-241-5407, info@paperretriever.com.

Clothing, Book collections paying off

Towns that have been hosting collection containers from **Bay State Textile** and/or **Got Books** find themselves in a win-win situation. Both companies made presentations to the SSRC Board in the past year. Our five towns that host Bay State Textile containers diverted 246 tons of material for reuse in 2006, netting a total of \$12,319. Got Books, with seven containers in six towns, captured 21.5 tons of books, CDs and DVDs, returning \$2,150 to the three communities that have filled containers so far.

Contacts: Paul Curry, **Bay State Textiles**
Boston2674@aol.com, 508-415-3855.

Fernando Morales, **Got Books**
savebooks@gotbooks.com, 978-664-6555.

SSBRP welcomes Jack Conway

Jack Conway and Co., headquartered in Norwell and with offices all over the South Shore, is our newest South Shore Business Recycling Partner. Joe Catalano, our account manager at the now-defunct WJDA AM, is now head of PR at Conway, which includes Conway Financial Services and Jack Conway Realty. Their 137 Washington St. location is host to an Abitibi Paper Retriever container.

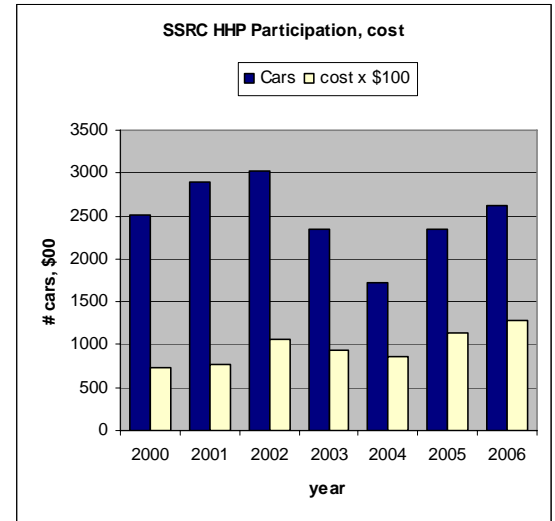
HHP collections busy again

It was starting to look like everyone had cleared their basements of old paint and chemicals, but participation at our regional Household Hazardous Product collections is climbing back up to pre-2002 levels (see chart).

Residents are getting the hang of drying up their own latex paint. The new "problem child" seems to be latex driveway sealer. While not technically "hazardous", it is even more fluid than paint, and does contain some petroleum distillates. After doing some research, the Executive Director concludes that towns may save some money by managing it the same way as latex paint rather than accepting it with HHPs. She will propose adding it to the list of "optional items" in the contract with Clean Harbors.

Our eight spring collections start on April 14 in Weymouth, with the last one in Scituate on June 16. Go to ssrc.info, click on Hazardous Waste for the details.

Contracts for the spring collections will be sent out (by SSRC this time) in early March. We'll be scheduling Fall 07 and Spring 08 collections soon too, so get out your calendars!



LOCAL

Marshfield, Weymouth win phone book recycling contests

There's nothing like a contest to get people motivated! Two SSRC towns ran phone book recycling contests among their elementary schools. Both Marshfield and Weymouth got great support from their hauler, **Waste Management, Inc.**, as well as the DPWs, students, teachers, principals, and custodians in coordinating the events. DEP's Rosemary Nolan, SSRC's Claire Sullivan and WETC also contributed to the success of the Weymouth contest.

When WBZ TV 4 learned that police cruisers would escort recycling trucks and front end loaders to each elementary school, they sent a news crew to two of the eleven schools that competed. The story about the wildly successful event ran at both noon and 6.

Despite a short planning period (due to the phone book delivery dates), Marshfield's five schools amassed about 5 tons of paper in November. **Eames Way** students brought in the most, 6.5 lbs. per student, winning them an ice cream party.

With more time to plan, Weymouth's 3,000 grade school kids (double Marshfield's number), recycled 14 tons of old phone books with great fanfare, cheering as they lined up to drop phone books into the bucket of a front end loader. When they filled it up, the loader dumped the books into a roll-off container, which was weighed between stops at the schools. The full roll-offs were delivered to **Recycle America** in Avon, where the contents began their journey to become a cereal boxes, or perhaps new phone books.

The **Wessagusset School** took the prize for the most paper, with its delivery weighing in at 2.5 tons. Students at the **Ralph Talbot School** also won, bringing in 13 lbs. per student. Weymouth's **Mayor Madden** will celebrate with both schools by sponsoring and hosting an ice cream party at each.

The contests saved the towns \$1,800 in rebates and avoided disposal cost, and educated both students and parents on the value of recycling.



Seach Elementary students, Weymouth

Plymouth mandates recycling

Former DPW Director **George Crombie** embraced the requirement to set a mandatory recycling policy at Plymouth's three transfer stations in order to qualify for DARP (Dept. Approved Recycling Program) status. DARP status exempts municipal loads of residential trash (but NOT school or municipal building trash) from waste ban load inspection and rejection at the disposal facility.

On her way to a radio interview on WATD, the Exec. Director flicked on the Marshfield station and heard Mr. Crombie explaining the new policy. Residents' trash would be examined upon arrival, and they would be instructed to remove recyclables before they could dispose of their trash in the pit. Records are kept on violators, and repeat offenders may be fined.

Plymouth's Crombie retires

After a long and illustrious career, **George Crombie**, Plymouth's innovative DPW Director, recently retired. Environmental Manager **David Gould** is serving as the Interim Director. The Town was interviewing candidates at publication time,

Whitman loses Pettinelli

Last October, Whitman's DPW Supt., **John Pettinelli**, succumbed to a heart attack. After serving the town since 1993, he was a year short of retirement. The two assistant directors, **Jack Lowe** and **Don Westhaver** are serving in his capacity, in addition to their own, until a new Supt. is appointed.

New Health Agent for Whitman

As reported in the Fall issue, our friend **Al Scoglio** left his post as Whitman Health Inspector to pursue his food safety consulting business, ALSCO Food Check Group.

Whitman has hired veteran and former Weymouth School Food Manager **Eric Badger** to fill the position. We'll get to meet him at the March 8 Dinner.

SSRC helps Hull explore recycling options

Hull DPW Director Marc Fournier hopes to improve the town's Recycling Center, but first finances for the current arrangement need to be optimized. Being responsible for a multitude of DPW operations, he delegated the task to the SSRC Executive Director, who requested and analyzed the relative merits of quotes for Hull's recyclables.

Either of two quotes (from Capital Paper Recycling in Weymouth or Integrated Paper Recyclers in Woburn) would earn the town about \$1,100/year at current levels of participation, rather than costing the nearly \$4K expense Hull now incurs. And that number will rise as more residents flock to the improved Recycling Center that Marc envisions.

Wellesley proposes Cohasset deal

Wellesley RTF Supt. Gordon Martin has enough capacity to accept out of town recyclables, and he can now pay for them. With markets strong, especially for paper and cardboard, and a request from the SSRC, he proposed to take Cohasset's material at rates competitive with his private sector counterparts. Merle and Carl in Cohasset are considering whether the long haul justifies the return. Martin can be reached at 781-235-7600 x340.

Exec Director Chats on Weymouth, New Bedford TV

As part of its fantastic coverage of Weymouth's school phone book recycling contest, WETC taped SSRC Exec. Dir. Sullivan expounding on the virtues of recycling to the max.

Rep. Bob Koczera, the SSRC's second Environmental Hero, also invited her to join him on his New Bedford cable show last November. They talked trash for 30 minutes, covering topics from what items can be recycled to what happens to recycling after it leaves the curb to funding for statewide initiatives. The program aired several times.

Sullivan has not received been notified of an Emmy nomination yet.

Marshfield reconsiders PAYT

With high waste management fees threatening to go even higher, Marshfield is giving residents options to help reduce their rates, which are currently \$365/year and expected to rise to over \$400 in FY08. In three public hearings, **John Kelso**, the Chairman of the **Solid Waste Advisory Committee**, explained choices under consideration by the SWAC and Board of Public Works to be presented at the April 23 Town Meeting.

Option 1 would reduce the annual fee to \$225, and require residents to pay \$1.50 for each 30 gallon bag of trash they set out. Option 2 would include one bag/week of trash for \$275/year, and require the purchase of bags at \$2 each for anything in excess. Option 3 would cost \$385/year, with trash in excess of 2 bags/week costing \$3. All three plans would require that trash brought to the transfer station be in the special bags.

The Board of Public Works has already implemented some recommendations made by the SWAC, raising the commercial rate at the transfer station to \$150/ton with a \$100 minimum, and the cost of a voucher for residents to drop off bulky material from \$25 to \$100. The residential "all day" pass was eliminated, as was the recycling only sticker, which had been difficult to monitor and resulted in abuse.

If Option 1 or 2 are adopted in April, Marshfield will qualify for a MassDEP PAYT grant of up to \$38,000 for reimbursement of implementation costs.



AROUND THE STATE

Sen. Creedon, Rep. Koczera sponsor CEF bills

Senator Creedon and Rep. Koczera asked the Executive Director to draft a bill that would **reinstate the Clean Environment Fund (!)**, which was repealed in FY03 by Gov. Romney. The Fund did and would again direct the money from unclaimed bottle deposits to recycling and environmental programs. That \$40 million/year collected annually now goes into the General Fund. Meanwhile, State funding for recycling has been cut from \$15.8M in FY02 to \$2.3M in recent years. Millions of tons of reducible/ reusable/ recyclable/ compostable materials are disposed of each year in Massachusetts at a cost of well over \$100M.

The draft was edited by each legislator, so are slightly different. Both would dedicate 50-60% of the fund to waste reduction/ recycling programs in all sectors. The rest would go to Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) for various environmental uses and to oversight.



Municipal Recyclers' Workshop a hit

Two hundred recycling professionals and volunteers gathered for an intense day of learning and networking in Leominster this January. The 2nd Annual MassRecycle Municipal Recyclers' Workshop was made possible by several corporate sponsors, dozens of colleagues, who helped update the 80 page Manual, and backing from MassDEP. A beautiful setting at the Doyle Conservation Center, catered lunch and exhibits, including a Big Belly solar compactor, made the trip even more worthwhile.

Presentation topics included outreach and publicity, public space recycling, using the Waste Bans locally, and multilingual media. The agenda, presentations and Manual are posted on the Events and Publications pages at massrecycle.org.

Waste Ban sweep exposes violators

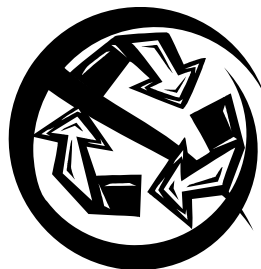
Enforcement actions were taken on several South Shore businesses for waste ban violations in a recent sweep across the state. MassDEP sent inspectors to solid waste facilities last fall, and cited dozens of well-known businesses and institutions for throwing away large volumes of paper, cardboard and other recyclable materials.

Local violators included: **Allied Disposal**, Quincy; **Waste Management**, Stoughton; **Frade's Disposal**, New Bedford; **American Red Cross**, Dedham; **Friendly Fruit** of New Bedford; **Home Depot**, Hyannis and Wareham; **Ethan Allen Furniture**, Bellingham; and State contractor **Lindenmeyr Munroe**, Franklin.

Each violator was issued a notice of noncompliance with the waste ban regulation (310CMR 19.017), and was required to submit a compliance plan to MassDEP for approval.

In the past year, MassDEP has provided information and ongoing opportunities for haulers, businesses and municipalities to comply with waste ban requirements, **which also apply to schools and municipal buildings, regardless of a town's DARP status.**

The SSRC has recently logged several inquiries from local businesses and residential complexes about setting up recycling programs. For South Shore businesses that do not have systems in place to comply with the waste bans, it will only be a matter of time before MassDEP catches up with them.



Sen. Hedlund files Updated Bottle Bill

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative voted to support that and the following bills:

- **Update the Bottle Bill**, filed separately by Rep. Doug Petersen and **Sen. Hedlund** ("An Act to Improve Recycling in the Commonwealth")

- **Producer Takeback of Electronics**, filed by Rep. Smizik

The SSRC thanks Senators Hedlund and Creedon for filing these bills. Our legislators who cosponsored them at our request will be listed in the next issue, after they are posted.

Towns say "No visible recyclables in trash"

Several North Shore towns have instituted local waste ban policies, with some dedicating staff time to enforcement. After plenty of notice to residents, **Lexington, Saugus and Chelmsford**, to name a few, are requiring their haulers to leave trash at the curb if visible recyclables are mixed in it. Offenders are notified with a sticker, and must sort their trash for the following week to get it picked up, which calls for a commitment on the part of the towns not to send the haulers back when violators complain.

A part time enforcement officer in Saugus has saved the town much more than his pay in reduced trash tonnage, earning him more hours. Several towns, including Abington, Norwell and Marshfield, have formally requested that MassDEP add **matching funds for the hiring of enforcement officers** to the FY08 Municipal Grant package.

For policy language and outreach materials, contact the Executive Director.

Has our time finally come?

After years of calls, letters, and testimony by the SSRC and MassRecycle, there seems to be momentum to increase the pitiful appropriation for Recycling Coordination on Beacon Hill. The Governor's House 1 Budget, which trimmed most agency spending, included a modest increase of \$165K for the recycling line. And now legislators in both the House and Senate, including Ways and Means member **Rep. Koczera** and Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Chairman **Sen. Resor**, have indicated that they may propose additional increases in that line item, **2010-0100** for FY08.

Funding for Recycling Coordination has been slashed from \$8.8M in FY02 to \$2.3M in recent years. The Executive Director, using both that and her MassRecycle President hats, has been emphasizing that a small investment in the Paper Recovery Campaign, more visible Waste Ban enforcement and infrastructure development had potential to net tenfold returns to the State's economy. Combined with many other voices from the recycling community, there is real hope that our leaders are acting on that message.

EVENTS

- 1 **Council of SEMASS Communities (COSC)**, Wednesday, March 14, 2007, 10 am, Radisson Plymouth Harbor Hotel. 508-291-4436
- 1 **The 7th Massachusetts Organics Recycling Summit, Tues., March 6, 2007 , 8 am-4 pm; tours** Wed., March 7, 2007, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center, Marlborough www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/orgsum07.htm
- 1 **SSRC Appreciation Dinner**, sponsored by Covanta at SEMASS, Thursday, March 8, 5-7:30, Joe's American Bar and Grille, Hanover, [RSVP](#) Claire
- 1 **SSRC MSW Manager Meeting**, Thursday, March. 15, 2007, 9 am, Norwell Town Hall
- 1 **2007 NRRRA Annual Recycling Conference and Expo**, June 4th & 5th, 2007 at Sheraton Nashua Hotel, Nashua, NH; www.recyclewithus.org

"America is on the verge of technological breakthroughs that will... help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change."
 – George W. Bush

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