



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

Produced by Claire Sullivan, Executive Director 508-785-8318 fax 785-2296 ssrcclaire@comcast.net

SSRC honors Governor, McGovern

The SSRC hosted its **Eighth Annual Recognition Breakfast**, formerly the Legislative Breakfast, on March 20 at the Rockland Holiday Inn (formerly the Radisson). Two Recycling Hero Awards (formerly called Environmental Hero Awards) were presented. The keynote speaker was Newton's DPW Commissioner **Tom Daley** (Duxbury's former DPW Director).



The event has evolved from a celebration of the Cooperative's creation by former member **John McNabb** of Cohasset and former State Representative **Tom O'Brien** in a 1997 State Budget amendment. O'Brien was the first to be recognized with a Hero Award.

Until this year, all Heroes have been State legislators, including **Reps. Bob Koczera**, Kathy Teahan and Frank Hynes, and **Senators Bob Hedlund** and Robert Creedon.

When the Board was polled for nominations this year, several members wanted to honor the dedication of a friend who's not afraid to get her hands dirty. Known to some of us as the Compost Queen, MassDEP's **Ann McGovern** is determined to make backyard composting a way of life for Mass. residents. Ann promotes the distribution and sale of backyard compost bins, and conducts Healthy Lawn and Landscape workshops across the State. She is well known in many of our schools as the DEP's Green Team organizer. But most notably for us, Ann has adopted and improved the recycling program at the annual

10-day **Marshfield Fair** since its inception in 2004 as an SSRC Grant project. Neither rain nor heat nor break of dawn stays Ann from the completion of her rounds overseeing volunteers, collection and composting at the Fair. Even a fall from the back of an old truck during cleanup in 2005 that landed her in the hospital didn't deter her from doing it again. Through her efforts, and with help from SSRC volunteers, hundreds of thousands of fairgoers have witnessed event recycling in action. And about 35 tons of waste materials have been put back into use instead of the landfill.

Ann didn't mind sharing the spotlight with **Governor Deval Patrick**. The Board was impressed with his general promotion of a 'green' agenda, and specifically with his FY2010 Budget proposals to **more than double the State's appropriation for recycling** (line item 2010-0100) to \$5 million, and raising the funds from **an update to the Bottle Bill** to include non-carbonated drink containers. The SSRC has been advocating for both of those initiatives for years. MassDEP's **Greg Cooper** accepted the Governor's award.

Since its inception in 1998, the SSRC has been a voice for its municipal solid waste managers at the State House and at MassDEP. The breakfast has provided an opportunity to thank lawmakers and policymakers for listening to and acting on our concerns.

Earth Day Celebration grows in second year

Join the SSRC as we celebrate [Earth Day](#) at the **Hanover Mall** on **Saturday, April 18, from 10-4**. Now that we have one under our belts, we can "recycle" the parts that worked best, and add some new attractions. Our committee, made up of **Doug Buitenhuys** (Kingston), **Rudy Childs** (Rockland), **Jo and Charles Dirk** (Norwell), **Bob Griffin** (Marshfield) and **Linda Kakulski** (Hanover), has been meeting with our friends at the Hanover Mall since October.

Covanta SEMASS is the primary sponsor, with major contributions from **Clean Harbors**. Exhibitors include **BigBelly Solar** and **Go Green Global Recycling**, Mass Recycles Paper, Sustainable Hanover, the Norwell Recycling Committee, North & South River Watershed Ass'n, and the South Shore Natural Science Center. The **Green Connection** will sponsor a "green" puppet show by **Lisa and Friends**.

The Hanover Mall teamed up again with **Community Newspapers** to run a region-wide **Essay Contest** with the theme "What can I do to save the Planet?".

Many of the same outdoor vendors will again collect cast-offs: **EOMS** will take electronics at \$5/each, **Shred King** will shred sensitive documents (one box/customer at no charge, others @ \$5), **Got Books** will collect used books, movies and video games, and **Bay State Textile** will be looking for clothing, linens and stuffed animals.

Grinding contract awarded to Apple D'Or

Seven contractors bid on the SSRC's wood grinding and removal contract in January. The Board had rejected the extension proposal from Letourneau Wood Products, our previous contract vendor, which asked to increase its rates by 18%. They also came in as the high bid at that rate.

Two companies tied for low bid, **Apple D'Or Tree** and **Wicklow Wood Recycling**, at \$0.94/CY. With both companies meeting all criteria, other factors that had to be considered were the loader capacity and cost of wood chip removal. The vote for the award, tabled at the February meeting and conducted via email, awarded the contract to Apple D'Or.

To schedule brush grinding using the SSRC contract with Apple D'Or, contact Matt Larsen at 508-229-2440.

MEETING NOTES

WM Recycle America

December's guest speaker was **Pat Milmo**, Sourcing Rep for **Waste Management Recycle America (WM/RA)**, who discussed recycling services and market conditions. WM/RA operates 31 single stream (SS) facilities in the US. In its first 6 months of operation, WM/RA processed 15,000 tons of materials at its Avon SS facility, which opened in June. In Mass., WM/RA runs 3 recycling facilities, and processes electronic waste in Springfield.

With the new SS operation, all recyclables are collected in one packer truck rather than a split truck. This improves route efficiency, as the whole truck can be filled. Automated trucks with one driver (not three operators) can empty 64 and 96 gallon totes, which also captures more volume. Convenience increases participation, and typically 30% more material is captured. Additional materials accepted include juice/milk cartons and #1-7 rigid plastic containers.



The down side is that 6-8% of SS loads are contaminants, vs. 4% for dual stream. Processing also costs more, which the company is subsidizing even with a gate rate of \$45/ton. Currently, this is not being offset by commodity value.

Despite the October market crash, WM/RA is honoring current agreements. They are losing a lot of money right now, and probably won't offer floor pricing in new contracts. Milmo cautioned that municipalities shouldn't rely on rebates for a revenue stream. He expects a bounce in late spring.

WMRA strives to provide cost savings for recycling over disposal cost.

Get the most out of compost

Michael Bleakie, owner of **Lion's Head Organics**, the SSRC contractor for compost screening, reported that Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Kingston, Marshfield and Weymouth use his services, and he is consulting with Rockland at no charge. He advised that **aeration of compost speeds up the process**; don't turn snow into piles though. More frequent turning made a big difference in Hingham, and took less time to screen.

Lion's Head sold Marshfield's screened compost for them, which offset screening costs. To have value, product must be weed free. If windrows are turned frequently, heat will kill weed seeds.

Bourne cuts tip fee increase

Last month, Bourne ISWMF officials announced that beginning July, 2009, the municipal tip fee for C&D waste will increase from \$75/ton to \$83/ton. After conferring with the SSRC Executive Director, they decided to modify the increase to **\$79/ton** for SSRC member towns.

Some of our towns have already negotiated with New England Recycling in Taunton (Tom Clancy, 508-324-5400) and Casella in Rochester (Steve Wenzel 508-922-4825) for C&D processing.

The Bourne ISWMF is also seeking contracts with our towns for MSW. General Manager Brent Goins can be reached at 508-759-0651. Rates will be competitive with other disposal facilities'.

Plymouth Cy considers trash biz

Plymouth County Administrator **Troy Clarkson** discussed a development plan the County is drafting at our January meeting. Clarkson, who has served as Falmouth's DPW Commissioner and as Finance Manager for the Bourne Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility (ISWMF), understands solid waste issues. He noted that **regional cooperation is more important than ever** to help keep the cost of solid waste manageable.

The County is developing a 106 acre property in Plymouth near Camelot Drive. It has done engineering on site, and is putting out an RFP to clear it. It should be ready for development by the end of 2009. Among the many uses being considered are wind and solar power generation, fire training, emerging technologies (including processing and use of recovered materials) and a **regional recycling and trash transfer station**.

In disposal contract negotiation, **volume is key to better pricing**. He has evaluated the SEMASS Tier 1 extension proposal, and believes that Bourne is a good, viable alternative to SEMASS, which can offer disposal contracts through 2030, or for shorter terms. Several companies are investigating "high tech" waste management projects, but none are nearly ready to discuss contracts yet. Cape Cod towns are opposed to meeting June deadline to sign an MOU with SEMASS.

Chairman Brown expressed concern about the ISWMF's vulnerability to Bourne politics, noting that SEMASS helps with mercury and public outreach. Clarkson doubts that closing the ISWMF is financially possible regardless of political opposition. It is a good business that provides big benefits to the Town.

Regarding the proposed Holbrook rail line transfer station, Clarkson said that there is enough trash to go around, and is good for towns to have options. Clarkson estimated that a better tip fee would more than offset the cost to transfer loads so close to the destination, even with administrative costs figured in.

Other uses suggested by the Board included a compost site, and a brush and stump depository, which could supply fuel for fire training.

NRRA membership, courtesy of SEMASS

In February. Mike Durfor and Marilyn Weir told us how the **Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA)** markets recyclables for its members in VT, ME, CT, MA and NH. Established almost 30 years ago, the non-profit organization has 360 municipal and private members. It brokers 68,000 tons/year of 25 commodities, and provides technical assistance and education to each member community. Due to its volume, NRRA gets better pricing for its members than they can get on their own.

After performing a site visit to a municipal facility, NRRA staff makes recommendations, and customizes services from its 200 programs. NRRA runs consolidation centers in which it arranges to pick up materials at member sites in 50 foot trailers, brings them to a central transfer facility, and gets full load pricing. There is a processing fee for non-host communities, but the net cost is usually lower. Baled materials are tracked from their town of origin and weighed separately.

NRRA consolidates and grinds glass to make processed glass aggregate, which is superb for drainage, road base, and beach sand replacement.

Dual and single stream collections are options, and NRRA offers programs to reduce hauling costs for towns that produce full loads. NRRA also sells supplies and signs at bulk rates. To ensure that they are in compliance with laws and regs, NRRA actually follows the trucks, and investigates all vendors.

For towns that don't have enterprise funds, NRRA offers "savings accounts" in which revenue from commodity sales offset collection costs.

Patti Howard announced that **SEMASS will pay the first year membership cost** for SSRC towns with SEMASS contracts, and half the cost for non-contract SSRC towns. NRRA dues are based on population, and works out to about 5¢/person. She noted that **MassDEP is doing more spot checks**, and will be going back to towns for violations soon.

The NRRA Annual Conference, set for June 8-9 this year in Manchester, NH, is always inspiring. They also publish a quarterly newsletter, and maintain a website, nrra.net. Member services staffer Adam Clark does a **weekly email market assessment**.

Towns that are interested should call **Mike Durfor at 603-736-4401** to arrange for an audit or become a member.

SEMASS thanks SSRC

Sponsors dinner

SSRC Managers met with **Covanta** officials from as far as NY in mid-March at a dinner hosted by **SEMASS**. The company, which owns and operates over 30 energy-from-waste facilities worldwide, considers the SSRC a model of municipal cooperation that should be replicated.

SEMASS is also helping SSRC towns try out the **Northeast Resource Recovery Association's** cooperative marketing services for recyclables. At our February meeting, **Patti Howard** told the Board that SEMASS will sponsor memberships in the NRRA for a year for interested towns (see related article).

Keeping the Board up to date

At our January meeting, the Executive Director distributed updated **contact lists** to the Board. The lists include Board representatives, DPW and BOH directors, Town Managers, legislators, and MassDEP contacts. The 2008 **SSRC Annual Report** detailing services, cost savings and results, was also provided to all Board members, and can be viewed online at ssrc.info, [Board Info](#), [Annual Reports](#).



LOCAL

Hanson BOS gets trash lesson

Hanson Board of Health apprised the Selectmen of the anticipated increase in disposal tip fees at their January meeting, with a presentation by the SSRC Executive Director. Hanson signed the SEMASS contract early, and still enjoys Tier One tip fees, along with Kingston, Norwell and Plymouth.

SEMASS has proposed a gradual increase for Tier One towns over the last five years of the contract to offset and ease the shock of market rates when their contracts expire at the end of 2014. The early rate increase would guarantee a below-market rate for the following fifteen years.

Although the BOH has authority to sign the disposal contract, they thought it prudent to make the BOS and town residents aware of this upcoming budget item. Funding adjustments will need to be made, and the BOH is considering, among other options, implementing a Pay-as-You-Throw program to cover the cost increase and to reduce the volume of trash.

Holbrook transfer station on track

Holbrook Selectmen signed a 20 year lease allowing the **Holbrook Environmental Logistical Partnership (HELP)** to construct and operate a transfer station on a town-owned 11 acre brownfield. The site, formerly occupied by the Holbrook Chemical Corp., is near the Randolph line. HELP promises to clean up the site, and that the facility will feature the latest in environmental technology, with trash being sorted, baled and shrink-wrapped in an enclosed building before being loaded on rail cars bound for distant landfills.

HELP will provide free weekly trash and biweekly recycling collection and disposal to Holbrook residents, a staffed drop-off recycling area, and royalty payments of \$1-3 per ton of trash from outside Holbrook. With a proposed capacity of 1000 TPD, the Town expects benefits to top \$1 million/year.

The site is still undergoing permitting, and anticipates opening in 2 years.

Hull considers privatizing RC

Despite a \$50/year sticker fee and charges for certain items, Hull's small Recycling Center faces a budget shortfall the DPW cannot afford. The Center serves over 400 residents on Saturday's from 9-1. Hull DPW staff currently transport the materials to local recycling outlets, including Capital Paper Recycling and Spiegel South Shore Scrap Metal.

Hull's Board reps, **Nancy Kramer** and **DPW Director Joe Stigliani**, are working with the SSRC's Executive Director Claire Sullivan to continue providing drop-off recycling to the Town's residents. Sullivan has prepared a Request for Proposals for a private company to take over the operation as one option, and is also investigating an arrangement with Cohasset.

Hull residents can recycle curbside with permitted recycling /trash haulers listed on the Town website. And Abitibi Paper Retriever Bins are conveniently available at four locations, with proceeds benefitting the Hull schools.

IPR seeks contract relief

Integrated Paper Recyclers is asking the towns it serves to partner with them in getting through the economic crisis. IPR invoked the "economic feasibility" clause in many of its contracts, and is seeking \$40/ton to cover hauling and processing for bottles and cans until pricing and demand for recycled commodities recovers. Rather than charging towns outright, IPR is proposing to offset the costs with floor pricing payments, which IPR will put in "Holding accounts" for each town. As pricing recovers, balances would be paid down with future profits until they reach zero.

Kingston lawsuit dismissed

The legal action against Kingston's DEP Transfer Station Modification permit has finally been dismissed. Initiated by residents unhappy with the approval of a 40R (affordable housing) development which would provide funds to increase the capacity of the Transfer Station, the lawsuit has held up the much-needed transfer station improvements for over a year. In working with MassDEP on an FY08 Municipal Sustainability Grant project involving recycling transfer station improvements, Supt. Paul Basler had proposed the installation of two new compactors for recyclables, to be provided by Integrated Paper Recyclers, to relieve the weekly overflow of recyclables, especially cardboard, at the facility.

Plymouth TS not closing

The rumors have been flying that Plymouth's recycling transfer station at Long Pond Rd. (aka South St.) will soon be closed. One of three transfer facilities in the large town, it sits on an old unlined landfill. According to Plymouth Environmental Technician **Kerin McCall**, "We have known for a couple of years that DEP has concerns about the South St landfill. It was closed in compliance with 1973 regulations, which we now know is not sufficient. There are significant gas migration issues ... We're installing monitoring wells, and when that is completed, we'll start approximately a year's worth of monitoring. After that, we'll move on to the next step, the Corrective action Alternatives Analysis (CAAA), in which the various alternatives are developed for re-capping and/or any mitigation actions that we need to take.

"So we're a couple of years away from any changes at South St... Whatever happens, we will eventually want to construct a new transfer station. Whether (it) is in the same location, a different location on the same site, or a completely new location (and new site assignment) will be determined by the results of the CAAA.

REGION AND STATE

MassRecycle Muni Council: Market update, SWMP, E-Waste

The January Southeast Municipal Recycling Council meeting, chaired by DEP's **Kathi Mirza** and Norwood Recycling Coordinator **Doris Burtman**, featured presentations by reps from **AbitibiBowater Paper Retriever**, **Waste Management /Recycle America** and **Casella**.

Abitibi is somewhat insulated from the market crash since they use all the material they collect in its own mills. However, the company is still suffering from reduced demand. With 1000 containers in the State, PaperRetriever focusing on collection efficiency, and will be relocating containers that don't generate enough material.



WM/RA and Casella were both hit hard by the sudden drop in demand by China and the resultant price crash. Markets are re-emerging, but **quality is more important than before** the crash. Gate rates for both single and dual stream recyclables were at \$45-55/ton in January, with commodity prices down from summer highs by about 80% across the board.

The March 18 meeting at the Mansfield Town Hall featured a very informative presentation by MassDEP's **Brooke Nash** on the sticky subject of **E-waste management**. The biggest concern is the difficulty verifying whether electronic waste recyclers are managing the valuable but toxic material responsibly. Much of the information she covered was published in the Fall SSRC News, page 5.

New State Contracts (**FAC53**) will be awarded to 2 qualified vendors by mid-April, with a list of all vendors deemed responsible to also be made available.

A rule of thumb is **if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is**.

Recycling Markets...

Official Board Market index pricing for paper and cardboard bottomed out in December and January, and showed some improvement in February and March. #6 News, the benchmark on which many towns' rebates are calculated, dropped from \$90/ton in September to zero from November to January. It is now at \$10/ton, and hopefully rising.

Cardboard (OCC) plummeted from \$115/ton in September to \$20/ton in December and January. It is now up to \$35/ton. Other recycled commodities show similar patterns.

...and the Global Economy

Excerpted from a posting by Brooke Nash, MassDEP

MassDEP staff members have discussed the market situation with recyclers **Casella, Waste Management /Recycle America, E.L. Harvey, The Newark Group, and Abitibi Bowater**. All have reported that while prices are very low, they are still **able to find end-users for the paper, glass, plastic and metals** they collect. They are implementing a variety of strategies to deal with the current downturn in markets. Some are **warehousing baled material** until pricing improves, rather than selling the material at a loss. Companies are also **applying stricter quality control** on material specifications, in contrast to the relaxed standards that came into practice while Chinese markets were strong.

Generally, surveyed companies are honoring price commitments made in long-term municipal contracts, even if they are selling material at a loss. Some companies have **increased their spot tipping fees** for processing of non-contracted materials to prices that are close to tipping fees for waste disposal.

With the high solid waste tipping fees that prevail in the Northeast, it is important for municipalities to remember that **the greatest local economic benefit from recycling is avoided disposal costs**. For most municipalities, each ton that gets recycled saves \$60 to \$70 in tipping fees.

MassDEP offers the following suggestions for dealing with the market downturn:

- Structure your contracts with recycling haulers with a floor price for materials, and with a means of **sharing both the risk and the profits associated with a commodities market**. Tying the price to a market index such as the Official Board Markets allows pricing to float with market rates.
- If your hauler needs to renegotiate a fixed price contract for recyclables, consider negotiating a **short term temporary arrangement** with both a floor price and a market index. This should include an agreement to return to the terms of the original contract in a specific time period, or to re-evaluate the need to continue the new terms at that point
- Your contract for recycling services should be based on an **understanding of the financial situation of your hauler and the markets he or she uses**. Your ability to maximize the value of your recovered materials will depend on your hauler's ability and reputation for delivering quality materials to end-markets. As in any procurement, **if a bid from an unfamiliar vendor looks too good to be true, it probably is**.

Governor proposes updating Bottle Bill, more \$ for recycling

Excerpted from comments by Laurie Burt, Commissioner, MassDEP, Jan. 28, 2009

While reflecting some tough choices, the Fiscal Year 2010 budget Governor Patrick filed today with the Legislature still holds some good news, including a proposal to expand the bottle bill. As Commissioner MassDEP, with responsibility for helping municipalities reduce the solid waste they dispose of by increased recycling, I couldn't be more thrilled.

By extending a nickel deposit to water, juice, energy drink, and sport drink bottles, we will reduce litter, expand recycling programs, and generate revenue for water rate relief, as well as a little bit of revenue for the state budget. And, the increased recycling of these materials will help sustain and create jobs in Massachusetts through increased collection, processing and remanufacturing of these valuable materials (aluminum, plastic, glass).

The Massachusetts bottle bill was enacted in 1982, imposing a ... deposit on cans and bottles of beer and soda. Back then, no one could have guessed the proliferation of bottled water and other non-carbonated drinks that we now have on our shelves - and whose empties now litter our roadways and parks.

From 2000 to 2005, containers of carbonated beverages increased just 5 percent, while those of non-carbonated drinks rose 95 percent. And in terms of recycling, a nickel makes a difference: 75% of deposit bottles get recycled, while only an estimated 35% of non-deposit containers do.

It's time we brought our deposit law up to date, treating all the bottles that look the same the same way, and making sure they all get disposed of responsibly - reducing litter, wasted resources, and greenhouse gas emissions.

And the expanded bottle bill will help generate **\$20 million a year, including \$5 million for grants to municipalities to increase residential recycling**, expand recycling in schools and public spaces, and provide technical assistance to reduce municipal solid waste management costs. Of the rest, \$10 million would go to MWRA ratepayer relief, and \$5 million to the General Fund.

To learn more about the proposal click here www.mass.gov/bb/h1/fy10h1/exec10/hbudbrief27.htm.





**SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**
103 Farm St., Dover, MA 02030

EVENTS

- ***Earth Day Celebration Committee meeting**, Friday, April 3, 10 am, Hanover Mall Administrative Offices
- ***Spring Household Hazardous Product Collections**, several Saturdays from 9-1, from April 4 through June 13. ssrc.info, click on 'Haz Waste'
- ***2nd Earth Day Celebration**, Sat., April 18, 10 am-4 pm, at the Hanover Mall! ssrc.info, click on "Earth Day"
- ***MassRecycle Southeast Municipal Recycling Council**, Wed., May 13, 9-noon, Norwood; Expanded Bottle Bill
- ***NRRA's 28th Annual Recycling Conference & Expo**, June 8-9, Radisson Hotel Manchester/ The Center of NH; Register by May 15 for the discount rate; MassRecycle members get member rate; nrra.net/confattendee.html

*Waste not, want not, is a maxim I would teach.
Let your watchword be dispatch, and practice what you preach;
Do not let your chances like sunbeams pass you by,
For you never miss the water till the well runs dry.*

-Rowland Howard