

REPORT OF THE SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE

SSRC CY2006 Annual Report

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**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**
ssrc.info



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2006 ANNUAL REPORT

1/19/2007

The Town of **ABINGTON** is a member of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC), a voluntary association of fifteen South Shore towns established by Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) and Special Legislation in 1998. Members of the SSRC are: **Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman.**

Representatives from each member town are appointed by the Selectmen. **Susan Brennan, Vice Chairman and Michelle Roberts, Health Agent** is represented by **ABINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH.** (see attached list, page 5).

The mission of the SSRC is: "to provide a forum of cooperative management of solid waste by members, to assist each member Town to improve the cost-effectiveness of their recycling efforts by providing economy of scale while maintaining full control over solid waste management; to assist members to improve programs to divert waste materials from the waste stream and to reduce the amount and toxicity of wastes; and to provide such assistance on an individual basis to each member Town and cooperatively in joint programs with other Towns."

Since 1998, each member town has paid an annual membership fee of \$4,000. In 2006 the SSRC raised a total of **\$60,000** through these fees, which the SSRC supplemented with \$14,278.34 in grants from MassDEP and Covanta at SEMASS. Those funds pay for the services of the Executive Director and support various solid waste and recycling activities during the year to benefit member towns. The SSRC estimates that in 2006 these activities **saved member towns an estimated \$154,800**, and provided **318 hours** of direct services to the towns.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCT COLLECTIONS

The SSRC bid out and awarded a new contract for the collection and disposal of **household hazardous products** this year. By using this regional contract with **Clean Harbors**, Member Towns paid about **27% less** than the State contract rates, and avoided the administrative time to bid, schedule and publicize them. **2,622 residents** attended the thirteen collections held in 2006, and Member Towns saved **\$47,731** for this service. The contract also enabled **129 residents and businesses** to attend other Member Towns' collections using the **reciprocal arrangement**, which is administered by the Executive Director. The SSRC advertised the events with several thousand **flyers** delivered to the town halls and libraries, and ongoing press releases in all **local papers, on cable TV and the radio.** The Executive Director attended and helped run ten of the collections, handed out paint stirrers with cost saving instructions on latex paint disposal, provided signs and calculated the **proper billing** for the vendor to ensure that discounts and allowances were credited and visitors billed properly.

SPECIAL AND DIFFICULT TO MANAGE WASTE

Construction and Bulky Waste

By using an arrangement facilitated by the SSRC with the **Bourne ISWME**, Member Towns enjoyed a disposal rate of \$70-75/ton for **construction and bulky waste**, which is **\$12.50/ton less than the gate fee**. With generation of **7,533 tons**, Member Towns saved **\$94,165**.

Mattresses

Cohasset, Hanover and Kingston save on mattress recycling by using an SSRC arranged program with Miller Recycling in Plainville to transport and process mattresses for \$14/each, including container rental. This arrangement saved the three participating towns approximately **\$11,900** on the **1,698 mattresses** they collected.

Compost and Brush

The SSRC contracts for **brush grinding, compost screening and chip removal**, awarded to Letourneau Corp. and Lion's Head Organics in CY05, were used by six of our towns for 35 days.

Mercury Bearing Waste

The SSRC helped the thirteen member towns that have contracts with SEMASS to maximize their benefits from the **Material Separation Plan (MSP)**, including the provision by SEMASS of digital thermometers for exchange, reimbursement for mercury disposal costs, and outreach assistance (HHP flyers, radio ads) valued at approximately **\$7,000**. These programs removed **about 100 lbs. of mercury** from the waste stream.

Paper

The SSRC facilitated the siting of 76 Abitibi Paper Retriever containers at public and private entities in thirteen of our towns. In 2006, they captured an additional **406 tons** of paper, and returned **\$2,217** to the municipalities and local organizations.

Textiles

The SSRC introduced Bay State Textiles, which pays \$50/ton for used clothing and textiles, to the managers. Their competitors pay nothing, and service isn't always good. Five towns recycled **246 tons** of material through them, for which they were paid **\$12,319**.

Books

The SSRC introduced GotBooks, which pays \$100/ton for used books and other media, to the managers. Several towns set up book collections through them.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Recycle More Paper campaign

The SSRC was awarded a Municipal Waste Reduction **grant of \$13,000** plus 80 hours of **Technical Assistance** from MassDEP for a paper recovery outreach campaign which resulted in an annualized **reduction in trash of over 2,500 tons**. Through the grant, the amount of recyclable paper that each of the fifteen towns was disposing (30,000 tons per year altogether, or about 62%), how much the waste was costing the towns (over \$2 million/year) was estimated and published by the local and regional press. Signs and banners also informed residents of the magnitude and cost of the waste, and six local paper shredding events, advertised in the local

papers and radio, emphasized the scope of paper products that are recyclable. The towns recovered **106 more tons of paper** in the month of June than in the previous June.

Bill Inserts

The Executive Director designed, customized and/or arranged for printing of "Recycle More Paper" bill stuffers for Abington, Duxbury, Hingham, Kingston, Marshfield, Plymouth and Weymouth. This service is available to any member town that requests it. A template is included in this report.

Radio Ads

The SSRC produced 8 more **radio ads** promoting recycling and waste reduction, in addition to the 16 recorded in 2005. Together they were broadcast over 400 times on **WATD** 95.9 fm (Marshfield), **WPLM** 99.1 fm (Plymouth) and **WJDA** 1300 am (Quincy) throughout the year. The SSRC obtained **sponsorship from Covanta at SEMASS** to cover 1/3 of the airtime cost for the ads. We also partnered with the North and South River Watershed Association for reduced airtime costs on WATD. Total cost was **\$9,505**.

Newspaper Contacts

The SSRC releases articles and provides information to the local press about waste reduction and recycling, and the proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Resident Contacts

The Executive Director fielded **110 calls** from Member Towns' residents in CY06 to answer questions, mostly about hazardous and difficult to manage product disposal.

Website

ssrc.info provides town-specific recycling information, household hazardous product collection information, SSRC meeting minutes and annual reports, press releases, a quarterly newsletter, and links to other sites.

Marshfield Fair Recycling

With assistance from the Mass. DEP and the Town of Marshfield, the SSRC worked with event organizers to continue **event recycling programs at the Marshfield Fair**. While public education was the main benefit, five tons of material was also diverted from the trash for recycling, and another ton was composted. Recycling containers from a previous grant are available for loan to all Member Town events.

ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND NETWORKING.

The Executive Director's help is frequently sought by the solid waste managers on such issues as curbside contracting, disposal of special wastes, alternative vendors for different materials, regulations and accessing grants. She maintains regular contact with the solid waste managers from each town to stay up to date on their programs, update them on current trends, and advise on specific needs each town had. She attended Board/ committee meetings in **Hull, Kingston, Marshfield and Weymouth**, and helped **Hingham** source public space containers, **Hull** with a recycling RFQ, **Marshfield** with school tonnage tracking, **Norwell** on several difficult to manage wastes, **Plymouth** with data, **Rockland** with contract advice on recycling and hot loads, and **Scituate** on compliance with the new regulations.

She also provided the MSW managers with a nine page **directory of service providers**.

Quarterly Newsletter

The SSRC publishes a newsletter filled with information of immediate interest to the South Shore solid waste community, including local solid waste news, regulatory and legislative proposals, meetings and seminars. The newsletter is circulated to over 350 town officials, legislators, regulators and volunteers, and is posted online at ssrc.info.

Monthly Meetings

The SSRC provides valuable **networking opportunities** and information sharing at our well-attended **Solid Waste Manager meetings**, at which solid waste collection, disposal and recycling service, pricing and proposed laws and regulations are discussed among member towns. Guest speakers provide information on subjects of interest to the local MSW community, including special waste disposal, regulatory compliance, legislative and budget issues, and grant assistance.



ADVOCACY

The Executive Director, who has also elected **President of MassRecycle** in May 2005, drafted legislation that would benefit municipal solid waste programs at Senator Creedon's request, and met with key legislators to provide input on that and other state solid waste issues. She also attended policy meetings, forums and conferences hosted by MassDEP, Solid Waste Association of North America, the Council of SEMASS Communities, MassRecycle, and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association. In her capacity as MassRecycle President, she was appointed to and attends Mass. DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings. She shares what she learns with the Managers, and relays the Managers' concerns to the professional and State organizations and regulators.

The SSRC held a **Legislative Breakfast** in May at which Sen. Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth) was recognized with our "Environmental Hero" award for his sponsorship and support of bills and budget items that promote waste reduction, and his role in the creation of the SSRC. Rep. Frank Smizik, the Chairman of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, also spoke at the event.

The SSRC exists to serve its member towns by facilitating their solid waste disposal and recycling functions. It always welcomes suggestions on how it can better serve its Members.

Respectfully submitted,

SSRC Representatives for the town of _____

Prepared by Claire Sullivan, Executive Director,
South Shore Recycling Cooperative

