



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

1/28/2009

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) is a voluntary association of sixteen South Shore towns established by Intermunicipal Agreement and Special Legislation in 1998. It was established to help member towns improve their recycling programs, and reduce the amount, toxicity and cost of disposal.

Members of the SSRC are: **Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman.** Representatives from each member town are appointed by the chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*).

Since its inception ten years ago, disposed tons of trash-per-household has dropped by nearly 25%, and the recycling rate for paper, cardboard, bottles and cans has risen from 16% to 22%.

In FY09, the SSRC raised its annual dues for the first time in ten years, from \$4,000 to \$4,500 per town. In 2008, the SSRC raised **\$72,000** through these fees, and **\$6,000** in outreach sponsorships from Covanta SEMASS. Those funds pay for the services of the Executive Director and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit member towns. The SSRC estimates that in 2008 these activities **saved Member Towns at least \$151,000** (Not all figures are in at the time of publication. Highlighted numbers are from 2007).

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Household Hazardous Product Collections

The SSRC extended its contract for the collection and disposal of **household hazardous products with Clean Harbors**. By using the SSRC contract, Member Towns avoided a setup fee, paid about 12% less than the per-car State contract rates, **saving our towns about \$38,000**. They also avoided the administrative time to bid, schedule and publicize them.

2,661 residents attended the fifteen collections held in 2008. The contract also enabled **125 residents and businesses** to attend other Member Towns' collections using the **reciprocal arrangement**.

The SSRC advertised the events with several thousand **flyers** delivered to town halls and libraries, and ongoing press releases in all **local papers and cable TV**. The Executive Director helped run twelve of the collections, handed out relevant information, provided signs, calculated the **proper billing** for the vendor to ensure that discounts and allowances were credited and visitors billed properly, and assisted with billing issues.

Construction and Bulky Waste

Through an arrangement facilitated by the SSRC with the **Bourne ISWMF**, Member Towns enjoyed a disposal rate of \$75/ton for **construction and bulky waste**, which is **\$12.50/ton less than the gate fee**. With generation of **4,799 tons**, eight Member Towns saved **\$60,000**.

Cohasset, Hanover, Kingston and Scituate save on mattress recycling by using an SSRC arranged program with Miller Recycling in Plainville to store, transport and process mattresses for \$14/each. This saved the participating towns approximately **\$14,600** on the **2,091 mattresses** they collected.

Compost and Brush

The SSRC extended the contracts with no pricing increases for **brush grinding and compost screening**, which had been awarded to Letourneau Corp. and Lion's Head Organics. The grinding contract was used by three of our towns for 9 days. Data on screening contract usage was unavailable.

Mercury Bearing Waste

The SSRC helped its Member towns, even **Hull and Marshfield**, which don't contract with SEMASS for disposal, to maximize their benefits from the **Material Separation Plan (MSP)**, including the provision by SEMASS of digital thermometers and thermostats for exchange, reimbursement for mercury disposal costs, and a Universal Waste Shed for **Abington**.

Paper

The SSRC has facilitated the siting of dozens of Abitibi Paper Retriever containers in all of our communities. In 2008, they captured an additional **1,013 tons** of paper from the waste stream, and returned over **\$6,000** 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. 2008 figures are not yet available, but in 2007, eight towns recycled **280 tons** of material through them, for which they were paid **\$14,017**.

Books

The SSRC introduced GotBooks, which pays \$100/ton for used books and other media, to SSRC members. 2008 figures are not yet available, but in 2007, thirteen SSRC towns set up twenty book collection sites through them, and repurposed 218.3 tons of material, earning \$19,421.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Mass Recycles Paper

This statewide Campaign grew out of a 2006 SSRC pilot project. It is run by MassRecycle, and chaired by the SSRC Executive Director. The goal is to recover an additional million tons of paper each year from the Mass. trash. The Campaign has broad support from MassDEP, US EPA and the recycling industry.



Most of our towns, and half across the State, have signed the **Mass Recycles Paper resolution** and **receive supporting outreach materials**, including thousands of bill inserts. SSRC communities stand to gain about \$500K/year in avoided disposal cost and revenue from the sale of waste paper.

Press Contacts

The SSRC releases articles and is a resource to the local press about waste reduction, recycling, and the proper disposal of hazardous waste. The following articles and op-eds were released to and published by the local and regional newspapers in 2008:

Don't trash your recycling efforts Dec. 19

SSRC to host 10th Anniversary "Shredabrations" November

South Shore towns recycling more, wasting less August 26

Hull Re-joins the SSRC August 13

Al Gore commends SSRC efforts, Earth Day Celebration April 17

Legislators talk trash with Municipal Managers; Rep. Hynes receives award April 1

A real paper chase: Too good for the trash Patriot Ledger, Jan. 31

Resident Contacts

The Executive Director fielded **129 calls and emails** from Member Towns' residents in CY08 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. It was overhauled this past fall, and logged 3,745 visitors in 2008.

Marshfield Fair Recycling

With assistance from MassDEP and the Town of Marshfield, the SSRC supported **recycling at the Marshfield Fair** for the fifth year. While public education was the main benefit, seven tons of material was also recycled and composted.

Recycling containers from a previous grant were loaned out for use at Hanover Day, and are available for other area events.

ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND NETWORKING.

The Executive Director's help is frequently sought by the solid waste managers. She maintains regular contact with them, updates them on current trends, and advises on specific needs each town has.

A sample of the assistance she provided and problems she helped solve in 2008 included:

- evaluation of **Covanta SEMASS'** extension proposal and alternatives for our four **Tier One** towns
- collaborating with Cape Cod communities on a **regional disposal contract** negotiation
- attendance at Board/ committee meetings in **Hanson, Kingston, Marshfield, Plymouth and Weymouth**
- evaluation of **electronics and scrap metal** processors' pricing and practices
- identifying and correcting errors on **Data Sheets** submitted to MassDEP
- collection, evaluation and sharing of **recycling and disposal cost and tonnage data**
- guidance on **PAYT bag** vendors
- research on outlets for expanded polystyrene for **Marshfield**
- sharing State Contract information on **bins and carts** upon request by **Plymouth and Scituate**
- provision of recycling stickers for barrels and bins
- delivery of free **rechargeable battery collection** boxes to municipal collection locations
- publicity for **Marshfield & Weymouth** recycling contests and **Abington's** Universal Waste Shed
- distribution of a ten page **directory of service providers**.

Paper pricing

The SSRC subscribes to **Official Board Markets** on which most towns' paper rebates are based, calculates rebates that should be paid to the municipalities by their recyclers and updates the managers

each month.

Quarterly Newsletter

The SSRC publishes a quarterly newsletter filled with information of immediate interest to the South Shore solid waste community. The newsletter is circulated to over 350 town officials, legislators, regulators and volunteers, and is posted online at <http://ssrc.info/newsletters/newsletters.htm>.

Monthly Meetings

The SSRC provides **networking opportunities** and information sharing at our well-attended monthly meetings. Each meeting features a guest speaker. Solid waste collection, disposal, recycling service, outreach, pricing and proposed laws and regulations are discussed.

ADVOCACY

The Executive Director attends 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. 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 **Rep. Frank Hynes** (D-Marshfield) was recognized with our "Recycling Hero" award for his sponsorship and support of bills and budget items that promote waste reduction. Sen. Robert Creedon 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,



Claire Sullivan, Executive Director, South Shore Recycling Cooperative