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REPORT OF SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE 2022

2/2/2023

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

Eighteen municipalities are SSRC Members: **Abington, Braintree, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Middleborough, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman.** Representatives from each member town are appointed by Chief Elected Official(s) (*list attached*).

In FY22, the SSRC raised **\$95,095**: \$87,300 from municipal member dues, \$475 in sponsorships, \$4,000.00 in grant funding, \$150 in donations, \$114 in administrative fees, and \$26.40 in interest.

Total expense was **\$77,758.48**. This paid for the services of the Executive Director, the Hazardous Waste Specialist, and for waste reduction and recycling activities that benefit our member towns detailed below. Expenses were lower than budgeted because the Executive Director was out on family medical leave for half of the fiscal year. Members of the Board, as well as our MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator Todd Koep, stepped up and helped us get through this difficult time.

In addition to services and advocacy outlined below, membership in the SSRC **saved /earned Member Towns \$161,376** in CY2022.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Household Hazardous Waste Collections - Capacity of vendors to conduct household hazardous waste (HHW) events continues to be tight. The State Contract for hazardous waste, combined with SSRC's contacts and expertise, enabled us to salvage the five fall HHW collections, which our service provider cancelled with short notice. Ultimately we ended up working with a new vendor, Trident Environmental Group, which will service our events at least through FY24.

The SSRC arranges for and administers Household Hazardous Waste Collections on behalf of its Member Towns. It coordinated multi-town collections for eleven of our Member Towns in 2022, creating further savings. Member Towns saved staff time to contract, schedule, publicize and staff collections. The Executive Director, Hazardous Waste Specialist and/or HHW Assessor assisted at all but one events. The Executive Director coordinates the billing.

1,318 residents attended our **twelve collections** in 2022. The **reciprocity policy** also enabled **564** of

those residents to attend other Member Towns' collections. This arrangement qualifies member towns for additional MassDEP **Recycling Dividend Program** points and earned them an extra **\$31,170** in the 2022 grant cycle.

The total cost savings and benefits of the HHW program in 2021 is estimated at **\$76,295**.

General Recyclables – The “blended value” of traditional recyclables (paper, cardboard, bottles and containers) swung wildly again this year, with a high of \$121/ton in March to a low of \$6.57 in October. Subtracting the cost of sorting, baling and delivery to end markets, this was mostly a cost center for municipalities.

The SSRC Director continues to monitor and report market fluctuations, seek out advantageous vendor options and pricing, and assist with resident education to improve material quality.

The Director is pursuing regulatory and legislative relief to achieve fairer, more transparent pricing, as well as total relief from these costs through a packaging and paper producer responsibility bill.

The SSRC continued to help our Towns' programs and residents adapt to more stringent quality standards through multimedia outreach and guidance by the Executive Director.

Other Materials – The SSRC has enabled its Members to save money, find better service and/or earn rebates for such things as:

- Glass- assisted six Member towns in connecting with transfer station in Middleboro, which significantly lowered cost, and enabled bottle-to-bottle recycling (rather than a gravel additive)
- Mattresses – set up 4 multitown curbside collections for our eleven towns that don't provide that service in the fall. 112 households recycled 208 mattresses at reasonable cost.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Radio Public Service Announcements – With funding from MassDEP, the SSRC produced and aired **8 PSAs** for 6 weeks with WATD FM. They covered “bring your own bag”, textiles, proper preparation of recyclables, plastics and composting. In addition to educating residents, this helped our towns to qualify for MassDEP incentive grant funding. Listen at ssrcoop.info/radio-ads/

Website - ssrcoop.info provides both general and town-specific recycling and household hazardous waste collection information, meeting minutes and annual reports, a monthly newsletter, and links to other sites. It logged 71,717 page views by 37,440 visitors in 2022. 76% of visitors were new.

Facebook: The SSRC posts waste reduction and recycling tips regularly on its [Facebook page](#), which has 568 followers.

Press Contacts - The SSRC is a resource to and a presence in print, web and cable media.

CommonWealth Magazine published an [op-ed by the Director](#) about plastic recycling. **WGBH TV** did a follow up interview with her on [Jim Braude's Greater Boston](#). Click or hover on ssrcoop.info/in-the-news/ for more outreach information.

Resident Contacts – The Director fielded hundreds of calls and emails from residents and businesses in 2022. Most were about HHW, but she also advised how to properly dispose of everything from

railroad ties to carpet, leaded glass to flares. She also advised on such things as apartment recycling and how to retrieve a wedding ring that had been lost in the recycling.

ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND NETWORKING

The Executive Director's help is frequently sought by the solid waste managers. She stays current on local and national solid waste issues, attending conferences, meetings and webinars, visiting local disposal and recycling facilities, and reading professional publications. She provided requested advice and help on a **wide range of issues**, including disposal contracts and overcharges, single stream contracts, safe lithium battery disposal, fee setting and cyanide disposal, to name a few.

Grant assistance - The SSRC helped **thirteen Member Towns** submit their DEP Data Surveys and/or DEP Grant applications. Maximizing grant funds is a frequent topic at our Board meetings as well. Our Member Towns were collectively awarded over \$200,000 in MassDEP Recycling Dividend Program grants.

Membership in SSRC qualified our Member Town's for an additional **\$58,445** in Recycling Dividend Program funds, which provided a total of **\$201,760** in grants to seventeen of our Towns.

Newsletter - The SSRC publishes bi-monthly **Updates**, posted at ssrcoop.info/newsletters/, which are emailed to 1,521 subscribers (up from 1,210 in 2021), including many residents. The open rate averages 60%.

ADVOCACY

The Executive Director works actively with other organizations and our Beacon Hill delegation to promote legislation the Board deems beneficial to its solid waste programs. 2022's focus legislation concerned packaging, mattress and paint producer responsibility, and Material Recovery Facility (MRF) transparency in contracting with municipalities. She testified at the hearings on the pertinent bills, as well as an updated bottle bill that would encompass wine and liquor bottles, nips, and noncarbonated beverage containers, and raise the deposit to 10¢. Most were reported out to the House and/or Senate Committees on Ways and Means. See our Advocacy page at ssrcoop.info/advocacy/ for more information.

The Director represents the Board on the MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee. She proposed and is leading the charge for more detailed reporting requirements by recycling processors in testimony and discussions with MassDEP.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claire L. Galkowski, Executive Director

South Shore Recycling Cooperative Board of Directors 2021

TOWN	FIRST	LAST	C/O	POSITION
Abington	Chris	Schultz	BOH	Health Agent
				open
Braintree	Jeffrey	Kunz	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
	Rosemary	Nolan	DPW	Solid Waste Manager
Cohasset	Merle	Brown	citizen	SSRC Past Chairman
	Brian	Joyce	DPW	Director
Duxbury	Peter	Buttkus	DPW	Director
	Norm	Smith	DPW	Assistant Director
Hanover	Kurt	Kelley	DPW	Assistant Superintendent
				open
Hanson	Arlene	Dias	BOH	Commissioner, SSRC Treasurer
	Gil	Amado	BOH	Health Agent
Hingham	Stephen	Messinger	Transfer Station	Foreman
	Randy	Sylvester	DPW	Superintendent
Hull	Chris	Gardner	DPW	Director
	Joan	Taverna	BOH	Health Director
Kingston	Paul	Basler	Streets, Trees, Parks	Superintendent, SSRC Vice Chair
	Jean	Landis-Naumann	Recycling Cmte	Chairman, SSRC Secretary
Middleboro	Christopher	Peck	DPW	Director
	Donna	Jolin	DPW	Office Manager
Norwell	Ben	Margro	BOH	Health Agent
	Vicky	Spillane	Recycling Cmte	Appointee
Pembroke	Angela	Sestito	Selectmen's Office	Principal Clerk
	Sabrina	Chilcott	Selectmen's Office	Assistant town Manager
Plymouth	Jonathan	Beder	DPW	Director
	Kerin	McCall	Marine/Env Affairs	Technician
Rockland	Delshaune	Flipp	BOH	Health Agent
	Christine	Stuart	BOH	Commissioner
Scituate	Kevin	Cafferty	DPW	Director; SSRC Chairman
	Sean	McCarthy	DPW	Asst. Director
Weymouth	Katie	McDonald	DPW	Principal Clerk
	Bob	O'Connor	DPW	Energy Manager
Whitman	Bruce	Martin	DPW	Director
	Dan	Kelly	BOH	Director

South Shore Recycling Cooperative 2022 Annual Report quantifiable benefits

	HHW residents to home town event	HHW reciprocity use by residents multivendor setup fee avoidance*	HHW admin. PR, on site staff time awarded point values @ \$55/hr (1.6 hrs/town, double if 2 towns)	HHW admin. PR, on site staff time awarded point values @ \$55/hr (1.6 hrs/town, double if 2 towns)	Recycling Dividend Program HHW awarded point values	HHW total value	By State Textile tons (facilitated by SSRC)	BST rebates, avoided flip cost	RDP textile, outreach awarded point values (radio ads, data coll. etc)	Glass savings-SMI	Exec. Dir. MSW consults, assistance (\$55/1 hour), cost savings	Total		
Abington	26	40	\$1,400	\$900	\$1,045	\$1,200	\$4,545	42.7	\$4,588		\$1,200	\$523	\$6,268	consultation topics
Braintree		1			\$520	\$3,600	\$4,120	78.1	\$4,198		\$1,800	\$330	\$6,250	commodity values,HHW, grants, vape pens, plastic bag ban
Cohasset	15	33	\$0	\$250	\$1,045	\$1,200	\$2,495	26.9	\$2,522	\$2,748	\$1,200	\$440	\$6,883	commodity values, mattress waste ban plan, curbside contract
Duxbury*	34	60	\$800	\$150	\$1,045	\$2,200	\$4,195	35.2	\$4,230	\$4,444	\$2,200	\$468	\$11,307	mattress pickup, commodity values, oil disposal, Li batteries, books, VCR tapes, grant
E. Bridgewater	19	19	\$900	\$900	\$1,045	\$840	\$3,685	20	\$3,705		\$840	\$440	\$4,965	mattress pickup, commodity values, food waste, textiles, grant
Hanover	142	14	\$1,800	\$900	\$2,090	-	\$4,790	18.1	\$4,808		\$0	\$770	\$5,560	commodity values, grants, recycling center costs, website, grant
Hanson	4	24	\$1,800	\$150	\$1,045	\$1,200	\$4,195	33.7	\$4,229		\$1,200	\$743	\$6,138	mattress pickup, commodity values, TS study committee, Hg signs, fees, data, oil disposal
Hingham	139	39	\$0	\$150	\$1,045	\$2,200	\$3,395	14.2	\$3,409		\$2,200	\$330	\$5,925	mattress pickup, commodity values, grants, website, mattress plan, brochure, fee list
Hull	63	25	\$0	\$150	\$1,045	\$490	\$1,685	12.6	\$1,698		\$245	\$385	\$2,315	mattress pickup, commodity values, grant, compost (Cl Gr Hing)
Kingston*	27	25	\$1,000	\$900	\$1,045	\$1,200	\$4,145	36.7	\$4,182	\$1,640	\$1,200	\$633	\$7,618	mattress pickup, commodity values, mercury, grant
Middleboro	47	10	\$0		\$1,045	\$2,200	\$3,245	46.8	\$3,292		\$2,200	\$330	\$5,775	mattress pickup, commodity values, HHW data, grant
Norwell	19	36	\$1,150	\$400	\$1,045	\$1,200	\$3,795	18.7	\$3,814		\$1,200	\$330	\$5,325	mattress pickup, commodity values, fuel article, grant
Pembroke	173	36	\$1,800	\$900	\$1,045	\$2,200	\$5,945	48.8	\$5,994		\$2,200	\$275	\$8,420	commodity values, PAYT bags, mattresses
Plymouth	337	49	\$0	\$300	\$2,090	\$600	\$2,990	98.6	\$3,089	\$6,480	\$1,200	\$495	\$11,165	mattress pickup, commodity values, propane tanks
Rockland	11	38	\$650	\$900	\$1,045	\$2,200	\$4,795	24.2	\$4,819		\$2,200	\$688	\$7,683	mattress pickup, commodity values, smoke detectors, xray machine, potassium cyanide, grant
Scituate	85	39	\$1,800	\$900	\$1,045	\$2,200	\$5,945	64.2	\$6,009	\$2,824	\$2,200	\$330	\$11,299	mattress pickup, commodity values, recycling bill reviews, apartment service, grant
Weymouth	159	54	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,045	\$4,900	\$7,745	125.4	\$7,870		\$2,450	\$31,613	\$41,808	mattress pickup, commodity values, fee increase review, grant
Whitman	18	22	\$1,100	\$900	\$1,045	\$1,540	\$4,585	29.9	\$4,615		\$1,540	\$550	\$6,675	commodity values, mattresses, grant
Total	1318	564	\$16,000	\$8,750	\$20,375	\$31,170	\$76,295	729.4	\$77,070	\$18,136	\$27,275	\$39,670	\$161,376	commodity values, curbside & disposal contract reviews, ewaste, site visit, fluorescent tubes, grant

HHW detail	SSRC	vendor	savings
Trash rolloff	\$500	\$900	400
Trash & OCC rolloffs	\$750	\$900	150
setup fee	\$1,800		

staff time: 380 hrs/(18 towns + 2 double events) =19 hrs/town * \$55/hr= \$1045/town