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December Board meeting notes and updates

JM Equipment announces glass processing service

JM Equipment covered the cost of a delicious breakfast for our meeting at Abington Town Hall.

John Mello, president of **JM Equipment** and **Rick Frade** of **AAA Recycling** discussed their glass processing service in East Freetown. JME recycles asphalt, brick and concrete (ABC), and handles street sweepings and catch basin cleanings. JME invested \$1.5M in its glass crushing operation, including a grant from MassDEP. They are now looking for glass, as well as organics.

JME crushes glass to <math><3/8\text{''}</math> processed glass aggregate (PGA) for Fairhaven, Wareham, Acushnet, and Barnstable. The sand-like material is mixed with crushed ABC, and sold for use in road base, fill, tennis courts, etc. Up to 30% PGA can be added to gravel for parking lots, and sidewalks. Customers like the glass mix. They are also testing it for use as drainage material, and as fines in concrete.

JME crushes for Fairhaven twice a year. Using PGA in roadwork cut Fairhaven's cost, which is about \$9/ton, plus a discount on glass processing.

JME is charging \$60/ton to accept municipal glass. The price can be adjusted based on quality, and/or if a town backhauls any of their products. CPR can haul. AAA can provide roll offs.

Source separated glass is good quality; caps and labels are no big deal. Porcelain is ok.

Mr. Mello is also expanding the compost operation on his farm. He can accept **leaves, stumps, and some food waste**, The ratio of browns (leaves) to greens (food) needs to be at least 4 to 1.

Catch basin/street sweepings can be incorporated in fill if it passes analysis for contaminants. Contaminated sweepings are used for landfill cover. Trucking is the biggest cost.

AAA/JME are striving to create a sustainable system. Their goal is to leave a better world.

Outreach grant plan

The Board voted to allocate grant funding to run another set of radio ads on WATD this spring, which all Member towns can use to help get the Outreach RDP point this year.

Other grant funding will be allotted to improving the busy SSRC website. It will be migrated from Joomla to the more commonly used and user friendly Wordpress.

RDP grant planning

Our DEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator, **Todd Koep**, announced that the MassDEP CY18 **Solid Waste and Recycling Surveys** will come out in January through [ReTrac](#). Surveys are due February 15, and is a requirement to apply for grants. Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) 2018 expense reports are also due at that time.

The CHARM (Center for Hard to Recycle Material) requirement changed. Last year, 6 items needed to be collected **and recycled** all at one site at least monthly. Qualifying items include: books, bulky plastic, carpet, household batteries, propane tanks/fire extinguishers, mattresses (counts as 3 items), Styrofoam, mercury, paint, film, wood, and shredded paper.

This year towns will need 8 items, BUT

- auto waste now allows oil OR antifreeze (instead of AND).
- 2 points are awarded if all 8 items are collected in one location at least monthly.
- 1 point is awarded if 8 items are collected 6x/year, and locations may vary.

Mattress grant: Hingham and Hanson were awarded mattress grants in the past two grant rounds. These cover costs of the container, transport and processing for two years. Service providers are UTEC in Lowell, and Ace in RI. Hingham recently switched to Ace.

Curbside feedback

Whitman was approached about a recycling contamination surcharge. The Town raised the trash collection fee to \$285/year from \$250, resulting in a ratepayer backlash.

Weymouth was surcharged for contamination. To reduce the volume of unacceptable materials, the Town did 2 mailings, a media and social media campaign. Weymouth is also experience resident backlash.

Meet our new RECO, Dorie Stolley

I am thrilled to announce that we have hired Dorie Stolley to finish our Recycling Education and Compliance Officer grant project. Dorie owns [Three Birds Consulting](#) in Plymouth. She brings lots of talent and experience as an environmental communications expert, as well as a wildlife biologist. Her Linked In profile is [here](#).



Our Treasurer, **Arlene Dias** (Hanson) and I interviewed her and two other qualified candidates, and agreed she would be well suited to bring this project home.

Our "retiring" RECO **Julie Sullivan** has been a tremendous asset to the SSRC in this position, and is working closely with Dorie to assure a smooth transition.

Dorie has been preparing outreach with **Sean McCarthy** for her work at the **Scituate TS** beginning later this month. She will be finishing projects in **Hanson, Hull** (hauler regs), Kingston (TS and hauler regs), **Middleboro, Norwell, Plymouth** (hauler regs), **Rockland** and **Whitman**.

Welcome to 3 new Board members

The SSRC welcomes three new Board members!

The Town of Abington appointed Health Agent **Marty Golightly**..

Kingston added Recycling Committee chairman and former Selectman **Jean Landis Nauman** to its Representatives to the Board.

Norwell's new Health Agent, and former BOH Office Manager **Ben Margro** now has a seat on the Board.

Congratulations and welcome to all!

MassDEP's Textile Recovery Webinar

Join the Textile Recovery Webinar on January 17 from 2-3 pm to learn about planning, coordinating and promoting textile recovery programs in your community. Learn from your colleagues and industry professionals about their experiences, updates and resources available to help your municipality establish or expand a successful textile recovery program.



Participating in this webinar is one of the activities you may complete to help your municipality earn the RDP Textile Recovery point. [Register Here](#)

Director to give 20th Anniversary Water Watch talk

Director Galkowski was invited to deliver a Water Watch Lecture at the South Shore Natural Science Center. It is in honor of the SSRC's 20th Anniversary.

The Director has been hard at work preparing the presentation,

From Single Use to Zero Waste: What's New with Recycling

Wed., January 30, 2019, 7:00 -8:30 pm

South Shore Natural Science Center, 48 Jacobs Lane, Norwell, MA



Recycling has been in the news for the past year, from China's embargo on our recycling to how and why we need to recycle correctly.

Claire Galkowski, the longtime Director of the fifteen-town South Shore Recycling Cooperative and lifelong waste hater, will do a deep dive into impacts from some everyday consumer products, both upstream and down. She will explain how recycling works, and provide practical tools to Reduce, Reuse, and “Recycle Smart”.

The talk will inspire new ways to think about “stuff,” and show how we can be gentler to our forests, streams, oceans and atmosphere.

The Water Watch Lecture series is hosted by the **North and South River Watershed Association**, the **South Shore Natural Science Center, Mass. Audubon** and the **South Shore YMCA**. Lectures are free, though donations are appreciated. Preregistration is **not** required, but seating is limited. For more information, click [here](#). Flyer [here](#).

Zero Waste Solutions recycling facility to open in April

Press release from Zero Waste Solutions

NEW BEDFORD, MA (12.17.2018) - - **ZWS Waste Solutions, LLS** (ZWS) of Rochester, MA is proud to announce that the first load of equipment has arrived and that the recycling equipment installation will begin today.

The 100,000 Square Foot ZWS facility will accept residential and commercial waste as well as Single Stream, Co-Mingled and Source Separated Recyclables. The new facility will be partially powered by 88,000 Square Feet of solar powered panels. “By installing the 3,500 solar panels on our roof we’ll receive about 30% of our electrical needs from Green Energy” said ZWS President/CEO **Michael A. Camara**. ZWS is the sister company of **ABC Disposal Service, Inc.** and **New Bedford Waste Services, LLC** of New Bedford, MA.

“Combining the capabilities of our several transfer stations and vast hauling operations as well as ZWS’s innovative technologies we will be able to develop extremely efficient recycling operations” said Mr. Camara. “We are installing the most technologically advanced separation equipment available to achieve the highest recycling rates.”

ecomaine CEO: Recycling will pay off as markets rebound

by Kevin Roche, CEO of [ecomaine](#), Portland Press Herald, Dec. 8, 2018 (excerpts)

I have been in the waste management industry for nearly 30 years. And just like in any other industry, whether it's construction, selling shoes or trading in soybean futures, the recycling markets have ups and downs.

Right now? [They're down](#).

There have been many headlines about the Chinese government's decision to ban imports of recyclable materials from the rest of the world. This is the longest market downturn I've seen in my decades on the job. We should always investigate our way of doing things, to ensure efficiency and best return on investment.



But the conclusion that some have reached – [to end or suspend municipal recycling programs](#) – takes a shortsighted view.

... we've been here before. In the financial crisis of 2008-09, [the situation](#) was the same, in many ways. Following that recovery, the world saw [a booming market](#) for recyclable materials that led to record profits for facilities like ecomaine and our member communities.

... paper is the sole material whose value has bottomed out. Plastics, when properly sorted, remain a positive resource. The same is true for cardboard. Metals are, in fact, in a stronger position than a year ago. But paper is such a significant amount of our recyclable material – and it's ... of a lower quality than our newsprint that made up our recycling years ago.

And so, rather than focusing on the immediate crisis and making decisions for the short term, or based on one material in an entire recycling stream, I would urge the leaders of Maine's communities to take a longer look at waste management.

Ecomaine is proud to follow the solid waste hierarchy, which is [written into Maine law](#) ... with the decision to cut back on recycling, some municipalities are promoting the lowest rung on the hierarchy in the name of short-term savings.

In the end, landfilling will prove even more costly. Landfilling is "forever storage," and will present an even greater cost and challenge to future generations to mitigate its effects.

At ecomaine, we and our 70-plus member communities have chosen to stay the course. To abandon decades of work in establishing these programs for one year of poor market performance is overly impatient, and risks an even greater challenge in restarting them once stopped. The markets will rebound, as they have done in the past; when they do, the

organizations and communities who have maintained their commitment to recycling will be well-positioned as the markets swing upward.

In the meantime, we are focusing on what we can control. We are doing more to [clean up our recycling stream](#), including hiring more staff to sort our recycling. ... we've doubled down on public education and community outreach, with more staff dedicated to being present in our schools and communities, to help recycle properly.

Public understanding of the issue is key – and we've seen results. Contamination rates have started to go down, and more people in our member communities have heard the message.

We're all in this together. And as the markets start back up again – and there are signs of life – recycling will continue to be the bedrock of a sustainable waste management future in Maine.

[More](#)

WM charts market shift and other industry trends

by [Colin Staub](#), January 8, 2019, Resource Recycling (excerpts)

Waste Management's latest sustainability report delves into factors impacting the recycling industry, including fluctuating markets, sustainable materials management, technological advances and more.



The largest hauler in North America is deepening its shift toward a sustainable materials management (SMM) approach to recycling. After sharply reducing recyclables shipments to China over the past year, the company offered details on where that displaced material is now finding a home.

The [2018 report](#) includes key details about how Waste Management adapted to the fast-changing industry in 2018.

A year of adjustment

The report notes that when the Chinese government implemented Green Fence in 2013, Waste Management began a push to move material to alternative markets outside of China, looking to shield itself from market disruptions.

Despite getting an early start on diversifying its downstream destinations, the company saw some major shifts between 2017 and 2018.

China brought in 27% of Waste Management's entire volume of recyclables in 2017, a portion that dropped to just 5 percent in 2018. The decrease was accompanied with growth in other

markets: U.S. end users bought 68 percent of the hauler's recyclables in 2018, up from 63% a year earlier. India increased its share of Waste Management's recyclables from nearly 5 percent to more than 15 percent. Growth was also seen in Italy, Mexico, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Rethinking recycling

In addition to recycling markets in flux, the core concept of recycling is undergoing a review. Environmental experts are increasingly calling for a sustainable materials management (SMM) approach ... promotes managing materials in a way that provides the best benefit from a life-cycle perspective.

(this approach is) less about tonnage of material recycled and more about greenhouse gas emissions avoidance and energy savings.

"We are encouraging all stakeholders to rethink recycling," wrote Jim Fish, CEO of Waste Management, in an introduction to the report. "... recycling is not simply about landfill diversion. It is about product transformation and reuse, and it's about real environmental and resource conservation benefits."

He called for recycling to be considered as one part of an SMM model, noting that materials recovery "carries a cost of service and serves as feedstock to the manufacturing sector."

To illustrate the importance of SMM considerations, Waste Management calculated that it avoided more than 32.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}, a common emissions measurement) through its recycling activities alone.

...The report includes a chart comparing the emissions reductions associated with various commodities, indicating aluminum can recycling provides the largest emissions reduction and glass provides the least.

Technological advancement

In 2017, Waste Management installed its first robot in a MRF in Houston. The technology will help improve quality control and increase worker safety, Fish wrote. The robot, which is not identified in the report by brand, uses "sophisticated cameras to identify specific objects such as cans, plastic containers, glass or other recyclable materials within seconds."

The robot performs some 55 picks per minute, ... slightly quicker than 1.5 human workers on a per-minute basis. The robot also provides an additional level of safety for workers, sorting out contaminants that could be dangerous, according to the company.

At the curb, the company is experimenting with cameras onboard collection trucks. The cameras examine each cart of recyclables as it's picked up, and together with a computer system they can provide that customer with feedback on their recycling habits. The company has used onboard cameras in other capacities, notably to increase safety, but the cart monitoring on a wider scale is a new step. [More](#)

EVENTS

MassDEP Textile outreach webinar, Thurs., Jan. 17, 2-3 pm. Learn how to set up or expand a successful textile recovery program. Qualifies toward textile RDP point.

[Register here](#)

SSRC 20th Anniversary Water Watch series presentation, From single use to zero waste: What's new with recycling", Wed., Jan. 30, 7 pm, South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell, [Flyer](#)

MassDEP Recycling Data Surveys due Fri., Feb. 15, 5:00 pm. Required of all RDP fund recipients, and to apply for next round of SMRP grants. Go to <https://connect.re-trac.com/login>

SSRC Breakfast Meeting, Thurs., Feb. 21, 8:50-10:30, Rockland Senior Center