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Legislators talk trash with municipal managers

Rep. Frank Hynes receives award

Rockland-- The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) packed the room at its Seventh Annual Legislative Breakfast, held Friday, March 28 at the Radisson Hotel in Rockland. The fifteen member-town organization presented Rep. Frank Hynes with its Recycling Hero award. **Senator Robert Creedon, Rep. Allen McCarthy,** and staff from the offices of **Senate President Murray, Sen. Hedlund, Rep. Bradley and Rep. Nyman** also met with thirty municipal officials from fourteen South Shore municipalities.

SSRC Vice Chairman **Steve Herrmann**, Hanover's Transfer Station Foreman, opened the event, and introduced keynote speaker and SSRC's 2007 Environmental Hero, **Sen. Creedon** (D-Brockton). A longtime advocate of waste reduction and recycling, he recalled his role in the passage of the Bottle Bill in 1982, noting that updates to address the proliferation of noncarbonated beverages have been held up in the Energy Committee for years due to well-funded special interest groups. This year is no exception; the Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy Committee again sent the bills to "study" last week. He was applauded when he announced he would propose an amendment to update the Bottle Bill in the FY09 Budget.

Claire Sullivan, the SSRC's Executive Director, announced that "For ten years, the South Shore Recycling Cooperative has been helping its member towns manage ever more complex and costly solid waste programs". She explained how the organization also provides public outreach, such as the upcoming Earth Day Celebration at the Hanover Mall on April 26, and advocacy for relief and assistance at the State level. Legislative initiatives supported by the SSRC include an Electronic Waste Producer Responsibility bill, Reinstatement of the Clean Environment Fund, both which are in Ways and Means, an Updated Bottle Bill, and increased funding for municipal and general recycling programs, for which the

appropriation has been cut by over 75% since 2002. “We are thankful to our Heroes for listening to us and taking our concerns to Beacon Hill”.

SSRC Secretary **Bob Griffin** of Marshfield presented **Rep. Frank Hynes** with this year’s “Recycling Hero” award. Rep. Hynes has supported recycling in his work as a legislator as well as in his home town of Marshfield. Most recently he drafted and circulated a letter among House members to Energy Committee Chairman Dempsey asking him to report favorably on the Updated Bottle Bill. He received high marks in the Mass. League of Environmental Voters 2006 scorecard.

In his acceptance speech, Rep. Hynes recalled the time in the 1980s when we realized that throwing our trash in a hole at the edge of town was a bad idea. Landfills closed to protect the groundwater, and the new directive to “reduce, reuse, and recycle” was introduced. He praised the work of our municipal solid waste and recycling managers and the SSRC as ‘having taken waste management to another level’, and eloquently reminding us that “we act as trustees of the Earth for future generations”. Rep. Hynes had particularly kind words for **Debbie Sullivan**, Marshfield’s Solid Waste and Recycling Enforcement Officer, who’s leadership and hard work resulted in the town’s seamless and successful transition to Pay as you Throw.

The SSRC helps its 15 member towns save money and to improve recycling and hazardous waste management through outreach, advocacy, regional contracts and waste reduction strategies. Member towns include Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth and Whitman.



SSRC Secretary Bob Griffin presents the 2008 Recycling Hero Award to Rep. Frank Hynes
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