

**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**
www.ssrc.info



103 Farm Street
Dover, MA 02030
(508) 785-8318
fax (508) 785-2296
ssrcclaire@comcast.net

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CONTACT:
Claire Sullivan, Executive Director 508-785-8318
Ed Coletta, MassDEP 617-292-5737

Businesses, haulers cited for illegal disposal of recyclables
MassDEP: Massachusetts Businesses Still Throwing Too Many Recyclables Away

Enforcement actions were taken on several South Shore businesses and waste haulers for waste ban violations in a recent MassDEP inspection sweep across the state. The Department cited dozens of well-known Massachusetts businesses and institutions for throwing away large volumes of easy-to-recycle paper, cardboard and other recyclable materials, which the state bans from disposal.

As part of a statewide campaign to cut down on continued disposal of cardboard and other easy-to-recycle materials, MassDEP sent inspectors to a number of solid waste facilities during the fall to monitor compliance with a state regulation that prohibits throwing those materials away.

MassDEP cited 12 companies and organizations, mostly for illegal cardboard disposal from nine locations, including the following local violators:

- Allied Disposal of Quincy, Frade's Disposal of New Bedford, and Waste Management of Stoughton; and,
- American Red Cross of Dedham, Ethan Allen Furniture of Bellingham, Friendly Fruit of New Bedford, Home Depot stores in Hyannis and Wareham, Lindenmeyr Munroe of Franklin, and Westfield State College.

Each violator was issued a notice of noncompliance with the waste ban regulation, and required to submit a plan to stop the disposal of banned materials to MassDEP for approval.

MassDEP estimates that over 1.5 million tons of paper products are still being disposed in landfills and incinerators across the state every year at an average cost of \$70 per ton – up to \$105 million in recycling savings for business and communities. The Department had made efforts to educate waste haulers and generators about the disposal bans last spring, and provided ongoing opportunities for businesses and municipalities to become better acquainted with waste ban requirements, which also apply to schools and municipal buildings.

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative has recently logged several inquiries from local businesses and residential complexes about setting up recycling programs. For South Shore businesses that do not have systems in place to comply with the waste bans, it will only be a matter of time before MassDEP catches up with them.

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