

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The members-Towns that comprise the HRMC include Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for 2025 included: John Chandler, Chair (Chesterfield); Gordon Luce, Vice Chair (Williamsburg); and Thomas Poissant, Treasurer (Ashfield) in 2025, HRMC services included:

- Conducting annual DEP transfer station inspections and work as a liaison between Towns & MADEP on transfer station compliance matters.
- HRMC Administrator has been certified as a third-party inspector with MassDEP maintenance and operations of a transfer Station. The administrator conducted HRMC pre-inspections and Third-party inspections. Completed all official paperwork, reviewed with Towns, and all reports were signed and uploaded on the new MassDEP reporting portal EEA.
- HRMC Mattress Recycling “HUBs” diverted 358 mattress/boxsprings from the waste stream. The Towns of Huntington and Williamsburg are the 2 “HUBS”.
- Collectively HRMC towns Textile Recycling Collection Box’s diverted 75,240 pounds of Textile, including clothes, materials such as sheets, towels, shoes. Re-use opportunities are open to ALL.
- Introduced “Green Team” Mass DEP Program CY25 and is still engaged with these programs.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, over 135 households took part in this regional event CY25. This much needed event helps the residents divert household chemicals from the waste stream to re-use programming and proper disposal.
- Program management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling, and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste (including free recycling of mercury thermostats and re-chargeable batteries), books, and Freon evacuation.
- Outreach on transfer station operations and recycling initiatives.
- Our Annual Shred Fest will be held May 16, 2026; Town of Williamsburg, DPW yard.
- Submittal of member-Town DEP annual surveys, grant applications, and reports.
- HRMC’s Annual HHW event will be held Saturday, October 17th, 2026, 9am to noon, pre-registration is required to attend. View HRMC website, Town’s website, and Transfer stations for detailed pre-registration information.
- Financial administration of HRMC programs and services.

Program operations of the HRMC are managed by a contracted consultant.

The HRMC has an annual operation’s assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY26, the combined assessment for all ten towns was 73,215.00. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. HRMC recycling program collection costs are pass-through expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations and program operations.

In 2025, all HRMC member-towns were eligible for and received Recycling Dividend Program Grants (RDP) under the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Applications were submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 72, 400 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programs.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 846 tons of recyclable materials to the Springfield Materials Recovery Facility. Towns have adopted recycling goals of

50% with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of materials being recycled. Towns recycling ratio; Ashfield 39%, Chesterfield 35%, Cummington 52% , Goshen 41%, Huntington 33%, Middlefield 27%, Plainfield 49%, Westhampton 52%, Williamsburg 40% and Worthington 46%. Thank you to the Residents for your continued support within recycling regulations.

Highlighting Mattress and Box Spring Recycling "HUB"! Town of Williamsburg 281 mattress/boxsprings recycled CY25 "Raw Materials Recovery" And Dream Green Recycling 77 at Town of Huntington Hub. Dream Green Recycling facility located in Adams MA.

Food Waste Collections composting, 3 HRMC continue to thrive in this program.

CY25 food waste collection has really grown in tonnage collected.

Williamsburg, 21 tons Plainfield, 7 tons Worthington 6 tons Total of 34 Tons of Food waste diverted from the waste stream and composted through Second Chance Composting.

New This year Town of Chesterfield installed a paper compactor which helps with reducing the number of hauls and maximizing the number of tons that can be stored. This overtime will save the town money on hauling expenses. They also opened their new Swap shop for residents to leave and take an item. This helps with our Reuse goals.

Thank you for your continued support in Recycling!

Sincerely,

Linda Cernik, HRMC Consultant