

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

**Anne M. Gobi**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
Worcester, Hampden,  
Hampshire & Middlesex

Tel. (617) 722-1540  
Fax (617) 722-1078  
E-Mail: Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Friday, September 22, 2017**

**CONTACT: Brian Ferrarese**  
**PHONE: 617-722-1540**

### **Gobi Announces Recycling Grants to Local Communities**

BOSTON – **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has announced that thirteen communities in the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, & Middlesex district were awarded funding through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant program. These grants will help communities within the district maximize their recycling, composting and waste reduction programs in an effort to create a greener environment.

“These grant funds will assist communities across the Commonwealth reduce their solid waste footprint and meet waste reduction goals,” said Senator Gobi. “Massachusetts has always taken the lead on sustainability and I want to thank Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito for their support of this program.”

Twelve communities were awarded funding through the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP):

- Ashby: \$5,250
- Athol: \$3,500
- Barre: \$3,500
- East Brookfield: \$2,800
- Hubbardston: \$500
- North Brookfield: \$3,850
- Petersham: \$2,800
- Phillipston: \$2,800
- Spencer: \$4,550
- Sturbridge: \$6,300
- Warren: \$3,500
- Winchendon: \$4,200

The twelve communities that earned RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings and other public spaces.

As part of the SMRP, communities that did not receive an RDP grant will be awarded a “Small-Scale Initiatives Grant.” These population-based grants range from \$500 to \$2,000 each and help communities purchase modest, but critical recycling materials and outreach tools needed to sustain their existing recycling program or to facilitate new, low-cost initiatives.

One community was awarded funding through the Small-Scale Initiatives Grant:

- Charlton: \$1,000

The RDP was a new initiative rolled out in 2014 under MassDEP’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which was created by the Green Communities Act of 2008. The Act requires that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates (WECs) be directed to recycling programs approved by MassDEP.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senator Gobi’s office at 617-722-1540.

####