



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

November 12, 2025

Katjana Ballantyne
Mayor
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Mayor Ballantyne:

Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has awarded the City of Somerville Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The City of Somerville has earned 7 points and will receive \$28,000. Your municipality has also been awarded \$5,000 in funding for Drop Off Equipment for a Paint Shed, as well as \$31,00 for a waste reduction project proposal for a Household Hazardous Waste Facility Upgrade.

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) was created under 310 CMR 19.300-303 and the Green Communities Act, which directs a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. This year, we are awarding more than \$4.2 million in SMRP funding to 291 municipalities and regional groups.

Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth. Recycling Dividend Program funds foster investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxics reduction, and more. Please refer to the [RDP Approved Expenses List](#) for more information. MassDEP has invested in developing nationally recognized tools to assist municipalities with reducing recycling contamination and improving public awareness of smart recycling practices.

We encourage you to utilize the [Recycling IQ Kit](#) and [Recycle Smart MA](#) website and to consult with your MassDEP [Municipal Assistance Coordinator](#) for assistance in implementing these best practices.

To accept your grant award, please sign and return the attached RDP Contract via email to Cathy Doodnauth at Cathy.Doodnauth@mass.gov before **January 15, 2026**. After we receive your signed RDP contract, funds will be sent to your community. Also see the enclosed Checklist for instructions related to the Drop Off Equipment grant, and the Waste Reduction Grant. The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee being able to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the MBTA Communities Act. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Should you have any questions, please email Rachel Smith at Rachel.Smith@mass.gov. Thank you for your continued commitment to recycling and waste reduction in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner

Meghan Kelly

From: Nikki Spencer
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 8:37 AM
To: Eric Weisman; Grants; Christine Blais
Cc: Mayor
Subject: FW: Congratulations! Somerville 2025 SMRP Grant Award
Attachments: Somerville 2025 SMRP Award Letter.pdf; Somerville Spring25 RDP Contract.pdf; Spring25_Checklist_RDP.pdf; Spring25_Checklist_DOEquip Paint Shed.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Kate, To Review

Hi folks – FYI!

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From: Beucler, Alison D (DEP) <Alison.D.Beucler@mass.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Mayor <Mayor2@somervillema.gov>
Cc: Eric Weisman <eweisman@somervillema.gov>; Cochran, Ron H (DEP) <Ron.H.Cochran@mass.gov>
Subject: Congratulations! Somerville 2025 SMRP Grant Award

Dear Municipal Recycling Official,

We are pleased to inform you that your municipality has been awarded a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Municipal Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The terms and conditions of your grant are outlined in the attached award documents. Please sign and return via email the attached RDP Contract and the other SMRP Grant Checklist as per the instructions provided on the Grant Checklist documents. This will help expedite your awards. As for your additional waste reduction project award for a Hazardous Waste Facility Upgrade, MassDEP will follow up directly in the coming weeks, to set up a meeting and determine next steps. Should you have any questions, please email [Rachel Smith](#), Grant Manager, for the SMRP Grant Program.

Congratulations and thank you for the work you do to reduce waste, reuse, and improve recycling in the Commonwealth.

MassDEP Municipal Waste Reduction Branch

Sincerely,

Alison Beucler | Regional Planner
Municipal Waste Reduction Branch
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Mobile: 857-324-1233

City of Somerville Public Records Notice

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

**GRANT SCOPE OF WORK
BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("MassDEP")
AND THE City of Somerville ("Grantee")**

Pursuant to the Green Communities Act, relevant provisions of which are codified at M.G.L. c. 25A, Section 11F(d) and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 310 CMR 19.300 and in support of the Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan developed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 16, Section 21, MassDEP has awarded the Municipality a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant ("Grant") under the Recycling Dividends Program ("RDP"). The Municipality has earned a payment of \$28,000. MassDEP and Grantee shall collectively be referred to as the Parties.

The RDP provides payments to municipalities that have implemented specific programs and policies proven to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction. Municipalities receive payments according to the number of points their program earns based on the [2025 Details: Recycling Dividends Program](#) and number of residential households served as described below. The RDP provides an incentive for municipalities to improve their recycling programs by implementing best practices and reward communities with model recycling and waste reduction programs.

Duration of the Grant: The term of this Scope of Work shall be in effect until the municipality has expended all RDP funds and reported to MassDEP on use of funds.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

1. **Authority:** The signatory of this Grant Scope of Work is authorized by the governing body of the Grantee to enter into this Grant Scope of Work on behalf of the Grantee and accept and utilize this Grant.
2. **Commonwealth Terms and Conditions:** The Grantee shall comply with the Commonwealth Terms and Conditions and other requirements set forth in the Grantee's executed Master Agreement.
3. **Failure to Comply:** If, in the judgment of MassDEP, the Grantee fails to comply with any of its responsibilities as identified in the Grant Scope of Work, then, at the election of MassDEP, (a) the Grantee may be deemed ineligible to participate for what time remains of the Grant period; and/or (b) title to all Grant materials purchased with these Grant funds immediately and without any further steps shall be transferred to MassDEP; and/or (c) MassDEP may find the Grantee not eligible to seek another Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant for up to three years; and/or (d) the Grantee shall repay the Grant funds to MassDEP within 90 days. MassDEP may provide written notice to the Grantee of any such failure to comply. Such notice may provide a time period and manner for the Grantee to cease or remedy the failure. Such notice from MassDEP of any such failure by the Grantee is not a precondition to MassDEP's right to select options (a), (b), (c), and/or (d) above. The Grantee shall follow the instructions of MassDEP regarding possession of the Grant materials (e.g., collection container). The Parties hereby agree to execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish said transfer. Furthermore, the Grantee shall transfer or arrange to transfer actual possession of said materials to an authorized representative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or its designee.
4. **Recycling in Practice:** The Grantee has established paper, bottle, and can recycling in all municipal buildings, offices and meeting spaces, including schools. The Grantee shall continue such paper, bottle and can recycling during the term of the Grant.
5. **Notification of Buy Recycled Policy:** The Grantee has established a written policy which promotes a preference for the purchase of recycled products in lieu of non-recycled products and distributes an annual notification of the Buy Recycled Policy, ordinance or by-law to all staff, department heads and employees with purchasing authority. This notice shall be sent from the Mayor, Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Administrator or Chief Purchasing Officer and highlights specific opportunities to buy recycled products, the benefits of buying recycled products, and encourages the purchase of these products. The Grantee shall continue to send an annual notification during the term of the Grant.
6. **RDP Payment Calculation:** MassDEP has calculated the RDP Payment using the table below which shows payment brackets based on the number of households served by the municipal solid waste program and the point value for each bracket. See [2025 Details: Recycling Dividends Program](#) guidance document for additional information on point value.

RDP Payment Brackets:

# of Households that Receive Trash Service Provided by the Municipality	Point Value - Basic Level 1-9 pts.	Point Value - Advanced Level ≥ 10 pts. & RDP EJ Populations
0 - 4,999	\$420	\$600
5,000 - 7,499	\$770	\$1,100
7,500 - 9,499	\$910	\$1,300
9,500 - 12,499	\$1,260	\$1,800
12,500 - 16,999	\$2,100	\$3,000
17,000 - 24,999	\$2,450	\$3,500
25,000 - 31,999	\$2,800	\$4,000
32,000 - 99,999	\$4,550	\$6,500
100,000 +	\$7,000	\$10,000

1. **Program Criteria:** The Municipality, through its RDP application, certifies that all points earned are for programs that were in place between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026 and that these programs fully meet the performance standard set forth in the [2025 Details: Recycling Dividends Program](#) guidance document.
2. **Use of Funds:** RDP Payments shall be expended on activities and programs listed on the [Approved Spending Categories](#) for the Recycling Dividends Program and Regional Small Scale Initiative Funds, to enhance the performance of the Municipality's waste reduction programs. **Use of a dedicated account is required.** Funds may be carried over to future years and accumulated to fund a larger eligible expense or project. Planned use of funds shall be noted on the Annual RDP Spending Report. However, MassDEP may delay future RDP payments if municipality is not expending funds.
3. **Record Keeping:** The Municipality shall be responsible for keeping documentation (i.e., proof of purchase in the form of an invoice which lists the vendor name and address, item purchased, item price, number of items purchased and shipping costs if any) by calendar year, of how RDP funds were expended and the remaining balance of RDP funds. MassDEP may conduct record audits to ensure compliance with this Contract.
4. **Reporting:** The Grantee shall file an annual Recycling and Solid Waste survey and the RDP Spending Report by February 15, via ReTRAC, for the duration of this Grant. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may jeopardize future grant awards.
5. **Environmental Compliance:** The Grantee understands receipt of a grant from MassDEP does not in any way imply that the Grantee is in compliance with applicable environmental regulations. This Grant Scope of Work shall not be construed as, nor operate as, relieving the Grantee or any other person of the necessity of complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and approvals. The Grantee's facility(ies) are subject to inspection at any time by MassDEP and noncompliance with applicable environmental regulations may result in formal enforcement actions, including penalties.
6. **Addendums:** Should MassDEP award additional Grant funds, an addendum to the Grant Scope of Work shall be provided to the Grantee. The same terms and conditions apply to the addendum.

1. RDP Payment Calculation:

The Municipality's payment has been calculated as follows:
(NET RDP POINTS EARNED) x (VALUE OF EACH POINT)

a. Bulky Items	0
b. Center for Hard to Recycle Materials	0
c. Curbside Recycling Regulation	2
d. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	1
e. Household Hazardous Waste	2
f. Organics	0
g. Recycling Center Access	0
h. Reuse Programs	1
i. Solid Waste Reduction	0
j. Waste Prevention Outreach and Education	1
TOTAL RDP POINTS EARNED	7
POINT DEDUCTED DUE TO LATE SUBMISSION	N/A
NET RDP POINTS EARNED	7
VALUE OF EACH POINT	\$4,000
RDP PAYMENT AMOUNT	\$28,000

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, MassDEP and the Grantee hereby execute this Grant Scope of Work.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

By: _____ (Date)
John Fischer, Deputy Division Director, Solid Waste
Department of Environmental Protection

City of Somerville
Municipal Official(s) Authorized to sign: Mayor
VC6000192138

By: Jacob D. Wilson (Signature) _____ (Date) 1/7/2026
JACOB D. WILSON (Print Name) _____ (Title) MAYOR