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Local Communities Receive Recycling Grants

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that Palmer, Sturbridge and Warren have been awarded grants through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). This initiative is designed to help municipalities and solid waste districts maximize recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. As part of the program, Palmer will receive \$1,000; Sturbridge will receive \$4,900; and Warren will receive \$5250.

“It is great to see Palmer, Sturbridge and Warren being recognized for their sustainability efforts,” said Rep. Smola. “These grants will play a pivotal role in supporting local waste reduction programs.”

This year, under SMRP, 226 communities qualified for the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP). The RDP recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize the reuse and recycling of materials, as well as waste reduction. Communities that earn 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 this SMRP grant round, 42 municipalities that did not apply for or qualify for an RDP payment will be awarded Small-Scale Initiatives Grants. 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. Each of these SMRP programs are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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