

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives Late House, Boston 02133-1054

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Palmer, Sturbridge and Warren Awarded Recycling Dividends Grants

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) today announced that the towns of Palmer, Sturbridge and Warren have been awarded funds as part of the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP). As part of the program, Palmer will receive \$1,000; Sturbridge will receive \$6,650; and Warren will receive \$3,150.

A total of 247 municipalities qualified for the RDP, which will help cities and towns maximize their current recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. Payments can be utilized 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. The program is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

"These funds will allow our local communities to advance their current recycling programs while mitigating disposal costs," said Representative Smola. "I want to commend our local officials for pursuing these resources and their support of conservation and recycling programs."

The RDP is an initiative under MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which was created under the Green Communities Act of 2008. MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous waste, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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