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## **Town of Sturbridge Awarded Funds from New Recycling Dividends Program**

BOSTON – **State Representative Todd M. Smola (R – Warren)** today announced that the Town of Sturbridge has been awarded \$3,200.00 as part of the new Recycling Dividends Program (RDP). A total of 96 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 new program is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

“These new funds will allow the Town of Sturbridge to advance their current recycling program and have the potential to assist in the reduction of the Town’s waste disposal costs as recycling increases,” said Representative Smola. “I am looking forward to seeing the positive economic and environmental effects of the Recycling Dividends Program both in my district and in the Commonwealth as a whole.”

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

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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