

CHAMBER WINS GRANTS FOR LOCAL SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce announces the receipt of two (2) grants toward our goal of building a Sustainable Greater New Bedford (SGNB) with the recycling of local solid waste materials.

The first is a \$25,000 grant from the Chelsea Center for Recycling and Economic Development and the second is a \$10,000 grant from the Greater New Bedford Refuse Management District. These combined grants will continue the Chamber's work in sustainable economic development that began with "The Bottom Line of Green is Black" conference held a year ago. That event, presented by the Chamber, along with the City of New Bedford, NSTAR, UMASSD, and local and national supporters demonstrated the latest proven sustainable practices applicable to our businesses.

Thanks to the strong leadership of the SGNB Advisory Committee including the above members, the Town of Dartmouth, the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District, the Family Business Center at UMASSD, the Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts, the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, Teal Ltd., The Resource Technologies Group and local material processing and waste hauling businesses.

The SGNB project is a joint effort between the City and the town of Dartmouth designed to expand, increase or retain local jobs while ensuring landfill capacity for future growth. Three types of locally generated solid wastes that play a major role in our economy will be examined. They include organic food and fish processing wastes, rubber manufacturing wastes plus scrapped used tires, and scrap wood from pallets, construction & demolition, and other related activities.

The handling and disposal of these waste streams are increasing financial burdens for our local companies, as daily landfill weight limits are routinely met, sending our wastes to more distant and expensive landfills. But these requirements can also lead to increased business and community-wide savings with:

- new business and employment opportunities using these recovered feedstocks
- reduced and avoided costs through more efficient use of materials, lower disposal charges, a healthier environment
- a longer life for our community landfill

As the grant recipient, the Chamber of Commerce is playing a unique leadership role as it manages and directs these grants and contributes in-kind services of \$5,000 to support its home base for all functions and activities. The Resource Technologies Group of Cambridge with its principal Marsha Gorden is serving as project consultant for SGNB. Ms. Gorden has previous business and community water, wastewater, and pollution prevention experience in Southeastern Massachusetts including projects with this Chamber and the four other regional Chambers of Commerce.

For further information contact:

Jim Mathes, President

Phone: 508: 999-5231 • Fax: 508-999-5237

Email: jmathes@newbedfordchamber.com

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THE NEW BEDFORD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
794 Purchase Street • P.O. Box 8827 • New Bedford, MA 02742
(508) 999-5231 • (508) 999-5237