

# Recycling & Solid Waste Committee Report to Selectmen

March 30, 2015

Members: Ann Wiedie, Dave Harmon, Don Stewart, Mary  
Wong, MaryAnn P, Tom S, Bill Rousseau

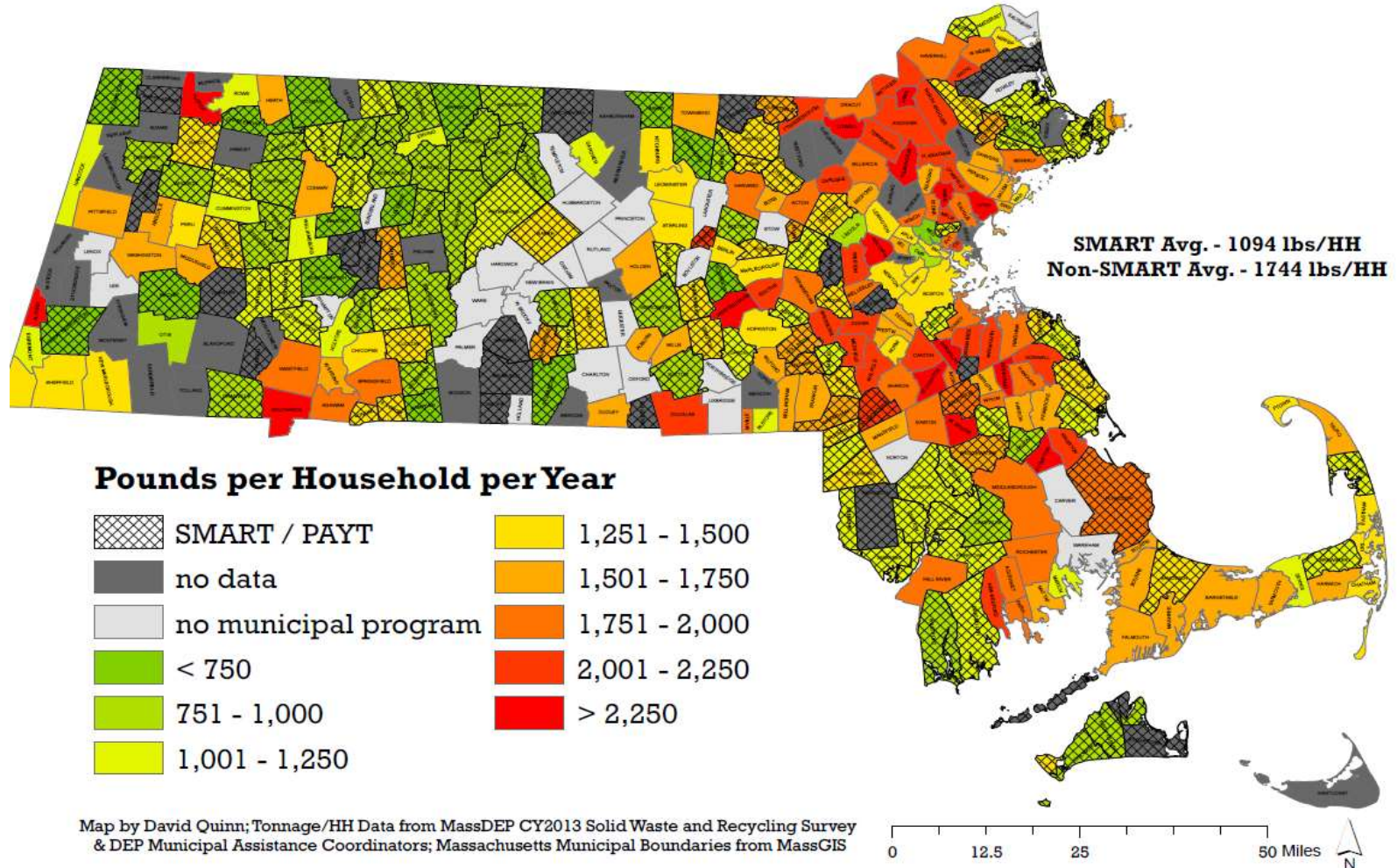
Advisors: Tom Cullen, DPW; Carolyn Dann, MassDEP

# Overview

- Why?
- Bulky Waste Question
- SMART/PAYT
  - Key Questions
  - How Does Weston Compare?
  - Key Transfer Station Facts
  - Rationale and Expected Results of Pilot
  - Details, Logistics, Costs of Pilot
- Other Recommendations

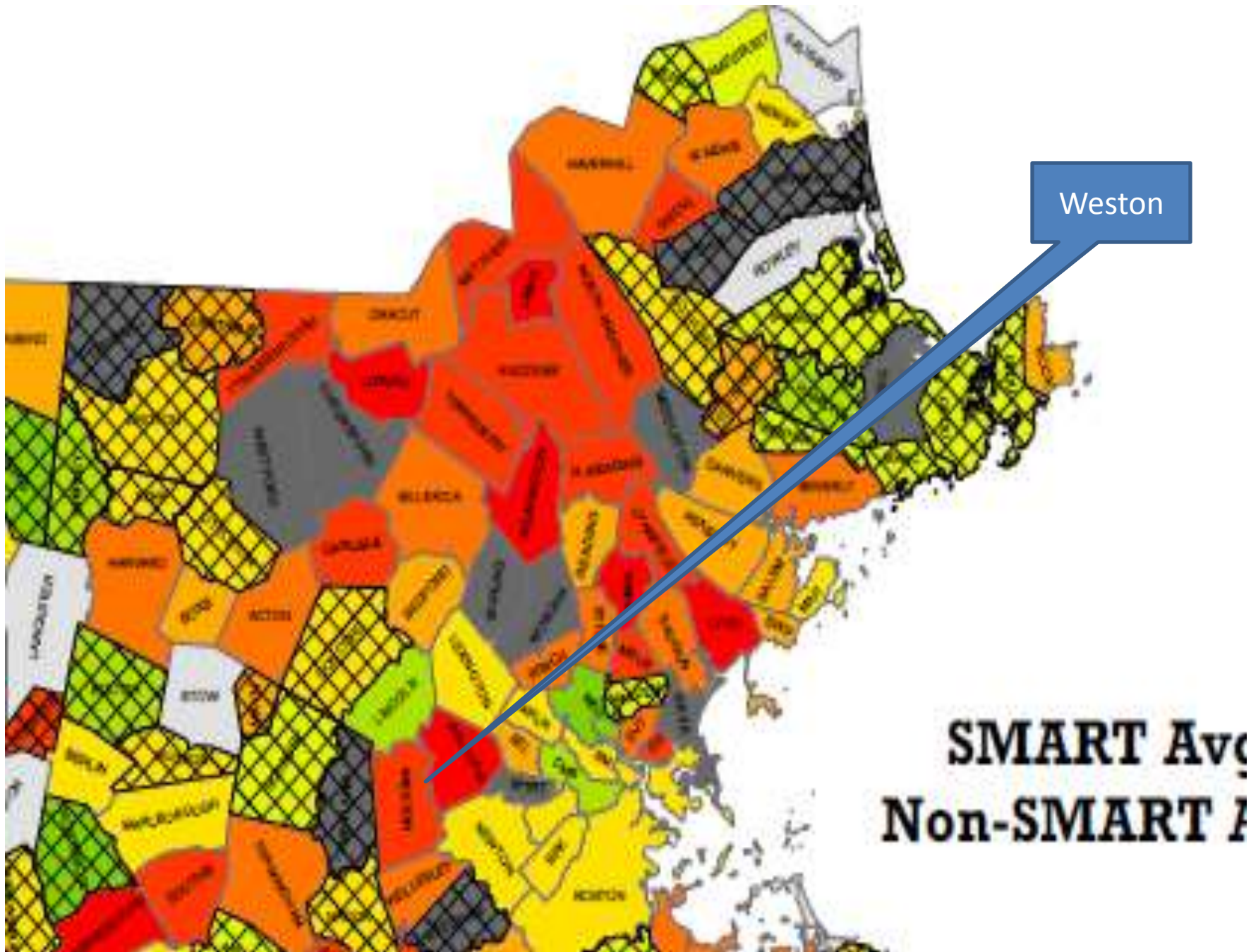
# Comparing Weston

## How Much Trash Did We Throw Out in 2013?



# Key Financial Data

- \$102.47/T to transport and dispose of trash
- \$ 26.14/T to transport and manage recyclables
- \$ 0.00/T to handle donations, avoided waste
- \$230/Yr = FY15 Sticker fee
- \$140/Yr = FY15 Sticker fee for those over 65
- 1930 Tons Solid Waste in FY13
- 1750 Households using TS in FY13
- 2205 pounds of solid waste per household
- No separate fees except for TVs



# DEP enforcement



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

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## Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

Gary Davis  
Town of Carlisle  
P.O. Box 149  
Carlisle, MA 01741

Re: NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE: NON-BO-15-4006  
Mass DEP Facility ID#: 39141

**Noncompliance** with M.G.L. Chapter 111 and 310 CMR 19.000  
Violation of Waste Ban

Observed At:

Wheelabrator North Andover  
285 Holt Road  
North Andover, MA 01845

Solid Waste – Waste Ban Compliance

# Reasons to like SMART/PAYT

- Households get control over own costs
  - Sticker fees reduced to \$75/yr
  - Bags sold for solid waste at \$1 for “tall kitchen”
  - Users determine their own total cost
- Direct Incentive to Reduce Waste for TS Users
  - 144 other municipalities in MA
  - Over 7000 programs across the US
- Fairness and Equity
  - Similar to electric or gas bill; those who have more trash pay more to dispose of it.
  - Those who recycle avidly benefit from their efforts.

# Key Questions

- Would SMART work in Weston to reduce the solid waste generated?
- Is there more reduction possible in Bulky Waste or in “bag-able” waste?



# Bulky Waste Research

- Is most of the “extra” waste in Weston “Bulky Waste” or “bag-able” waste?
- Research project:
  - April 10-11: RSWC members will staff the TS and ask users to separate BW into one hopper and “bag-able” waste into the other. The two hoppers will be weighed separately to determine the % of BW
  - If warranted, RSWC will repeat this another week
  - RSWC may return with recommendations on BW fees

# Why a SMART Pilot?

- It is possible that the excess amounts of solid waste is mostly from Bulky Waste items. If so, the RSWC might recommend fees for BW.
- It is possible that Weston residents already recycle as much as possible and there are other sources of the excess waste.
- It is possible that Weston residents will NOT respond as others do to the price signal provided by SMART/PAYT.

# Expected Results from Pilot

- If residents respond to SMART/PAYT, we would expect to see a 20% or more less solid waste (SW) per household.
- During the pilot, participants will also put their Bulky Waste (BW) items on a separate truck. BW will be weighed separately to determine proportion of BW vs SW.
- Recycling will increase but not account for entire amount of reduction in SW.

# Proposed Logistics, Costs

- 6-12 months (starting in October or April)
- Special sticker holders use separate truck to drop specially designated bags for SW and separate truck for BW
- Daily weighing
- Bags sold at local retailer, no mark-up, purchased by Town, revenues go to Town.
- Accounting, tracking, storage and delivery handled by bag vendor.

# Selection of Pilot Participants

- 10-15% of TS users = goal;
- Wide ranging outreach;
- Invite participants representing all household sizes; check against town census records to ensure sample represents the town.

# Pilot Costs

- DPW indicated they can find trucks to accept SMART participants SW and BW,
- DPW found location such that there is no need for added staff or overtime
- Cost of bags = Reimbursed when users buy
- Sticker cost = same as Town normally pays just need to design a separate PILOT sticker
- Bag revenue (\$1/bag) will replace the lost sticker revenue so likely no net cost for pilot.
  - If trash drops, fewer bags sold but also lower tip fees
  - If trash doesn't drop, more bags sold covers higher tip fees

# Possible Timeline

- April – BW research
- May – solicit SMART/PAYT Pilot participants
- June, July – Finalize logistics
- August – Order bags
- September – sell stickers
- October – start pilot
- January – report on 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months
- April – Report on 6 months' results and recommendation for next year
- June – BOS decision on recommendations

# Other Recommendations

- Enforcement
- New Signage and Outreach
- Textiles
- Expanded Swap Shed
- Electronic Waste
- Food Waste