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Regional Environmental Council Collection

Processed by Nicholas Hadley  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	4	
	Scope and Content	4	
	Series Description	5	
1	Central Mass. Col. of Safe Waste Mmgt.	6	1
2	Central Mass. Resource Recovery Com.	6-7	2-3

### **Collection Information**

Abstract : This collection contains a variety of materials relating to The Regional Environment Council, in particular its participation in both the Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee and the Central Massachusetts Coalition of Waste Management. It contains official documents, reports, meeting minutes, correspondences, pamphlets, brochures, flyers, and clippings dating from the mid-1970s to early 1990s

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository. Item level description.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by Evelyn Silver, 80 Barry Rd, Worcester, MA 01602

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

## **Historical/Biographical Notes**

The Regional Environment Council (REC) is one of eight regional offshoots of the State Environmental Management Coalition formed in 1983 during the Dukakis Administration by Commissioner James Gutenson. Its initial purpose, for which it was granted \$90,000 of state money, was to promote public and industrial awareness of proper hazardous waste management and related issues. It achieved these goals by teaming up with other area organizations including the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, the Worcester Board of Health, The Blackstone River Watershed Association, the Lake Quinsigamond Watershed Association, the Green Island Neighborhood Association, and the Quinsigamond Village Community Center to form the Central Massachusetts Coalition of Safe Waste Management (CMCSWM). This Coalition reached out to the community by creating a traveling exhibit demonstrating proper hazardous waste disposal and groundwater protection which was displayed at the Worcester Science Center, libraries, schools, and community centers across the region and distributing pamphlets and flyers. It also organized and funded workshops for businesses on hazardous waste disposal (hosted mostly at Worcester Polytechnic Institute) with a particular focus on the automotive and autobody industries, and hazardous waste collections in and around Worcester. The Coalition pushed businesses to comply with the state "Right to Know" law (1985), which forced businesses to make a list of hazardous materials used available to the public, as well. It later carried out similar initiatives in regards to recycling.

The REC also became involved in the Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee (CMRRC). The CMRCC was formed in the mid-1970s and was tasked with finding solutions to solid waste 'crisis' during the time period. It most notably was behind closing of the Greenwood Street Landfill in Worcester in 1985, which led to the moving of the city's trash to a temporary transfer station in Millbury and the later building of a resource recovery plant (contracted out to SIGNAL RESCO) on the same site. This was met with controversy, from Millbury residents over air quality concerns and possible destruction of wetlands near the proposed site, and from Worcester residents fearing of a rise in the cost of trash services and of illegal dumping in the absence of a public dump within city limits. 5 lawsuits were filed by Millbury businesses against SIGNAL RESCO, such as Fleet Electrical Company and S.I. Howard Glass Company which were located directly across the street from the proposed site, however these suits were later dropped. Into the later 1980s and 1990s, resource recovery projects similar to one in Millbury were proposed and/or carried out in other Worcester county communities including but not limited to Auburn, Holden, Shrewsbury and Princeton.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection documents primarily the Regional Environmental Council's participation in both the Central Massachusetts Coalition of Safe Waste Management (CMCSWM) and in the Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee (CMRCC)

The CMCSWM series contains pamphlets, flyers, newsletters, and handbooks distributed between 1983-85 informing the public of upcoming hazard waste management seminars, hazardous waste collections, and general information about hazardous waste. REC meeting minutes regarding hazardous waste, a Household Hazardous Waste Report (1982), a Statewide Hazardous Waste Management Environmental Impact Report (1983), and a report on the "Feasibility of Source Reduction and Collection of Recyclables in the Central Massachusetts Region" (1986), and four WPI reports on waste reduction seminars (1983-1985) are also included. Clippings in this series detail the Coalition's outreach efforts, the "Right to Know" Law, and other hazardous waste and recycling related issues (1983-1996).

The CMRCC series contains the committee's meeting minutes between June of 1983 and July of 1991, correspondence between Richard A. Schnorf (director of Solid Waste Resource Recovery Systems for the Worcester Department of Public Works) and various members of the committee between August 1984 and June of 1991, an overview of solid waste disposal initiatives (1974), a summary of the resource recovery project (1980), a report on "Solid Waste Disposal Options for the City of Worcester" (1981), a report on the "Feasibility of Out-of-City Resource Recovery" (1982), a "Feasibility Study for the Development of a Materials Recovery Facility in Central Massachusetts" (1991), an overview and summary of the Millbury resource recovery project published by SIGNAL RESCO, a preliminary economic analysis of the Millbury resource recovery project (1983), and the appendices to an environmental impact report published by SIGNAL RESCO (1984). Proposals, and documents (official and legal) regarding the Millbury project are also included. One folder of clippings in this series details the closing of the Greenwood Landfill and opening of the Millbury transfer station and plant (1983-1987), and another holds miscellaneous related clippings between 1985 and 1991.

## Series Descriptions

Series 1: Central Massachusetts Coalition of Safe Waste Management

Series 2: Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee

Regional Environmental Council Collection  
2013.48

Series 1, Central Massachusetts Coalition of Safe Waste Management

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2013.48.1.1	Hazardous Waste Clippings (1983-1985)
1	2	2013.48.1.2	Right to Know Law Clippings (1985-1986)
1	3	2013.48.1.3	Pamphlets, Flyers, Handbooks
1	4	2013.48.1.4	Proposals (1983-1985)
1		2013.48.1.5	Feasibility Report (1986)
1		2013.48.1.6	Hazardous Waste Conf. Proceedings (1983)
1		2013.48.1.7	Environmental Impact Report (1983)
1		2013.48.1.8	“Metro Toxicant Program Report” (1982)
1		2013.48.1.9	WPI Report #1 (1983-1984)
1		2013.48.1.10	WPI Report #2 (1984)
1		2013.48.1.11	WPI Report #3 (1984)
1		2013.48.1.12	WPI Report #4 (1984-1985)

Series 2, Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	2013.48.2.1	Greenwood/Millbury Clippings #1 (1984-1987)
2	2	2013.48.2.2	Greenwood/Millbury Clippings #2 (1984-1987)
2	3	2013.48.2.3	Misc. Trash Clippings (1985-1991)
2	4	2013.48.2.4	Greenwood/Millbury Documents
2	5	2013.48.2.5	Committee Minutes (1983-1987)
2	6	2013.48.2.6	Committee Minutes (1989)
2	7	2013.48.2.7	Committee Minutes (Jan-June 1990)
2	8	2013.48.2.8	Committee Minutes (July-Dec 1990)
2	9	2013.48.2.9	Committee Minutes (Jan-June 1991)
2	10	2013.48.2.10	Committee Minutes (July-Dec 1991)
3		2013.48.3.1	Solid Waste Disposal Report (1974)
3		2013.48.3.2	Project Summary (1980)
3		2013.48.3.3	Preliminary Economic Analysis (1983)

Series 2, Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee, cont.

3		2013.48.3.4	SIGNAL RESCO Report
3		2013.48.3.5	Feasibility Study (1991)
3		2013.48.3.6	Report to City of Worcester (1982)
3		2013.48.3.7	Solid Waste Disposal Options Report (1981)
3		2013.48.3.8	Appendices to SIGNAL RESCO Report
3	1	2013.48.3.9	Richard A. Schnorf Corres. (1984-1991)