



Department of Environmental Protection

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MassDEP South Framingham Initiative – October 15, 2015 update via email from Steve Johnson (MassDEP) to Town of Framingham Stakeholders

This email is a follow-up to the meeting held on July 7, 2015 at Framingham Town Hall regarding MassDEP's initiative to improve environmental quality in South Framingham. At that meeting, MassDEP indicated that we would have a follow-up meeting with interested parties in September or October. As it turns out, due to other conflicts we were not able to schedule another meeting in the September/October timeframe, so we are sending this email to update you on progress with the initiative.

As we described at the July 7 meeting, MassDEP is using staff from three of its programs to help address environmental quality concerns in South Framingham. The recent activities by these different MassDEP programs are described below.

Compliance Assistance for Local Businesses

Nearly 100 businesses in the South Framingham area are registered with MassDEP as being subject to Hazardous Waste regulations, Air Quality regulations, and/or other regulatory programs that are run by NERO's Bureau of Air and Waste staff. About 85 of these businesses generate small volumes of waste oil and/or other hazardous wastes as part of their business activities. Most of these businesses are in the automotive repair or auto body sectors.

MassDEP's web page (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/>) contains a lot of compliance assistance information for generators of waste oil and other hazardous wastes. However, some of South Framingham's small businesses may not be aware of the website or know that MassDEP can provide information about the requirements that apply to their businesses. With that in mind, MassDEP has created a one page "Compliance Assistance Guide for Generators of Hazardous Waste." This Guide, which MassDEP is providing in Spanish, Portuguese and English, outlines some key steps that businesses can take to make sure that they comply with the hazardous waste regulations.

MassDEP plans to conduct a South Framingham Compliance Assistance Day on October 28, 2015. MassDEP staff will conduct a “meet and greet” at the companies we have on our list of regulated businesses in the area. We will hand out the Guide and other applicable assistance information. The purpose of these site visits is to introduce ourselves and offer compliance assistance information. These visits will also inform these businesses that MassDEP is paying special attention to South Framingham’s environmental quality. These visits will *not be inspections* (where we are looking for violations). Rather, our goal is to foster compliance by providing the materials we will hand out. During the course of our Compliance Assistance Day, we may identify businesses that are not on our list of generators, but possibly should be. If so, we will provide them with the necessary information to operate their business in accordance with the hazardous waste generator requirements.