

CONTACTS:**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**RECYCLING LOAN FUND PROVIDES 30TH LOAN
TO ASSIST MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESSES**

The Recycling Loan Fund (RLF) announces that it has recently provided its 30th loan to a Massachusetts business. The \$50,000 loan was awarded to Newland Farm of Norton, Mass.

Originally capitalized with \$4.4 million, the Fund has loaned over \$6 million since its inception in 1995, leveraging close to \$22 million more in private and quasi-public financing. The RLF offers preferred financing for Massachusetts companies involved in recycling. The loans may be used for any reasonable business purpose.

The Fund is administered by Massachusetts Business Development Corporation and funded through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The fund provides financing from \$50,000 to \$500,000 to Massachusetts companies that collect or process recyclable materials or make products created from recycled materials.

MassDEP has prioritized recycling of organic materials as a key component of the Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan, which seeks to reduce the solid waste stream by 70 percent by 2010. To date, 164 supermarkets participate in some form of organics recycling program, diverting an estimated 20,000 tons from landfills a year.

"Recycling is critical to providing a more sustainable way of managing waste, and it has the real benefit of creating jobs," said MassDEP Acting Commissioner Arleen O'Donnell. "This fund serves as a catalyst for establishing or expanding recycling businesses in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth's payoff is a vibrant recycling industry that turns trash into resources and takes pressure off our landfills."

The recipient of the 30th loan, Newland Farm in Norton, is an organics (food waste) processor. Newland Farm is involved in the composting of yard waste, harvest waste from cranberry growers, food waste, and some vegetative sludge. The RLF loan was used to purchase equipment to process the waste from supermarket customers.

A past recipient is Agresource, Inc. of Amesbury, MA, which operates municipal composting facilities, including one for the Town of Ipswich. According to Geoff Kuter, President, the RLF loan "helped us to secure financing for equipment to meet our business growth objectives. The process was straight-forward and flexible." A priority for the DEP is to encourage the growth of the organics industry in Massachusetts, which involves the management of food waste and residuals. Companies involved in the generation, collection, hauling, or processing/composting operation of organics are eligible for RLF financing with fixed rates as low as 4%.

Another past loan recipient is Hanna Paper Recycling Inc., a leading edge waste paper recycling company located in Mansfield, MA that specializes in recycling for the graphics industry, as well as the industrial and commercial sectors. Joe Jelsen of Hanna Paper noted that the RLF financing "offered longer terms and easier payments than conventional financing when we were looking for financing to cover expenses related to moving our facility."

A Taunton-based firm, New England Recycling Company, Inc., used the RLF loan proceeds to purchase equipment for a construction and demolition debris recycling facility. Other recipients have included a converter of paper with recycled content and a manufacturer of recycled-content plastic products.

The Massachusetts Business Development Corporation, a private company based in Wakefield and an SBA Preferred Lender, offers term loans ranging in size from \$500,000 to \$2 million, in addition to mezzanine and equity investments. The funds are sourced from our member banks. MassBusiness also administers several other state-sponsored programs in addition to the RLF including the Capital Access Program and a Brownfields Redevelopment Access to Capital (BRAC) Program. New England Certified, an affiliate company, provides SBA 504 loans for real estate and equipment.

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