

## **Solid Waste Master Plan Workgroup on Reducing Waste Generation Summary Points**

### Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- EPR can reduce the amount of waste generated by encouraging manufacturers to design products that result in less waste and/or have more reusable components. Manufacturers are the best positioned to also reduce the packaging of their products. Framework legislation was seen as a more expeditious way to advance EPR but still have public input and discussion.
- Electronics, household hazardous products and packaging were suggested as good candidates for EPR approaches.
- Some participants expressed concerns that producer responsibility requirements that are too specific could put Massachusetts businesses at a competitive disadvantage
- Develop a state level Product Stewardship Council of local and regional governments to build political support for developing EPR systems

### Consumer Education

- Consumers need to be educated on how to reduce waste generation and the impacts of their purchasing decisions on generation. Manufacturers and retailers can play a significant role in this education and offer products that generate less waste.

### Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

- PAYT reduces waste generation and should be promoted as a viable option for municipal solid waste programs. PAYT can be advanced through increased incentives to municipalities for adoption or through a legislative requirement.

### Other Residential Waste Reduction

- Alternatives to PAYT that limit the amount of waste accepted (e.g., barrel limits)
- Reduce phone book waste by having an opt-in/opt-out rule to receive phone books
- Reduce disposable plastic bags through a bag tax or ban

### Business Waste Reduction

- Contracting mechanisms such as Resource Management can offer incentives for businesses and haulers to reduce waste and to better understand what they are generating and how they are paying for it.
- A waste exchange that businesses can post and received used materials (C&D material, packaging, shipping material, etc) can offer opportunities for increase waste reduction.
- Electronic pay stubs and other electronic documents can reduce use of paper.
- State tax incentives or financial assistance to businesses for waste audits and investments to reduce waste generation.
- Encouraging businesses to develop waste minimization plans can impact the amount of waste generated while saving the business money. TURA's Resource Conservation Planning tool was given as an example that could be required of all businesses over a certain size, and government, institutions and non-profits.

### Government Procurement

- Utilize the procurement power of the state and work with other interested parties (municipalities, businesses, etc.) to require waste reduction measures in the delivery or goods. Procurement can also be used to drive demand for products that generate less waste.

### Reducing Packaging

- Reduce packaging by rating packaging and publicizing the ratings, providing funding assistance to overcome capital investment needed to reduce packaging, and/or by requiring packaging take back for certain products