



Waste Bans/Business Recycling Workgroup

Meeting Notes for Meeting #1

February 24, 2009

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston

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Meeting Overview

Twenty people attended the first meeting of the Business Recycling/Waste Bans Workgroup on February 24, 2009. We introduced ourselves; spoke about our experience in the recycling and solid waste management industry, and then each told a personal business recycling story. We reviewed the SWMP Workgroup process, our workgroup mission, and our goals for each of our three workgroup meetings (see the attached Business Recycling/Waste Ban Workgroup Agenda 2 24 09 for more details).

We then brainstormed critical issues in our two focus areas – Business Recycling & Waste Bans. The following is a list of issues developed by the group members:

Business Recycling

- Many people don't understand how the solid waste industry works
- All points of the system need to be educated
- Many people don't know who has authority to regulate
- Need stronger drivers to get businesses to recycle
- Services have to be available and convenient
- Recycling service for apartments- there are many structural and procedural problems
- Some don't think it's hauler's fault, it's generator's fault.
- It is difficult for haulers to tell what's in the box because of how the material is collected (in dumpsters, compactors, etc.)
- Often not enough space for recycling containers
- Enclosure requirements for recycling containers
- Separate containers for types of recyclables require significant amounts of space
- Recycling services aren't convenient, affordable for small businesses.
- Lack of communication between businesses (re: their exchanging their reusable wastes)
- Ownership of central recycling spaces for small businesses (parking lots, etc.) is often not known or it is difficult to negotiate the use for recycling areas
- Styrofoam recycling not available
- Composting programs are generally not offered to businesses
- Can't put plastic bags in recycling
- Limited shrink wrap recycling opportunities, especially malls and retail areas
- Lack of coordination between MassDEP sections to promote recycling infrastructure development
- Lack of cost effective incentive programs
- Need PAYT systems for businesses
- Need more options for business recyclables – donation, reuse, etc.
- Businesses can go to other haulers that don't comply with waste bans – need a level playing field
- Municipalities have inconsistent hauler regulations
- Some current business recycling programs not being utilized
- Recycling of some products is expensive, difficult or impossible
- Economies of scale prevent many small businesses from recycling



Waste Bans

- Many people don't understand how waste bans work
- Many people don't know who has authority to regulate
- Need stronger drivers to get businesses to comply
- Not much enforcement on generators (businesses, apartment buildings, etc.)
- Haulers cannot see waste ban materials in containers
- There aren't local, sufficient outlets for waste ban materials
- If generators don't feel like recycling, they won't - they must be told they have to
- We don't have adequate incentives for diverting waste ban materials
- De minimis quantities are a problem – a misconception, needs to be clarified in regulations
- Facilities need more feedback from MassDEP regarding obstacles in enforcing and implementing waste bans
- Some facilities seeing more loads of trash contaminated with recyclables now than before (and more evenly contaminated)

Next steps

1. Our homework – before the next meeting, we will all brainstorm strategic solutions – both short (0-2 years) & long term (3-10 years) – and implementation plans for the issues listed above and bring them to our 2nd meeting.
2. We will contact businesspeople (especially from small and medium size businesses) we know and invite them to participate in the process. Their “on the ground” first hand experiences and insights will be invaluable in helping us develop solutions to the business recycling and waste ban issues listed above.
3. Next meeting – March 10, 2009, 9am – Noon, Mass DEP Central Region Office, 627 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608. There are a number of public parking lots and garages in the area, including one just down the street from CERO on Main St.

Thank you so much for participating in our Workgroup! We look forward to seeing you on March 10th. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Take care,

Marc & Janine

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If you have not yet done so, please RSVP for future meetings to janine.delaney@state.ma.us.