

**Solid Waste Master Plan Waste Bans/Business Recycling Workgroup
Final Workgroup Report
April 2009**

Meetings Overview

The Business Recycling/Waste Bans Workgroup met on February 24, March 10, and March 24, 2009 to discuss how to increase business recycling and improve compliance with the Commonwealth's Waste Bans. The following report is an overview of the major goals and strategies discussed by the workgroup participants. Workgroup members felt that additional funding sources would be needed to implement many of the proposed strategies, therefore, proposed funding sources are identified under goal #4 below. Where other funding sources may be appropriate, those are listed in the far right column of the below tables.

Overarching Goal

Improve business recycling and compliance with Waste Bans by providing an integrated, multi-faceted system of incentives (grants, loans, technical assistance) and disincentives (penalties) to unblock barriers.

Goal #1:

Improve business recycling at large generator sites in the Commonwealth including major malls, strip malls, central business districts, office parks, industrial parks, colleges, schools, office buildings, apartment & condo complexes, and major sports facilities.

Strategy	Short/Long Term Goal	Implementing Entities	Additional Potential Funding Sources
Create competition and rewards programs for major generators in various sectors including major malls, strip malls, central business districts, office parks, industrial parks, colleges, schools, office buildings, apartment & condo complexes, and major sports facilities, to recognize businesses that increase recycling and decrease waste disposal. Research other programs like Natick Collection Mall, Race to Recycle, Waste Wise, RecycleMania, etc. to build a competition, tracking, report card, and recognition program for each sector. Advertise these programs in industry association & trade publications, Chambers of Commerce, etc. Also recognize the champions that help lead these programs.	Short	Mall management companies, corporate sponsors, anchor businesses, industry or sector associations, MassDEP, haulers, third party entities including the Center for Ecological Technology, Waste Cap Massachusetts, non-profits, and consultants.	Corporate contributions or entry fees, Trade Associations, Haulers

**Goal #2:
Improve hauler/generator partnerships.**

Strategy	Short/Long Term Goal	Implementing Entities	Additional Potential Funding Sources
Educate haulers about how to provide technical assistance to businesses in designing and implementing business recycling programs including educating businesses about waste ban regulations, taking pictures of failed loads, conducting waste audits, decreasing disposal costs, saving \$\$ over the long term by recycling, etc .	Short	Haulers, Solid Waste Management Trade Associations, MassDEP, third party entities including the Center for Ecological Technology, Waste Cap Massachusetts, non-profits, and consultants.	Haulers, Solid Waste Management Trade Associations
Require haulers to report businesses recycling and solid waste tonnages similar to the reporting system used by municipalities to encourage recycling.	Long	Haulers, oversight by MassDEP	Haulers
Develop uniform, statewide hauler licensing/certification to remove inconsistencies from community to community. Create standard templates that could be adopted by municipalities to ease "Home Rule" concerns.	Long	MassDEP, local municipal officials including Boards of Health, Solid Waste Management Trade Associations	
Develop uniform, statewide dumpster permit programs to remove inconsistencies from community to community. Establish annual dumpster permits with yearly renewals which are only approved upon proof of recycling services being provided to the businesses. Create standard templates that could be adopted by municipalities to ease "Home Rule" concerns.	Long	MassDEP, local municipal officials including Boards of Health, state health officials associations	
Require building permits for new buildings or renovations to existing buildings to include a recycling plan. Establish new statewide building codes that require recycling areas in new and renovated buildings. Create standard templates that could be adopted by municipalities to ease "Home Rule" concerns.	Long	MassDEP, local municipal officials, state building officials associations	
Provide access to cost effective business recycling services by partnering with large business recycling programs to build capacity and provide access to recycling services for small and medium size businesses.	Short	Large businesses, MassDEP	Large businesses

Provide access to cost effective business recycling services by establishing regional business recycling collection centers (including some located in central business districts) that could be used by small & medium size businesses and haulers.	Short term-existing facilities Long term-new facilities	MassDEP, Chambers of Commerce, local municipal officials	
Expand funding for municipal transfer station facilities to enable them to act as regional drop off locations for business recyclables.	Short term-existing facilities Long term-new facilities	MassDEP, local municipal officials	
Expand funding for municipalities to develop municipal Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) services for businesses.	Short	MassDEP	

Other Workgroup Comments:

- *Services, technical assistance, and compliance are a shared responsibility.*
- *All hauler agreements should include legal language on waste bans and the "How Tos" of setting up a business recycling program.*
- *Cost is not the only issue. Logistics are also important. For example - can vendor pick up from the loading dock? Is there enough space for the type of recycling containers provided by the hauler? Time is resource - does the generator have enough time to meet with the hauler to design the program?*
- *Some felt there is enough recycling capacity in the state, especially in terms of bottles and cans if the updated bottle bill passes – and that an analysis should be conducted to determine if there are regions in the Commonwealth which are underserved.*
- *Some felt hauler reporting requirements might become burdensome and unenforceable, thereby raising costs and reducing collection efficiencies without encouraging increased recycling. However, haulers might not oppose a requirement to provide general aggregated data on material collected for disposal or for recycling if (a) the requirements are defined clearly and with industry input; (b) the requirements are enforced uniformly among all reporting entities; and (c) the required information is provided on an aggregated basis and in a way does not identify or violate the confidentiality of individual customer accounts or their operating practices.*

Goal#3:**Increase recycling & solid waste technical assistance to businesses.**

Strategy	Short/Long Term Goal	Implementing Entities	Additional Potential Funding Sources
Create a new Business Assistance Coordinator (BAC) program, similar to the existing Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC) program, to provide sorely needed recycling and solid waste technical assistance to businesses so they know the right questions to ask and who to ask when designing and implementing business recycling and solid waste management programs.	Short	MassDEP, haulers, third party entities including the Center for Ecological Technology, Waste Cap Massachusetts, non-profits, and consultants.	
Update the Recycling Services Directory (currently located on WasteCap's website) and expand to include business recycling services offered by municipalities (including business PAYT) and case studies detailing successful business waste reduction programs.	Short	MassDEP	Recycling Services Directory membership listing fees
Use Chambers of Commerce to reach out and educate businesses in recycling and solid waste disposal strategies. This is not a traditional role for COC's. Develop ways to make this a higher priority for COC's by using multi-faceted "Greening Your Business" programs (waste reduction & recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, etc.) as an opportunity to help businesses differentiate themselves, increase revenues, and save \$\$.	Short	Chambers of Commerce, MassDEP, MA Department of Energy Resources, utility companies	Chambers of Commerce, utility companies
Establish technical assistance programs for apartment and condo complex owners and managers.	Short	MassDEP, local Housing Authorities	trade associations
Establish education programs for building management, facility, and custodial staffs.	Short	Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), private cleaning companies, MassDEP	BOMA and other trade associations, private cleaning companies
Establish technical assistance programs for businesses to assist them in developing recycling and solid waste disposal contracts that promote recycling and waste reduction (Resource Management).	Short	MassDEP, third party entities including the Center for Ecological Technology, Waste Cap, non-profits, and consultants.	
Create a business recycling grant program for recycling containers, equipment, and educational materials.	Short	MassDEP	

Goal #4:

Develop sustainable, long term funding systems for business recycling & waste ban education, technical assistance, and enforcement programs.

Strategy	Short/Long Term Goal	Implementing Entities
Waste-to-Energy Credits (WEC's)	Short	Massachusetts Legislature, MA Department of Energy Resources, MassDEP
Expanded Bottle Bill (unclaimed deposits)	Short (if the proposed Expanded Bottle Bill passes)	Massachusetts Legislature, MA Department of Revenue, MassDEP
Create uniform, local waste ban enforcement programs which include dumpster fees, hauler registration fees, etc., and levy local fines (similar to parking fines) which can be used by municipalities to support business recycling programs. Design standard templates for these local programs which can be adopted by municipalities to create a system of uniform local enforcement statewide whenever possible and ease "Home Rule" concerns.	Short	Local Boards of Health and other municipal staffs.
Establish a per ton disposal surcharge system in Massachusetts	Long	Massachusetts Legislature

Other Workgroup Comments:

- *Some municipalities oppose disposal surcharges because they have already complied with the waste bans.*
- *Some waste haulers also oppose disposal surcharges because they see them as burdensome and inefficient.*
- *Create funds that reinvest in recycling programs and cannot be raided.*

**Goal #5:
Improve business recycling through compliance with Waste Bans.**

Strategy	Short/Long Term Goal	Implementing Entities	Additional Potential Funding Sources
Enforce waste bans at the facility, hauler, and generator levels to improve business recycling statewide.	Short	MassDEP	
Enforce waste bans to encourage haulers to educate generators about waste bans and recycling.	Short	MassDEP	
Investigate the legal options for and barriers to creating recycling and solid waste management franchises in Massachusetts to assist municipalities in complying with waste bans. Create standard recycling and solid waste management franchising RFP templates that could be used by municipalities.	Long	MA Attorney General's Office, MassDEP	
Implement an organics waste ban with associated market capacity development efforts.	Long	MassDEP	

Other Workgroup Comments:

- *Some members of the workgroup questioned the extent of the MassDEP's authority to regulate haulers and generators - Greg Cooper joined the meeting briefly to discuss waste bans and in particular to whom they are applicable.*
- *One member noted that the infrastructure is not in place to support an organics waste ban. If MassDEP bans organic wastes from disposal facilities before in-state alternatives are in place to manage these wastes, the consequence will be additional exports of waste to out-of state locations that do not enforce such a ban. Expansion of the waste bans should be deferred until after alternatives for the banned materials, including local processing and utilization capability, are well-established. Rather than expand the waste bans, MassDEP should focus on programs to promote generator responsibility so recoverable materials are not commingled with other wastes requiring disposal, and to encourage development of local processing capability and markets for the recovered materials.*