

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary

February 4, 2016 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

MassDEP Project with The Recycling Partnership

Brooke Nash from MassDEP presented on MassDEP's work with The Recycling Partnership to reduce contamination and improve the quality of residential recyclables. This project involves municipalities, haulers and material recovery facilities (MRFs). Two pilot communities (West Springfield and Lowell) have been selected to have their recycling and trash audited to create baseline data on the amount of contamination in the recycling stream and the amount of recyclables in the trash stream. Education and outreach tools will then be employed in each community over a 3-4 month period. Following that, a second trash and recycling audit will be conducted to assess the impact of the education and outreach strategies. Using lessons learned from the pilot communities, a final toolkit will be developed to offer to municipalities statewide. A webinar held on February 24th will kick off the project.

Question: *Will the data be released?* Yes, both the pilot project data, as well as the resulting education and outreach pieces, will be shared on MassDEP's web site and distributed for use by other communities.

Update on MassDEP Waste Ban Compliance and Enforcement Work

Matt Destino from MassDEP provided an update on MassDEP's waste ban compliance and enforcement work. This information is summarized in the presentation posted along with this meeting summary.

Question: *If 40% of materials in the trash are banned from disposal, why were only 16% of loads failed?* There are several reasons for this. The figure of 40 percent of the trash being comprised of waste ban materials is based on waste characterization studies, during which loads are sorted in great detail, including opening and emptying trash bags. However, MassDEP inspectors do not open bags during inspections, therefore, we do not observe all of these banned materials in bags. In addition, MassDEP does not generally take enforcement for small amounts of banned materials in a load of trash, even when they are observable. Therefore, virtually every load contains some percentage of banned material, but many of these loads are not identified by MassDEP as failed loads. And, in some cases when MassDEP does take enforcement it is for loads that re significantly more than 40 percent banned materials.

Question: *Are residential trash loads subject to enforcement?* Yes, although banned materials in residential loads are often difficult to identify because most of the contents are bagged. In addition, the diversity of materials on residential routes makes it less likely to have a large

amount of a particular banned material in a specific load. Municipal loads from a specific facility (example: a load from a school or municipal building) are easier to identify and have been subject to enforcement.

Question: *Where should focus be for repeat violators: the hauler or generator?* While the hauler is helpful in helping determine the source of loads, the generator is typically the primary target of letters, enforcement efforts, and direct technical assistance. Haulers are copied on communication with generators and can often be helpful in the implementation of better on-site recycling practices by the generator. The exception to this is when a hauler disposes of recyclables that have been separated by a generator, in which case enforcement would be directed to the hauler.

Question: *Is waste ban enforcement publicized?* All enforcement actions are public information, however MassDEP does not routinely publish notices of non-compliance or enforcement actions with relatively small penalty amounts.

Question: *What are the penalty amounts?* The typical penalty ranges from \$860 to \$1,000 for a repeat waste ban violation. Initial violations are typically not subject to a penalty.

Air Permitting of Landfill Gas and Anaerobic Digestion Engines

Nancy Seidman of MassDEP provided a brief update on discussions that MassDEP has been having around air and solid waste permitting of engines for landfill gas and anaerobic digestion facilities. These topics were discussed at a February 2nd forum held by the Environmental Business Council of New England. MassDEP will continue to discuss these issues among MassDEP's Boston and Regional offices, as well as with project proponents to ensure a sound and consistent approach to permitting these facilities. We expect to provide updates at future SWAC meetings.

MassDEP Recycling Market Development – New Grant Program and Recycling Loan Fund Update

Sean Sylver and John Fischer from MassDEP presented an update on funding resources for recycling-related businesses, including the Recycling Loan Fund (RLF) and a new Recycling Business Development Grant program. This presentation is posted along with this meeting summary.

Question: *How do businesses know about these funding sources?* For the Recycling Loan Fund, BDC Capital, the fund administrator, operates lending programs for a variety of business sectors and uses industry contacts to distribute information. Often, local banks will refer potential applicants to the RLF when traditional means of funding are unavailable. This creates leverage.

Additionally, BDC Capital attends multiple statewide recycling industry events and sends periodic marketing materials via mail and email. For the new grant program, MassDEP notified members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Organics Subcommittee, posted the application on the MassDEP web site. The program was also featured as a news update in BioCycle magazine.

Question: *How do you evaluate environmental compliance for start-ups?* MassDEP will evaluate compliance primarily based on a review of state information systems that track compliance and enforcement. In the case of a new start up company, this likely would not be applicable, but MassDEP would focus our review on the quality and thoroughness of the company's application and business plans.

Question: *Has MassDEP updated the recycling markets listing previously prepared by the Chelsea Center for Recycling and Economic Development?* No, MassDEP has not updated this report. Updated information on recycling service providers is provided through the searchable service provider database maintained by RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts. Some of these service providers may be end outlets for recyclables, whereas others may be haulers or intermediate processors.

Question: *How is it funded?* The grants are funded as part of MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which is funded by a portion of the Class II renewable energy credits earned and sold by municipal waste combustion facilities in Massachusetts.

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts, New Programs for Spring 2016

Lorenzo Macaluso from the Center for EcoTechnology and the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program summarized the program's efforts for 2015, which included a significant increase in visits to the program website and accordingly, a rise in hotline questions and technical assistance efforts to businesses by RecyclingWorks staff. RecyclingWorks is implemented several new initiatives in 2016, which are summarized in the presentation posted with this meeting summary.

Massachusetts 2014 Solid Waste Disposal Data

John Fischer from MassDEP reviewed 2014 disposal data for Massachusetts in evaluating the Commonwealth's progress toward its 2020 Solid Waste Master Plan goals. Though the presentation was limited to disposal data, and no longer includes a recycling rate calculation, MassDEP is still compiling sector-specific data and analysis for focused initiatives, such as organics diversion. This data is summarized in the presentation posted with this meeting summary. MassDEP will finalize and post the full data update shortly.