

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
January 26, 2023, 10:00 am
Meeting Summary

Presentations:

1. Update on Implementation of New Waste Bans and Existing Enforcement – John Fischer
2. Recycling Market Development Workgroup Update – Claudine Ellyin
3. Deconstruction Workgroup Update – Kathi Mirza
4. C&D Subcommittee Update – Mike Elliott
5. Solid Waste Facility Issues Workgroup Update - John Fischer

Question: How are Waste Ban compliance materials being distributed to building managers and janitorial companies?

Answer: New resources are distributed through the RecyclingWorks e-mail list (more than 8,000 contacts) and MassDEP social media (with specific posts boosted for visibility). More specifically, MassDEP looks to leverage connections with local Chambers of Commerce and trade associations to inform stakeholders. RecyclingWorks forums also provide an opportunity to connect with the business community.

Question: Is there any concern about flame retardants in mattresses and how that material is handled?

Answer: That has not emerged as a specific focus at this point. With that said, PFAS is everywhere and MassDEP is looking at PFAS across all multiple program areas.

Question: What is meant by a “bag” under the Waste Ban for textiles?

Answer: SMART (Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association) lists recoverable materials on their website and “bags” typically include items like purses and backpacks.

Question: Is there any hope of bringing engineered wood manufacturing to the region, so the wood can actually be recycled? I think that was the original "plan" at the time the unprocessed C&D waste ban was promulgated.

Answer: The major market for this material is particle board manufactured in Quebec. MassDEP does not know if they would consider building a facility in Massachusetts, but will reach out to them.

Comment: Building on the previous comment, there was some research conducted at UMass Lowell toward developing safer, less toxic binders for engineered wood.

Response: As we talk about recycling market development, colleges and universities could play a big role – particularly with their research – in some of those efforts.

Question: Will you be discussing upgraded reporting requirements for recycling facilities in the Facility Issues Workgroup?

Answer: That did come up in the recent meeting and is relevant to the regulations as well. MassDEP did put out a formal request for information from MRFs. We are currently reviewing the information and will be sharing it in the near future.