



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

December 11, 2020

RE: Routine and Emergency Snow Disposal

Dear Municipal Official,

MassDEP would like to work with cities and towns as you get ready for the winter season. We are offering the following information related to snow disposal in case we encounter a winter with significant snowfall. As we did last year, MassDEP is providing our Snow Disposal Guidance in order to assist municipalities with snow management. A copy of the Guidance can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/snow-disposal-guidance>.

MassDEP encourages that care be taken in order to ensure that collected snow is disposed of in a manner that will minimize environmental impacts. In addition, the Guidance outlines specific steps a municipal official should follow in extreme circumstances in order to receive approval for emergency snow disposal to a waterbody.

Advanced identification and mapping of sites for the routine disposal of snow can help facilitate a municipality's routine snow management efforts. MassDEP has a web-based point-and-click mapping application to assist municipalities in selecting routine snow disposal or "snow farm" sites. The mapping tool highlights sensitive environmental resources to be avoided and helps isolate preferable upland locations for snow farming. We encourage you to use this tool to identify the location of the site(s) your municipality intends to use for routine snow disposal. No action is needed if your municipality has used this tool in the past and the location of your routine snow disposal site(s) has not changed.

To use the MassDEP mapping application, navigate to the following website and follow the online instructions: <https://maps.env.state.ma.us/dep/arcgis/js/templates/PSF/>. Identifying proposed routine snow disposal locations can facilitate emergency snow disposal approval from your Conservation Commission or MassDEP, if the emergency snow disposal location is located in or near wetland resource areas. It can also help you avoid locations that may negatively impact public drinking water supplies.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

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Thank you for all the work that you do and for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Nicholas Child, MassDEP's Chief Emergency Planning & Preparedness Officer at [nick.child@mass.gov](mailto:nick.child@mass.gov) or 617-574-6847, for further assistance as you manage snow this winter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Cooper  
Deputy Commissioner, Policy & Planning

cc: Local DPW Superintendents  
Local Emergency Management Directors  
Local Conservation Commissions  
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency  
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions  
Baystate Roads  
Massachusetts Municipal Association  
Association of Massachusetts Wetlands Scientists