

Attachment A

2021 Massachusetts Food Policy Council Annual Report Summary

Meetings continued to be held remotely. On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker, acting pursuant to the authority provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the Massachusetts General Laws, declared a State of Emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 coronavirus ("COVID-19"), allowing public meetings to be conducted through virtual means to allow real-time public access. This was updated pursuant to the provisions for adequate alternative public access to agency hearings, set forth in Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and Governor Charles D. Baker's COVID Executive Order No. 1 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, dated March 12, 2020, which was extended by COVID Executive Order No. 69, Massachusetts Food Policy Council ("FPC") meetings continue to be conducted through virtual means to allow real-time public access.

Six meetings were held virtually in 2021 and included updates from the Massachusetts Legislature's Food System Caucus, presented by the Legislative Council members, and the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative.

JANUARY 29, 2021

Program: Massachusetts technical assistance resources. Organizations have been successful receiving USDA funding. Strategies for greatest impact were discussed. Presenters: **New Entry Sustainable Farming Project:** Promoting year-round Distribution of Local Produce from Small, Beginning, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers through New Product Lines and Distribution Strategies; **Sustainable Business Network:** Adding Value to MA Farmer and Fisher Wholesale Viability; **Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture:** technical assistance including beginning farmer grant projects, farmers markets, value-added production, small-scale aggregation, targeted efforts for wholesale producers, and assessing farm COVID responses; **The Carrot Project:** The Agricultural Viability Alliance's federal grant is supporting consistent and equal access to business technical assistance to farm and food businesses; **Franklin County CDC/Western MA Food Processing Center's** MA Ag Innovation Center for technical assistance for value-added products; **Vermont Agency of AG's** Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center for regional dairy projects; and **UMASS Extension** grower support during COVID-19. **Community Servings:** MA Food is Medicine Consumer Advocacy Toolkit. **Officers Reports:** Two retiring FPC members were recognized, Sam Wong and Eric Stoker. **Updates** were provided by the MA Legislature's Food Caucus and the MA Food System Collaborative. **Council updates:** The Bylaws and Structure Committee, recommended time for more discussion/dialogue in future meetings.

MARCH 26, 2021

Officer Reports: The Council has three open positions: distributor, public health, and local board of health. A new Council position has been created re: healthy soils, appointed by the EEA Secretary. **Bylaws and Structure committee:** With six agencies represented, each has their own path to share food system topics up through their secretariat. Can the Council track incremental progress towards the MA Food Action Plan? Identifying joint priorities can be galvanizing. The Council can draft letters with a recommendation, though agency members typically need to abstain. **MA Legislature's Food Caucus:** legislative priorities include the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), MA Emergency Food Assistance

Program, and support for UMASS Extension. **MA Food System Collaborative:** Increased funding was a focus for several MDAR programs that are oversubscribed. The Collaborative supports new positions for UMASS Extension, and an earmark for MA in Motion to be able reach more municipalities across. Other items support partner organizations including an increased budget for Buy Locals. The Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) program was and continues to be an important investment in the MA food system: <https://mafoodsystem.org/media/resources/pdfs/fsigsummary.pdf> The Commonwealth made a remarkable pivot during this difficult period. The innovative FSIG program, born out of necessity, will boost the food system now and in the future. With additional resources, program operationalization and capitalization could be better supported. **Council updates:** UMASS continues to develop educational programs for growers and entrepreneurs to add value to their products, and food safety grants for small entrepreneurs. The Federation of Massachusetts Farmers Markets saw multiple markets closing due to pandemic protocols that strain their finances. DEP has a new Director of Clean Energy and Climate Resilient Programs. The DTA finder for SNAP clients to find where HIP funds can be used had over 100,000 views. Early outcomes from DPH's COVID IMPACT Community survey was shared.

MAY 7, 2021

Officer Reports: Open positions on the Council were reviewed and next steps. Distributor candidates have been forwarded. Community Health candidates have been interviewed. Candidates for the EEA appointed Healthy Soils position are moving forward. **Bylaws and Structure committee:** It's difficult to choose priorities however, racial equity, climate change and support for UMASS Extension are issues which could use more attention and where the Council could be helpful. The Council can focus on topics that cut across multiple agencies and industries. Letters of support could be impactful from this diverse body of representatives, signed by the Council's Chair but from the body with member follow-up. Council letterhead could be developed, with minutes attached including a record of the vote. Agencies can abstain if needed. Considering committees, is there a need for an Advisory Committee? It hasn't been active since 2015. **Public Comment:** The Council is not very diverse. Could small farmers and people of color be included? The Advisory Committee would help to engage a broader group of people. The Committee could be a part of the lens for racial equity but not a substitute for diversity on the Council. **MA Legislature's Food Caucus:** Without an increase for UMASS Extension on the House side, there are efforts to get it into the Senate budget, and to maintain numbers on the House side. The Senate is overflowing with legislation that supports the food system. The MA HIP program is a national model. **MA Food System Collaborative:** The Collaborative has worked to support HIP, UMASS Extension, UMASS in Motion and the FSIG program. They are offering training on legislative topics such as crafting language and speaking to legislators. **Council updates:** A provision in state law that prohibited growing hemp on the 70,000 acres of protected land has been changed. Hemp may now be grown on any protected land in MA. Marijuana can be grown on protected land that received no federal funding. The MA Food Trust Program which has provided more grants than loans this year, including support for the FSIG program.

JULY 30, 2021

Program: Oyster market challenges during the pandemic: helping growers and processors explore oyster value-added products while providing opportunities to address food security, Barnstable Cooperative Extension. When restaurants closed after the start of the COVID 19 pandemic, sales of oysters plummeted. A National Sea Grant supported a successful pilot for value-added oysters as a high protein product to food banks, where they were well received. A retail project demonstrated consumer interest in locally shucked pints of oysters. **Officers Reports:** Recommendations for the open Council

seats have been advanced to the Boards and Commissions. **MA Legislature's Food Caucus:** Next year's budget includes many Caucus recommendations. A survey on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) priorities showed support for areas including UMASS Extension and agriculture worker housing and training, food insecurity issues and increasing access to nutritious food options. FSIG support is also strong. Funds were secured for the MA Food Trust Program. **MA Food System Collaborative:** Positive news in the state budget was reported, supporting many food system topics. The Collaborative is supporting classroom food literacy programs, local food policy councils on structural/policy issues, and exploring a supply chain map. HIP is running very well. NE feeding NE is a six-state partnership funded by USDA, to research increasing food production for a secure supply in the face of climate change. The new Equity Policy Network Manager was introduced. **Bylaws and Structure Committee:** Based on public comment, the advisory committee will be revived, and can add diversity and new voices to the Council. Priorities will focus on racial equity, climate change and UMASS extension support with HIP and FSIG as food insecurity and infrastructure strategies. Climate change and equity are broad goals. Establishing tangible strategic priorities can be used to measure progress. The Council can incorporate food into larger conversations such as climate change, equity, and housing. **Council updates:** The FSIG program has been important to bring healthy meals to kids during the summer when school's not in session. MassDEP will have a stakeholder meeting regarding draft solid waste regulations.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Program: BIPOC Farmers & Farmland in MA, history of ownership and loss. Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy: <https://tufts.box.com/s/n8vbrg57736fwjtifi8sk9ve5v2olyek>. **Creating equity in land access:** Mentor Flats, a program of World Farmers, Lancaster, representing over 350 farmers, asked that policy makers include them in decision making. Land access is critical. **MDAR's environmental justice work,** MDAR Environmental Justice Task Force. <https://www.mass.gov/environmental-justice>. **MA Legislature's Food Caucus:** Members are elevating hunger issues that persist, while advocating funds from ARPA for a more resilient food system. A bill to promote equity in agriculture will have a briefing. Council written testimony can be significant even with agency members abstaining. **MA Food System Collaborative:** The Collaborative is helping to develop a farmland action plan. They are advocating for ARPA funds to support the FSIG, and other food system agricultural issues. New staff has been hired whose priority is agricultural equity. **Bylaws and Structure Committee:** The advisory committee will be revived. Roles will be updated with priorities of racial equity and climate change in the food system. **Council updates:** The Western Mass Food Processing Center was awarded manufacturer of the year. A hearing to add a fisheries seat to the Council is scheduled.

NOVEMBER 5, 2021, annual meeting

Program: Focus on racial equity and climate change and key takeaways: 2021 Food System Assessment of Southeastern MA: <https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/food-system-assessment> Marion Institute, with the Southeast Food Policy Council. **Officers Reports:** Vacant Council seats will be filled. Legislation may add a fisheries seat. The annual report will include an optional addendum to describe member challenges and successes. Officer nominations were made. Four nominations for new Nominating Committee members were made. Three Council members were appointed to the Bylaws and Structure Committee. Nominations will be solicited for the Advisory Committee. **MA Legislature's Food Caucus:** ARPA includes priorities such as resiliency in the food system and support for the FSIG. Over thirty legislative members or their staff were in attendance. They shared comments and expressed gratitude for the work of Caucus, for ARPA support, and

partnerships to support food system work and legislation. **MA Food System Collaborative:** Appreciation was shared for funding including FSIG, conservation regarding urban agriculture and working lands, and food system workers for premium pay during the pandemic. Farm tours were reported as important to connect legislators with farmers. **Council updates:** DEP described the Solid Waste Master Plan engagement which will connect the twin benefits of environment and savings with clean energy. The Western MA Food Processing Center celebrated 20 years. Considering supply issues, local has an important role in distribution challenges.

The **Bylaws and Structure Committee** met six times: January 20, March 9, June 16, August 27, October 7, and December 10, 2021. All meetings were held remotely. Discussions were mainly on setting Council priorities, and the revival of the Council's Advisory Committee.

Addendums: 2021 Massachusetts Food Policy Council annual report

- I. COVID-19 Command Center Food Security Task Force
- II. Massachusetts Legislature's Food System Caucus
- III. Massachusetts Department of Environment Protection

COVID-19 Command Center Food Security Task Force Summary provided for the 2021 Massachusetts Food Policy Annual Report -- Addendum

The Baker-Polito Administration COVID-19 Command Center convened a Food Security Task Force on April 22, 2020 in response to increased demands for food assistance. The task force was comprised of a broad group of public and private members charged with ensuring food insecurity and food supply needs were addressed during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

A cross-Secretariat team of state agencies with responsibility for food security, agriculture and emergency response, in partnership with the Shah Foundation, was charged with overseeing ongoing implementation of recommendations and tracking and reporting on progress, chaired by Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, former Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Samantha Phillips, Department of Transitional Assistance Commissioner Amy Kershaw, and President of the Shah Family Foundation, Jill Shah.

The Food Security Task Force synthesized and prioritized more than 80 recommendations into the following four key actionable categories:

- Develop and implement an emergency food program,
- Fortify the food bank system,
- Maximize federal resources for food and nutrition, and
- Reinforce and redeploy the food system infrastructure.

To-date, the Administration has invested nearly \$100 million to support resident food security and build a more just and equitable food system, including:

- \$51 million for a **Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program** with a goal of ensuring that individuals and families have access to food. Eligible services include:
 - Increasing capacity for food direct delivery;
 - Increasing capacity of food banks and food pantries;
 - Increasing capacity of local food distribution partners;
 - Innovative solutions to enable those receiving SNAP and WIC benefits to receive food more easily;
 - Innovative solutions for urban farming; and
 - Farms, retailers, fisheries, and other food system businesses to help them adapt to the disruptions and to allow them to provide greater access to local food.
 - 360+ projects funded in FY2021.
- \$12 million for the provision of family food boxes through a regional food supply system.
 - MEMA delivered a total of 277,000 boxes (over ~4.6M meals) to food banks and community organizations.

- \$5 million increase for the **Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)** to meet increased demand for local produce and to increase access points that process SNAP and HIP benefits.
 - Administration enrolled 39 new HIP farm vendors, creating 81 new access points across the Commonwealth, 16 in Gateway Cities, and 11 in new cities not previously served by the program. The majority of new vendors are local, small-scale farmers who live in or have close ties to the communities and populations they intend to serve.
- \$3 million in funding as an immediate relief valve to food banks.
- \$1.2 million for a **Quarantine and Isolation Food Program** to support isolating and quarantining individuals and families.
 - Through this program, over 15,000 food boxes and 1,800 grocery gift cards were disseminated in 100+ cities and towns across the Commonwealth.
- \$27.1 million in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to 13 community foundations and the Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) to address local food insecurity for families and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout.

In addition, the Administration worked to address the Task Force recommendations through:

Fortify the food bank system

- Proactive data collection, tracking and ongoing planning between the Administration, Food Banks and food pantries on food supply and ability to respond to increases in demand.
- Distribution of funding for capacity building within the local food pantry networks.

Maximize federal resources for food and nutrition

- Perused all federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) waivers to make it easier to apply for and maintain benefits.
- Launched SNAP online purchasing program; as of November 28, 2021, \$105 million has been spent on SNAP online purchases.
- Provide SNAP Emergency Allotments since March 2020 to increase household's SNAP benefits to at least the max monthly amount; over \$1 billion brought into the state.
- Direct/targeted outreach between state agencies to reach out/enroll those potentially eligible for federal nutrition benefits.
- Selected the state option to access ARPA funds to triple WIC fruit and vegetable cash benefits from June 2021 through September 2021; approximately \$7.6 million dollars (~175% increase) have been spent to date by WIC participants on fruits and vegetables in September since the increase was implemented.
- Was a national leader in establishing and maintaining Pandemic EBT, which supported over 550,000 students and brought more than \$1 billion into the Commonwealth's economy.
- Pursued all federally available child nutrition waivers to support safe and convenient food access while families learned remotely.
- Established over 1,000 grab and go school meal sites across the state.
 - School and community-based summer meals sites partnered with local food pantries to collaboratively expand free food access points and family-friendly activities for students and all members of their households in high-need areas.
- Implemented universal free school meals for all K-12 MA students through the 2021-22 school year.

Expanding access to local food to meet local need

- Launched DTAFinder.com to connect SNAP clients directly with HIP vendors.
- Launched SNAP equipment grant to support new and existing farm vendors at mobile locations throughout Massachusetts.
- MassGrown Exchange platform launched to connect farmers, fishers, food buyers, and agricultural related businesses to buy, sell, exchange, and/or find products and services.
- WIC farmers' market coupons increased to \$30 during the summer 2021 season for purchasing fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets and farm stands.



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2021 Massachusetts Food Policy Council Annual Report

Food System Caucus

<https://www.mafoodsystemcaucus.com/>

Overview: The Massachusetts Legislature's Food System Caucus (FSC) is bicameral, bipartisan, and currently has 144 members. In 2021, the Co-Chairs were Representative Hannah Kane, Representative Daniel Donahue, Representative Paul Schmid, Senator Jo Comerford, Senator Anne Gobi, and Senator Eric Lesser. The FSC's mission is to support and grow the local food system in the Commonwealth through three focus areas: food access/insecurity, farmland, and economic development.

Issue(s): In 2021, the main issue the FSC focused on was disruption to the food system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which included a critical rise in food insecurity and detrimental impacts to farms and fisheries. The Caucus supported and advanced a range of tactics to combat these disruptions. In January 2021, the Caucus created and distributed a survey to members of the Legislature to gauge what legislators were seeing in-district in terms of issues related to food insecurity, farmland, and economic development in the food/agricultural/seafood industries. Results were compiled and shared with the Governor's Food Security Task Force. The start of 2021 also represented the start of a new two-year legislative session. The Food System Caucus began the session recruiting new members, reviewing legislation that had been filed on the Caucus' focus issues, and developing a list of priority and endorsed legislation. That list can be viewed in full [here](#).

Legislative Briefings & Events

February: The Caucus hosted a briefing for legislators during which Caucus Chairs, the Food System Collaborative, Project Bread, the Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership, and other stakeholders presented. The briefing covered actions taken during the pandemic to reduce food insecurity, the work of the Food Security Task Force, and the Caucus' priorities for the legislative session.

March: The Caucus held its Annual Meeting for Caucus members. The slides from both the February briefing and March's annual meeting [can be viewed here](#).

May: The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) joined the FSC to host a legislative briefing on the results of the GBFB's [report](#) on the state of food insecurity in the Commonwealth. From October 2020 to January 2021, the GBFB surveyed over 3,000 MA adults to obtain timely data on food access and the prevalence of food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Boston Globe published an [article](#) on the report, highlighting how 1.6 million adults in MA have been struggling to find enough to eat.

September: FSC members joined a Western Mass Farm Tour, organized by Senator Comerford and Representative Blais. The tour included five stops and gave legislators insight into the issues farmers face in Massachusetts.

September: EEA Secretary Theoharides and MDAR Commissioner Lebeaux briefed the FSC on food system resiliency and insecurity programs such as HIP and FSIG and also led a discussion on long-term priorities for the food system.

FY22 Budget Advocacy

The Food System Caucus engaged in advocacy for the FY22 budget, advocating for priorities including \$30 million in funding for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP), \$13 million for the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) and \$1,046,400 for the UMass Extension program to hire additional staff. While MEFAP and HIP were funded in the final FY22 budget at the requested levels, the UMass Extension program was not. Funding UMass Extension continues to be a priority. Additional legislative wins in the FY22 budget include \$750K for Buy-Locals, \$300K for the MA Food Trust, \$120K for the MA Farm to School project, and \$100K for slaughterhouses.

FSIG

The Baker-Polito Administration launched the Food Security Task Force (FSTF) in spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and FSC Co-Chairs Representative Hannah Kane and Senator Jo Comerford were appointed as legislative delegates. The [Food Security Infrastructure Grant](#) (FSIG) program came out of the work of the FSTF, and \$45M for FSIG was included by the Baker-Polito Administration in its FY22 Capital Plan, released in June, including \$30M allocated for the previous initial FSIG round, and the additional \$15M for a 2nd round of FSIG applications which opened in September 2021. The FSIG program became a priority for the Food System Caucus throughout 2021, as local businesses applied for grants, legislators wrote letters of support, and multiple rounds of grants were awarded. Subsequent to these grant awards, the Food System Caucus advocated for the recapitalization of this successful grant program, as well as pushed to make the temporary program annual and permanent.

HIP

The [Healthy Incentives Program](#) (HIP), has been a priority for the FSC since its launch over four years ago. HIP provides \$1 back to SNAP recipients for every \$1 spent on eligible produce at MA farms and farmers markets. HIP celebrated its first \$1M month in July, meaning that \$1M worth of fresh, local produce was accessed by SNAP recipients in just one month.

ARPA Advocacy

In October, the Food System Caucus weighed in with its ARPA priorities, which included reducing food insecurity, bolstering the food system workforce, building a more resilient food system, and recapitalizing FSIG. The final ARPA bill had a \$44.8M investment in the FSIG Program, which included **\$17M for the Greater Boston Food Bank** for regional food security network infrastructure investments; **\$5M for the Food Bank of Western Mass** to build a food distribution center and HQ in Chicopee; **\$2.7M to establish a MA community college campus hunger pilot program** to address student hunger and

food insecurity as an obstacle to degree attainment; **\$2M for the MA Food Trust** to provide loans, grants, and technical assistance in a regionally equitable manner with a focus on communities disproportionately impacted by COVID; **\$1.92M to Project Bread** to better connect eligible and unenrolled Massachusetts residents with federal nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, through statewide expanded outreach, increased community engagement, marketing and promotion campaigns; **\$1.5M to Community Servings** for a 1-time investment to support integrations necessary to provide state-wide medically tailored meals to persons battling chronic illnesses; **\$1.5M for the MA Military Support Foundation** for capacity-building at its HQ in Worcester to support the operation of empowerment centers and the distribution of food to veterans in need; **\$1M for a farm-to-school grant program** administered by DESE in consultation with DEEC; **\$1M for the distribution of college food security grants** through the Hunger-Free Campus Initiative, to be administered by the Dept. of Higher Ed; **\$500K to the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute** for a research program to examine the impact of climate change on food resources, in conjunction with Northeastern University marine lab, the Tufts University school of nutrition, the Tufts Veterinary School and the UMass Amherst school of sustainability; **An additional \$14M** was allocated in line item 1599-2044 for a reserve to support the Commonwealth's agricultural, commercial fishing, and cranberry-growing industries, including **\$5M for the Agricultural Innovation Fund** and **\$4M for an agricultural fair economic recovery grant program**. Finally, **\$100K for the New England Farm Workers' Council** was included in line item 1599-2043 for education, employment, training, and community networking opportunities for individuals and young adults.



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**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Addendum to the 2021 Massachusetts Food Policy Council Annual Report
Submitted by Danah Tench, Director of Clean Energy and Climate Resilience,
Designee for Commissioner Martin Suuberg**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is pleased to provide this report to supplement the Massachusetts Food Policy Council's (Council) Annual Report pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 20, Section 6C(e). MassDEP is one of six state agencies that sits on the Council pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 6C(a) and actively works toward meeting its agency's goals under the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan, one of which is to reduce food waste. Inputs Goals 1.

In October 2021, MassDEP published the Final 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, titled, Working Together Toward Zero Waste (Master Plan). This plan aligns with the Clean Energy and Climate Plan and the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap signed into law on March 28, 2021.

The 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan aggressively sets solid waste reduction goals of 1.7 million tons by 2030 (30% reduction), and a 5.1 million tons reduction by 2050 (90% reduction). The Master Plan emphasizes reduction and reuse of materials, as well as efforts to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The Master Plan also continues Massachusetts's focus on food waste reduction as a priority material for waste reduction in the Commonwealth. The Master Plan establishes a new goal to reduce disposal of food and other organic materials by an additional 500,000 tons annually by 2030, based off a 2018 baseline of 280,000 tons of food waste reduction. The Master Plan also commits to establishing and updating more detailed Action Plans for priority program areas, including Reduction & Reuse, Recycling Market Development, Construction Materials Waste Reduction, and Organics Waste Reduction. This Organics Action Plan provides a working plan for how MassDEP will work with a diverse set of stakeholders to achieve our food waste reduction goal.

MassDEP's work in this area is supported by the goals in the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan (Local Food Plan). Key points in the 2030 Master Plan include recommendations identified in the Local Food Plan, Inputs Goal 1, the Massachusetts Waste Bans, which implement bans on the disposal of

certain materials in trash,¹ and the Recycling Business Development Grants (RBDG) Program, which provides grants to businesses that accept and process recyclable or compostable materials through this program. While these grants are limited to specified target materials, food waste has often been a target material in RBDG grant awards. The Master Plan proposes the following major short- and long-term initiatives that are relevant to the Local Food Plan:

- 2025 Program Review
 - Midway check in with stakeholders to assess progress, review programs and policies, and consider adjustments, including considering a disposal ban on all food waste by 2030
- The Master Plan will increase engagement with Environmental Justice communities, including:
 - Prioritize EJ communities for grant awards
 - Deliver assistance for composting at community gardens
 - Leverage MassDEP's Illegal Disposal Surveillance Program
 - Promote use of hybrid/electric trash & recycling collection trucks
 - Improve notice for facility permits in EJ communities

Other related efforts include:

- Implement New Waste Disposal Bans – including reducing the threshold for commercial organic material from 1 ton to ½ ton per week, beginning in November 2022
- Update Organics Action Plan working with MassDEP's Organics Subcommittee
- Issue next round of Recycling Business Development Grants
- Launch a Recycling Market Development Workgroup, which will include markets for compost
- Launch a State Agency Recycling Market Development Council, including state agency purchasing of compost
- Develop and implement a new Recycling and Waste Reduction Innovations Grant Program

MassDEP will continue to gather and utilize several sources of data to evaluate progress towards state waste reduction goals, including annual reports from facilities that accept materials for composting, anaerobic digestion, animal feed, donation, hauler data on the number of food waste collection customers, and food waste reduction data from food waste production system providers. The Master Plan also includes a framework for updating the Organics Action Plan, including strategies to reduce food waste from large businesses, small businesses, and restaurants

In addition to the Master Plan and the final Waste Ban regulations, MassDEP's Clean Energy Results Program has been approved to extend its successful Gap Energy Grant in 2022 to support nonprofit agricultural and food related entities as well as agricultural small business, consistent with Input Goal 5 of the Local Food Plan. The Gap Grant will be another tool used to support sustainable management practices such as energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy generation, while reducing energy costs.

¹ Commercial organic material, and food material from businesses and institutions that dispose of one ton or more per week, was banned in 2014. In October 2021, MassDEP finalized regulations to reduce the threshold for this ban from one ton to ½ ton per week effective November 2022.