

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

2024 Solid Waste Data Update January 2026



Goals and Methodology Summary

MassDEP's waste reduction goal in the *2030 Solid Waste Master Plan* is to reduce annual disposal by 1.7 million tons - from a 2018 baseline of 5.7 million tons to 4.0 million tons by 2030 – a 30 percent reduction in tons disposed. The 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan also includes a longer-term goal to reduce annual disposal by 5.1 million tons by 2050 – a 90 percent reduction. Table 1 summarizes the methodology for the disposal reduction calculation.

Table 1: Methodology Summary

Equation		
Disposal Tonnage	=	In State Disposal (Landfill & Municipal Waste Combustor) + Export for Disposal – Import for Disposal
Disposal Tonnage Reduction	=	2018 Disposal Tons – Current Year (2024) Disposal Tons
Percent Disposal Reduction	=	$\frac{2018 \text{ Disposal Tons} - \text{Current Year (2024) Disposal Tons}}{2018 \text{ Disposal Tons}}$

Progress in Meeting Current Disposal Reduction Milestone

Total disposal in 2023 was 6,160,000 tons, an increase of 560,000 tons, or 10 percent, from 2018. This increase was driven by increased disposal of Non-Municipal Solid Waste (Non-MSW), which includes materials like contaminated soils or sludges. From 2018 to 2023, non-MSW disposal increased by 330,000 tons, a 29 percent increase. During this same period, municipal solid waste (MSW) (regular trash from households and businesses) disposal increased by 170,000 tons, a 4 percent increase.

Solid Waste Management Overview

Table 2 highlights the changes in solid waste disposal from 2023 to 2024, measured in tonnage and percent change. From 2023 to 2024, total disposal increased by 60,000 tons, or 1.0 percent. Of the total waste that required disposal, 3,440,000 tons were disposed in-state, of which 470,000 tons were landfilled and 2,970,000 tons were combusted. Total in-state disposal decreased very slightly by 0.3 percent, or 10,000 tons, from 2023 to 2024.

Massachusetts collectively exported 3,110,000 tons for disposal and imported 330,000 tons, and thus was a net exporter of about 2,780,000 tons of waste requiring disposal. This was an increase of 70,000 tons, or 2.6 percent, from 2023 to 2024. Of the net export, 1,220,000 tons was MSW and 1,560,000 tons was non-MSW. See Table 6 for a more detailed picture of disposal import and export data by state.

Table 2: Solid Waste Tonnage and Percent Change Summary: 2023 - 2024

		2023	2024	Tons Change	% Change
Disposal (Incl. Net Exports)		6,160,000	6,220,000	60,000	1.0%
In-State Disposal		3,450,000	3,440,000	(10,000)	-0.3%
	Landfill	460,000	470,000	10,000	2.2%
	MSW	380,000	350,000	(30,000)	-7.9%
	Other Non-MSW	70,000	120,000	50,000	71.4%
	Combustion	2,990,000	2,970,000	(20,000)	-0.7%
	MSW	2,960,000	2,930,000	(30,000)	-1.0%
	Non-MSW	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
Net Exports		2,710,000	2,780,000	70,000	2.6%
	Exports	3,040,000	3,110,000	70,000	2.3%
	MSW	1,610,000	1,470,000	(140,000)	-8.7%
	Non-MSW	1,440,000	1,640,000	200,000	13.9%
	Imports	340,000	330,000	(10,000)	-2.9%
	MSW	270,000	250,000	(20,000)	-7.4%
	Non-MSW	70,000	80,000	10,000	14.3%

Note: % Change is calculated based on the rounded amounts in this table.

Percentages may not add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

Tables 3 and 4 present solid waste disposal data from 2018-2024. Table 3 shows overall solid waste data including the Master Plan baseline year of 2018 for comparison purposes. Table 4 shows how municipal solid waste (MSW) and non-MSW disposal changed from 2018 through 2024. Since the Master Plan baseline year of 2018, MSW disposal dropped very slightly by 0.2 percent, while non-MSW disposal increased by 50 percent. Total disposal increased by 10 percent from 2018 to 2024, driven entirely by the increase in non-MSW disposal.

Looking at 2023 to 2024 alone, MSW disposal decreased by 600,000 tons, or 4 percent, from 2023-2024. Once again non-MSW accounted for the overall disposal increase, as non-MSW disposal increased by 240,000 tons, a 16 percent increase compared with 2023.

Table 3: Solid Waste Disposal 2018 – 2024 (all data in tons)

			2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Disposal			5,660,000	5,510,000	5,920,000	6,220,000	6,000,000	6,160,000	6,220,000
	Landfill		1,270,000	880,000	660,000	600,000	490,000	460,000	470,000
		MSW	1,190,000	820,000	570,000	490,000	410,000	380,000	350,000
		C&D	0	0	-	-	0	0	-
		Other Non-MSW	70,000	60,000	90,000	110,000	80,000	70,000	120,000
	Combustion		3,200,000	2,990,000	3,040,000	3,060,000	2,930,000	2,990,000	2,970,000
		MSW	3,180,000	2,970,000	3,020,000	3,060,000	2,900,000	2,960,000	2,930,000
		Non-MSW	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	30,000
	Net Exports		1,190,000	1,640,000	2,220,000	2,570,000	2,590,000	2,710,000	2,780,000
		Exports	1,820,000	1,970,000	2,470,000	2,920,000	2,890,000	3,040,000	3,110,000
		MSW	750,000	820,000	1,040,000	1,050,000	1,380,000	1,610,000	1,470,000
		Non-MSW	1,070,000	1,140,000	1,430,000	1,870,000	1,500,000	1,440,000	1,640,000
		Imports	630,000	330,000	250,000	360,000	300,000	340,000	330,000
		MSW	610,000	310,000	240,000	300,000	230,000	270,000	250,000
		Non-MSW	20,000	20,000	10,000	50,000	80,000	70,000	80,000

Note: In some cases, values do not add up exactly due to rounding to the nearest 10,000 tons.

Table 4: MSW and Non-MSW Disposal 2018-2024

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change vs 2018	% change vs 2023
Total Disposal	5,660,000	5,510,000	5,920,000	6,220,000	6,000,000	6,160,000	6,220,000	10%	1%
MSW	4,510,000	4,310,000	4,390,000	4,300,000	4,460,000	4,680,000	4,500,000	0%	-4%
Non-MSW	1,140,000	1,200,000	1,530,000	1,940,000	1,520,000	1,470,000	1,710,000	50%	16%

Note: In some cases, values do not add up exactly due to rounding to the nearest 10,000 tons.

Comparing Disposal Trends to State Economic Trends

Table 5 below shows the change in gross domestic product by state (GDP), compared to total disposal and MSW and Non-MSW disposal tons from 2018-2023.

Disposal typically trends with changes in state level economic activity, however, the rate of increase in GDP during this period is four times the rate of the disposal increase. From 2018 to 2024, GDP grew by 40 percent while total disposal only increased by 10 percent. And, from 2023 to 2024, GDP rose by 6 percent, while total disposal increased by 1 percent.

Table 5 also shows this comparison for MSW and non-MSW disposal. While MSW disposal was essentially flat from 2018-2024, GDP grew by 40 percent during that same period. From 2023 to 2024, GDP increased by 6 percent and MSW disposal decreased by 4 percent.

In the case of non-MSW, the trend is different. From 2018 to 2024, Non-MSW disposal increased by 50 percent, higher than the GDP increase of 40 percent. From 2023 to 2024, GDP increased by 6 percent and non-MSW disposal increased slightly by 16 percent.

Table 5: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by State (millions of current dollars)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% change vs. 2018	% change vs. 2023
GDP (millions of dollars)	559,605	588,070	592,653	649,511	695,612	736,296	780,666	40%	6%
Total Disposal (tons)	5,660,000	5,510,000	5,920,000	6,220,000	6,000,000	6,160,000	6,220,000	10%	1%
MSW Disposal (tons)	4,510,000	4,310,000	4,390,000	4,300,000	4,460,000	4,680,000	4,500,000	0%	-4%
Non-MSW Disposal (tons)	1,140,000	1,200,000	1,530,000	1,940,000	1,520,000	1,470,000	1,710,000	50%	16%
Accessed from BEA website 8/27/2025 - https://apps.bea.gov/regional/histdata/releases/0325gdpstate/SAGDP.zip									

Note: In some cases, values do not add up exactly due to rounding to the nearest 10,000 tons.

Chart 1 below shows this comparison graphically for the GDP and MSW disposal, while Chart 2 shows this comparison trend for GDP and non-MSW. If solid waste disposal increased at the same rate as GDP from 2018 to 2024 total solid waste disposal would be about 7,920,000 tons, versus actual 2024 disposal of 6,220,000 tons.

Massachusetts' population also increased during this same period, however this change was not as closely correlated to waste disposal, as population increased by 3.4% from about 6.9 million to 7.1 million¹.

¹ <https://donahue.umass.edu/data/pep/state/011719/table01.html> and https://donahue.umass.edu/documents/UMDI_Summary_of_the_U.S._Census_Bureau_V2024_State_Population_Estimates_.pdf.

Chart 1: Massachusetts Gross Domestic Product vs. MSW Disposal (2018-2024)

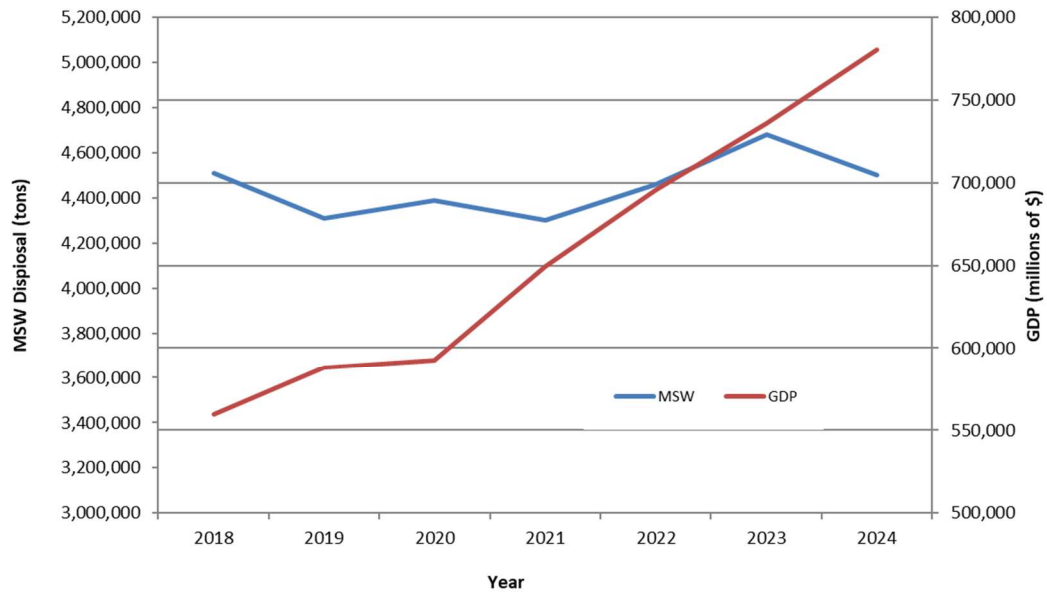
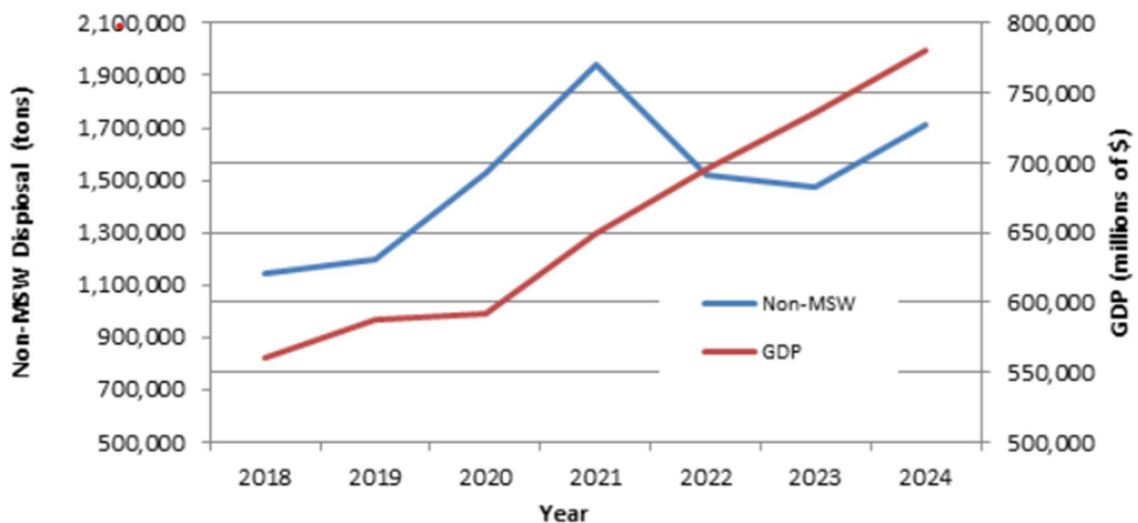


Chart 2: Massachusetts Gross Domestic Product vs. Non-MSW Disposal (2018-2024)



Disposal Import/Export Data for 2023-2024

Table 6 shows MSW and non-MSW exported and imported for disposal by state. The export and import data for Massachusetts was collected from annual facility reports (AFR) submitted to MassDEP and from direct correspondence with other states. In some instances, the export data provided in the AFR differed from that reported from other states. In order to calculate the most inclusive estimate of export, the higher number from the two sources was used. For example, if an AFR reported that Massachusetts sent Connecticut 10,000 tons of MSW, and Connecticut reported receiving 16,326 tons of MSW from Massachusetts, 16,326 tons of export was used. Note that, at the time of publication, data was not available from a number of other states. This table shows an increase in MSW exported and a very slight decrease in non-MSW exported. There was a slight increase in MSW imported and a very slight decrease in non-MSW imported.

From 2023 to 2024, MSW exports decreased by about 140,000 tons, while non-MSW exports increased by about 200,000 tons. In 2024, the states that received the most waste from Massachusetts were Ohio, New York, New Hampshire, and Alabama. The states that sent the most waste to Massachusetts for disposal were Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

Table 6: Disposal Import/Export Data by State (tons): 2023 - 2024

MSW Exported			Non-MSW Exported		
State	2023	2024	State	2023	2024
AL	180,651	208,283	AL	34,325	153,629
CT	38,112	23,615	IN	-	45,996
IN	0	80,494	ME	0	324
ME	581	0	MI	26,108	31,565
MI	105,395	81,128	NH	212,174	215,291
NH	292,544	293,884	NY	95,776	273,931
NY	570,582	351,307	OH	1,019,290	890,998
OH	184,593	209,343	RI	1560	-
SC	112,901	99,812	VA	47,441	31,540
VA	122,227	118,169	TOTAL	1,436,674	1,643,274
TOTAL	1,607,586	1,466,035			
MSW Imported			Non-MSW Imported		
State	2023	2024	State	2023	2024
CT	31,161	4,033	CT	8,947	9,181
ME	11,154	14,763	ME	301	2,087
NH	86,497	103,924	NH	48,464	56,449
NY	29	193	RI	9,502	9,777
RI	136,983	126,374	VT	0	264
VT	1,700	1,063	NJ	106	473
PA	31	0	VA	255	
TOTAL	267,555	250,350	KY	8	8
			TOTAL	67,583	78,239

Management of Ash from Municipal Waste Combustors

Table 7 shows the amount of waste combustion ash disposed by individual municipal waste combustors (MWC) and where it was disposed, as well as the amount of metal recovered from each. Table 7A shows the Massachusetts landfills accepting MWC ash and their anticipated lifespan according to current permit conditions.

Table 7A: Ash Landfills Anticipated Capacity

Landfill	Projected Closure Year
Bondi's Island, Springfield	2030 ²
Peabody	2033
Wheelabrator Saugus	2027
Wheelabrator Shrewsbury	2031

² Note that this landfill currently only receives ash from combustion facilities, though that could change in the future.

Table 7: Municipal Waste Combustor Metal and Ash Management (2024)

Combustion Facility	Ash Disposed (tons)	Disposal Facilities	Pre-Combustion Metal Recovery (tons)	Post-Combustion Metal Recovery (tons)
Haverhill	117,437	Peabody Ash Monofill	52	20,205
Millbury	116,816	Shrewsbury	77	11,839
North Andover	91,211	Shrewsbury	0	9,045
Saugus	112,012	Saugus	0	9,324
SEMASS	165,241	Bourne, Covanta Metals Management, Fairless Hills, PA	24,669	10,113
Totals	602,717		24,798	60,526

Rail Transfer Capacity

Table 8 illustrates the significant rail disposal capacity in Massachusetts, including the current permit status, tons per day, tons per year, and types of waste accepted. MassDEP continues to see industry interest in increasing rail transfer due to limited in state disposal capacity.

Table 8: Summary of Rail Transfer Facilities

Facility Name	Region	Town	Current Status	Tons/Day	Tons/Year	Waste
887 Woburn	NERO	Wilmington	Permitted	500	182,500	C&D
Champion City Recovery	SERO	Brockton	Operating	1,000	286,000	C&D
Devens Recycling Center	CERO	Devens	Operating	1,500	390,000	MSW, C&D
Lenox Valley Waste Transfer Facility	WERO	Lenox	Operating	250	67,250	MSW, C&D
McNamara Transfer Station	WERO	Springfield	Operating	699	218,088	MSW, C&D
New England Waste Disposal	SERO	Taunton	Operating	1,650	495,000	MSW, C&D
Resource Waste Services of Ware, LLC	WERO	Ware	Operating	750	195,000	C&D
Trojan Recycling	SERO	Brockton	Operating	500	140,400	MSW, C&D
Upper Cape Regional Transfer Station	SERO	Sandwich	Operating	286	74,360	MSW, C&D
United Materials Management of Leominster	CERO	Leominster	Operating	1,000	300,000	MSW, C&D
Western Recycling	WERO	Wilbraham	Operating	2000	312,000	MSW, C&D
Yarmouth-Barnstable Regional Rail Transfer Station	SERO	Yarmouth	Operating	530	137,800	MSW
Casella	WERO	Holyoke	Permitted	1,250	382,500	MSW, C&D
Howard Transfer Station*	NERO	Roxbury	Permitted	810	-	MSW-
Wood Recycling, Inc.*	NERO	Peabody	Permitted	1,350	-	MSW-C&D
TLA Holbrook	SERO	Holbrook	Seeking Approval	1,000	260,000	MSW
Totals				15,075	3,440,898	

Note: * These facilities do not have on-site rail connections, but they do have the ability to load containers for rail transport.

Waste Management Capacity Projections

The disposal capacity projections in Tables 9 and 10 reflect either actual permitted capacity, approved capacity contingent on receiving permits, or capacity based on facility contract commitments. However, some landfills may take in less than their permitted tonnage in a particular year. In other cases, a landfill may choose to accept a different material than MSW, such as municipal waste combustor ash, so that a portion of this permitted capacity may not be available for MSW. In these cases, actual capacity for a particular landfill may be smaller than shown in the short term, but then last beyond the date shown in these projections. Therefore, for purposes of these projections, landfill capacity is reduced by a factor of 79%, based on 2023 capacity utilization. Combustion facilities do not typically operate at their full permitted capacity. So, for purposes of projecting capacity, a historical capacity utilization rate of 87% is applied.

The waste management capacity projections shown in Table 10 show two scenarios:

1. Baseline Disposal Tonnage – Assumes that disposal tonnage remains at 2024 levels through 2030.
2. Reduced Disposal Tonnage – Assumes that disposal tonnage will decrease in line with achieving the proposed 2030 disposal reduction goal of 4,000,000 tons, a reduction of 5.97 percent per year.

Projected net export for 2030 ranges between approximately 470,000 and 2.7 million tons, depending on our degree of success in meeting our waste reduction goals.

Table 9: Projected Disposal Capacity 2024-2030 (Tons Per Year)

Municipality	Permitted Capacity	End of current permitted capacity	Lifetime of LF	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Active Landfills										
Bourne	219,000	2029	2040	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	219,000
Dartmouth	115,000	2030	2036	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Middleborough	60,000	2031	2031	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Nantucket	26,000	2029	2029	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	0
Westminster	538,200	2030	2030	538,200	538,200	538,200	538,200	538,200	538,200	538,200
Total Permitted Landfill Capacity				769,200	769,200	769,200	769,200	769,200	769,200	932,200
Adjusted Total Landfill Capacity				469,384	469,384	469,384	469,384	469,384	469,384	568,850
Municipal Waste Combustors										
Haverhill	602,250			602,250	602,250	602,250	602,250	602,250	602,250	602,250
Millbury	529,575			529,575	529,575	529,575	529,575	529,575	529,575	529,575
North Andover	547,500			547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500
Rochester	1,250,000			1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Saugus	547,500			547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500	547,500
Total Permitted Combustion Capacity	3,476,825			3,476,825	3,476,825	3,476,825	3,476,825	3,476,825	3,476,825	3,476,825
Adjusted Total Combustion Capacity				2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819
TOTAL POTENTIAL INSTATE DISPOSAL CAPACITY				3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,535,669
KEY:										
Permitted Capacity	Number without shading									
Potential Additional Capacity	Number with shading									
61% of permitted LF capacity used and 85 % of available potential combustion capacity used for purposes of projecting capacity.										
Actual combustion varies per year, has never reached total permitted capacity										
MWC permitted capacity is not a fixed tonnage amount, but rather a function of the facility's air permit and may vary slightly.										
2023 % Landfill Capacity used	61%									
2023 % Permitted Combustion Capacity Used	85%									
Note: Bourne 189,000 of 219,000 tons of annual capacity dedicated to SEMASS ash disposal through 2029.										

Table 10: Waste Management Capacity Projections: 2024 - 2030

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Total Disposal (baseline)	6,220,000	6,220,000	6,220,000	6,220,000	6,220,000	6,220,000	6,220,000
Total Disposal (reduced)	5,789,283	5,443,663	5,118,676	4,813,091	4,525,750	4,255,563	4,001,505
Combustion Capacity	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819	2,966,819
Potential LF Capacity	469,384	469,384	469,384	469,384	469,384	469,384	568,850
In-state Disposal Capacity	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,436,203	3,535,669
Net Disposal Export (baseline disposal)	2,783,797	2,783,797	2,783,797	2,783,797	2,783,797	2,783,797	2,684,331
Net Disposal Export (reduced disposal)	2,353,080	2,007,460	1,682,473	1,376,888	1,089,547	819,360	465,836
Assumptions for Annual Percent Change:							
Baseline Disposal Tonnage	0.0%						
Decreased Disposal Tonnage/year	6%						

Landfill Cover Material

Table 11 shows the amount of material that Massachusetts landfills reported using as cover material in 2023. This material is not included in the disposal data shown earlier in this report.

Table 11: Landfill Cover Material Use in 2024

Material Type	Tons
Contaminated Soil	142,021
Auto Shredder Residue/Auto Fluff	62,892
TriPak (Emulsion Mix)	56,377
Soil/Sand	35,624
Sludge Ash	29,319
Street Sweepings	21,283
Cullet (crushed glass)	19,542
Bottom Ash	9,274
Limestone/sand	8,465
Wood Chips	5,501
Compost	4,000
Catch Basin Cleanings	230
Foundry Sand	131
Dredge (marine)	3
Total	394,662