

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Committee**  
**May 5, 2022, 10:00 am to Noon**  
**Meeting Summary**

The meeting featured various updates on a number of different MassDEP programs:

**Market Development**

- Recycling Market Development Workgroup
- Recycling Business Development Grants

**C&D**

- C&D Subcommittee
- C&D Bulky Waste Study

**Emergency Regulations for Avian Flu**

**Reduce & Reuse Workgroup**

**Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant Application**

**New Waste Bans**

- Implementation & Outreach Update
- Organics Subcommittee Meeting
- Waste Ban Webinar for Haulers

Q: Are other state agencies participating in the Recycling Market Development workgroup?

A: MassDEP's Recycling Market Development Workgroup does not have formal membership, although other state agencies have participated and presented at meetings. There is a separate initiative for state agencies – a State Agency Recycling Market Development Council – which held a meeting back in February to bring together representatives of state agencies to focus on what they can do to support recycling markets in Massachusetts through purchasing, etc. to build demand for recycled products. The first meeting featured a number of speakers from different recycling industries who informed participants of their experiences in recycling and compost markets. Planning for future meetings is underway. Perhaps at an upcoming meeting, MassDEP can report back on that group's activities.

C: There is enormous buying power within the state, enormous opportunities for building, in particular separation of material during renovation, for instance. There will be an upcoming \$2 billion of investment in the Cape Cod Canal area with new bridges coming online – conversations with MassDOT about this work would be helpful.

C: One potential topic for the next C&D Subcommittee meeting: there are significant developments with legislation in Maine redefining what residual waste can be accepted at the state-owned landfill (Juniper Ridge). The waste needs to originate in the state of Maine. A lot of Massachusetts processors currently send wood into Maine to go to fuel.

Q: For C&D transfer stations that added processing to their operations, did they have to reclassify (through permit modification) from "Large C&D Transfer Station" to "C&D Processing Facility?"

A: Four facilities added new processing lines – at least two are permitted as Transfer Stations. They did have to submit permit modifications. However, as far as we are aware, their regulatory classification did not change. There are shades of gray between the two facilities – some transfer stations process and some processors transfers – but appropriate changes were made to permits to include the new activities where applicable.

Q: Who is going to be bringing bird carcasses to incinerators – farms themselves or haulers? Any concerns about disease “getting out?”

A: MassDEP has Emergency Response Contractors under contract who have experience managing diseased animal carcasses in other states. These contractors would visit the farms, perform depopulation, decontamination and manage the hauling to off site disposal facilities. MassDEP would coordinate this work with other state agencies, including notifying State Police of the route they will take to the solid waste facility. Disposal is planned to be performed during off-hours to discourage waiting in line or interaction with other loads.

Q: With the coming ban on mattress disposal, has there been discussion on calling the mattress recycling grant program an “incentive” program vs. a “support” program, or some other name?

A: This is a good suggestion for next year’s grant program. Changing the name of a grant program using MassDEP’s online host is a bit complicated, which is one of the reasons it was not modified for 2022, but it can be changed for upcoming grant cycles.

C: Compost Site Technical Assistance info and materials from the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts “Compost Site Practical Skills” workshop are available here: <https://recyclingworksma.com/learn-more/compost-site-technical-assistance/>

Q: Can you post contact information for RecyclingWorks, please?

A: (888) 254-5525 or [info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com)

Q: Previously, Waste Ban plans have been submitted to MassDEP’s Regional Offices in hard copy. Do these now get submitted through the ePortal?

A: We believe they still go through the regional office. For transfer stations that are not C&D transfer stations, you would need to submit a certification form, but not the actual plan.

Q: Will the food waste hauler webinar (to be held June 16) be appropriate for small curbside organics collectors, i.e. bucket or small cart collection, or collection with a small pickup truck?

A: Yes, and we think there are some niche opportunities for collection here. We want to engage with any haulers who are interested.

Q: Can MassDEP update the group on the promulgation of changes to 310 CMR 16.00?

A: We do not have any updates at this time. This work has been delayed due to other priorities, but MassDEP will be preparing draft regulations for public comment over the course of this summer.

Q: Where can we access the waste hauler webinar on June 16?

A: The link is being distributed on a targeted basis, but can be provided to interested haulers.

C: Wastewater solids are a huge issue in the waste conversation. We need long-term solutions and agreement on best ways to manage this organic waste.

R: For the most part, this type of waste is outside of MassDEP Solid Waste program parameters. Management of wastewater solids is done through our Bureau of Water Management. These materials are outside of the Solid Waste Master Plan.

C: Maine also banned land application of biosolids last month. This will have a huge impact on capacity for all solid waste.

C: Maine is blocking a lot of waste, the Connecticut MIRA facility is closing and the transport costs (rail and truck) are through the roof to bring waste out of state. We should process it in the State of MA: at least the MSW, with the organic content.

Q: Is it possible to access the Mass Food Systems Food Rescue Meeting from January?

A: RecyclingWorks can share the slides they presented at that meeting in January. Brittany Peats was the organizer of that meeting, so we'll check with her about other meeting notes. For more information, please see the Mass Food Systems Collaborative website at <https://mafoodsystem.org/>.

C: Folks should be aware that PaintCare has been voted out of the Joint Committee and into House Ways & Means. Mattress bills have not yet made it out. For more information: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H938>

C: MassDEP is trying to be as engaged as possible, sharing information and speaking to people and groups about the Waste Bans. We're continuing to try to identify speaking opportunities; if anyone sees a good fit, we would love to hear about it.