

Massachusetts Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
June 25, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Meeting Summary

The June SWAC meeting featured updates from:

- John Fischer of MassDEP on the Draft Solid Waste Master Plan
- Abbey Massaro of RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts on Tips for Managing Trash and Recycling as You Reopen Your Business
- Janine Bishop of MassDEP on Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants
- Janice Pare of MassDEP on takeaways from the recent “New Normal” webinar for municipal officials
- Erin Victor of MassDEP on the Reduce and Reuse (R&R) working group, and
- Mike Elliott of MassDEP on the C&D Subcommittee.

The presentation slides are posted along with this meeting summary here:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/solid-waste-advisory-committee-archive>

Questions and comments from attendees:

Q: Is MassDEP still moving forward on new waste bans?

A: Yes. Proposed regulatory changes to add mattresses, textiles and food waste generated by businesses disposing of greater than ½ ton per week into the waste bans. These additional waste bans are a part of the Draft 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan. MassDEP is expecting to issue draft regulations for public comment in summer 2020, though this timeline has been delayed due to the COVID 19 state of emergency.

Q: A participant mentioned that the Girl Scouts are mounting a campaign to eliminate single-use plastic bags. Girl Scout troop 68277 (Dorchester) has a petition calling for Governor Baker to reinstate municipal plastic bag bans.

C: We need to get back to reusable bags and let the 139 cities and towns that passed plastic bag bans get back to those bans.

Q: What kind of outreach is being done to reach Environmental Justice communities to seek input into the Draft 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan?

A: MassDEP is conducting extensive outreach regarding the reopening of the draft 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, sending notices out to many contact lists, including a list of organizations that are focused on environmental justice concerns. This outreach will continue over the course of the summer. MassDEP has also made the hearing notice available in six different languages and is offering translation services where needed.

Q: Can future virtual SWAC meetings be scheduled for the morning instead of 1:00 pm? There is no need to allow for travel into MassDEP’s Boston office right now.

A: MassDEP will consider this option moving forward. Afternoons have typically been a time that works for most people, but we will consider a morning option for an upcoming meeting(s).