



## BEST PRACTICES

# TEXTILE DONATION BIN ORDINANCES

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### INTRODUCTION

Donation bins provide a convenient reuse and recycling service for residents that can help to increase textile recovery rates. Placing collection bins in populated areas can effectively divert items from entering the waste stream, however, this can come with challenges. If bins are not managed properly and not serviced frequently enough, there could be issues with illegal dumping or creating an eyesore in the community. Donation bin ordinances can help solve this problem, along with making sure a business operates transparently and accurately represents their business status. This fact sheet will be useful to a municipality who wishes to enact an effective bin ordinance in their community. Following these guidelines will make sure that residents continue to benefit from local donation bins, while avoiding problematic issues and costs that may arise without bin ordinances.



### BEST PRACTICES

- Require collection bins to be labeled with the organization name and contact information (phone number, email address, website) of the owner of the bin.
- Require bin owners to obtain written consent from property owners prior to placing or moving bins on property.
- Require that collection bins are serviced frequently enough to ensure no accumulation of donations or debris. Each bin will require different collection frequencies depending on how quickly they fill up. The property owner and bin owner should be in frequent contact to establish an appropriate collection schedule.

## THINGS TO AVOID

- Don't make your bin ordinance a "bin ban." Don't include language that is so restrictive that it will prevent donation bins in your community, as you will lose out on the benefits of these bins.
- Don't allow a bin to have deceptive or ambiguous labels and logos on the bins that may lead people to think that contributions will support a particular cause if they do not.

## BENEFITS AND CONCLUSION

Bin Ordinances can provide residents with an easy and convenient way to recycle textiles and keep them out of the waste stream while boosting local economies. Diverting textiles from the trash also reduces trash disposal costs for municipalities. For more information, please visit the [SMART \(Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles\) webpage](#) with additional resources for communities including a Draft Ordinance Template. Please also visit the [Municipal Regulation of Textile Drop-off Boxes](#) section on MassDEP's Textile Recovery Webpage. Here you can find real examples of textile donation bin ordinances, by laws and regulations from other municipalities in Massachusetts.



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