



SPEND YOUR GREEN AND STAY GREEN COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

GREAT WAYS TO SPEND DOWN YOUR RECYCLING DIVIDENDS (RDP) GRANT FUNDS



Malden's Bike Kitchen

The City of Malden partnered with local cycling advocacy group Bike to the Sea to implement the Malden Bike Kitchen.

A Bike Kitchen is a community space that holds weekly "shop hours" to provide people with bike stands, tools, and cheap or free spare parts to fix their bikes.



\$25k



Arlington Offers Free Curbside Composting Starter Kits

The package includes a 13-gallon green cart for food waste collection, with a note that not all subscription services use this style of container but alternative parts can be picked up if needed. It also contains a kitchen food scrap collector available in two styles and a roll of BPI certified 3-gallon compostable bags for lining the collector, though verification with the service on the acceptance of these bags is advised. To date they have given away over 1,000 kits!



\$30k



Townsend Collects Wood and Bulky Plastics at Their Recycling Center

Townsend used RDP funds to add a roll-off dumpster to collect wood and bulky/rigid plastics at their recycling center. Separating these items from the waste stream is essential for compliance with waste bans, such as those for wood, and significantly reduces waste volume for bulky plastics.. Having this convenient option for residents greatly reduces the chances of seeing these items in the waste stream.



\$4k



Falmouth Hired a Recycling Coordinator

The Town of Falmouth employed a part-time recycling coordinator to assist with recycling quality. Using their RPD funds, they were able to move the position to full time for two years which enabled them to expand the scope of work of this position to include much-needed curbside recycling enforcement. This activity has enabled Falmouth to earn over \$7,000 in RDP funds annually!



\$104k



Medford Used Funds Toward the Purchase of a Recycling Compactor

By purchasing a new compactor, recyclables that are dropped off at the DPW yard can now be compressed to maximize the amount of material that can be transported per load. This reduces the number of hauler pickups by 80% which not only saves the city \$30k per year but also reduces their carbon emissions by eliminating these truck runs.



\$21k



All projects above also earn RDP points!

The Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) provides grant funds to municipalities that have implemented specific programs and policies proven to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction.

[LIST OF ALLOWABLE SPENDING](#)

[MORE ABOUT RDP PROGRAM](#)





- Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) grant funds must be expended on designated goods, services and programs that support waste reduction and/or sustainable purchasing listed in the approved spending categories listed below.

Organics/Food Materials Diversion

- Backyard Compost bins
- Kitchen scrap buckets
- Compostable bag liners/biobags - must meet
- PFAS-free certification
- Commercial composting equipment including screener, windrow turner for use at municipal site
- Organics carts for curbside collection and/or drop-off programs
- Organics collection, transportation, and processing costs - up to 5 years
- Organics program development costs for new programs
- Costs associated with establishing a new composting site and/or expanding an existing site to add food waste into the composting stream

Schools

- Dishwashers for public school cafeterias
- Bulk milk dispensers with durable/washable cups
- Durable/washable trays and cutlery for public school cafeterias
- Collection and processing costs for recyclables and organics
- School garden creation/maintenance with onsite composting
- School furniture reuse and recycling contractors – info and resources
- Stipend for personnel coordinating school-wide or district-wide recycling/composting/reuse programs
- Recycling bins, wheeled carts, compactors for recyclables, recycling dumpsters, compost bins, signage and related equipment

Reuse

- Purchase, construction and/or maintenance of a municipal swap shop or structure for a permanent repair operation
- Up to \$5,000 annually on municipally owned Library of Things/Tool Libraries
- Up to \$1,000 annually for third-party owned Library of Things/Tool Libraries
- Up to \$4,000 annually for municipally located Repair Events (excluding food/refreshments) or Zero Waste Days/Reuse Rodeos/Donation Events
- Developing/distributing a comprehensive Reuse Guide
- Tablet for inventory for swap shop, tool library, library of things
- Wiping clothes made from recycled textiles

Source Reduction

- Water bottle filling stations in public spaces, buildings, and schools
- Durable/washable dishware, glassware and cutlery for kitchen and/or event space at public buildings

Model Programming

- Dedicated Enforcement Coordinator salary - up to 5 years
- New Recycling Coordinator position or Zero Waste Coordinator salary - up to 5 years
- Project-based temporary staffing for specific waste reduction projects
- Tablet for monitoring and enforcement of mandatory recycling and contamination reduction
- Expansion of municipal waste reduction programs to include households not traditionally served through municipal programs (e.g., public housing, mobile home parks, condos, large apartment complexes, transitional housing, etc.)
- PAYT program costs including bags, educational materials, recycling stickers, and additional staff
- Consultants for local or regional initiatives that will increase diversion through recycling, composting, reuse, repair, and toxic/hazardous collection. Examples include recycling collection and processing bid development; Pay-As-You-Throw analysis; organics diversion program planning; recycling composition and contamination audits; and waste characterization studies. See Statewide Contract for Professional and Environmental Consulting Services PRF77. With the exception of combined solid waste and recycling procurement assistance, funds may not be used for solid waste transfer or disposal facilities and/or programs.

Beyond the Bin / Waste Diversion

- Transportation, processing, and/or management costs for hard to recycle materials including items listed in RDP's CHARM category, plus organics/food materials and items directed to reuse outlets
- Equipment for collection/storage/recycling of above referenced materials

Public Spaces and Buildings

- Public space/outdoor event recycling and composting containers and signage (FAC113)
- Transportation and processing of recyclables and organics collected at public spaces and/or events
- Dishwashers for public building kitchens (e.g., Council on Aging) (GRO40)
- Durable/washable dishware, glassware and cutlery for public building kitchens and/or event spaces using public building kitchens
- Water bottle filling stations at municipal buildings and public spaces

Equipment

- Recycling carts and bins and organics collection carts with recycled content (FAC113)
- 35-gallon (or smaller) carts for residential trash collection, provided overflow trash has a per unit associated cost to residents (FAC113)
- Alternative containers for in-home recycling collection at multi-family buildings
- Rain barrels
- Equipment used for crushing glass containers into processed glass aggregate in conformance with MassDEP's Beneficial Use Determination for glass
- Cement pads, ramps, other infrastructure, and related site work for recycling equipment and access
- Electric truck for curbside collection of recyclables and/or organics
- Purchase or rental of roll-off containers, compactors, and balers for recycling at municipal locations; refurbished equipment purchases also allowed
- Repair of used and existing recycling and composting equipment
- Woodchipper or stump grinder purchase or rental to manage clean wood and yard waste

Other/Miscellaneous

- Recycling processing costs over \$50 per ton
- Shredding services for confidential paper
- License plate scanner at transfer station
- Recycling Center site improvements that facilitate ease of access, safety, handicapped access, contamination reduction, waste reduction and/or increased recycling
- Security cameras to address illegal dumping on municipally owned properties or public lands. MassDEP Strike Force guidance must be followed and the Police Chief must be involved to coordinate enforcement.

Toxics Reduction

- HHW collection event costs: drop-off or mobile pickup events – FAC110
- Transportation and processing costs for HHW collected from a municipal or regional permanent HHW facility
- Construction and maintenance of publicly owned permanent HHW collection facility
- Mercury spill kits and other Hazardous Waste cleanup spill kits
- School chemical cleanout services/contractors– FAC110
- Used paint collection shed for residential drop-off site
- Sharps collection boxes for residents
- Environmentally Preferred Products - FAC118
- Outreach and education focused on toxics management and reduction in municipal buildings, schools, business and/or residential dwellings

Outreach & Education

- Waste reduction and/or outreach and education materials, signs, billboards, mailings and applicable postage costs
- Implementation of the Recycling IQ Kit
- Creation of Waste Reduction/Recycling/Composting/Reuse Public Service Announcements
- Recycling webpage design and maintenance (external contractor)
- Conferences, subscriptions, and municipal/regional memberships - up to \$3,000/year
- Training and professional development for recycling staff - up to \$1,000/year
- Recycling market index publications and trade journals
- Educational speaker fees (waste reduction topics) for municipal and school events
- Waste and recycling collection mobile apps
- Newspaper ads promoting recycling and waste reduction
- Translation services for outreach material, website, signage and other recycling and waste reduction initiatives

Closing the Loop

- Purchase of post-consumer Reused/Refurbished or Recycled Content Products. MassDEP recommends purchasing through Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) and Services Specification Guide or from State Contracts. Some examples are listed below with their associated (State Contract Number).
 - (FAC122) Landscaping Products, Parks and Recreation Equipment, and Related Products | (GRO40) Foodservice Supplies & Equipment, Institutional Commercial Grade Large and Small | (OFF48) Print, Copy & Mail Services, and Printed Promotional Products | (OFF51) Art and Instructional School Supplies | (OFF52) Office, School, and Library Furniture | (OFF53) Office Supplies, Recycled Paper, and Envelopes | (VEH114) OEM & NON-OEM Motorized Vehicle Parts, Refined Motor Oil, Lubricants

Note: if NOT purchasing from a State Contract, grantee must confirm recycled content, at a minimum.