

# Food Waste Reduction Updates and Strategy Discussion



John Fischer  
Organics Subcommittee Meeting  
March 19, 2019

# Meeting Outline

- 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan schedule
- Food waste reduction update
- Strategies for large generators
- Strategies for medium generators
- Strategies for small/residential generators



# Master Plan Status and Timeline

- Fall 2019: publish draft plan and hold public hearings and comment period
- By end of 2020: publish Final Plan



# Upcoming Meetings

- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- June 18<sup>th</sup>: C&D Subcommittee
- June 27: Solid Waste Advisory Committee

# Food Waste Reduction Progress

- 2020 goal 450K tons/year (350K tons increase from 100K ton baseline)
- 2017: 280,000 tons diverted (180K tons increase)
  - Compost – 150,000 tons
  - AD – 88,000 tons
  - Donation – 26,000 tons
  - Other – 13,000 tons – processed into wastewater
  - Animal feed – 1,700 tons (we know this figure is incomplete)



# Organics Infrastructure

- Food Donation and Rescue
  - 26,000 tons in 2017
  - >50% growth since 2014
- Food Waste Collection
  - 70% increase from 1,350 customers in 2014 to 2,300 in 2018
- Compost and AD
  - 150k TPY compost capacity
  - >600,00 TPY AD capacity (operational or under development)
  - 7 de-packaging operations, 2 more under development
  - Also growing infrastructure in neighboring states

# Economic Impact Analysis

- Conducted in 2016 for MassDEP by ICF International, Inc.
- Benefits include
  - Supports 900 jobs (500 direct jobs)
    - 150% growth from 2010 to 2016
    - Estimated to grow to 1,370 jobs by end of 2017
  - \$77 million of value added to state GSP and \$175 million in economic activity
  - Nearly \$50 million in planned facility and capital investments



# Grants, Loans, and Assistance

- Recycling Loan Fund
  - 20 organics loans for \$5.3 million since 2000
- Recycling Business Development Grants
  - 7 grants for \$1.2 million to manage packaged food material
- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
  - 46 grants for \$2.4 million since 2012
- Mass Clean Energy Center
  - Construction grants for facilities using food material as feedstock for \$4.4 million in since 2012





# RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts

- Supported more than 80,000 tons of food waste reduction directly (cumulative total)
- Provided direct technical assistance to more than 180 entities
- Developed BMPs: source reduction, food donation, and source separation
- Maintain service provider database – more than 100 listed for food materials
- Created 12 video and 9 written case studies

# Waste Ban Compliance

- Began with focus on compliance assistance
- 39 NONs and 3 penalties issued so far for commercial organic materials
- Several more enforcement actions in process now
- Recently sent request for information letter to 50 businesses to verify compliance
- Expect to do more targeted outreach & compliance assistance
- Continue to support through technical assistance



# Organics Action Plan Review

- First plan published in 2012
- Most recent update in 2017
- Five categories
  - Data Analysis
  - Reducing Waste and Donating Food
  - Collection Infrastructure
  - Processing Capacity/Market Development
  - Regulatory Reform/Waste Ban



# What has changed?

- Disposal ban in place (> 1 ton per week)
- Established collection, processing infrastructure & markets
  - At least for large generators
- Growing food rescue infrastructure
- Extensive guidance, assistance, and lessons learned
- Growing interest among municipalities, residents

# Looking Ahead

- Food waste 26% of our municipal solid waste (household and business trash)
- Largest material category by far
- Next highest is cardboard at 9%





# Strategies for Large Generators

- Commercial organics ban
- RecyclingWorks assistance
- Existing infrastructure (collection & processing)
- De-packaging infrastructure
- Unrealized reduction and donation opportunities?



# Strategies for Medium Generators

- MassDEP food waste generators data
  - About 2,000 generators estimated at 25-49 TPY
- RecyclingWorks assistance
- More robust collection infrastructure needed?
- How to make more cost-effective?
  - Especially collection & hauling
- Lowering ban threshold?

# Strategies for Residents & Small Businesses

- Municipalities with food waste drop-off sites: **30**
- Municipalities with curbside collection: **10**
  - **37** communities provide residents with an self-pay option for a hauler
- Municipalities with compost bin distribution programs: **150+**



# Strategies for Residents & Small Businesses

- Considering multi-pronged approach
  - Reduce waste
  - On-site/at-home composting
  - Community compost sites
  - Drop-off composting at municipal facilities
  - Curbside collection/co-collection



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