

Massachusetts Organics Progress Report



**JOHN FISCHER
MASSDEP ORGANICS
SUBCOMMITTEE
DECEMBER 7, 2017**

Reducing Wasted Food – Progress to Date



- **2016 – total reported diversion = 260,000 tons**
 - Compost – 166,000 tons
 - AD – 57,000 tons
 - Donation – 22,000 tons
 - Other – 13,000 tons – processed into wastewater
 - Animal feed – 4,000 tons
- **Does not include on-site systems**
 - Estimated to be about 50,000 tons annually
- **Believe underestimates amount going to animal feed**

Organics Infrastructure - Donation



- 22,000 tons
- Most through food banks – fairly steady
- Growth in food rescue – fresh & perishable foods
 - Up more than 1/3 from 2014 - 2016
- Increased focus of RecyclingWorks assistance

Organics Infrastructure - Collection



- Hauler collection customers – food materials
 - 2014 – 1,350
 - 2015 – 1,550
 - 2016 – 1,700
 - 2017 – 2,100
- As with cardboard, having collection service doesn't guarantee compliance
- But, great growth over time
 - 56% increase 2014-2017 – up by 750 customers

Organics Infrastructure – Compost & AD



- Currently 45 sites listed in Massachusetts
- Compost capacity about 150K tons/year
- AD capacity for food materials
 - Current capacity – 7 permitted for 315K tons/year
 - ✦ (excludes one permitted for up to 150K tons/year of on-site materials)
 - New or expanded capacity under development – 7 in process
 - Total capacity of about 570,000 tons/year
- De-packaging operations
 - 6 currently accepting to some degree
 - 2 more under development

Waste Ban Compliance



- 15 NONs and 1 penalty issued so far for commercial organic materials
- Several more enforcement actions in process now
- However, believe overall compliance level is fairly high
- Continue to support through technical assistance – see upcoming RecyclingWorks presentation

Solid Waste Master Plan – Survey Responses



- **Priority commercial materials**
 - Food/organics 2nd highest response
- **Priority residential materials**
 - Food/organics highest response
- **Need for improved waste ban education/awareness**
- **Addl. waste ban materials**
 - All food material highest response

Strategies to Increase:



- **Food donation reuse**
 - – education/networking
- **Business food waste reduction**
 - Education/TA/connections (11)
 - Enforcement/regulations (6)
 - Infrastructure (2)
 - Culture change (2)
- **Residential food waste reduction**
 - Education (9)
 - Curbside (4)
 - Funding/pilots/more convenient (4)

Next SWMP Steps



- Comprehensive Capacity Study
 - – spring/summer 2018
- Additional SWAC and Subcommittee meetings – in 2018
- Develop draft plan & public comment – in 2019
- Finalize 2020-2030 Plan – in 2020