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MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

Updated March 2026

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Executive Summary

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) [2030 Solid Waste Master Plan](#) establishes the Commonwealth's policy framework for reducing and managing the solid waste generated by Massachusetts residents and businesses. It sets aggressive waste reduction goals to guide Massachusetts toward a zero-waste future.

The Solid Waste Master Plan called for MassDEP to establish a working group to engage stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive Reduce & Reuse Action Plan that outlines programs and initiatives the agency should pursue over the next several years.

The Action Plan:

- Assesses the best opportunities to increase reuse and extend product lifespan
- Identifies related barriers and capacity needs
- Identifies and provides data needed to support and inform these efforts
- Creates a network and open dialogue to advance progress

The Action Plan articulates a vision and strategies that focus on reducing upstream waste generation and explains the importance of these strategies to reduce waste and reuse materials. The plan summarizes the development process, identifies barriers to progress, and defines progress measures. It then establishes short-, medium-, and long-term priority strategies across seven categories, including:

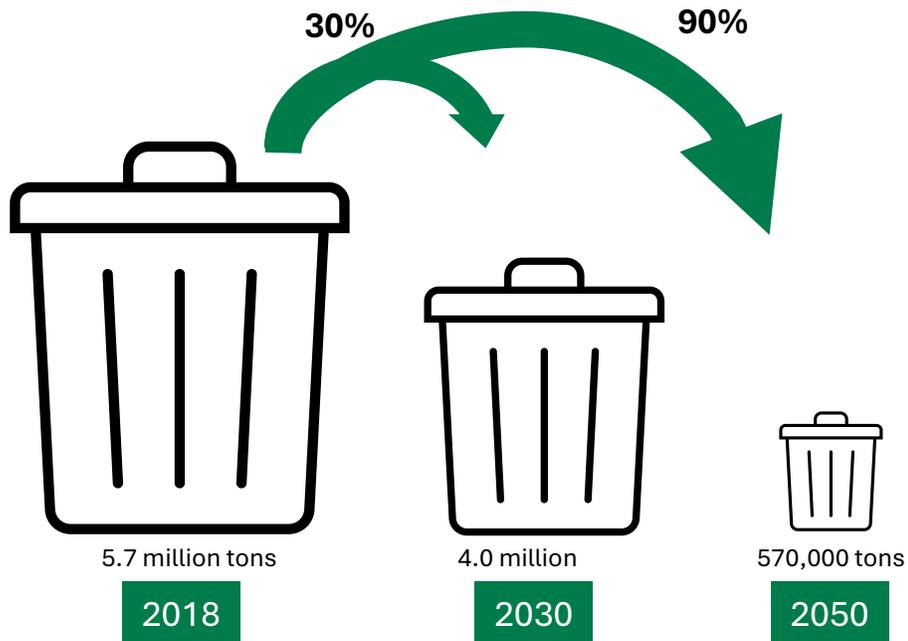
- Education and behavior change
- Tools, resources, and technical assistance
- Grants and financial incentives
- Job training and workforce development
- Networking
- Legislation
- Procurement

MassDEP will continue to meet regularly with our Reduce & Reuse network to assess progress and update strategies going forward.

Background

In the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, MassDEP established the Commonwealth's policy framework for reducing and managing solid waste generated by Massachusetts residents and businesses over the next decade (2020-2030). The plan set aggressive waste reduction goals to reduce waste disposal by 30% by 2030 and by 90% by 2050. MassDEP analyzed waste characterization data to help set priorities for reaching these waste reduction goals most effectively and efficiently.

Massachusetts Waste Reduction Goals Established in the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan



Increasing reuse and donation opportunities for commonly used products, wherever feasible, was identified as a top priority for the state.

Materials identified as priorities for source reduction and reuse include:

- Electronics
- Furniture and appliances
- Single-use packaging and food service products
- Wasted food
- Textiles
- Building materials
- Transportation and distribution packaging

Why Reduce and Reuse?

Many people are familiar with the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – a call-to-action slogan that dates back to the 1970's with the first Earth Day and formation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is generally accepted that the three R's are listed in the order of priority: first reduce waste at the source, then reuse materials for their original intended purpose or a different purpose, and lastly, recycle whatever can't be reduced or reused. This hierarchy places the more environmentally impactful options at the top.

In their report [Completing the Picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change](#) (2019), the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimates that 40% of climate emissions come from products and materials that are part of our everyday lives. Reducing waste in the

manufacturing and distribution of products, increasing product durability, eliminating single-use products, supporting the rental/sharing economy, and extending product lifespan through repair can significantly reduce the raw materials and energy required to produce and transport new products.

In addition to the considerable environmental benefits of waste prevention and reuse, there are also social and economic benefits. Reuse activity has been associated with community building, skill building, and increased access to affordable goods. Many secondhand retail operations further support socially driven missions such as supporting at-risk youth in the foster-care

The reuse economy generates about \$7.3 billion in sales each year in Massachusetts.

Source: 2021 Tufts UEP Study

system, transitioning families out of homelessness, or providing education and workforce training for people with disabilities or disadvantages. In a [2021 study conducted by a field project team at Tufts University in the Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning](#) (UEP) in partnership with MassDEP, it was found that the reuse economy in Massachusetts contributes about \$7.3 billion each year or \$1,067 per capita per year in sales, supporting the local

economy. Based on 2020 data, there are 6,438 secondhand retail, repair, and rental businesses making up nearly 2% of all statewide businesses and about 1% of employment (32,828 jobs).

In this action plan, reduce and reuse are defined as:

- **Reduce:** Decreasing material use and generation at the source (includes the “sharing economy”).
- **Reuse:** Using a material repeatedly in its same form for the same purpose or for different purposes (includes repair and rental).

Developing the Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

The development of the Action Plan in 2021 was supported through MassDEP's [Reduce & Reuse Working Group](#) as a subcommittee of the [MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee](#). Through 12 meetings with more than 400 participants, MassDEP received input from a diverse group of stakeholders. They included the reuse industry, non-profits, small businesses, public officials, environmental organizations, and local reuse advocates. These meetings focused on priority materials identified in the Solid Waste Master Plan, Massachusetts waste composition studies, an economic and spatial analysis of the reuse economy in Massachusetts, and an assessment of the current waste prevention and reuse work throughout Massachusetts and elsewhere. MassDEP and the working group decided early on that this plan would not focus on unwanted food and food rescue given that this is already included in the [MassDEP Organics Action Plan](#).

The working group has evolved into a network of almost 700 members who are periodically brought together via virtual meetings to provide updates on progress made toward this plan and to share knowledge. MassDEP also connects with the network via email to share grant opportunities, local reuse stories, and other ways to engage in state waste reduction efforts. MassDEP will continue to update this document on a periodic basis to reflect progress as well as additional action items that may be added over time.

Barriers to Waste Prevention and Reuse

Over the course of the original working group discussions, several barriers to achieving the Commonwealth's waste prevention and reuse objectives were determined:

- **Cultural:** Consumers lack the knowledge, attitudes or behaviors that would support a greater cultural adoption of waste prevention, reuse, repair and share practices in Massachusetts
- **Access:** There is insufficient access to convenient reuse and repair options in Massachusetts
- **Infrastructure:** Reuse and repair organizations need greater support to maintain and grow their capacity
- **Policy:** Local, state, and federal policies may inhibit reuse and repair
- **Market:** Market trends and product design do not always align with waste prevention and reuse goals

Prioritizing Waste Prevention Strategies

Stakeholders identified over 50 potential strategies to address the barriers described above to bolster waste prevention and reuse in Massachusetts.

To determine which strategies to prioritize for inclusion in the Reduce & Reuse Action Plan, MassDEP used a [prioritization matrix](#). This allowed for a more informed and transparent decision-making process.

MassDEP first assessed which of the identified strategies have the greatest stakeholder support via an online survey, an open comment period, and a meeting of the [Reduce & Reuse Working Group](#) held in March 2021. MassDEP staff then evaluated each potential strategy based on projected impacts and feasibility. It is important to note that some strategies were considered outside the scope of MassDEP’s authority to implement and may require action by the Legislature or other entities.

Prioritization Matrix

Criteria	Scale
Impact: If this is successfully implemented, how impactful will it be in achieving our waste prevention and reuse goals?	High, Medium, or Low
Feasibility: What is the probability that the initiative will be successfully implemented and adopted given institutional and cultural barriers?	High, Medium, or Low
Stakeholder Support: What is the level of stakeholder support for this initiative?	High, Medium, or Low

Measuring Progress

Measuring waste prevention and reuse has always been a challenge since these activities represent the absence of waste generated and can happen in many ways by many different players (i.e., refusing, repairing, sharing, donations, etc.). By tracking reuse activities across the Commonwealth, paired with waste characterization data on disposal tonnage, MassDEP can extrapolate a general estimate of waste avoided through source reduction and reuse. Although MassDEP is primarily focused on the amount of waste diverted from landfills and incinerators, reuse also reduces the greenhouse gas emissions generated during the manufacture of goods and creates significant social and economic benefits that are worth measuring where possible.

Performance Measures (Leading Measures)

Annual demand for MassDEP's waste reduction and reuse resources through the [RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts](#) program; [Recycling and Reuse Business Development Grant \(RBDG\)](#); [Recycling Loan Fund](#); [Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants](#); and [Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant \(SMRP\)](#) programs, can help measure waste reduction and reuse activity in the state. These measures include:

- Number of organizations and municipalities requesting and receiving support (grant awards and technical assistance)
- Total grant money requested and awarded to reduce and reuse initiatives
- Types and range of reuse initiatives receiving support and funding
- Number of technical assistance requests for waste prevention or reuse support
- Number of RecyclingWorks MA hotline calls related to waste prevention and reuse
- Number of individuals and organizations participating in the overall Reduce & Reuse network, including subgroups such as the Deconstruction Workgroup and the Bulky Item Reuse Workgroup
- Number of Recycling Loan Funds requested, and total loan funding provided to reuse related activities

Going forward, MassDEP will consider additional metrics to measure the success of networking opportunities, training, and procurement policies developed because of this Reduce & Reuse Action Plan.

Outcome Measures (Lagging Measures)

There are also several measurements – such as advancement of local access to reuse opportunities, public attitudes and behaviors related to reduce and reuse, the economic “health” of the reuse economy in Massachusetts, and reductions in overall waste disposal in the Commonwealth – that can help quantify impacts of waste reduction activities. Some examples of activities MassDEP will update and report on include:

- Grant program results (project specific) from the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants and relevant RBDG and SMRP grants
- Municipal program development and access to libraries of things and tool lending libraries, repair events, swap shops, and zero waste events
- Reduction in overall waste disposed in alignment with the Solid Waste Master Plan
- Reduction in disposal of priority materials based on waste characterization studies

Mid-Point Review of the Action Plan

As part of MassDEP's 2025 review of the Solid Waste Master Plan, MassDEP held [three public meetings](#) that reviewed progress made so far and next steps for the Reduce & Reuse Action Plan. Each meeting was focused on different priority material streams. An update on implementation status was provided for all key strategies outlined in the Action Plan, and opportunities for stakeholder feedback were provided at each session. Attendees offered comments regarding the ongoing need for storage space for reusable items, as well as the benefits of understanding and promoting the reuse ecosystem across the state.

How to Read the Action Plan

Actions in this plan have been organized by the various strategies or “levers” MassDEP can use to support reduce and reuse initiatives across the Commonwealth:

- Education and behavior change
- Tools, resources, and technical assistance
- Grants and financial incentives
- Job training and workforce development
- Networking
- Legislation
- Procurement

For each action, the timeframe (short, medium, and long term) and status (not started, in progress, completed, or ongoing) are indicated. Timeframes are defined as:

- Short term: 1-2 years
- Medium term: 3-5 years
- Long term: 6-7 years

There are also notes that elaborate on current progress made on actions taken so far.

Highlights indicate updates made in March 2026.

Education and Behavior Change

A common theme discussed in the Reduce & Reuse Working Group is the lack of knowledge, attitudes or behaviors that would support a greater cultural adoption of waste prevention, reuse, repair and sharing practices in Massachusetts. The following actions are intended to address this barrier by increasing understanding of the benefits of reuse throughout the state and making it easier to find local reuse opportunities.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Develop a state-wide education campaign around best practices for reducing waste, increasing reuse and repair, and extending product lifespans.	Short term	Ongoing	<p>While focused primarily on recycling, the Recycle Smart MA initiative regularly addresses waste reduction, reuse, and repair topics through social media channels and the monthly newsletter.</p> <p>Updated 2026: Recycle Smart MA has incorporated reuse education into its RRR-Palooza webinars, ongoing social media posts, and newsletters, including a “Summer of Reuse” in 2022 and a series on circularity in 2024.</p>
Develop an online reuse directory to better connect residents with reuse/repair/share resources across the state.	Medium term	In progress	<p>This directory could expand upon the pre-existing Beyond the Bin search directory and RecyclingWorks MA’s Find-A-Recycler tool to include local retailers who provide repair, share, rental services.</p> <p>Updated 2026: Beginning in 2025, municipalities working to earn CHARM points through the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) must list all material collection points on Beyond the Bin. Textile collection listings expanded substantially as a result.</p>

Create or promote an online calculator to quantify the environmental, social, and economic benefits of reuse.	Long term	Not started	In Winter 2021, MassDEP partnered with a graduate student project team at Tuft's University Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) program on an economic analysis of the reuse sector, which may be used to inform development of an online calculator.
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Tools, Resources and Technical Assistance

Non-profit and for-profit reuse organizations, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and municipalities have expressed the need for greater support starting or successfully maintaining reuse initiatives and programs. Through the [Green Team](#), [Green SWoRD \(School Waste Reduction and Diversion\) Workgroup](#), [RecyclingWorks in MA](#), [Municipal Assistance Coordinators](#) and other MassDEP resources, the following actions are intended to help expand the resources, tools, and technical assistance that would support these organizations.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Expand project planning and materials management guidelines for optimizing reuse in deconstruction and new construction/renovation of buildings, including K-12 school, commercial, and residential construction projects.	Short term	Ongoing	<p>MassDEP developed guidance around K-12 school furniture reuse as well as best management practices for business and institutional furniture and equipment through the RecyclingWorks MA program.</p> <p>RecyclingWorks MA provides resources and technical assistance for commercial construction and deconstruction projects separating materials for reuse.</p> <p>Updated 2026: MassDEP leads and coordinates the state's multi-sector Deconstruction Workgroup, which has held eight webinars since 2022 on a range of topics.</p>

			<p>MassDEP held an in-person Deconstruction and Building Material Reuse Workshop in October 2025, facilitated by Sustainable Performance Institute (SPI). A report with recommendations for planning and resource development is forthcoming in Spring 2026. A state-level interagency workgroup is being developed as one outcome of this effort.</p> <p>MassDEP is engaging with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and the Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Council to foster deconstruction pilots and increased reuse in state construction and renovation projects.</p>
Promote local repair and reuse events, libraries of things, tool lending libraries, and swap shops.	Short term	Ongoing	<p>MassDEP incentivizes local repair and reuse events, libraries of things and tool lending libraries, and swap shops through Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) funds and equipment grants to establish swap shops. Resources for municipalities interested in starting these reuse programs can be found on MassDEP's Municipal Reuse & Repair Programs webpage.</p>
Provide guidance, technical assistance, and start-up funding to assist restaurants, colleges, and universities switching from single-use to reusable food ware systems.	Short term	Ongoing	<p>In December 2020, RecyclingWorks MA developed a guide for Reducing Waste From Restaurant Takeout and Delivery Meals.</p> <p>Since April 2021, MassDEP has provided grant funding through the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant to help businesses, schools, and universities/colleges transition to</p>

			<p>reusable food ware and invest in ware washing.</p> <p>Updated 2026: MassDEP engaged the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and RecyclingWorks MA to develop Best Management Practices for Reusable Takeout Containers at Food Establishments in Massachusetts.</p>
<p>Identify and share model ordinances and bylaws focused on waste prevention and reuse, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food service ware ordinances that reduce the use of single-use packaging. • Historic preservation ordinances stipulating deconstruction and reuse mandates in building projects. • Model procurement policies focused on buying durable, repairable, and refurbished or remanufactured goods. 	Medium term	In progress	<p>MassDEP will gather information on ordinances from other parts of the country and share those that work best for Massachusetts municipalities.</p> <p>Updated 2026: The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant criteria have been modified to include an updated Environmental Preferable Procurement (EPP) Policy, or Sustainable Purchasing Policy. This includes a commitment to reducing waste by prioritizing reuse and donation of goods and equipment; and purchasing products that are durable, reusable, and refillable.</p>
<p>Provide guidance for municipalities, non-profits, businesses, multifamily residences, and park and recreation facilities to address illegal dumping outside of donation bins and at donation centers.</p>	Medium term	Ongoing	<p>Continue to support the MassDEP Strike Force Anti-Dumping Surveillance initiative.</p> <p>Guidance may include identifying and sharing model ordinances/bylaws to regulate placement and management of textile drop-off/donation bins to</p>

			<p>decrease the likelihood of illegal dumping.</p> <p>Updated 2026: MassDEP added website resources for textile recovery to include guidance for properly managing textile drop boxes, including a sample ordinance and regulations.</p>
<p>Identify and promote (or pilot) furniture, fixture, and equipment leasing models to reduce ongoing purchase and disposal of durable items during temporary housing situations like at colleges and universities.</p>	Long term	Not started	<p>MassDEP works closely with colleges and universities through a College and University Forum and newsletter through the RecyclingWorks MA program. MassDEP also partners with the Massachusetts Leading by Example program to deliver assistance to state colleges and universities.</p>
<p>Identify a partner(s) to help foster a refillable one-pound propane gas cylinder program in MA.</p>	Long term	Not started	<p>This program would address small, disposable propane tanks used for camping, portable heaters, lanterns, lawn care equipment, etc. These one-pound propane cylinders pose a major fire hazard and safety concern for waste workers. The refillable program could be modeled after the “ReFuel Your Fun” program in California.</p>
<p>Identify and share best practices for businesses adopting reusable transportation packaging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance for businesses interested in adopting reusable models. 	Long term	Not started	<p>MassDEP delivers technical assistance and guidance through the RecyclingWorks MA program for businesses interested in adopting reusable models.</p>

Grants and Financial Incentives

In addition to providing resources, tools, and technical assistance, many organizations expressed the need for financial support for starting up reduction/reuse initiatives. The following grants and financial incentives are intended to help meet this need.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Provide local businesses, non-profit organizations, and municipalities financial assistance for waste reduction and reuse projects.	Short term	Ongoing	<p>MassDEP's Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant program provides funding to businesses, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and eligible municipalities for short-term waste reduction and reuse projects.</p> <p>The Recycling and Reuse Business Development Grant includes reuse activities for specific materials.</p>
<p>Incentivize reuse programs through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) as well as the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding model reuse ordinances and bylaws to RDP criteria. • Encouraging more frequent community donation and reuse opportunities to make local reuse more accessible. 	Short term	Ongoing	<p>Updated 2026: SMRP offers funding for the establishment of municipal reuse swap shops, as well as Waste Reduction Grants for large-scale reuse projects.</p> <p>Municipalities may earn RDP funds through a grant category dedicated to reuse activities, including 17 options such as swap shops, repair and/or reuse events, libraries of things/tool libraries, deconstruction pilots, and schools utilizing reusable dishware. RDP funds earned may be spent on new or expanded reuse initiatives.</p>

Continue to incentivize Pay As You Throw (PAYT) and Save-Money-And-Reduce-Trash (SMART) Programs .	Short term	Ongoing	MassDEP offers municipalities grant funds for implementing PAYT/SMART programs through the SMRP, as well as financial incentives to adopt PAYT/SMART programs through RDP funds .
Promote residential deconstruction and reuse in home construction and remodeling projects to increase reuse/donation of building materials and to encourage use of local reuse stores.	Medium term	In progress	Updated 2026: MassDEP supports residential deconstruction and reuse through the SMRP as well as the Recycling and Reuse Business Development Grant , in conjunction with RecyclingWorks MA resources and technical assistance for commercial construction projects .

Job Training and Workforce Development

Throughout MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Working Group discussions, a lack of access to and retention of a skilled and semi-skilled workforce was identified by reuse organizations as limiting their capacity to repair, refurbish, transport, and/or process more items for reuse.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Support the development or expansion of training programs for repair and refurbishment of durable goods to foster a culture of repair and support workforce development in the repair sector.	Long term	In progress	MassDEP will connect with K-12, vocational and tech schools, non-profits, social enterprises and other organizations to support existing training programs or the development of new programs focused on repair and refurbishment skill development. Updated 2026: In July 2024, MassDEP hosted a Deconstruction Workgroup webinar focused on workforce development related to deconstruction and building material reuse. The webinar featured several

			speakers, including a local carpentry school and a non-profit focused on trades education.
Coordinate with other state agencies to leverage existing or pilot new workforce development and training programs that support repair, refurbishment, resale, and reuse job skill development and organizations in Massachusetts.	Long term	Not started	MassDEP will reach out to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development's workforce development program to identify opportunities to develop training programs or leverage existing programs that support repair and reuse skills/organizations.
Identify and partner with an organization offering a job training program(s) for home deconstruction.	Long term	Not started	MassDEP will seek to identify existing programs that could provide these training resources.
Partner with K-12 schools, colleges and universities to develop and offer courses on "design thinking" and "design challenges" focused on product durability, repairability and reuse.	Long term	Not started	Updated 2026: MassDEP will consult with local colleges and universities to identify potential opportunities.

Legislation

Local, state, and federal policies that inhibit reuse and repair, as well as legislation that could bolster reuse and repair, were brought up frequently by stakeholders in the Reduce & Reuse Working Group discussions.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Work with municipalities and the Legislature to advance waste	Long term	In progress	Updated 2026: In 2025, MassDEP chaired a legislative commission (Extended Producer Responsibility

<p>prevention and reuse legislation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an effective approach to reduce the use of single-use packaging. • Identify strategies to extend the lifespan of products. • Identify incentives for the purchase of secondhand items. • Provide support for local efforts to enact waste reduction and reuse ordinances and bylaws. 			<p>(EPR) Commission), charged with making policy recommendations on specific EPR approaches and other strategies for products and packaging categories including paint, mattresses, electronics, lithium-ion batteries, plastics and other packaging.</p> <p>In 2024, the City of Newton received a Waste Reduction Grant with a goal of quantifying packaging EPR benefits for Massachusetts municipalities.</p>
<p>Initiate conversations with the Department of Public Health to understand food code requirements for reusable containers at food establishments.</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Updated 2026: MassDEP consulted with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Food Protection Program to understand relevant Food Code requirements, discuss federal role in rulemaking, and identify opportunities to expand reusable container use while protecting public health.</p> <p>This engagement informed the development of Best Management Practices for Reusable Takeout Containers at Food Establishments in Massachusetts. This resource was promoted widely through the Reduce & Reuse network, RecyclingWorks MA's networks, chambers of commerce, and other relevant audiences.</p>

Networking

Without a dedicated statewide organization for reuse and repair, the reuse community lacks cohesion and coordination across the state. MassDEP can help address this by continuing to facilitate and offer networking opportunities for organizations involved in reuse.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Facilitate information sharing and networking opportunities amongst reuse stakeholders.	Short term	Ongoing	<p>In March 2020, MassDEP launched the Reduce & Reuse Working Group to bring together reuse stakeholders from across the state to help develop this action plan. MassDEP continues to convene this group to provide opportunities to network and share information.</p> <p>Updated 2026: MassDEP maintains communication with the group by sharing reuse-related opportunities and success stories through periodic email updates. Additionally, MassDEP has set up a Reduce & Reuse Network Listserv (Google Group) that provides a means for people to share waste prevention and reuse resources, ideas, best practices, fact sheets, and more.</p> <p>MassDEP leads and coordinates the state's multi-sector Deconstruction Workgroup, which has held eight webinars since 2022 and provides ongoing opportunities for networking and information sharing.</p> <p>In 2026, MassDEP, with an experienced steering committee, will begin reuse planning targeting household durable goods, business and institutional furniture, fixtures, and equipment.</p>

			<p>MassDEP hosts quarterly meetings of the Green SWoRD, a network of teachers, facilities and nutrition staff, and other school officials who are passionate about reducing waste in their schools. These meetings are an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and to share reuse/other waste reduction resources tailored for K-12 schools. MassDEP also manages a Green SWoRD website that hosts a collection of school reuse resources.</p> <p>MassDEP hosts an annual summit with textile recovery vendors to discuss challenges and hear what they are experiencing on the ground.</p>
<p>Foster partnerships between contractors and architects to support more building material and furniture, fixtures and equipment reuse in construction projects.</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>This work would build off the existing RecyclingWorks MA guidance and outreach around construction and demolition (C&D) reuse in construction projects.</p> <p>Updated 2026: MassDEP brought together decision makers from various sectors (architects, general contractors, demolition practitioners, C&D processors, building material reuse outlets, and more) at its in-person Deconstruction Workshop in October 2025. The workshop was a space to connect, strategize, and chart a path toward more building material reuse.</p> <p>A steering committee was formed in January 2026 to begin reuse initiatives to address bulky items such as furniture, fixtures, and equipment (residential and commercial).</p>

Procurement

Government procurement is a powerful tool for modeling and leading positive change. Through model procurement policies at both the state and local level, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can help drive greater demand for refurbished, durable and repairable products, both minimizing the environmental impacts of state government purchasing and supporting these vital and often local businesses.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Partner with Massachusetts Operational Services Division (OSD) Environmentally Preferable Products and Services (EPP) program and the Leading by Example (LBE) program to create procurement policies and contracts that drive demand for refurbished, durable, and repairable products at the state and local level.	Medium term	In progress	<p>Several vendors on the OFF38: Office, School and Library Furniture, Accessories & Services state contract offer remanufactured, reconditioned, and refurbished furniture.</p> <p>Updated 2026: Reusable/washable school cafeteria trays are now available on state contract.</p> <p>There is a longstanding state contract for wiping rags made from used textiles.</p>