



# Reduce & Reuse (R&R) Working Group

- ▶ April 30, 2024
- ▶ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET

# Agenda



- ▶ Welcome and introductions
- ▶ Reduce & Reuse Action Plan refresher
- ▶ MassDEP Updates
  - ▶ Deconstruction Workgroup
  - ▶ Reusable takeout containers: best practices for restaurants & bulk retail
  - ▶ Green SWORD reducing single-use plastics in schools
  - ▶ Textile recovery
  - ▶ Grant reminders
- ▶ Next area of focus: bulky items
- ▶ Open discussion and announcements

# Housekeeping

This meeting is being recorded.

Using zoom/chat

Ground rules

# Who's With Us Today



**Janice Paré**  
**MassDEP**



**Kathi Mirza**  
**MassDEP**



**Micaela Guglielmi**  
**MassDEP**



**Gail Sowerder Garron**  
**MassDEP**



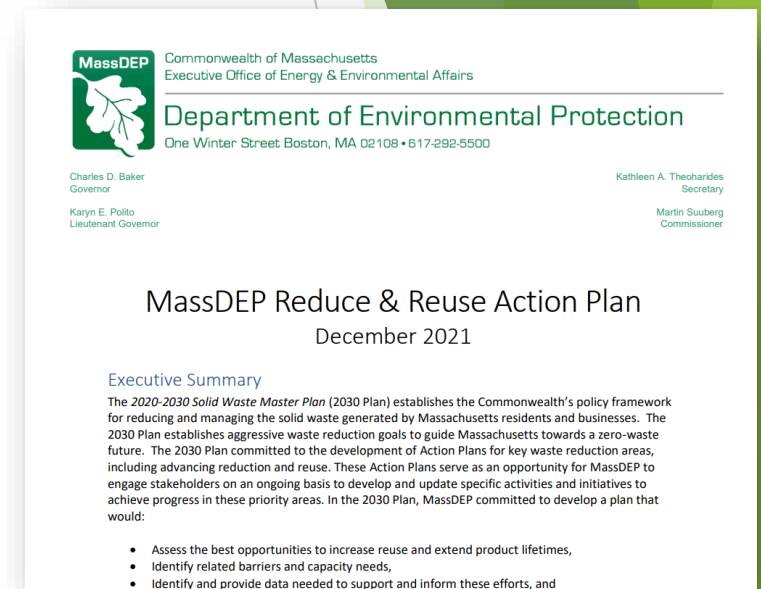
**Leah Kelleher**  
**MassDEP**



**Heather Billings**  
**Recycling Works MA**

# Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

- ▶ MassDEP's vision and strategies to reduce upstream waste generation via reuse and repair.
  - ▶ Identifies barriers, opportunities to increase reuse, and ways to measure progress.
- ▶ Find it on MassDEP's website:  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-reduce-reuse-action-plan-december-2021/download>



# Priority Materials



Single-use  
Packaging



Building  
Materials



Textiles &  
Clothing



Electronics



Household  
Durable Goods



Business & Institutional  
Furniture, Fixtures and  
Equipment

## Long-term strategies from the Action Plan:



Education / behavior change



Tools, resources, and technical assistance



Grants / financial incentives



Job training / workforce development



Networking



Legislation



Procurement

# MassDEP Updates

# MassDEP Deconstruction Workgroup



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# What is deconstruction?

- ▶ Process of dismantling a structure to maximize the recovery of reusable materials.
  - ▶ “Construction in reverse” or “unbuilding.”
  - ▶ Alternative to demolition.

Definition courtesy of Build Reuse



Costello Dismantling, Deconstructing 22 Drydock Ave.



Deconstruction site in Seaport District, Boston

# Goals of the Workgroup

Increase awareness about our waste disposal challenges.

Grow reuse industry in MA for valuable building materials.

Align with MassDEP's R&R Action Plan.

Connect work with climate impacts.

Job training and workforce development.

Support diversity, equity, and inclusion.



# Who Attends These Meetings?

General contractors

Architects and engineers

Deconstruction contractors

Demolition contractors

Historic preservationists

Businesses, institutions, and schools

Reuse organizations

Solid waste and recycling industry

Federal, state, and local officials

Consultants and NGOs



# Recap: Meetings 1-3

## Demystifying Deconstruction

- Defined deconstruction and why it matters.

## Inspiration & Practice: Taking Buildings Apart

- What is possible now?
- What does “better” look like, and how do we get there?

## Reuse Markets for Building Materials

- Markets for deconstructed materials and examples in MA.

30% of ALL discarded materials in MA are from C&D activities.

25 categories of materials that can be captured for reuse.



Doors Unhinged reuse of doors in new construction.

# Recap: Meetings 4-6

## Climate, Culture, and Community

- How reusing buildings preserves historic spaces and lowers our carbon footprint.

## Deconstruction is Happening in MA

- How MA Practitioners capture the value of building materials before demolition.

## Scaling Deconstruction in MA: coming soon

- Policy and larger project examples.
- Next steps toward bigger change.

Mindset changes are needed:  
“Waste is a lack of creativity.”

The greenest building is the  
one already in use.

Deconstruction is climate  
action.



Photos courtesy of MA Historical Commission, and Architecture 2030



# Next Steps

- Developing a workshop focused on deconstruction policy and how to get there.
  - Examples from other jurisdictions.
  - Sector-based feedback
  - Tools, resources, and grants to enable more building reuse and deconstruction in MA.

**To join the Deconstruction Workgroup,  
email [Kathi.mirza@mass.gov](mailto:Kathi.mirza@mass.gov).**

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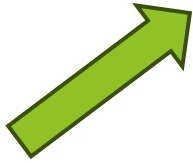
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# Best Management Practices for Reusables in Food Service: Heather Billings

# Project Overview and Goals

- ▶ Developing recommended best management practices (BMPs) for reusable food service ware.
  - For use by local health officials and food service businesses.
  - Enable increased use of reusable service ware.
- ▶ Ensure food safety and consistency with Food Code.

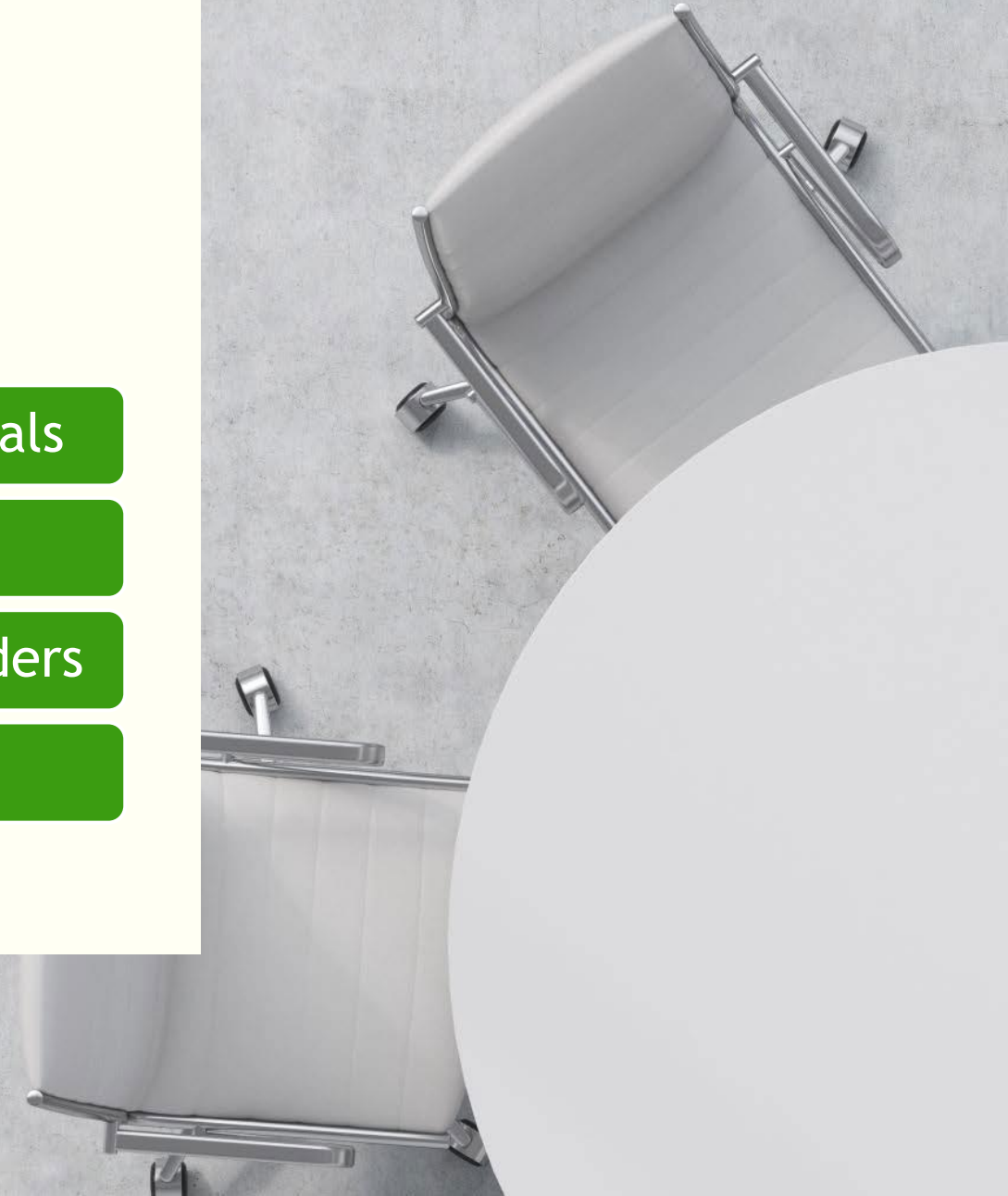
# Key Stakeholders Include:

State, local, and regional public health officials

Restaurant owners and other food services

Professional reusable container/service providers

Environmental advocacy organizations



## Three distinct scenarios have emerged

1. Establishment-provided containers for takeout
2. Consumer-provided beverage containers for takeout
3. Consumer-provided containers: bulk retail

# Establishment-Provided Reusable Containers

- Container selection and inspection
- Collection of used containers
- Washing, sanitizing, drying, and storage



# Consumer-Provided Beverage Containers

- Established practices?
- Suitable container/inspection
- Does size affect price or recipe?
- Does the cup cross the counter?



# Consumer-Provided Containers in Bulk Retail



Suitable container



Determine tare weight



Specify customer filling practices

# Next Steps

- Opportunity to schedule 1-on-1 conversation with RecyclingWorks MA team and/or provide additional input in writing.
- RecyclingWorks MA team will receive written feedback on draft.

Contact RecyclingWorks MA

**888-254-5525**

[info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com)

[heather.billings@cetonline.org](mailto:heather.billings@cetonline.org)

# Questions?

# Reducing Single-Use Plastics in K-12 Schools: Gail Sowerder Garron



# Green SWORD - MA School Waste Reduction & Diversion Working Group

- ▶ Meets virtually 4 times a year.
- ▶ 4 working subgroups meet every 1 to 2 months.
  - Institutionalizing school waste reduction & diversion policies.
  - School organics collection for on-site & off-site composting.
  - School sustainability program kickoff & events.
  - \* Transitioning from single-use disposable to reusable food service ware.

# Transitioning from Single-Use Disposable to Reusable Food Service Ware



Replace polystyrene and compostable trays (PFAS) with reusable trays



Replace dishware and cutlery with durable alternatives



Install dishwashers/refurbish unused machines



Bulk milk or condiment dispensers



Installing water bottle filling stations

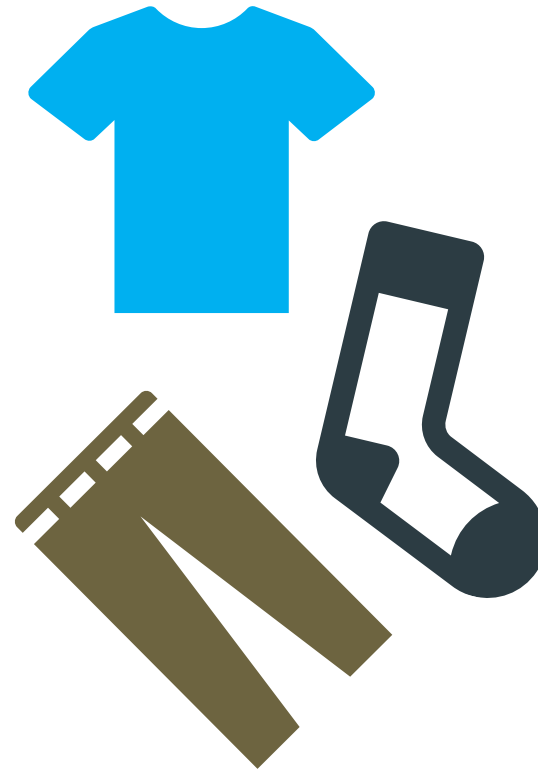
# Join Green SWoRD!

- ❑ Members must be teachers, municipal or school staff, or volunteers at K-12 Schools.
- ❑ To become a member, contact Gail Sowerder Garron at [gail.garron@mass.gov](mailto:gail.garron@mass.gov)
- ❑ Please **REGISTER** for Green SWoRD's next Quarterly meeting on May 8 at 10 AM.

# Questions?

# Textile Updates:

Micaela Guglielmi



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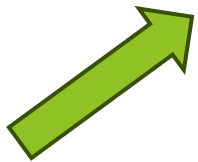
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# Textile Waste Ban

- ▶ In 2022, there were 230,000 tons of textiles in trash (5.2%).
- ▶ Solid Waste Master Plan 2030 Goal: reduce disposal of textiles to 127,000 tons (50% reduction from 2018 baseline of 254,000 tons).
- ▶ In November 2022, MassDEP expanded its waste ban by adding textiles and mattresses.
- ▶ Textiles means clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, fabric, and similar products. Exceptions: textiles that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances.



# Textile Recovery Resources

[www.mass.gov/guides/clothing-and-textile-recovery](https://www.mass.gov/guides/clothing-and-textile-recovery)

 **Mass.gov**

Search Mass.gov


SEARCH

[Home](#) > [MassDEP](#) > [Recycling & reuse](#)

OFFERED BY [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)

## Clothing and Textile Recovery

In November 2022, Massachusetts banned textiles from disposal. Textiles include clothing, footwear, bedding, curtains, fabric, and similar items that are clean and dry. Even if your textiles are worn, torn, or stained, they can still be donated to a textile recycler. Visit [Beyond the Bin](#) below to find a textile collection bin, donation option or recycler near you.



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ✓ [Beyond the Bin](#)
- ✓ [Consumer Donation & Recycling](#)
- ✓ [News & Updates](#)
- ✓ [Textiles by the Numbers](#)
- ✓ [Waste Ban Compliance Assistance for Municipalities](#)
- ✓ [Municipal Regulation of Textile Drop-Off Boxes](#)

# Textile Recovery Resources

[recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search/](https://recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search/)

## Beyond the Bin<sup>MA</sup>



The Beyond the Bin search tool is next level recycle searching. Use it to find out how and where to donate or recycle items that can't go in your home recycling bin and are too good to trash. Choose from the material categories listed or enter a keyword and your location, then choose an option for drop-off, pick-up, mail-in and hit search!

Select a material category  OR Search by keyword

Drop-off, Mail-in, or Pick-up  Enter location

10 mi radius

# Municipal Textile Data

- ▶ 245 (out of 351) municipalities reported that they collected textiles in 2023.
- ▶ Municipal tonnage collected and reported reached all time high of 7,988 tons in 2023 (from municipal collection programs).



# Textile Industry Feedback

How are they collecting the material?

Majority of these companies use **Drop Boxes** as their primary collection method.

Most use one day **collection events** as their secondary collection method.

A few offer residential **curbside pick up** services, some work directly with businesses that generate textiles in house.

# Textile Market Impacts

## What outlets are used for the material they collect?

- All organizations reported an increase in tonnages collected since 2022.
- Majority of textile recovery organizations said they utilize domestic markets for 80% of materials they manage.
- Less than half indicated that they utilize international markets, and those that do, use them on a limited basis.
- Less than 20% of the material collected ends up in the trash (typically non-textile contaminants).

# Textile Industry Feedback

What they want us to know:



Reuse should be prioritized over recycling.



Old clothes and scraps of material don't belong in the trash.  
They have value. More is recyclable and reusable than you think.



The textile industry has a significant environmental impact. Every piece of clothing or textile donated diverts waste from landfills, conserves resources, reduces carbon emissions, and supports a circular economy.

# Questions?

# MassDEP Grant Updates:

Leah Kelleher & Kathi Mirza



# Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants

- For reduce, reuse, and repair projects.
  - Recycling and compost projects not eligible.
  - **Eligible applicants:** Businesses, non-profits, regional authorities, eligible municipalities, and schools/colleges.
- Now up to \$10,000 for short-term projects (year or less).
- Two deadlines in 2024: May 15 and Nov. 15
  - First round of applications NOW OPEN.
  - Second opens Oct. 1.
- Questions? Interested in applying? Please review [grant guidelines](#), on MassDEP's website.

# Past Micro-Grantee Spotlights

44 awards from 2019 to now.

Nearly \$200,000 awarded.

# Innovative Ideas

## Untold Brewing

Reusable  
pallet  
wraps

## Sociedad Latina

Textile reuse  
with youth  
leaders



Untold Brewing reusable pallet wrap

# Reusable Foodware

Stonehill  
College

Reusable takeout  
container tracking system

Recirclable

Metrics for reusable  
take-out containers



Stonehill College students and staff with reusable take-out containers



The Recirclable Team at Shubies

# Repair

**The Byte Shop**

Electronics repair

**Computers 4 People**

New location to collect and refurbish computers



The Byte Shop

# Furniture & Other Bulky Items

## HandUp

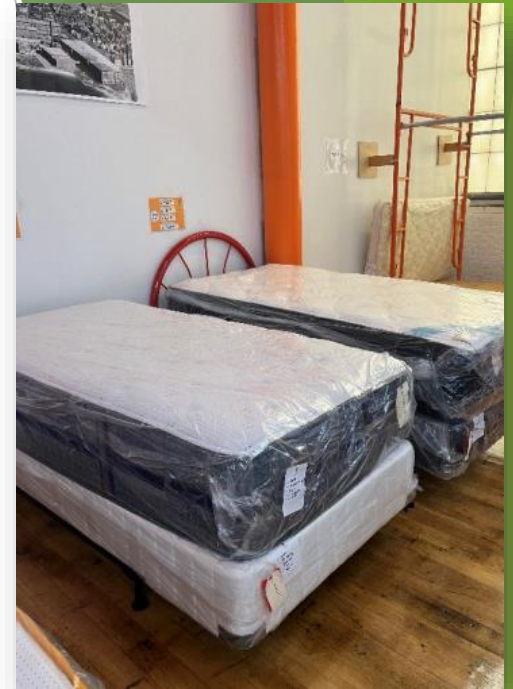
Marketing for  
used mattress  
resale

## Fresh Start Furniture Bank

New furniture  
collection dock

## Urban Missionaries

Expanded  
furniture storage  
at thrift store



Pre-owned mattresses for  
sale at HandUp



Urban Missionaries volunteers moving furniture  
from Little Store's shipping container



Fresh Start's new collection dock

# Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP)

Deadline June 12

## Equipment for Swap Sheds/Shops

- Collect household goods
- Up to \$6,000

## Waste Reduction Grants

- \$20,000 - 100,000
- Communities write and submit proposals.

## Recycling Dividends Program (RDP)

- For municipalities
- Funds awarded for implementing programs and policies that reduce waste and promote reuse.

# Incentives for Municipal Reuse Programs in RDP



Swap shop - open year round



Community repair events



Single-use plastic - local ban on two items or more



Building deconstruction incentives - through permits or pilot



Tool library / Library of Things



Community “Zero Waste” events (e-waste, bikes, textiles, books, etc.)

# Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grant (RBDG)

For collection and processing of target materials. Reuse = area of growth.

- \$25,000 - 400,000
- Must match funds
- Grant closed March 29 with record number of applications.
  - ❖ Excited to share awards later this spring.

Keep on your radar for next winter/spring if you are a collector or processor.

# Questions?



# Next Area of Focus: Bulky Items

# Priority Materials



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## What are bulky items?

Large items in businesses  
and institutions.

(Furniture, fixtures, equipment, etc.)

Household goods from  
community members.

(Large appliances, furniture, etc.)

# Why focus on bulky items next?

Reduce waste and embodied carbon.

Bulky items often mixed with C&D and sent out of state.

Many materials still have value.

Direct to highest use value first.

Opportunities for reuse.

Connect valuable materials with those who need/want them.

Save communities and businesses money in the long run.

Reuse = \$ saved



# Reuse and Repair is Already Happening Across MA





**More to come...**

# Open Discussion

# Join the MA Reduce & Reuse Network

- ▶ A listserv for anyone interested in source reduction and reuse regulations, policies and programs in MA.

Join by emailing: [ReduceReuseNetworkMA+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:ReduceReuseNetworkMA+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

# Resources

- ▶ **Reduce & Reuse Action Plan:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-reduce-reuse-action-plan-december-2021/download>
- ▶ **Past R&R Working Group and Deconstruction Workgroup Meetings:** <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-reduce-reuse-rr-working-group>
- ▶ **Green SWORD:** <https://sites.google.com/view/ma-green-sword-k-12-schools/reusable-food-serviceware>
- ▶ **Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants:** <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/massdep-reduce-reuse-repair-micro-grant>

# Resources

- ▶ **SMRP Grant:** <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-sustainable-materials-recovery-program-smrp-municipal-grant>
- ▶ **RBDG Grant:** <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-recycling-reuse-business-development-grant>
- ▶ **MassDEP Textile Recovery:** <https://www.mass.gov/guides/clothing-and-textile-recovery>

# Reusable Foodware Resources

- ▶ Center for Environmental Health (CEH) and Clean Production Action (CPA) have created the
  - [GreenScreen Certified Standard Reusable Food Packaging, Service Ware & Cookware](#)
- ▶ Massachusetts Merged Food Code: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/merged-food-code-111618/download>
- ▶ FDA food code v. 2013 incorporated within 105 CMR 590.000, 3-304.17
- ▶ Guidance Document for Safe Use of Reusable Containers, Conference for Food Protection: <http://www.foodprotect.org/media/guide/cfp-guidance-document-singlepages-final0623.pdf>
- ▶ Reusable Container Quickstart Guide, Circular Philadelphia: <https://circularphiladelphia.org/staging/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Reusable-Container-Quickstart-Guide-v3.pdf>
- ▶ Toolkit Refilling Consumer Owned Containers: [Toolkit Refilling Consumer\\_owned Containers \\_1\\_.docx](#)
- ▶ Example for share tables at schools: [Variance for Share Tables with Instructions\\_202110291057435553.pdf](#)
- ▶ Example from the Town of Brookline Department of Public Health: [TPHC variance request form 2024.pdf](#)
- ▶ [The New Reuse Economy: The Future of Food Service is Reusable \(an UPSTREAM resource\)](#)

# Connect with us!

**Kathi Mirza:** [kathi.mirza@mass.gov](mailto:kathi.mirza@mass.gov)

**Janice Paré:** [janice.pare@mass.gov](mailto:janice.pare@mass.gov)

**Leah Kelleher:** [leah.kelleher@mass.gov](mailto:leah.kelleher@mass.gov)



Learn more and find previous meeting recordings:

[MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Working Group](#)