

Reduce & Reuse Working Group

MAY 6, 2025
1:00-2:30 PM



MassDEP's Reduce & Reuse Team



Kathi Mirza
Branch Chief
Municipal Waste Reduction
MassDEP



Janice Paré
Municipal Waste Reduction
MassDEP



Leah Kelleher
Municipal Waste Reduction
MassDEP

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Introduce mid-point review of MassDEP's Reduce & Reuse Action Plan
 - Overview
 - The Action Plan and how it came to be
 - Reminder of MassDEP's purview
- Measuring progress
- Deeper discussion: bulky items



Review and Assessment of R&R Action Plan

- Three meetings – each focused on different priority material streams.
- Status update on key strategies outlined in the Action Plan.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback (consider what we've done and potential changes).

Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

Find it on MassDEP's website:

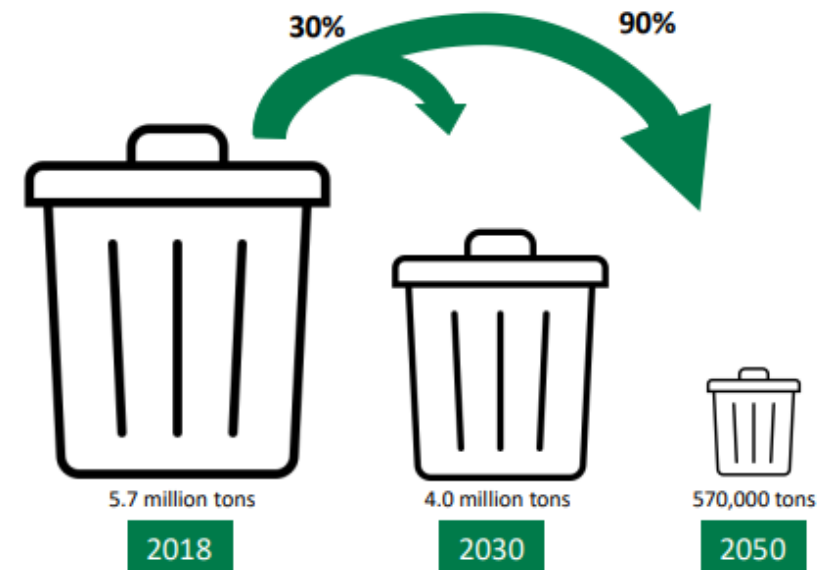
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-reduce-reuse-action-plan-december-2021/download>

Or google “MassDEP Reduce and Reuse Action Plan”

Background

- 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan called for Reduce & Reuse (R&R) Working Group and Action Plan
- R&R Working Group established 2020
 - Series of stakeholder meetings (2020-2021)
 - 655 members to date
- Published R&R Action Plan (Dec. 2021)

2030 Solid Waste Master Plan Goals



Priority Materials



Single-use
Packaging



Building
Materials



Textiles &
Clothing



Electronics



Household
Durable Goods



Business & Institutional
Furniture, Fixtures and
Equipment

Barriers



Cultural (individuals)



Access (individuals)



Infrastructure (reuse organizations)



Policy (the system)



Market driven (trends and product design)

Key Strategies



Education / behavior change



Tools, resources, and technical assistance



Grants / financial incentives



Job training / workforce development



Networking



Legislation



Procurement

What's within MassDEP's purview:

- Grants and financial incentives
- Technical assistance
- Education / outreach
- Network-building

Measuring Progress

- Waste prevention is difficult to measure.
- Can track adoption and impact of reduce and reuse efforts:
 - Grants requested and awarded
 - Project results
 - Technical assistance requests
 - Access to local reuse hubs
 - (Libraries of things, repair events, swap shops, zero waste events, private and non-profit organizations, etc.)
- Waste characterization data

Some High Notes

- Last rounds of grant support:
 - SMRP and RDP - \$470,945
 - Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grant - \$683,000
 - Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants - \$140,000
 - Recycling Business Loans - \$0
- Technical assistance:
 - RecyclingWorks in MA
 - Municipal Assistance Coordinators (MACs)

Priority Materials



Single-use
Packaging



Building
Materials



Textiles &
Clothing



Electronics



Household
Durable Goods



Business & Institutional
Furniture, Fixtures and
Equipment

Bulky items include...

Household durable goods



Business / institutional furniture, fixtures, and equipment



Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Education / behavior change	Develop a state-wide education campaign around best practices for reducing waste and increasing reuse.	Ongoing	Recycle Smart MA social media posts Micro-Grants past grantee spotlights through RSMA
	Develop an online reuse directory to better connect residents with reuse/repair/share resources across the state.	Not started	

Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Tools, resources, and technical assistance (part 1 of 2)	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/home construction projects.	Ongoing	Green SWORD and MassDEP School Furniture Fixtures & Equipment webpages
	Promote local repair and reuse events, tool lending libraries, and swap shops.		MassDEP Reuse & Repair Programs webpage RecyclingWorks Business and Institutional Office Equipment Reuse Guidance and TA Municipal Assistance Coordinator TA
	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.	Not started	

Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Tools, resources, and technical assistance (part 2 of 2)	Identify and share model procurement policies focused on buying durable, repairable, and refurbished/remanufactured goods.	Not started	
	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.	Ongoing	MassDEP Strike Force Anti-Dumping Surveillance initiative.

Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Grants and financial incentives	Provide local businesses, NGOs, and municipalities financial assistance for waste reduction and reuse projects.	Ongoing	<p>Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant: (e.g., Fresh Start Furniture Bank, the LittleStore, several Habitat for Humanity ReStores, HandUp)</p> <p>SMRP Drop-off Recycling Equipment – Swap Sheds</p> <p>Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants (e.g., Wachusett Earth Day)</p> <p>SMRP Waste Reduction Projects - None since 2021</p>
	Incentivize reuse programs through municipal Recycling Dividends Program Funds, encouraging more frequent community donation/reuse opportunities to increase local accessibility of reuse	Ongoing	Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) earning and spending opportunities :

Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Example
Job training / workforce development	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.	Not started	
	Coordinate with other state agencies to leverage existing or pilot new workforce development and training programs supporting repair, refurbishment, resale, and reuse job skill development and organizations in Massachusetts.	Not started	
	Partner with K-12 schools, colleges & universities to develop and offer courses on “design thinking” and “design challenges” focused on product durability, repairability, and reuse.	Not started	

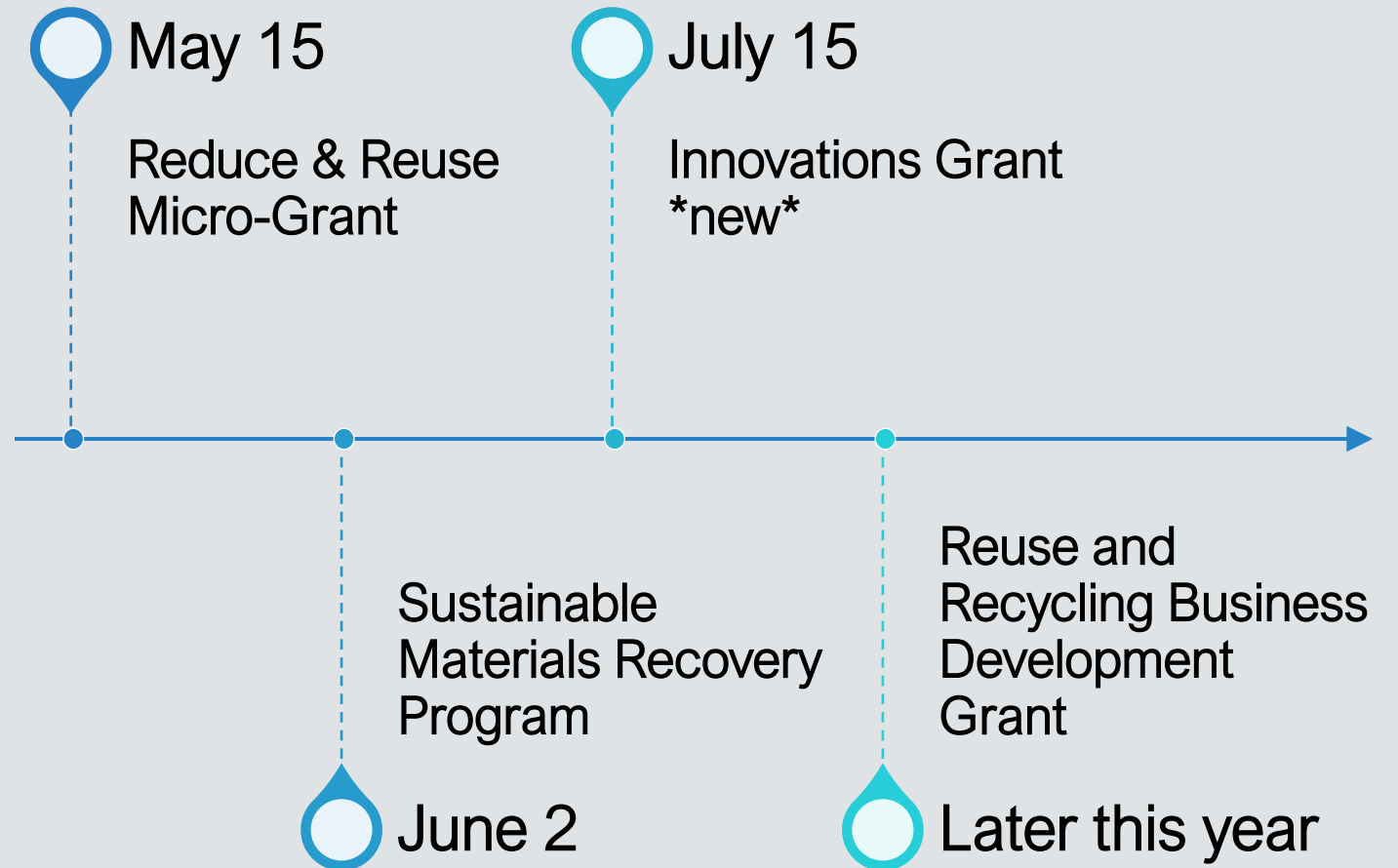
Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Example
Legislation, policies, regulations, and ordinances	<p>Work with Municipalities and the Legislature to advance waste prevention and reuse legislation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Not started	
Networking	Facilitate information sharing and networking opportunities amongst reuse stakeholders.	Developing	<p>R&R meetings / network and listserv</p> <p>Bulky Item Network</p>
	Foster partnerships between contractors and architects to support greater adoption of building material and Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) reuse and recycling in construction projects.	Developing	<p>Deconstruction Workgroup</p> <p>RecyclingWorks website</p>

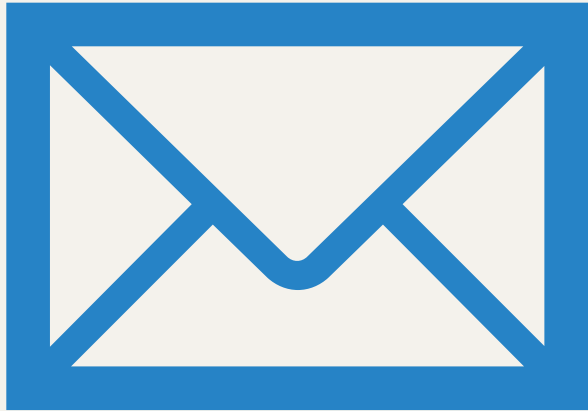
Bulky Items Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Example
Procurement	Work with Mass Operational Services Division Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) and Services program to create procurement policies and contracts that drive demand for durable products at the state and local level.	Developing	EPP procurement policies for municipalities State Surplus Property Program

Grant Deadlines in 2025



Connect with us!



Kathi Mirza: kathi.mirza@mass.gov

Janice Paré: janice.pare@mass.gov

Leah Kelleher: leah.kelleher@mass.gov

Learn more and find previous meeting recordings:
[MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Working Group](#)