

Reduce & Reuse Working Group

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10 – 11:30 AM



MassDEP's Reduce & Reuse Team



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Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Introduce mid-point review of MassDEP's Reduce & Reuse Action Plan
 - Overview
 - Review the Action Plan and how it came to be
 - Reminder of MassDEP's purview
- Measuring progress
- Deeper discussion:
 - Reusable food ware (single-use packaging)
 - Textiles
 - Electronics

Review and Assessment of R&R Action Plan

The process:

- Three meetings – each will focus on different priority material streams.
- Status update on key strategies as outlined in the Action Plan.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback (consider what we've done and whether we need to make changes).

Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

Find it on MassDEP's website:

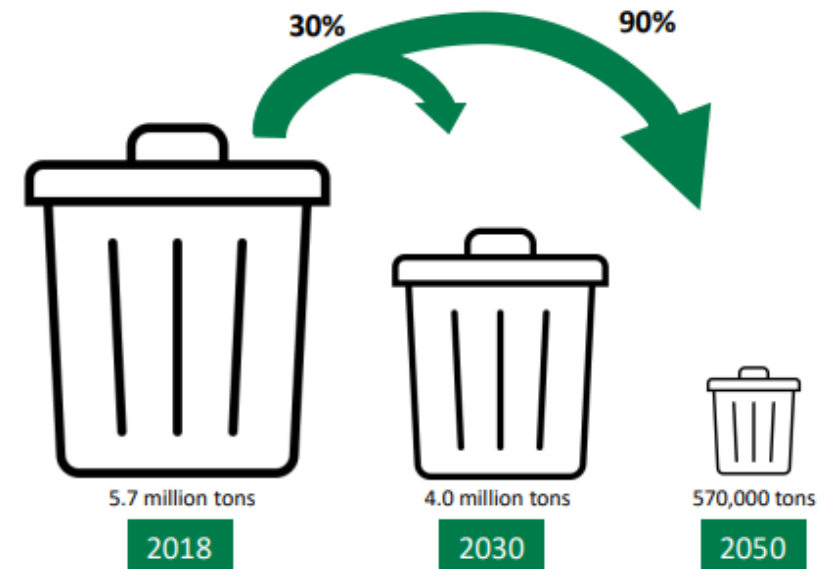
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-reduce-reuse-action-plan-december-2021/download>

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 = 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, 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)

Any questions so far?

Priority Materials



Single-use
Packaging



Building
Materials



Textiles &
Clothing



Electronics



Household
Durable Goods



Business & Institutional
Furniture, Fixtures and
Equipment



Reusable Food Ware (single-use packaging)

Reusable Food Ware 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 newsletter and social media posts Green Team website , activities and newsletter; Green SWORD Case studies from Micro-Grants (ReThink Disposables) and past grantee spotlights
Tools, resources, and technical assistance	Provide guidance and technical assistance to assist restaurants, colleges, and universities switching from single-use to reusable food ware systems.	Ongoing	Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Reusable Takeout Containers RecyclingWorks' BMP outreach and push to adopt RecyclingWorks technical assistance

Reusable Food Ware Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Grants and financial incentives	Provide start-up funding to assist restaurants, colleges, and universities switching from single-use to reusable food ware systems.	Ongoing	Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant (e.g., Recirclable) Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) earning and spending opportunities SMRP Waste Reduction Projects (e.g., New Bedford School District dishwasher installation) Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants (e.g., Re:Dish)
Job training / workforce development	None listed.		

Reusable Food Ware Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Example
Networking	Facilitate information sharing and networking opportunities amongst reuse stakeholders.	Ongoing	R&R meetings / network and listserv Green SWoRD (School Waste Reduction and Diversion Group)
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	Ahimsa EPP procurement policies for municipalities

Reusable Food Ware Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Example
Legislation, policies, regulations, and ordinances	Initiate conversations with the Department of Public Health to understand food code requirements around reusable containers at food establishments.	Complete	DPH vetted Best Management Practices for Reusable Takeout Containers
	Provide support for local efforts to enact waste reduction and reuse ordinances and bylaws.	Ongoing	Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) earning and spending opportunities
	ID and share municipal level model ordinances and bylaws focused on waste prevention and reuse including food service ware ordinances that reduce the use of single-use packaging.	Not started	

Discussion



Textiles

What's in our trash and what's our goal?

- 230,000 tons of textiles in trash (5.2%)
 - Based on 2022 data
- 2030 goal – reduce disposal of textiles to 127,000 tons
 - 50% reduction from 2018 baseline of 254,000 tons
- Part of overall Solid Waste Master Plan waste reduction goals



Textiles Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Education / behavior change	Develop a state-wide education campaign around best practices for reducing waste, increasing reuse and repair.	Ongoing	Recycle Smart MA newsletters, Recyclopedia, social media posts
	Develop an online reuse directory to better connect residents with reuse/repair/share resources across the state.	Ongoing	Beyond the Bin : reuse only
Tools, resources, and technical assistance	Provide technical support for municipalities, businesses, and institutions.	Ongoing	RecyclingWorks in MA technical assistance MassDEP MACs MassDEP Textile Recovery webpage

Textiles 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	Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$758K awarded to five businesses since 2020 Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textile repair• Redistribute reusable textiles/clothing SMRP / RDP points and spending <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum requirement• CHARM point
Job training / workforce development	Support development or expansion of training programs to foster a culture of repair and support workforce development in repair sector.	Not started	

Textiles Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Networking	Facilitate information sharing and networking opportunities amongst reuse stakeholders.	Ongoing	Annual summit with textile recovery vendors Quarterly meetings with SMART
Legislation (including policies, regulations, and ordinances)	Work with municipalities and the legislature to advance waste prevention and reuse legislation, including strategies to extend the lifespan of products.	Complete	Waste ban implemented November 2022
Procurement	Working with Mass Operational Services Division (OSD) Environmentally Preferable Products and Services program to create contracts that drive demand for refurbished products.	Ongoing	State contract for wiping rags

How does the waste ban fit into this?



Developed over period of several years to allow time for market and infrastructure development, outreach and assistance.



Drive infrastructure development supported by grants and loans.



Further supported by education, outreach, and assistance.



Textiles waste ban took effect on November 1, 2022.



Waste ban textiles definition:

Textiles means clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, fabric, and similar products, **except for textiles that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances.**



[FAQs about the Textile & Mattress Waste Bans](#)



Discussion



Electronics

Electronics Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Education / behavior Change	Develop a state-wide education campaign around best practices for reducing waste, increasing reuse and repair, and extending product lifespans.	Ongoing	Recycle Smart MA social media posts, newsletters, and other public outreach.
Tools, resources, and technical assistance	Promote local repair and reuse events, library of things, tool lending libraries, and swap shops.	Ongoing	RecyclingWorks' Business and Institutional Office Equipment Reuse Guidance RecyclingWorks technical assistance MassDEP Municipal Reuse & Repair Programs webpage.

Electronics 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	Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant (e.g., Computers 4 People, The BYTE Shop) Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants SMRP Grants : swap sheds
	Incentivize reuse programs through municipal Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) funds.	Ongoing	RDP earning and spending opportunities for repair events, libraries of things, tool libraries, etc.

Electronics Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Job training / workforce development	Nothing specific noted in the plan.		
Networking	Facilitate information sharing and networking amongst reuse stakeholders.	Ongoing	R&R network and listserv

Electronics Status Update

Strategy	Action	Status	Examples
Legislation (including policies, regulations, and ordinances)	Work with municipalities and the legislature to advance waste prevention and reuse legislation, including:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems for electronics.• Identify strategies to extend the lifespan of products.	Developing Not started	EPR Commission
Procurement	Work with MA Operational Services Division Environmentally Preferable Products and Services program to create procurement policies and contracts that drive demand for refurbished and repairable products at the state and local level.	Not started	

Discussion

Actions Not Associated with a Priority Material

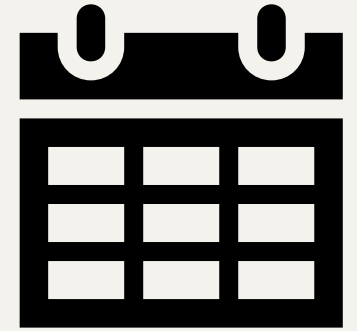
Strategy	Action	Status
Education / behavior change	Develop an online reuse directory to better connect residents with reuse/repair/share resources across the state.	Not started
	Create or promote an online calculator to quantify the environmental, social, and economic benefits of reuse.	Not started
Tools, resources, and technical assistance	<p>Identify and share best practices for businesses adopting use of reusable transportation packaging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide technical assistance for businesses interested in adopting reusable models.	Not started

Actions Not Associated with a Priority Material

Strategy	Action	Status
Job training / workforce development	Support 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
	Partner with schools, colleges & universities to develop and offer courses on “design thinking” and “design challenges” focused on product durability, repairability, and reuse.	Not started

Discussion

Mark your calendars!



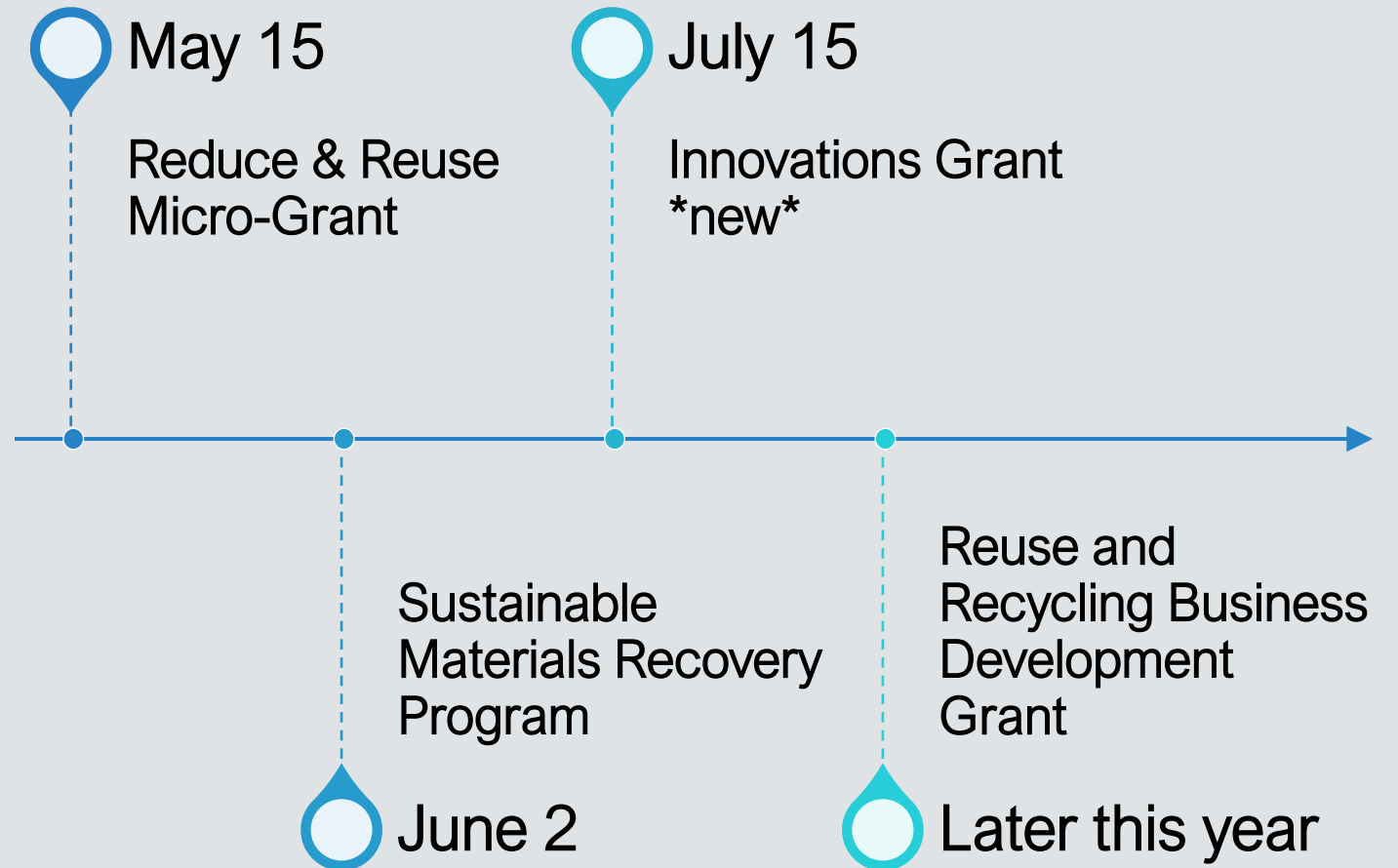
Bulky items (household durable goods and business / institutional furniture, fixtures, and equipment)

May 6, 2025 (1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)

Building materials (Deconstruction Workgroup)

May 13, 2025 (1:30 – 3:00 p.m.)

Grant Deadlines in 2025



Connect with us!



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