

Organics Subcommittee Meeting Summary

November 14, 2016, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

All presentations are posted on the MassDEP website at

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/swac-organics-subcommittee-.html>.

Introductions and MassDEP Updates

John Fischer of MassDEP provided a brief update on the recently announced Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) municipal/regional grant awards.

For more information on SMRP grants, see:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/grants/smrp-grants.html>

John also explained that MassDEP is conducting a survey of colleges and universities to better understand how dining facilities are implementing source reduction measures for food waste, which will be used to develop best management practices down the line.

Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Ban Economic Impact Analysis

Eliza Johnston of ICF presented on a recently completed assessment of the economic impacts of the 2014 Massachusetts waste ban on commercial food waste. ICF surveyed food waste haulers, food rescue organizations and food waste processors about their revenue, employment, and capital expenditures, among other metrics, and used the IMPLAN model to estimate the direct, indirect and induced impacts of this economic activity, based on the survey information.

Q: Does the model take into account the value of loss or shrink from food vendors or landfills?

A: The IMPLAN model is not a full-blown cost benefit analysis. IMPLAN is a good method to look at economic benefits to particular sectors, but does not look at potential losses in other sectors.

Q: How were survey respondents inside and outside of Massachusetts accounted for?

A: The survey was only sent to Massachusetts entities. The survey asked respondents to give information for their Massachusetts activity only.

Q: There were logos in the PowerPoint slide deck, what was the role of those organizations?

A: The organizations with logos in the slides were organizations that had more in-depth interviews conducted to obtain additional qualitative information for the study.

Q: What is the overall implication of this information?

A: These industries are small relative to overall employment in Massachusetts, but there has been significant growth from 2010 to 2016, along with projected continued growth in the year ahead.

Q: Were economic impact analysis projections done for 2017?

A: There was no impact analysis done for 2017 or 2010, however, following the meeting, ICF added some additional information in the report relative to projected growth in employment for 2017.

Q: Why was 2015 selected as the time period for the current employment data?

A: The survey asked for 2015 employment and revenue data so the figures could be based on a full year of data.

Q: Under the opportunities section there was no mention of anaerobic digestion (AD). Is AD not seen as an opportunity?

A: AD did come up in interviews and, though it is not mentioned specifically by name, some of the larger planned facility and capital equipment investments are from anaerobic digestion facilities.

Q: Could the results of this analysis influence larger, more-established companies to get more involved in managing food waste?

A: We do not know how this may affect additional investment, but the data showing growth in the industry along with projected future growth does show promise for business growth.

Recycling Business Development Grant Update & Stakeholder Input

John Fischer from MassDEP gave an update on the recently awarded Recycling Business Development Grants. For Round 2 of the grants, three recycling businesses, each working on de-packaging of food products, received awards totaling \$500,000. John sought feedback on potential new material categories for future grant recipients.

For more information on Recycling Business Development Grants, see:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/grants/rbdg.html>

Q: Is there potential for someone to match companies that have recycling solutions to companies that could use them?

A: It is not MassDEP's role to help businesses market their businesses and source materials. However, other resources certainly may exist (e.g., the Closed Loop Fund).

Q: Are the grants applicable to demonstration or pilot-scale projects?

A: Yes, the grants can be used for demonstration or pilot scale projects, however full-scale projects would tend to be favored over pilot scale, as their market impacts would be greater.