



MassDEP Updates

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 27, 2022

Market Development

- ▶ **Goal**: Foster in-state market development for reusable, recyclable and compostable materials
- ▶ **Target materials**: Food materials, furniture and other bulky materials, glass, textiles
- ▶ **Strategies**: Work with stakeholders to develop comprehensive market development plan

Workgroup (WG) Goals and Schedule

Winter 2022

- ▶ Hold meetings January-March
- ▶ January Meeting-MA Focused
- ▶ February/March Meeting-Focused on region and other state programs
- ▶ Develop initial list of stakeholder program input and suggestions
- ▶ Receive input on Target Materials

WG Goals and Schedule

Spring/Summer 2022

- ▶ Hold 3 workgroup meetings by program category
 - ▶ (e.g., financial assistance, education and outreach, regulations)
- ▶ Define Action Plan framework and strategies by program category
- ▶ List strategies as short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-5 years), or long term (6-10 years)
- ▶ Define target materials

WG Goals and Schedule

Fall 2022/Winter 2023

- ▶ Hold 2 workgroup meetings
- ▶ MassDEP prepare draft plan and obtain stakeholder feedback on draft plan
- ▶ MassDEP management review and approval of Action Plan
- ▶ Post Plan on MassDEP web site and present to stakeholders at WG meeting and at SWAC

WG Goals and Schedule

2023 and Beyond

- ▶ Implement plan
- ▶ Review and update plan as needed
- ▶ Report on progress annually to workgroup

For More Information

- ▶ <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-recycling-market-development-workgroup>
- ▶ Sean Sylver - 617-292-5747 or sean.sylver@mass.gov

Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

- ▶ Updated plan now posted on MassDEP web site
 - ▶ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-reduce-reuse-action-plan-december-2021/download>
- ▶ The Plan categorizes Action Items into short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-5 years) and long term (6-10 years)
- ▶ MassDEP beginning to work on implementation now – focusing on short-term action items
- ▶ Plan to schedule another R&R Workgroup meeting soon to discuss next steps with implementation
- ▶ Will also share updates periodically as we go

Updated Organics Action Plan

- ▶ MassDEP also has posted updated Organics Action Plan
 - ▶ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-organics-action-plan-january-2022/download>
- ▶ Plan is to support Solid Waste Master Plan goal of reducing food waste by 500,000 tons annually by 2030 (from 2018 baseline of 280,000 tons)

Food Waste Diversion Progress

| Processing Type | 2016 Tons | 2017 Tons | 2018 Tons | 2019 Tons | 2020 Tons |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Compost | 79,586 | 52,991 | 42,321 | 40,569 | 33,038 |
| Animal Feed | 26,250 | 26,777 | 39,593 | 40,014 | 8,828 |
| Anaerobic Digestion | 48,234 | 87,856 | 159,563 | 187,947 | 211,215 |
| Other | 13,277 | 12,819 | 8,065 | 9,552 | 38,745 |
| Food Donation | 22,712 | 25,940 | 26,637 | 27,703 | 30,004 |
| Total | 190,059 | 206,382 | 276,180 | 305,785 | 321,829 |

Businesses Diverting Food Waste

| Year | # Businesses Diverting |
|------|------------------------|
| 2014 | 1,350 |
| 2015 | 1,550 |
| 2016 | 1,700 |
| 2017 | 2,250 |
| 2018 | 2,600 |
| 2019 | 3,250 |
| 2020 | 3,200 |

Preventing Food Waste: Data from Food Waste Tracking

| Date Reported | Total MA Commercial Customers | New Annual Food Waste Prevented | Total Annual Food Waste Prevented |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2018 | 145 customers | 1,025 | 1,025 |
| 2019 | 154 customers | 448 | 1,473 |
| 2020 | 296 customers | 169 | 1,642 |
| Cumulative Total Food Waste Prevented | | | 4,140 tons to date |

Plan Structure

- ▶ Preventing food waste at source
- ▶ Food donation & rescue
- ▶ Food waste reduction: large generators
- ▶ Food waste reduction: medium generators
- ▶ Food waste reduction: small businesses and residents
- ▶ Infrastructure & market development

Waste Ban Guidance

- ▶ Updated FAQ on commercial organics waste ban and new FAQ on mattresses and textiles
 - ▶ <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-material-specific-compliance-assistance->
- ▶ Will add additional questions and answers as they come up

Solid Waste Regulation Revisions

- ▶ Have been reviewing comments received from this fall
- ▶ Now moving forward with development of public hearing draft and preparing public hearing package
- ▶ Goal is to issue draft regulations for public comment in 2022

Bulky Waste Characterization Study

- ▶ MassDEP will be hiring a consultant to conduct a study to characterize bulky waste loads received at C&D handling facilities
- ▶ Will be conducted in spring 2022
- ▶ Focus on identifying percentage of bulky waste loads that are waste ban materials or other recoverable materials

Solid Waste Annual Reporting Deadline

- ▶ Deadline for 2021 annual reports for solid waste facilities, general permits and RCC permits is February 15, 2022
- ▶ MassDEP plans to enforce timely reporting for 2021 to ensure timely preparation of program data and compliance assessment

Recycling & Waste Reduction Innovations Grant Program

- ▶ New grant program announced in 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan
- ▶ Initial estimated budget \$1 million annually
- ▶ Proposed program focus & goal:
 - ▶ Support the development of innovative equipment, strategies, approaches, and knowledge that can enable significant waste reduction growth and/or substantially improve Massachusetts' waste reduction infrastructure

Proposed Eligible Materials

- ▶ Projects to reduce the disposal of any material in MSW or C&D
- ▶ Projects to reduce the toxicity of the waste stream

Proposed Eligible Entities

- Municipal and regional government agencies
- Non-profits
- Colleges and universities
- Businesses within Massachusetts

Proposed Eligible Activities

- Research and development
- Technology or product development, testing, and evaluation
- Pilot project implementation
- Collection efficiency improvements
- Processing efficiency improvements
- Development of new markets for recyclable or compostable materials

Proposed Project Size

- Determine whether a preference to fund:
 - Small number of large projects (e.g., 5 grants at \$200k each)
 - Medium number of medium projects (e.g., 20 grants at \$50K each)
 - Many small projects (e.g., 100 grants at \$10K each)
 - Or some mix of the above

Proposed Project Timeframes

- Ability to fund multi-year projects
- But want project proposals ready to begin quickly
- Challenging to manage long term grants, particularly if award on annual cycle
- Preference to limit to two-year projects

Proposed Evaluation Criteria

- “Game changing potential”
- Direct project
 - tonnage reduction, toxicity reduction, technology development, and/or knowledge gain
- Environmental justice benefits
- Quality/clarity of proposal
- Likelihood of project success
- Ability to grow and expand
- Potential for job growth and economic development
- Amount of project match