

Recycling Market Development Draft Action Plan



June 13, 2023

AGENDA

- Brief recap
 - RMD Meetings 1-6
- RMD Action Plan Summary
 - Plan Structure
 - Business Support and Economic Development
 - Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products
 - Research and Development
 - Open Discussion and Q&A

Recap of Meetings 1-6

- Meeting 1 – Intro
 - MassDEP Market Development Programs
 - OSD Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
 - MassDevelopment
 - Mass Office of Business Development
- Meeting 2 – Regional and National Perspectives
 - NERC and Circular Matters
- Meeting 3 – Business Support & Economic Development Strategies
- Meeting 4 – Demand Side Strategies
- Meeting 5 - Education, Outreach, Networking, and Information Sharing
- Meeting 6 – Research and Development
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-recycling-market-development-workgroup>

Plan Structure

- Like other MassDEP Action Plans, written at high level
- Details developed within individual programs and initiatives
- Organic Plan that is modified over time

Plan Structure

- The recommended action items in this Plan are divided into three sections:
 - 1. Business Support and Economic Development Strategies to Expand Recycling Market Infrastructure
 - 2. Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products
 - 3. Research and Development Strategies for Products, Equipment, and Technologies

Plan Structure

- Status – typically described as either “ongoing” or “not yet started.” Will be marked as “complete” where appropriate.
- Time Frame – Action items in the Plan are assigned a time frame for when they will be implemented, as follows:
 - Short term – 1-2 years (if the action item is an ongoing program, it will continue beyond the 1-2 year time frame.)
 - Medium term – 3-4 years
 - Long Term – 5 years or more

Business Support and Economic Development

- Focus:
 - Deliver funding via grants & loans to meet capital funding needs
 - Connect businesses with guidance and assistance
 - Ensure opportunities marketed to minority-owned businesses & businesses in Environmental Justice communities
 - Partner with workforce development & job training programs to grow recycling workforce
 - Reduce or better manage contaminants in incoming streams

Business Support and Economic Development

- Evaluation metrics:
 - Recycling infrastructure & jobs created through grant and loan programs
 - Number of businesses supported through training programs and assistance
 - Grant applications from minority-owned and other certified businesses through the State's Supplier Diversity Office
 - Reductions in residual levels at materials recovery facilities accepting single-stream recycling

Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products

- Focus:
 - Increase recycled content of products and packaging
 - Drive increased purchases of recycled content products
 - Ensure consistent supply to support recycled content investments
 - Discuss potential legislative approaches

Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products

- Evaluation metrics:
 - Amount of recycled content products purchased through state contracts
 - Measures of engagement through outreach activities and workshops
 - Results of pilot purchasing projects

Research and Development

- Focus:
 - Improve sorting & processing technologies to separate higher quality feedstocks
 - Develop ability to transition products from “lab scale” to commercial scale
 - Test recycled content feedstocks to verify they meet applicable industry specifications
 - Develop new and previously untested applications for recycled content feedstocks
 - Encourage design of products/packaging for reuse or recyclability

Research and Development

- Evaluation metrics:
 - Develop in-state network of research program capabilities and areas of expertise
 - Results of research projects, including:
 - new product applications
 - improved processes & technologies
 - verified product or process performance

Discussion and Q&A



Next Steps

- Draft Plan available for review at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-recycling-market-development-action-plan-june-2023/download>
- MassDEP accepting comments through July 31, 2023
- Send comments to dep.swmp@mass.gov
- MassDEP will post revised plan in Fall 2023
- Will update periodically as needed to reflect progress and needed shifts and adjustments