

# Grant Updates

SWAC

April 16, 2026



# Waste Reduction Innovations Grant

- First program application issued in 2025
- Two grant categories
  - Category 1- Start up and Pilot Projects
  - Category 2 – Innovative Capital Investment
- Category 1 awards will be announced shortly
- Category 2 projects require more time, so will be announced later this year

# Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants (RBDG)

- Application closed on April 3, 2026
- Received 33 applications requesting \$6.9 million in funding
  - 14 collection applications for \$2.0 million
  - 19 processing applications for \$4.9 million
- Currently in review and evaluation process
- Estimated Budget: \$3 million

# Reduce/Reuse/Repair

## Micro Grants

- [Application](#) posted on April 15, 2026
- Grants from \$3,000 to \$10,000
- Estimated budget: \$200,000
- Eligible Entities: Businesses, institutions, non-profit orgs., municipalities
- Eligible: Donation, sharing, rescue, reuse & repair
- Project term up to one year
- Not eligible: Recycling, composting, etc.
- Applications due by 5 PM May 15, 2026

# Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP)

- [Application](#) is now open
- For municipalities & regional groups
- Equipment grants – multiple categories
  - Drop-off recycling equipment
  - Food waste collection carts
  - Pay As You Throw
  - Waste Reduction/Organics Capacity/HHW Facility
  - Regional Small Scale Initiatives
- Recycling Dividends Program
- Applications due June 1, 2026

# SMRP Budget

## SMRP Budget

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total # Grants</b>	<b>Other SMRP Grants</b>	<b>RDP &amp; SS Funding</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
2021	266	None	\$3.2 M	\$3.2 M
2022	314	\$750 K	\$3.4 M	\$4.2 M
2023	311	\$1.5 M	\$3.7 M	\$5.2 M
2024	323	\$1.1 M	\$3.1 M	\$4.2 M
2025	347	\$1.1 M	\$3.0 M	\$4.1 M
2026	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$4.0-4.5 M

# Solid Waste Master Plan 2025 Program & Policy Assessment



SWAC

April 16, 2026

# Topics to Cover

- Process
- Background
- Recommendations by Program Area
- Next Steps

# Process

# Stakeholder Meetings

- Held a total of 17 meetings in 2025 at which we sought input
  - Solid Waste Advisory Committee
  - Construction & Demolition Materials Subcommittee
  - Hazardous Household Products Workgroup
  - Organics Subcommittee
  - Reduce & Reuse Working Group
  - Recycling Market Development Workgroup

# Background

# Solid Waste Disposal Trends

	2018 Tons	2024 Tons	% Change
<b>Municipal Solid Waste</b>	4,510,000	4,500,000	0%
<b>Non-Municipal Solid Waste</b>	1,140,000	1,710,000	50%
<b>Total Solid Waste Disposal</b>	5,600,000	6,220,000	10%

# Other Related Trends

- Gross Domestic Product by State – up 40%
- Population rose 3.4% - not significant factor

# Hazardous Household Products

- 82% of residents have access to at least one collection event per year
  - Up from 78% in 2018
  - Need for more frequent and convenient collection events
    - esp. for higher volume materials
  - Management capacity is limited and strained

# Legislative Matters

# Mass Ready Act

- Governor Healey proposed legislation June 24, 2025
- Bond funding bill addresses a number of priority needs
- Includes \$28 million to support solid waste and recycling programs and advance goals of SWMP

# EPR Commission

- Will cover in more detail in next presentation
- Report published January 2026
- Recommended support for EPR legislation for paint, mattresses, batteries, and electronics
- Recommended further study for plastics and other packaging – needs assessment

# Waste Disposal Bans

# New Disposal Bans

- Lowered threshold for food waste ban from 1 ton to ½ ton per week and added mattresses and textiles  
November 2022
  - Food waste reduction addressed in organics section
  - Textile recovery up 17% from 2022 to 2024
  - Mattress recovery more than doubled from 170K to 400K
- Discussing potential further expansion of food waste disposal ban
  - Addressed in organics waste reduction section

# Waste Ban Inspections and Enforcement

- New waste ban inspectors hired
- On track to exceed goal of 200 inspections per year
- Waste ban failed load percentage down from 25% to 24% even with addition of new materials
- Expanded use of request for information letters
- Increase engagement with local public health officials
- Connect with RecyclingWorks in MA assistance

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- With expanded staffing rolling out expanded waste ban outreach in 2026
- Business and institutional focus including:
  - Direct outreach to business groups – trade associations, chambers of commerce, sustainability groups
  - Coordination with interested local public health officials
  - Meeting presentations, webpage postings, newsletters, etc.
  - Connecting with RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts outreach and assistance

# Source Reduction & Reuse

# Reduction & Reuse Programs

- Reduce/Reuse/Repair Micro grants
  - Increased grant cap from \$5k to \$10k
  - Awarded more than \$500K to 95 organizations
- Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants
  - Five grants for \$400K to reuse operations
- Deconstruction
  - Workgroup led to Workshop held in fall 2025
  - Recommendations coming in spring 2026
- RecyclingWorks in MA published BMPs for reusable takeout food service ware

# 2026-3030 Priorities

- Continue focus on deconstruction and reuseable food service ware
- Next priorities will include durable and bulky household goods and institutional furniture and fixtures
- Spread successful practices through strategic outreach and assistance

# Organics Waste Reduction

# Food Waste Reduction Progress

- # of businesses with food waste collection up from 2,310 in 2018 to 4,150 in 2024
- Invested nearly \$5 million in grants and loans
- 2024 food waste reduction 370K tons up from 100K tons baseline
  - Still 410,000 tons shy of 2030 goal
  - Still 930K tons/year disposed in trash
- Progress in recent years has plateaued

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- Continue to expand use of requests for information
- Build residential programs through grants and assistance
  - Already 160 municipalities have some form of program
- Continue to invest grants and loans to expand food waste infrastructure
- Support sustainable increased food donation & rescue
- Develop updated Organics Action Plan to support potential expanded waste ban

# Residential Waste Reduction

# Municipal Waste Reduction Progress

- Awarded nearly \$30 million in grants to municipalities since 2020
- Continued to grow the RecycleSmart MA education and outreach program
  - About 15% of our recycling stream is contamination, which significantly increases the cost of recycling
- Established municipal workgroups through our Municipal Assistance Coordinators

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- Continue to invest in municipal infrastructure focused on areas of greatest additional diversion
  - Priority areas include food waste and bulky items such as furniture and other durable household goods
- Raise awareness of the RecycleSmart MA program to ensure greater program impact

# Hazardous Household Products

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- Expand collection infrastructure to provide more convenient collection opportunities
  - Continued municipal grants
  - RBDG grants for privately run permanent centers
  - Provide municipalities with equipment to collect damaged and defective lithium-ion batteries
- Provide support to Legislature to implement recommendations of EPR Commission

# C&D Materials Reduction

# C&D Waste Reduction

- Implemented Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) to establish level playing field for C&D facilities
- Established Deconstruction Workgroup and held Deconstruction Summit
- Annual C&D disposal increased by 280,000 tons from 2018-to 2024
- Overall non-MSW disposal up by 50% from 2018 to 2024

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- Continue to increase the MPS separation rate to 25%
- Foster growth of deconstruction practices and other practices to capture value of existing buildings
- Advance reuse infrastructure for building materials and related materials like furniture and fixtures
- Invest in end market outlets for priority materials including wood, gypsum wallboard and asphalt shingles

# Market Development

# Market Development Progress

- Established Action Plan in 2024
- Launched new Innovations Grant program in 2025
  - First grant round awardees to be announced shortly
- Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants
  - 56 grants for \$5.5 million awarded since 2020
- Recycling Loan Fund
  - 13 loans for \$3.8 million awarded since 2020
- Published Recycling Business Assistance Guide in 2024

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- Focus grants and loans on priority materials
  - Food waste, textiles, glass, bulky household goods, building materials and single-use food service ware
- Deliver business planning course for waste reduction businesses
  - Through Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)
  - Provide foundation for a waste reduction business accelerator program

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- Fund recycled product testing by state & local governments
- Work with other state agencies to increase purchasing of recycled content products in transportation & facility maintenance applications
  - Mass Facility Management Assoc.
  - Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance
  - Mass Dept. of Transportation
  - Department of Conservation and Recreation

# Solid Waste Facility Oversight & Capacity Management

# Key Program Work

- Implementing tiered testing for PFAS compounds at closed landfills
- Completed comprehensive review of solid waste regulations

# 2026-2030 Priorities

- 2026-2027 – advance draft regulations through public comment and hearing process
- Continue to expand PFAS testing at closed landfills
- Will accept stakeholder comments on proposal to establish limits on carbon dioxide emissions from municipal waste combustion facilities under 310 CMR 7.74: Reducing CO2 Emissions from Electricity Generating Facilities

# Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Continue to implement Action Plans
- Review and update as needed
- 2028 – begin initial planning for 2040 Solid Waste Master Plan

# Contact Information

- John Fischer – [john.fischer@mass.gov](mailto:john.fischer@mass.gov)

EXTENDED  
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY  
COMMISSION  
SWAC

April 16, 2026



## **Massachusetts Governing Law: Chapter 239 of Acts of 2024, Section 108**

EPR was part of the Clean Energy Law.

“There shall be a special legislative commission to recommend to the general court extended producer responsibility policies for the commonwealth.”

It specifies 21 members the Commission shall have and states that the MassDEP Commissioner or a designee shall serve as chair.

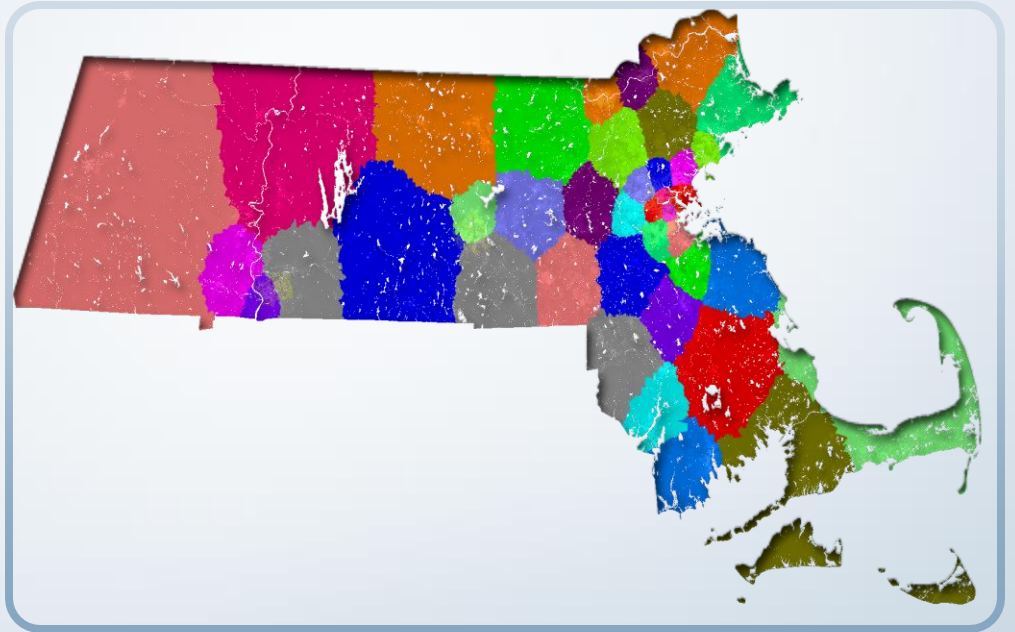
The Commissioner designated Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning John Beling.

**Other members include:**

- Government officials and legislators
- Recycling and packaging industry representatives
- Municipal employees
- Nonprofits such as environmental justice groups



Members are from all over the state because the law specified that the Chair shall consider geographic diversity in making appointments to the Commission.



## POLICY RECOMMENDATION MANDATES

Law requires that Commission make policy recommendations in 5 areas:

- 1) Specific EPR **approaches** and **strategies** for product and packaging categories including, but not limited to, paint, mattresses, electronics, lithium-ion batteries, plastics and other packaging;
- 2) a proposed structure for each product and packaging category including **collection, processing** and **financial responsibility**;
- 3) information on **cost impacts** of residential curbside collection or transfer station operations, on-site processing costs for each readily recyclable material type, management costs of non-readily recyclable materials and other cost factors;
- 4) methods for **incentivizing** product and packaging production to encourage material reduction, reuse and lifecycle extensions; and
- 5) impacts on waste generation and waste stream **contamination reduction**.



## MEETINGS

- Law required that the Commission hold no less than 4 public meetings and solicit public comment
- Ultimately, Commission held 7 meetings of the whole Commission
- There were also 2 Advisory Groups established comprised of some Commission members plus members of the public to delve deeper into 2 of the product categories: Electronics and Plastics/Packaging; each of those groups held 2 meetings
- Meetings had to comply with the Open Meeting Law because the EPR Commission was a public body

Clerks of the  
Senate and  
House of  
Representatives

By January 15, 2026,  
Commission was  
required to issue initial  
recommendations  
and related findings  
to:

Senate and  
House  
Committees on  
Ways and Means

Joint Committee on  
Telecommunications  
, Utilities and Energy

MassDEP  
was also required  
to publish  
recommendations  
and related findings  
on its website

Joint Committee on  
Environment and  
Natural Resources

## WEB PAGE

MassDEP's solid waste program established a web page on Mass.gov for the EPR Commission:

[www.mass.gov/info-details/extended-producer-responsibility-commission](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/extended-producer-responsibility-commission)

- List of members
- Meeting information, including agendas, notes, slides, and recordings
- Public Comment: Read others' comments and MassDEP's responses



# Benefits of Implementing EPR

## Environmental



- ❖ Divert millions of materials from disposal
- ❖ Reduce illegal dumping

## Community



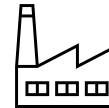
- ❖ Convenience to residents
- ❖ Foster equity and access across state

## Economic



- ❖ Taxpayer savings by reducing municipal collection and disposal
- ❖ Create jobs; expand markets

## Commercial



- ❖ Incentivize producer innovation
- ❖ More easily and accurately report on carbon footprint

# Categories of EPR products discussed by Commission

Paint



Mattresses



Batteries



Electronics



Plastics & Packaging



## PAINT

- In Massachusetts 1.8 million gallons (equaling 6100 tons) of leftover paint is generated annually
- 67% is discarded and ends up in combustion facilities or landfills
- Paint is highly recyclable
  - Can be reused or recycled back into paint or non-paint products
  - Can even be used as industrial fuel



## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PAINT

- Commission recommended enactment of an existing Paint EPR program operating in 10 other states including all New England states but MA and NH
- Commission acknowledged proposed paint EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts Legislature at the time of report publication: H.886, which includes aerosol-based paint, and S.647
- Both bills call for the establishment of a postconsumer paint product stewardship program



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



## MATTRESSES

- More than 600,000 mattresses and box springs are discarded annually in Massachusetts
- In 2022, mattresses were added to waste disposal bans in 310 CMR 19.017, meaning they cannot be disposed in a landfill, combustion or transfer facility unless contaminated
  - As of 2024, an estimated 399,000 mattresses and box springs were recycled or reused

## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MATTRESSES

- Commission recommended enactment of an existing mattress EPR program operating in other states including CT & RI
- Commission acknowledged proposed mattress EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts Legislature at the time of report publication: H.1023, H.3985, and S.614 but did not endorse any specific bill
- H.1023 incorporates some of the elements contained in Oregon's updated law, which the Commission recommended exploring





## BATTERIES

- Massachusetts residents discard approximately 6,000 tons of batteries annually
- State Fire Marshal reported that there were 135 fires that can be attributed to lithium-ion batteries across the state in 2024
- Access to battery recycling facilities varies across the state, with up to 17% of residents having no access to these services

## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BATTERIES

- Commission unanimously recommended enactment of battery EPR similar to 14 other states plus DC
- Commission acknowledged proposed battery EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts Legislature at time of report publication: H.968 and S.556, but did not endorse any specific bill
- Commission recommended the development and implementation of a program that aligns with the Rechargeable Battery Association (RBA) model legislation to the greatest extent possible



## ELECTRONICS

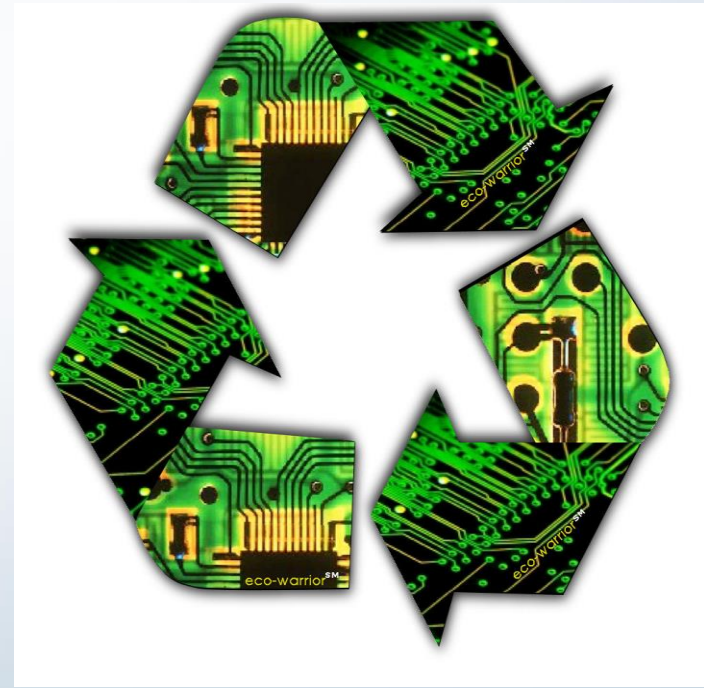
- Includes computers, laptops, tablets, monitors, televisions, printers, computer peripherals, fax machines, DVD players, VCRs, portable music players, game consoles, digital converter boxes, cable/satellite receivers, scanners, small-scale servers, routers, modems
- Average American household has 24 devices, and these have increasingly shorter life spans
- Although electronics in solid waste has actually been declining since 2015, many still contain toxic components including lead, cadmium, arsenic, nickel, and flame retardants



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELECTRONICS

- Commission endorsed enactment of legislation to establish an EPR program for electronics
- Commission acknowledged proposed electronics EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts Legislature at time of report publication: H.1015 and S.653, but did not endorse any specific bill
- S. 653 would shift the burden for collection and recycling of computer products from local governments to electronics manufacturers with the goal of incentivizing manufacturers to re-design products to be less toxic, more durable, and easier to recycle



## PLASTICS & OTHER PACKAGING

- Massachusetts residents generate approximately 4.3 million tons of municipal solid waste each year, and packaging materials account for almost 1/3 of that
- Massachusetts' residential recycling rate is around 27%
- Massachusetts Municipal Association reports an 18% increase in solid waste and recycling processing costs between 2021 and 2024, likely the result of more single-stream recycling programs statewide



## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLASTICS & OTHER PACKAGING

- Commission recommended further exploration through a subcommittee of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee along with legislative funding for a needs assessment.
- Commission acknowledged proposed plastics and other packaging needs assessment legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts Legislature at time of report publication: S.570, but did not endorse any specific bill
- S. 570 bill would direct MassDEP to provide a statewide needs assessment identifying and recommending the policies and infrastructure that would be required to implement an EPR program covering packaging and printed paper



THANK YOU!!!



# 2025 Waste Characterization Data



SWAC

April 16, 2026

# Points to Keep in Mind

- Municipal solid waste (MSW) waste
- Data from Mass municipal waste combustors
  - 66% of MSW disposal
- 2024 MSW disposal = 4.5 million tons
  - 2025 disposal not available yet
- Studies conducted every 3 years
- Alternate between spring/summer and winter/fall sampling periods

# Points to Keep in Mind

- Most data I will show are total MSW, but also have residential and ICI data
  - ICI = Industrial/Commercial/Institutional
  - Will highlight for a few materials
- Total is always 100%
  - We cannot reduce all of the percentages
  - If one material goes down, another must go up

# Paper

	2010 Winter/ Fall	2013 Spring/ Summer	2016 Winter/ Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/ Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Total Paper	25.8%	24.7%	21.7%	21.0%	21.8%	23.6%
Cardboard/Kraft Paper	8.7%	7.3%	9.2%	5.4%	5.8%	4.2%
Compostable Paper	6.2%	7.8%	5.8%	8.7%	7.2%	9.6%

# Cardboard – Residential vs. ICI

- 2022 Total – 5.8%
  - Residential – 2.9%
  - ICI – 8.5%
- 2025 Total – 4.2%
  - Residential – 3.0%
  - ICI – 5.1%

# Compostable Paper – Residential vs. ICI

- 2022 Total – 7.2%
  - Residential – 7.8%
  - ICI – 6.7%
- 2025 Total – 9.6%
  - Residential – 10.2%
  - ICI – 9.3%

# Plastic

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Total Plastic	13.9%	14.4%	13.1%	15.9%	15.0%	18.2%
Plastic MA Deposit Beverage Containers	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%
Bulk Rigid Plastic Items	2.7%	2.2%	1.6%	0.9%	1.8%	2.7%
Other Film means plastic film	3.7%	4.4%	4.8%	6.5%	5.7%	7.5%

- **Other Film** includes garbage bags sandwich bags, re-closeable bags, produce bags, frozen vegetable bags, food wrappers such as candy-bar wrappers, and plastic food wrap

# Metal

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Total Metal	5.5%	3.9%	3.8%	4.0%	4.8%	4.0%
Aluminum MA Deposit Beverage Containers	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%

# Glass

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Glass	2.1%	1.9%	1.6%	2.7%	2.3%	2.4%
Glass MA Deposit Beverage Containers	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%

# C&D Materials (in MSW)

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Construction and Demolition (in the MSW stream)	13.9%	12.7%	15.0%	14.3%	12.1%	5.1%
Wood – Treated	4.2%	4.1%	5.7%	5.9%	3.4%	2.1%
Wood – Untreated	3.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	0.6%
Carpet and Carpet Padding	2.9%	2.6%	3.3%	2.5%	1.8%	0.3%
Asphalt Roofing	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Drywall/Gypsum Board	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%

# Food Waste

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Food Waste	15.1%	18.8%	26.0%	21.5%	21.6%	23.7%

# Organics – Residential vs. ICI

- Residential food waste = 26.5% (was 21.3% in 2022)
- Commercial food waste = 21.7% (was 21.4% in 2022)
- When exclude C&D materials category from analysis, food waste remained flat from 2022 to 2025

# Household Hazardous Waste

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Household Hazardous Waste	3.2%	2.6%	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%	5.6%
Bio-Hazardous	2.4%	2.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%	5.0%

- discarded animal or human medical/treatment wastes including needles, first aid wastes, diapers & other products for animal or human care. Does not include cat litter or animal feces.

# Electronics

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Electronics	3.3%	1.6%	1.1%	0.8%	0.4%	0.7%
Computer-related Electronics	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Other “brown goods”	1.8%	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%
Televisions and Computer Monitors	0.9%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

# Other Materials

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Other Materials	11.6%	11.5%	8.5%	9.1%	10.1%	9.9%
Textiles	4.9%	5.2%	5.8%	4.3%	5.2%	5.2%

# Contact Information

- [Summary Data](#)
- [Study Guidance](#)
- [Individual Facility Reports](#)
- John Fischer – [john.fischer@mass.gov](mailto:john.fischer@mass.gov)