

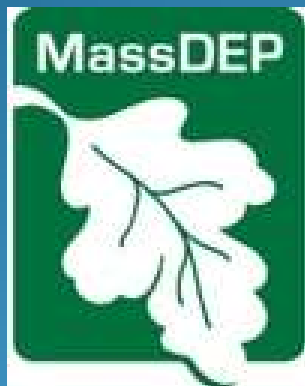
# Organics Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

- Food Waste Disposal Ban Implementation Update
  - John Fischer, MassDEP
- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts Programs to Support the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban
  - Lauren Potter, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts

# Food Waste Ban Implementation Update

John Fischer

November 1, 2022



# Organics Waste Reduction

## Goals

- 2020 goal – total food waste diversion 450,000 tons (increase of 350,000 tons)
- 2030 goal – increase annual diversion by 500,000 tons over 2018 baseline of 280,000 tons (780,000 tons total)

# Food Waste Diversion Data

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,059</b>	<b>206,382</b>	<b>276,180</b>	<b>305,785</b>	<b>321,829</b>

# 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
2021	3,500

# Preventing Food Waste

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

# Other Progress to Date

- Rescue of fresh and perishable foods up > 50%
- Total capacity for food waste exceeds current goals
- Food in trash down from 26% in 2016 to 21% in 2019

# Evaluation & Assessment

- Annual reports from facilities receiving food waste
  - Total annual diversion
- Waste characterization data
  - Next data for 2022 to come in in 2023
- Hauler food waste collection customers
- Food waste tracking system data
- Municipally reported food waste data
- RecyclingWorks TA tracking
- Waste ban inspections and enforcement data



# Why are these new waste bans important?

- Need to ensure adequate capacity to manage our waste
  - Preferred option is to reduce the amount of waste disposed
  - Disposal capacity limitations will affect disposal cost
- Solid Waste Master Plan Goals
  - Reduce disposal by 30% by 2030
  - Reduce disposal by 90% by 2050
- Secondary Benefit
  - Support local economic and job growth through increased reuse and recycling

# Waste Ban History & Background

- First waste bans promulgated in early 1990s
- Done via regulation under statutory authority
- “No person shall dispose, transfer for disposal, or contract for disposal or transport of the restricted material...”

# Waste Ban Approach

- Develop and implement new waste bans over period of several years
- Combine with technical assistance, education and outreach, and market development initiatives
- Primary focus on compliance by larger generators – businesses and institutions
- New bans – emphasize compliance assistance initially

# Waste Ban Implementation

- Inspections, Compliance & Enforcement
  - Solid waste facilities required to maintain and implement waste ban compliance plans
  - MassDEP conducts inspections at solid waste facilities
  - Issue enforcement when observe loads with significant amounts of a banned material
  - Typically, only enforcement against business, institutional, or government generators or waste haulers
  - Not individual residents

# Waste Ban Waivers

- If have material subject to bans that requires disposal, can request one-time or short-term waiver
  - Need to document that no viable alternatives/why material requires disposal
  - Will need to know generator, amount, date(s), hauler, receiving facility
  - Issued to waste generator, copied to hauler & solid waste facility
- Contacts
  - [Robert.Tocchio@mass.gov](mailto:Robert.Tocchio@mass.gov), [sean.sylver@mass.gov](mailto:sean.sylver@mass.gov)

# New Waste Disposal Bans

- Final Regulations published on 10/29/21
- Effective date of new bans is November 1, 2022
- Includes mattresses, textiles and reduced food waste threshold (from 1 ton to  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton per week)

# Food Waste Ban

- Food waste largest portion of MSW – about 1/5<sup>th</sup>
- Will add about 2,000 entities – restaurants are the sector with the largest increase
- RecyclingWorks Food Waste Estimator Tool
  - <https://recyclingworksma.com/food-waste-estimation-guide/>
- RecyclingWorks Technical Assistance and Guidance – [www.recyclingworksma.com](http://www.recyclingworksma.com)

# Estimated New Businesses Subject by Sector

Sector	Estimated Number of New Businesses Subject
Full-Service Restaurants	809
Limited-Service Restaurants	511
Manufacturers and Processors	123
Supermarkets	115
Hotels	92
Hospitals	81
Distributors and Wholesalers	75
Nursing Homes and Residential Facilities	31
Primary and Secondary Schools	29
Schools, Colleges, and Universities	9
Correctional Facilities	3
Total	1878



# Common Questions

- What if a chain with multiple locations?
- What if multiple businesses together (e.g., shopping mall food court?)
- What if a school system with multiple locations?
- Is packaged food subject?
- How does the ban apply to dormitories or retirement communities?
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-for-businesses-institutions-haulers-commercial-organic-materials-waste-ban/download>

# How can my Business Comply?

- Compliance standard is to dispose of <math><1/2</math> ton per week of food waste
- Can comply through any combination of:
  - waste reduction/prevention
  - Food rescue and donation
  - On-site systems
  - Sending food waste to animal feed, compost, or anaerobic digestion
- If comply with the 1 ton per week ban, may need to take further reduction/diversion steps now

# Supporting Programs & Policies

- Recycling Works in Massachusetts
  - Business assistance
  - Compost site assistance
- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
  - Municipal Grants
- Recycling Business Development Grants and Recycling Loan Fund
  - Funding infrastructure development
- Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan

# Grants for Collection of New Waste Ban Materials

- Includes equipment for collection of new waste ban materials – food, mattresses & textiles
- Can be food for donation or food waste collected for animal feed, composting, or AD
- Grants from \$25 K - \$100K – minimum 50% match
- Trucks, other collection vehicles, collection containers, other collection related equipment or software
- [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep) – search for RBDG
- Closes December 9, 2022

# Initial Outreach

- Recycling Works Announcement – Oct 2021 (about 8,000 people)
- Organics SC – Nov 2021
- RW WasteWise Forum – Nov 2021
- Legislative Zero Waste Caucus – Dec 2021
- Updated fact sheets and Q&A, email distribution – Jan 2022
- Mass Food Systems Collaborative – Jan 2022
- Mass Food Assoc Sustainability Comm – Jan 2022
- Multiple Recycling Works Newsletters – ongoing

# Continued Outreach

- RW Compost Operators Workshop – Mar 2022
- Statewide Municipal Recycling Council – Mar 2022
- MassRecycle Conference – Mar 2022
- EBC Solid Waste Conference – Mar 2022
- MassDEP SWAC – May 2022
- Letter to solid waste facilities – May 2022
- Hauler waste bans meeting – Jun 2022
- Food donation & rescue meeting – Jun 2022

# Continued Outreach

- Municipal transfer station operators webinar – July 22
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting – October 22
- Presentations to Legislative Zero Waste Caucus
  - Dec 21, June 22, and a third presentation TBD
- Increased general public outreach on all waste bans
- Press release being issued today
- Extensive outreach by RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts - ongoing

# For More Information

- MassDEP Food Waste Page
  - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban>
- Organics Subcommittee
  - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-organics-subcommittee>
- Organics Action Plan
  - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-organics-action-plan-january-2022/download>
- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts
  - [www.recyclingworksma.com](http://www.recyclingworksma.com)
- Mass Food Systems Collaborative Local Food Action Plan
  - <https://mafoodsystem.org/the-plan/>