



Meeting Agenda

- Review of MassDEP's Organics Action Plan
 - John Fischer, MassDEP
- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts Programs to Support the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban
 - Abbey Massaro, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts
- Open Discussion – Outreach and Compliance Assistance Strategies

Organics Subcommittee Meeting



John Fischer

June 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
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
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
- Reduced food waste ban threshold of ½ ton/week effective November 2022



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



New Waste Disposal Bans

- Final Regulations published on 10/29/21
- Effective date of new bans will be November 1, 2022
- Includes mattresses, textiles and reduced food waste threshold (from 1 ton to ½ ton per week)



Supporting Programs & Policies

- Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan
- Waste Disposal Bans
- 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



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

Preventing Food Waste at the Source

Actions	Status	Notes
Promote food waste reduction strategies at schools through Massachusetts Green Team program	Ongoing	
Develop guidance on reducing food waste for businesses & institutions	Completed	Review & update as needed
Provide technical assistance to businesses & institutions through RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts	Ongoing	
Track food waste reduction achieved through food waste tracking systems	Ongoing	Began in 2019
Support efforts to update and standardize food dating labels	Not started	Mass Local Food Action Plan recommendation
Leverage & share consumer food waste reduction campaigns through municipalities and Recycle Smart program	Not started	Includes EPA Too Good to Waste, Save the Food
Partner with supermarkets & other food retailers to provide consumer guidance on purchasing strategies to reduce wasted food	Not started	

Food Donation & Rescue

Action	Status	Notes
Develop guidance to inform & ensure sound and safe food donation practices by businesses and institutions	Completed	Developed with state and local public health officials
Provide technical assistance to businesses & institutions through RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts	Ongoing	
Provide targeted grants to food recovery organizations through SMRP & RBDG. Promote grants available through other state & federal agencies.	Ongoing	Ex. grant to Lovin' Spoonfuls
Implement a State tax credit for farmers & others who donate surplus food.	Not started	Mass Local Food Action Plan recommendation, would require legislative action
Research & share financial incentive and service fee models to ensure more sustainable revenues for food donation organizations	Not started	Mass Local Food Action Plan recommendation
Increase refrigerated storage capacity at food pantries to enable more donations of fresh, perishable foods. Promote other funding sources or consider how MassDEP grants could support this action.	Not started	Mass Local Food Action Plan recommendation

Food Waste Reduction

Large Generators

Actions	Status	Notes
Develop sector specific best management practices for organics collection programs	In process	Developed for restaurants, modify for other sectors as needed
Technical assistance from RecyclingWorks to larger generators to meet new threshold & divert more material	Ongoing	
Support technology development such as de-packaging systems through RBDG grants & Recycling Loan Fund	Ongoing	
Conduct waste ban inspections & enforcement	Ongoing	
Request for Information letters on waste ban compliance to generators	Ongoing, as needed	
Provide information about on-site food waste systems for use by larger generators	Completed	

Food Waste Reduction

Medium Generators

Actions	Status	Notes
Promulgate regulations to establish 0.5 ton per week threshold for commercial organics disposal ban – effective November 1, 2022	Completed Oct 2021	
Update food waste density mapping study to identify Business sectors, types and numbers of generators potentially subject to the lowered ban threshold.	Completed	Data limited to internal use
Work with the Leading by Example Program to quantify current food waste diversion by State facilities. Also gather sector-based information on how to advance organics diversion at colleges/universities, hospitals, corrections, convention centers.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Provide technical assistance from RecycleWorks to medium size generators to meet new threshold and divert more material	Ongoing	
Conduct outreach to notify business sectors potentially subject to the reduced waste ban threshold	Beginning Fall 2021	
Review and approve updated Solid Waste Facility Waste Ban Compliance Plans	Summer 2022	
Implement reduced waste ban threshold	Beginning November 2022	

Food Waste Reduction

Small Businesses & Residents

Actions	Status	Notes
Develop multi-pronged strategy to divert food waste from small generators	Ongoing	
Work with regional groups, municipalities, and local business organizations to develop small generator collection hubs on the local level	Ongoing	
Support efforts to collect organics from residential sources <ul style="list-style-type: none">Offer grants to municipalities for pilot collections and equipment for collection or drop-off sitesContinue to offer and encourage technical and financial assistance for backyard composting bin distribution and guidance	Ongoing Ongoing	Ongoing Ongoing
Provide technical assistance to support small scale composting at community gardens, particularly in Environmental Justice communities.	Beginning fall 2021	

Infrastructure/Market Development

Actions	Status	Notes
Continue Recycling Loan Fund and Recycling Industry Reimbursement Credit Grant Programs	Ongoing	
Include organics market development needs in Massachusetts Recycling Market Development Workgroup and Plan	Beginning winter 2021	
Address organics markets in the State Agency Recycling Markets Council, particularly state agency purchasing of compost products.	Beginning Fall 2021	
Through facility permits and compliance assistance with generators, ensure that facilities accepting source separated food materials are minimize and properly manage contaminants	Ongoing	
Provide technical assistance and grants to support small scale composting at community gardens, particularly in Environmental Justice communities.	Beginning fall 2021	
Host composting workshops & deliver compost site technical assistance through RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts	Ongoing	
Assess market outlets for materials generated by anaerobic digestion facilities such as the solid and liquid digestate.	Not yet started	
Consider regulatory changes needed to facilitate further development of organics infrastructure in Massachusetts	In process	Draft regulations in 2022



Outreach From Fall 2021

- 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



Outreach from Fall 21 Forward

- 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



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
- Mass Food Systems Collaborative Local Food Action Plan
 - <https://mafoodsystem.org/the-plan/>