



COMMERCIAL WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAM

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN MID TERM REVIEW

SWAC MEETING

JUNE 26, 2025

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN:

COMMERCIAL WASTE REDUCTION

Goals

- See a reduction in waste ban fail loads through inspections, compliance, enforcement, and assistance
- Reduce disposal of targeted materials from businesses and institutions not banned from disposal
- *Priority materials:* Food material, cardboard, mattresses, furniture and other bulky materials

COMMERCIAL WASTE REDUCTION PRIORITIES:

- Recycling Market Development Workgroup and Action Plan
- Investment in advancing waste reduction innovation and business development
- Expanded waste bans
- Increase waste ban inspections
- C&D minimum performance standard (MPS)
- Technical Assistance: RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts
- Training, education, outreach

COMMERCIAL WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Grants and Loans

- Recycling Business Development Grant
- Waste Reduction Innovation Grant
- Recycling Loan Fund

Compliance and Enforcement

- Waste Bans

Technical Assistance, Outreach and Education

- Green Team
- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts

GRANTS & LOAN OFFERED THROUGH THE COMMERCIAL BRANCH

Recycling Business Development Grant

- grants to businesses and non-profit organizations to expand recycling, reuse, and composting infrastructure.

Waste Reduction Innovation Grant (new!)

- grants to businesses, start-ups, and non-profit organizations for new technology that expands recycling and reuse infrastructure

Recycling Loan Fund

- helps existing or new businesses finance investments and obtain the capital to advance reuse, recycling, and composting infrastructure

RBDG OVER THE YEARS

Since 2020:

- 56 RBDG grants
- Total: \$5,512,500
- 29 collection grants: \$1,632,157
- 27 processing grants: \$3,880,343

Materials

- Food waste/material/for donation
- Textiles
- Mattresses
- Reuse
- C&D wood
- Container glass
- Furniture

RECYCLING LOAN FUND

Since November 2021:

- 11 loans to eight different companies
- Total: \$2,475,000

Materials

- Food material
- C&D material
- Recycled paper
- Solar panels
- Wood
- Plastics
- Mixed recyclables

WASTE REDUCTION INNOVATION GRANT

Goals:

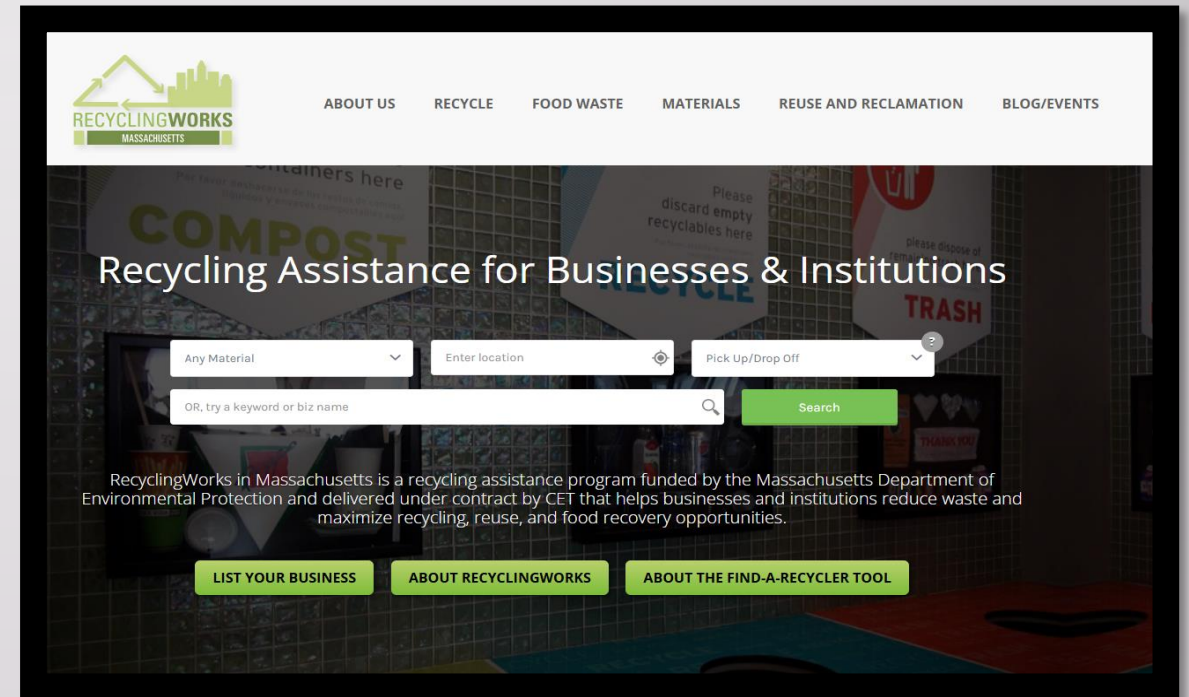
- Enable new or expanded supply chains that extend the use of materials
- Increase reuse/recycling capacity for new and difficult to manage waste materials
- Increase the quality, performance and value of recovered materials beyond existing practices

➤ Award amount:

- \$50K-100K for Start-Up and Pilot Projects
- \$500K-2M for Innovative Capital Investments

RECYCLINGWORKS MA

- Statewide program funded by MassDEP and administered under contract by CET
- Free assistance to MA businesses and institutions ranging from phone/email assistance to web resources to virtual/on-site TA
- Provides unbiased Technical Assistance
- [RecyclingWorksMA](https://www.recyclingworksma.org)



RECYCLINGWORKS MA

Year	In-person / virtual technical assistance	Phone and email hotline inquiries	Website visits
FY 2020	131 businesses	1,903	110,633
FY 2021	81 businesses	1,593	138,645
FY 2022	115 businesses	1,392	104,252
FY 2023	232 businesses	1,511	110,655
FY 2024	199 businesses	1,832	106,445

REUSABLE CONTAINERS BMP



- This guide provides best management practices for reusable takeout containers that align with the Massachusetts Food Code, aiming to help food service establishments in Massachusetts reduce waste from single-use disposables.
- **Reusable takeout container serviceware:** durable containers, plates, bowls, and utensils used to hold food and/or beverages. Local health departments maintain the authority to interpret the Food Code as it applies to reusable serviceware.
- Please note: Switching from single-use disposables to durable reusable containers **is not being mandated**. For establishments interested in making the switch, this guide offers best practices to consider

GREEN TEAM

- 2024-2025 school year highest registration
- 475 Green Teams
- 64,631 students at 441 schools
- 94 Green Teams awarded for outstanding environmental stewardship and educational activities
- TheGreenTeam.Org



WASTE BANS

- New materials added (2022)
 - Mattresses
 - Textiles
 - Organic material (more than 1/2 ton/week)
- Outreach
- Information requests (ongoing)

WASTE BANS

Year	Number of Inspections	Loads Observed	Failed Loads	Rate
2022	139	4,288	1,153	27%
2023	136	3,598	916	25%
2024	181	3,862	803	21%

- Enforcement for time period
 - 465 NONs
 - 12 ACOPs

MATERIAL DIVERSION HIGHLIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE

Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards \$1.8 Million to Support Waste Reduction Businesses Across Massachusetts

Grants will boost recycling and reuse initiatives and strengthen sustainable business practices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
11/20/2024

PRESS RELEASE

New Research Highlights Massachusetts as National Leader in Food Waste Reduction

'Food waste bans fall short, except in Massachusetts,' according to the independent study

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

9/12/2024

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Feedback

- Annual food waste diversion growth
 - from 100,000 to 380,000 tons
- Number of businesses diverting
 - from 1,350 to 3,120
- Mattresses
 - from 170,000 to 400,000 recycled
- Textiles
 - 7 percent increase in recovery or ~ 3,000 additional tons

RMD WORKGROUP CONNECTIONS

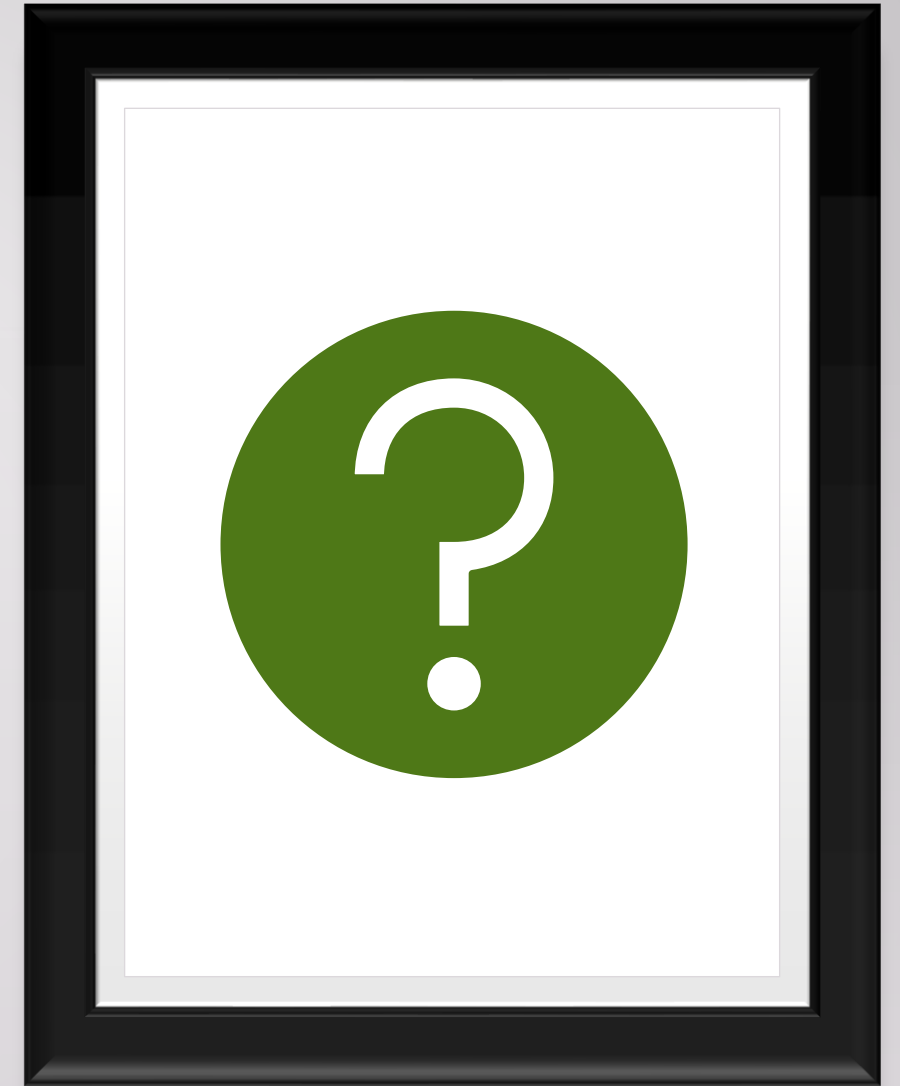
- Industry associations and workgroups
- State and quasi-state organizations
- Other state and federal programs
- Incubators/Accelerators

COMMERCIAL WASTE REDUCTION PRIORITIES:

ANY FEEDBACK?

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QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK



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