



MUNICIPAL WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAM

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN MID TERM REVIEW

SWAC MEETING

JUNE 26, 2025

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN:

RESIDENTIAL WASTE REDUCTION

Goals

- Increase quality of and reduce contamination in residential recycling streams.
- Reduce disposal of residential waste through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.
- *Target materials:* Mixed residential recyclables, organics, textiles, mattresses, and bulky materials.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE REDUCTION PRIORITIES:

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- ✓ Source Reduction & Reuse (R&R) Workgroup and Action Plan
 - Municipal recycling contracting guidance
 - Incentives and grants: SMRP, RDP, PAYT
 - Technical Assistance: MACs, HHP/HHW collection support, state contracts
 - Training, education, outreach: RIQ Kit adoption, RSMA
 - Policies and regulations: textile/mattress waste bans, support EPR approaches, support development for hauler recycling requirement/access to recycling for all

MUNICIPAL WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Our Three-Legged Stool

Grants

- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
- Reuse Microgrants

Outreach and Education

- RecycleSmartMA
- Beyond the Bin
- Webinars/Trainings

Technical Assistance

- Municipal Assistance Coordinators
- 1:1 Site Visits
- Working Groups
- Website Resources
- Best Practices & Templates

GRANTS OFFERED THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL BRANCH

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program

- Drop-Off Equipment (reuse, recycling, HHW & universal waste)
- Food Waste Collection Carts
- Pay As You Throw
- Recycling Dividends Program (RDP)
- Regional Small-Scale Initiatives
- Waste Reduction/ Organics Capacity/ HHW Facility

Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant

- Short term projects that reduce waste in Massachusetts by extending the life of products through donation, sharing, rescue, reuse and/or repair.

SMRP AND MICRO-GRANT: ELIGIBILITY AND FOCUS

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program

Eligible Entities:

- Municipalities
- Solid Waste Districts
- Regional Authorities

Focus:

- Residential waste reduction, reuse, recycling composting, HHW collection, contamination reduction

Budget: ~\$4-4.5M annually

Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant

Eligible Entities:

- Nonprofit and for-profit organizations
- Regional Authorities
- Municipalities
- Schools and colleges

Focus:

- Reuse and Repair

Budget: ~\$125K annually

SMRP OVER THE YEARS

Year	Total # Grants	RDP & SSI Funding	Other SMRP Grants	Total Awarded
2020	302	\$3.2 M	\$700 K	\$3.9 M
2021	266	\$3.2 M	None This Year	\$3.2 M
2022	314	\$3.4 M	\$750 K	\$4.2 M
2023	308	\$3.7 M	\$1.5 M	\$5.2 M
2024	323	\$ 3.1 M	\$1.1 M	\$4.2 M
2025	<i>Estimated Budget of \$4.0 – \$4.5 M</i>			

SMRP AWARDS: CY2021- CY2024

	Total # Awards	Total Award Value
Drop-off equipment	38	\$206,000
Food waste collection carts	6	\$243,060
Pay As You Throw	5	\$497,870
Recycling Dividends Program (RDP)	1,046	\$13,255,465
Regional Small-scale Initiatives	20	\$32,000
Larger Projects: Waste Reduction, Organics Capacity, HHW Facility	6	\$937,295

CLOSER LOOK AT RDP

RDP = Recycling Dividends Program

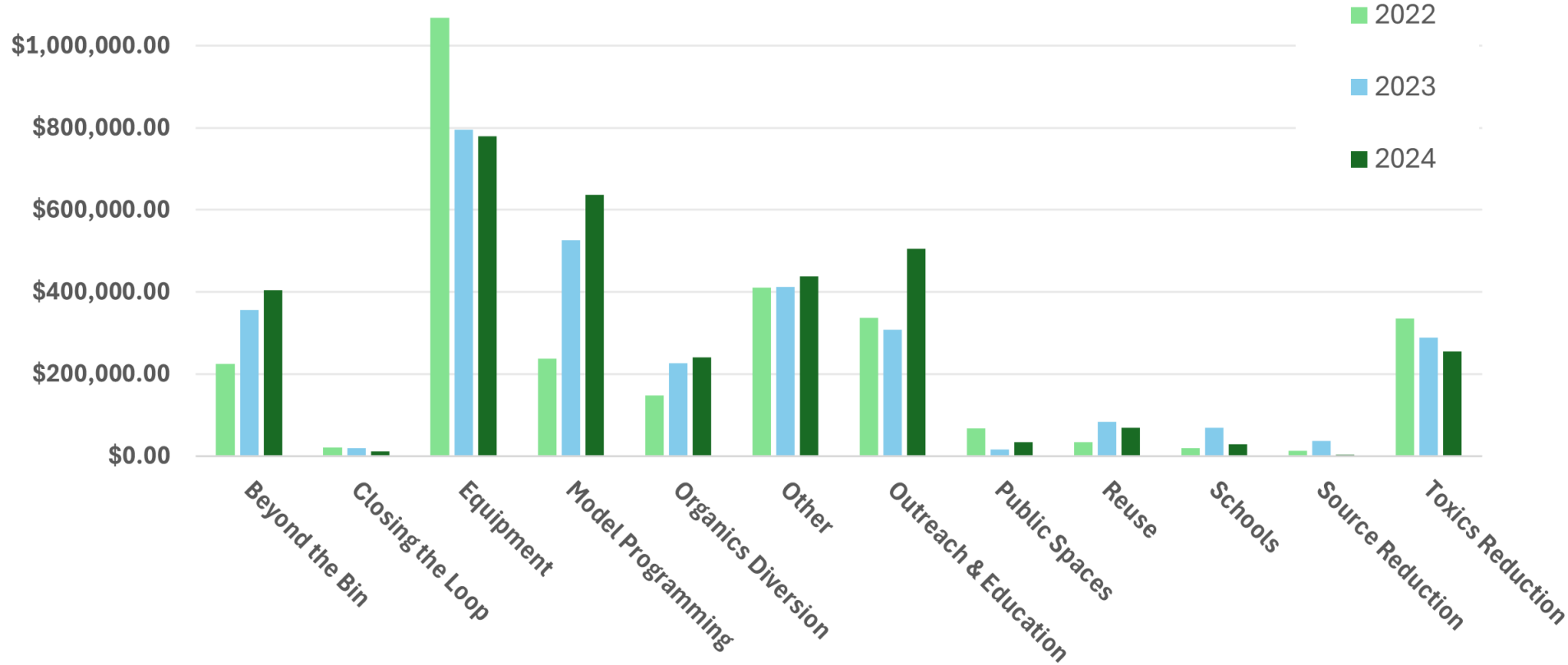
- Best Practices Framework
- Municipalities earn points based on programs implemented
- Point values based on # of HHs served

RDP is largest award category;
municipal investment of grant funds is key.

Menu of Categories

- ✓ Bulky Items
- ✓ CHARMs
- ✓ Curbside Recycling Regulations
- ✓ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- ✓ HHW Collection
- ✓ Organics/Food Waste
- ✓ Recycling Center Access
- ✓ Reuse Programs
- ✓ Solid Waste Reduction
- ✓ Waste Prevention Outreach and Education

Spending in RDP Categories from 2022 - 2024



More \$ being spent on outreach & education, public spaces, and organics diversion.

	2022	2023	2024
Total Spent	\$2,916,317.19	\$3,139,595.28	\$3,407,115.99
Total Balance	\$7,430,548.14	\$8,200,734.39	\$7,881,233.00

Annual RDP funds spent similar to annual RDP awards.

Balance remaining is still high.

REDUCE, REUSE, REPAIR MICRO-GRANT

Goals:

- Increase access, interest, and participation in reuse and repair.
- Build sustainable infrastructure that supports widespread adoption of reuse and repair in MA.
- Encourage innovation through testing or expanding new approaches, systems, or technologies with wide impact.

- Award value: \$3K-10K
- 92 applications received (Spring 2025)
- Wide range of projects supporting reuse and repair
- More than \$277K awarded since 2021

A FEW EXAMPLES



Fresh Start Furniture Bank



Recirclable: Reusable Takeout Containers for Restaurants



Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope: Thrift Shop



Franklin County Regional Repair Cafe

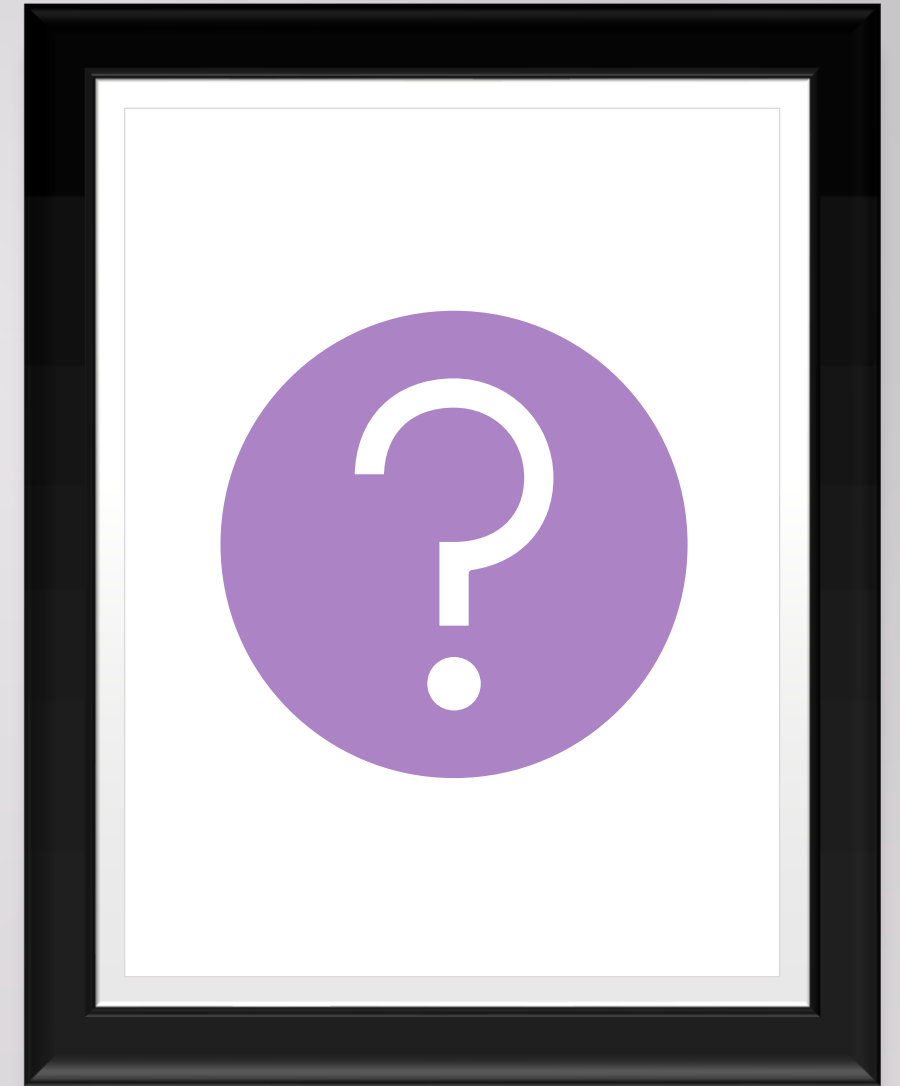


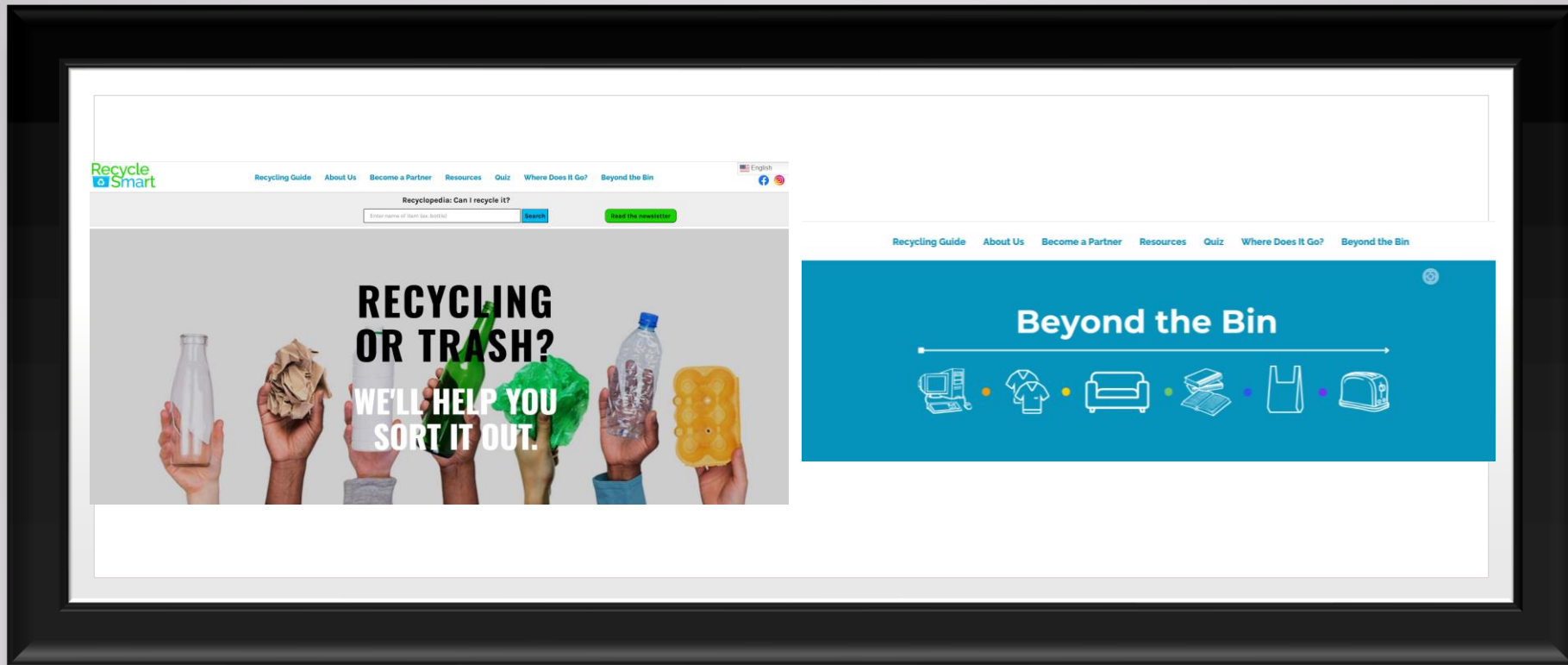
ReThink Disposables:
Truro Community Kitchen



The BYTE Shop: Electronics Repair

QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK





RECYCLE SMART MA & BEYOND THE BIN

recyclesmartma.org

- Resources and tools for residents and municipalities (and everyone else in MA too!)
- Recyclopedia - what can and cannot go in your home recycling bin
- Social media posts, newsletters, videos, signs, much more
- Accessibility, Recycling Guide available in 12 Languages
- Support for EJ communities (transit ad campaign, digital ad pilot program)
- Annual RRRpalooza

Recyclopedia: Can I recycle it?

English
Español
Português
简化字
عربي
Tiếng Việt
Français
Kreyòl Ayisyen
हिंदी
हिंदी
Русский
Italiana



Quiz 1.0

A two-minute crash course to becoming a smarter recycler.



Quiz 2.0

Aced our original quiz and looking for another challenge?

Level up with Quiz 2.0!

BEYOND THE BIN

Beyond the Bin



Modify Search

Propane Tanks (1 lb)

OR

Search by keyword

Drop-off, Mail-in, or Pick-up

Somerville, MA

10 mi radius

9 Results Found (Showing 1-9).

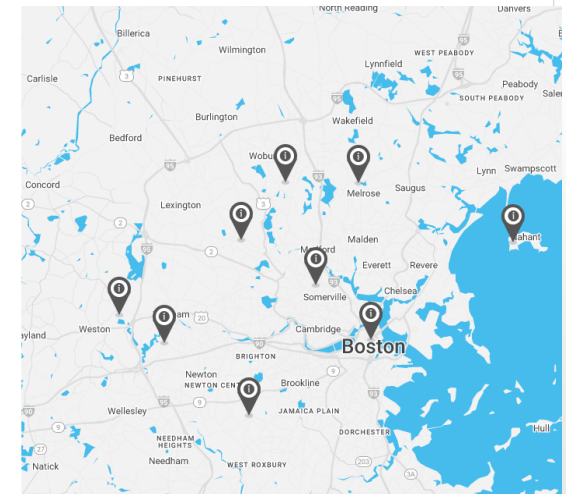
Want closer results? [Sort by Distance](#)

Sort by name: [Sort A > Z](#) | [Sort Z > A](#)

[Sorting by distance](#) will show listings closest to your location. Select a listing below to view more details.

Somerville DPW Yard (Somerville Residents Only)

1 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA, 02143



METRICS REPORTS

Homepage	7,391
Recyclopedia Results	11,560
Smart Recycling Guide	14,152
Quiz	7,606
Where Does It Go?	2,835
Beyond the Bin	74,875



Recycle Smart MA
★ Favorites · May 16 at 11:35 AM · 🌐

The second life of your recycling ♻️ Swipe to see some of the types of products that your recyclables can get turned into when you recycle them in MA!

Check out our Recycling Road Map to learn what happens to your recycling: <https://bit.ly/3LgsLVa>

Recycling works best when we recycle the right stuff. When in doubt, check RecycleSmartMA.org to make sure you know what goes in the bin!

This Used to be That!

Toilet paper with recycled content...

...used to be

This Used to be That!

A cardboard moving box...

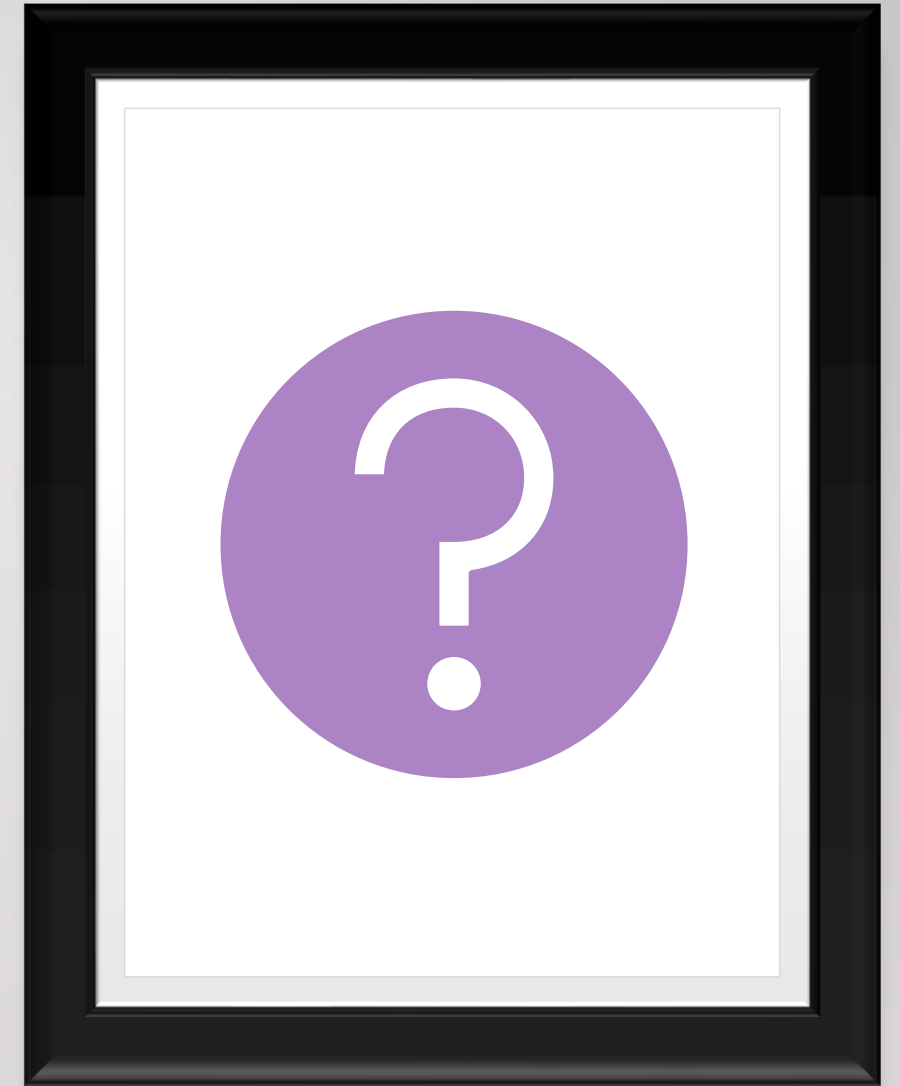
This Used to be That!

A shampoo bottle with recycled content...

This Used to be That!

A soda can made from

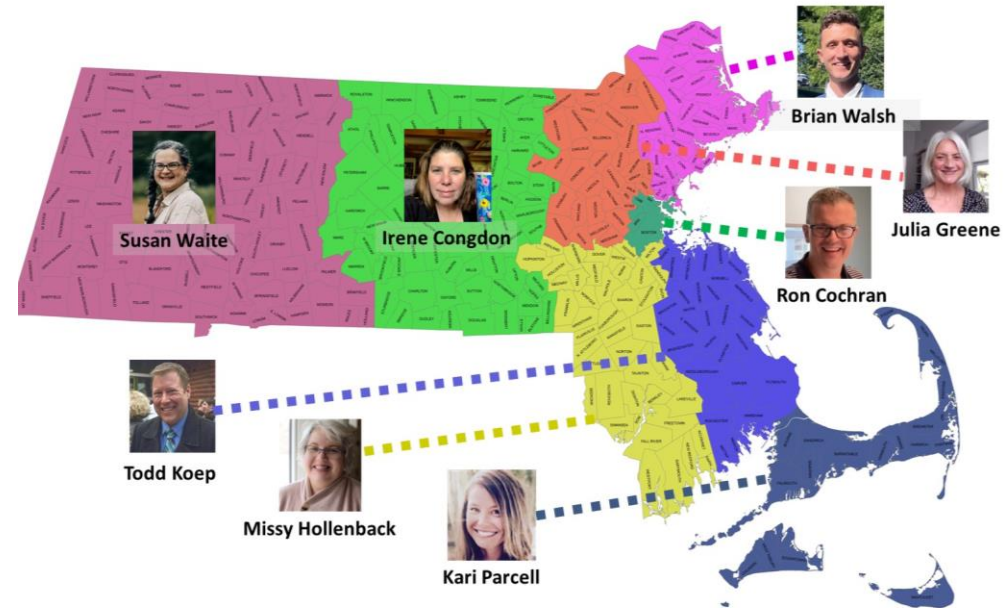
QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK



TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

REGIONAL
MACS

MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinators



WORKING GROUPS:

GREEN SWORD

BEST PRACTICES WITH HAULING CONTRACTS



SHORT TERM PROJECTS:

- Municipalities apply for up to 80 hours of technical assistance
- Single project from 6 categories with specific deliverables
- Rolling applications accepted
- 160 projects awarded since 2014

Examples:

- ✓ Pay-As-You-Throw
- ✓ Contracting for Solid Waste/Recycling
- ✓ School Recycling & Composting
- ✓ Regional Initiatives
- ✓ Regulations and Enforcement
- ✓ Recycling IQ Implementation

COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE: PAYT = PRIORITY



TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE REQUIRED
FOR PAYT GRANT
FUNDS



PAYT GRANT
PRIORITIZED FOR
FUNDING



PAYT WEBINARS FOR
NEW PROGRAMS AND
UPDATING EXISTING
PROGRAMS



EXTENSIVE WEBSITE
RESOURCES AND CASE
STUDIES



PAYT PROGRAMS EARN
RDP POINTS AS BEST
PRACTICE

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR MEETINGS + NEWSLETTERS

 **MassDEP Meeting Follow-up**

Municipal Recycling Coordinator's Meeting

Make Your Job Easier - Improve Your Website



During the October 24 webinar, participants learned how to turn municipal solid waste webpages into powerful public education tools. We heard from a variety of municipalities with different challenges and resources, as well as an expert in Household Hazardous Waste communication, and were presented with webpage templates to make improving websites easier. Providing easily accessed, consistent information to your residents will save you time and help earn RDP points each year---what have you got to lose?

[for Slides and Recording](#)

 **Waste Reduction News**

November 2023 MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinators

MassDEP Awards \$5.2 Million to Support Recycling & Waste Reduction to 283 Munis & Regional Groups



"Some of the most important environmental protection work happens every day Saved to this PC across our state," said Governor Maura Healey. "These grants help further our collective efforts to meet our aggressive goal of **90 percent waste reduction by 2050**, while also boosting local economies by investing in the waste reduction industry." [Read More](#)

Municipal Waste Reduction Branch Announces Staff Updates & New Hires

MassDEP is pleased to announce some exciting changes in the Municipal Waste Reduction Branch! **We recently filled** staff positions

TEMPLATE:

BEST PRACTICES FOR MUNICIPALITIES DEVELOPING PRIVATE HAULER REGULATIONS

ATTACHMENT 1: Banned Materials

Following is a list of materials which have been banned from landfill or incineration disposal by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, with the date that material was banned. These materials are banned either because they pose an environmental threat or because there are methods for reusing or recycling those materials

Optional Table: List of Waste Ban Materials: 310 CMR 19.017

MATERIAL	DATE OF BAN
Lead Batteries	December 31, 1990
Leaves	December 31, 1991
Tires	December 31, 1991
White Goods	December 31, 1991
Other Yard Waste	December 31, 1992
Aluminum Containers	December 31, 1992
Metal / Glass Containers	December 31, 1992
Single Polymer Plastics	December 31, 1994
Recyclable Paper	December 31, 1994
Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)	April 1, 2000

PERMIT APPLICATION

TO REMOVE, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSE OF SOLID WASTE OR RECYCLABLES IN
TOWN/CITY

Instructions

All sections of this application must be completed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

(Note to User: Language below is based on Board of Health authority to enact and implement this process. If another authority/process is undertaken, consider modifying to reflect appropriate citations throughout.) In accordance with MGL Chapter 111, Sections 31 A and 31B and in accordance with the Town/City's (bylaw/ordinance or regulation), the undersigned makes application to the Board of Health for permission to collect and transport Solid Waste and/or Recyclables as set forth below:

- ☐ Check here if this is your first application.
☐ Check here if this is a renewal application.

Permit Fee

The application fee is \$insert fee per company (and/or per truck) seeking a permit to operate in the Town/City of _____.

Please select which type(s) of collection you will be providing (check all that apply):

BEST PRACTICES FOR MUNICIPALITIES DEVELOPING PRIVATE HAULER REGULATIONS

GENERAL LANGUAGE TEMPLATE

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR REMOVAL, TRANSPORT, AND DISPOSAL
OF SOLID WASTE OR RECYCLABLES
IN THE TOWN/CITY OF _____

I. Purpose

The goal of these regulations is to protect public health and the environment and ensure that all Private Haulers collecting Solid Waste and Recyclables adhere to the Massachusetts Waste Ban regulations and uniformly comply with permit requirements established by the Town/City of _____. This should ensure that:

- The environmental benefits of recycling are maximized;
- There is joint enforcement of the Waste Ban requirements by the municipality and all Private Haulers operating within the municipality;
- There are fair and equitable rules for all Private Haulers operating in the municipality;
- All residents and businesses have convenient (parallel) access to recycling collection services;
- All Private Haulers licensed to operate in a municipality are in compliance with state regulations (310 CMR 19.017);
- There is greater consistency across municipalities to promote clear operating guidelines for Private Haulers; and,
- Municipalities and Private Haulers work together to support the goals of the Solid Waste Master Plan and the Global Warming Solutions Act.

II. Authority

These regulations establish minimum requirements for the systematic collection of Solid Waste and Recyclables in order to promote waste reduction, comply with State-mandated Waste Bans (310 CMR 19.017), and further the goals of the Town/City of _____. The Board of Health of the Town/City of _____ adopts these regulations under the provisions of Chapter 111 Sections 31, 31A, 31B, 122 and 150A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Private Haulers shall only collect for disposal those items acceptable for disposal. Materials banned from disposal under 310 CMR 19.017 shall not be included with Solid Waste.

III. Effective Date

These regulations shall take effect on _____.

TEMPLATES: MUNICIPAL CONTRACTING



Best Practices

A Checklist for Successful Recycling Procurements and Contracts for Curbside Recycling Services

October 2020

Recycling programs are a vital municipal service. Collection and processing technologies evolve, recyclable materials change, market demand and prices for recycled materials go up and down. Municipalities must navigate change while also providing services in a consistent and fiscally responsible manner. These best practices can assist Massachusetts communities to develop contractual partnerships that are win-win in changing times, not just for recycling but all solid waste services.

This guide serves as a companion to the Municipal Contracting Templates at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/solid-waste-management-contracts-contracting>. Together these documents provide information for municipalities to understand critical issues and to secure equitable and transparent recycling services.

Information provided in this document is for general guidance only. It is not designed to be a substitute for legal counsel in procurement or contract negotiations. Public entities should always consult with technical, purchasing, and legal advisors with respect to a procurement, contract, issue, or problem.

The Procurement Process: What to Know... What to Do...

1. Clearly Define Community Objectives and Recycling Service Needs

Knowing what a community needs within their program is critical. The following are examples of questions to help define a community's objectives and needs:

Collection

- ✓ Who will be served? Residents only? Municipal buildings? Schools? Businesses? This is a critical element of your scope of services as cost impacts can be significant if not clearly defined in the procurement document and/or contract.
- ✓ How many tons and what types of materials will be collected?
- ✓ What collection methods and containers are needed (manual, automated, carts, bags, dumpsters, compactors, etc.)?
- ✓ What is the frequency of services (weekly, biweekly)?
- ✓ Who will provide the curbside containers (if the contractor, then municipality should own them after the contract)?
- ✓ Who will provide the dumpsters, roll-offs, and/or compactors (if applicable)?

Processing

Exhibit B: Average Market Value (AMV) Calculation Worksheet

Note: municipalities should enter sample commodity index prices and percent composition of their recyclables for the beginning of the contract. The actual AMV is calculated for each month during the contract.

The AMV for each material = Index Value x Percent. The Total AMV is the sum of the AMV column.

Average Market Value of Recyclables Worksheet

Material	Recyclingmarkets.net Index Material	Index* Value (\$/ton)	Percent (by weight)	AMV (\$/ton)
Mixed Paper	MP Mixed Paper (PS 54) (\$/ton, baled, picked up)			
Newspaper, Magazines & Catalogs	SRPN Sorted Residential Paper and News (PS 56) (\$/ton, baled, picked up)			
Cardboard	Old Corrugated Containers (PS11) (\$/ton, baled, picked up)			
Glass (3-Mix)	Glass 3 Mix (\$/ton del. as Recyclable or Disposable)			
PET	PET (Baled, c/lb., picked up)			

STATE CONTRACTS



FAC90: Mattress recycling



FAC110: HHW and Universal Waste collection and processing



FAC113: Containers for recycling, composting, drop-off programs, curbside programs, schools, public spaces



PAYT bags/turnkey services



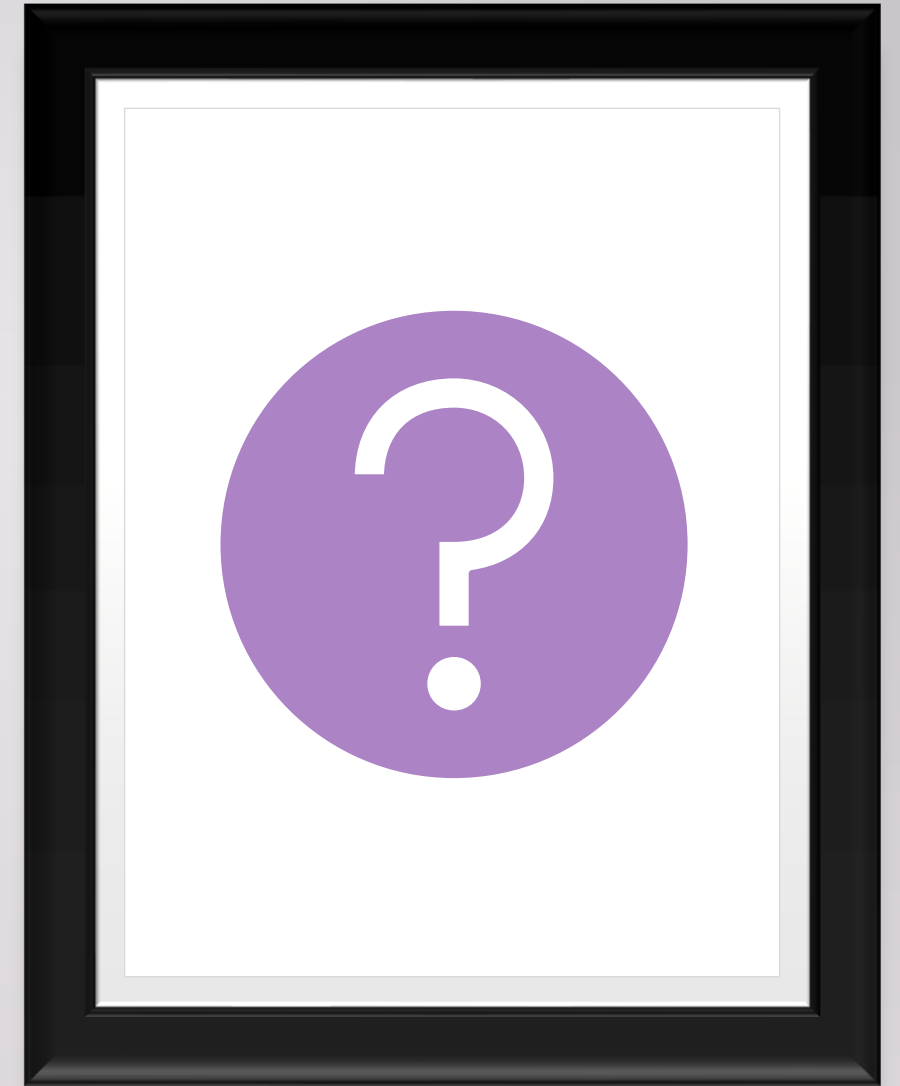
Promote use of Environmentally Preferable Products

RESIDENTIAL WASTE REDUCTION PRIORITIES:

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- ✓ Source Reduction & Reuse (R&R) Workgroup and Action Plan
- Municipal recycling contracting guidance
- Incentives and grants: SMRP, RDP, PAYT
- Technical Assistance: MACs, HHP/HHW collection support, state contracts
- Training, education, outreach: RIQ Kit adoption, RSMA
- Policies and regulations: textile/mattress waste ban support, support EPR approaches, support hauler recycling requirements/ access to recycling for all

QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK



CONTACT

Kathi Mirza

Branch Chief

Municipal Waste Reduction Programs

MassDEP

kathi.mirza@mass.gov

617.571.0900