

MassDEP Recycling Market Development Update



Solid Waste Advisory Committee - June 22, 2023

RMD Workgroup

- Meeting 1 – Intro
 - MassDEP Market Development Programs
 - OSD Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
 - MassDevelopment
 - Mass Office of Business Development
- Meeting 2 – Regional and National Perspectives
 - NERC and Circular Matters
- Meeting 3 – Business Support & Economic Development Strategies
- Meeting 4 – Demand Side Strategies
- Meeting 5 - Education, Outreach, Networking, and Information Sharing
- Meeting 6 – Research and Development
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-recycling-market-development-workgroup>

RMD Action Plan

- Like other MassDEP Action Plans, written at high level
- Organic Plan that is modified over time
- Details developed within individual programs and initiatives
- Each individual action item will have a “status” and “time frame” for implementation
- Each section contains specific evaluation metrics

Plan Structure

- The recommended action items in this Plan are divided into three sections:
 - 1. Business Support and Economic Development Strategies to Expand Recycling Market Infrastructure
 - 2. Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products
 - 3. Research and Development Strategies for Products, Equipment, and Technologies

Business Support and Economic Development

- Focus:
 - Deliver funding via grants & loans to meet capital funding needs
 - Connect businesses with guidance and assistance
 - Ensure opportunities marketed to minority-owned businesses & businesses in Environmental Justice communities
 - Partner with workforce development & job training programs to grow recycling workforce
 - Reduce or better manage contaminants in incoming streams

Evaluation based on infrastructure/job creation through grant and loan programs, connections to training programs/assistance, results in generating grant applications from minority-owned businesses, and reduction in residual levels at recycling facilities.

Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products

- Focus:
 - Increase recycled content of products and packaging
 - Drive increased purchases of recycled content products
 - Ensure consistent supply to support recycled content investments
 - Discuss potential legislative approaches

Evaluation based on amount of recycled content products purchased through state contracts, engagement through outreach activities and workshops and results of pilot purchasing projects.

Research and Development

- Focus:
 - Improve sorting & processing technologies to separate higher quality feedstocks
 - Develop ability to transition products from “lab scale” to commercial scale
 - Test recycled content feedstocks to verify they meet applicable industry specifications
 - Develop new and previously untested applications for recycled content feedstocks
 - Encourage design of products/packaging for reuse or recyclability

Evaluation based on development of in-state network of research and results of projects, including new products, process improvements, and verification of performance.

Next Steps

- Draft Plan available for review at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-recycling-market-development-action-plan-june-2023/download>
- MassDEP accepting comments through July 31, 2023
- Send comments to dep.swmp@mass.gov
- MassDEP will post revised plan in Fall 2023
- Will update periodically as needed to reflect progress and needed shifts and adjustments

Questions?

