

FISCAL YEAR 2020 OVERVIEW: RECYCLINGWORKS IN MA & THE GREEN TEAM

MassDEP SWAC Meeting | October 22, 2020



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MA BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS



RecyclingWorks MA is funded by MassDEP, delivered under contract by the Center for EcoTechnology



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FISCAL YEAR 2020 OVERVIEW

Waste Diversion as a Result of FY20 Hotline, Mini TA, and TA Activities*

Type of Diversion	Annual Tonnage Diverted	Percentage of Total Diversion
Recycled**	5,069 tons	85%
Reused	57 tons	1%
Reduced	13 tons	<1%
Food Donated	39 tons	<1%
Food Scraps Diverted	809 tons	14%
Total	5,987 tons	100%

- 6,000 tons diverted FY21 → 185,000 tons all time
- 131 instances of technical assistance
- Over 134,000 website visits

RECYCLINGWORKS HOTLINE DURING FY21

- More than 1,900 phone & email inquiries
- Topics and trends:
 - Surplus food donation
 - Hard-to-recycle and mixed plastics
 - Building materials reuse & recycling
 - Reduce single-use materials
 - Compost site operators
 - Cannabis industry organics and packaging



OUTREACH & PROGRAM AWARENESS

- 6,650 monthly newsletters subscribers
- C&U quarterly newsletter
- 27 events, reaching over 850 people
- 1,500 followers on Facebook & Twitter



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RecyclingWorks Newsletter | August 2020

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MassDEP Reopens Draft 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan for Public Comment

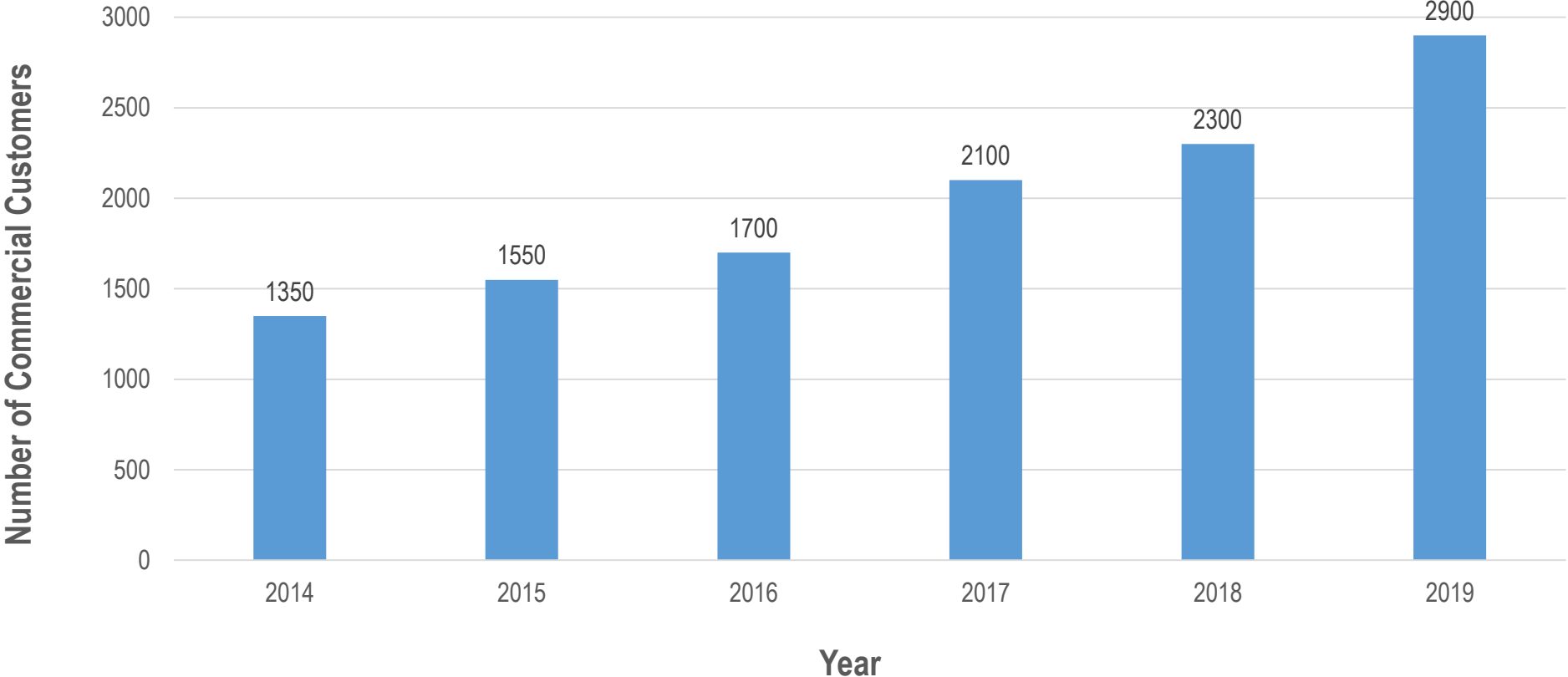
In response to comments received last fall and other developments, MassDEP has [reopened the Draft 2020-2030 Solid Waste Master Plan for public comment](#). This period will focus on topics including environmental justice, climate change, and the impacts of COVID-19 on waste management in Massachusetts. MassDEP has scheduled four virtual

ADAPTING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Continued hotline service
- Virtual technical assistance
- Zoom presentations and events
- Support food rescue initiatives
- Timely content
 - Surplus food donation guidance during closures
 - Tips for managing trash, recycling, food waste during re-opening



COMMERCIAL ORGANICS CUSTOMERS OVER TIME



recyclingworksma.com/massachusetts-sees-additional-growth-in-commercial-organics-diversion/

ASSISTING PROPERTY MANAGERS

- Commercial, multifamily, and mixed-use properties
- Waste ban compliance tip sheet and webpage
- Webinar with Recycle Smart for MF property managers
- Technical assistance



WASTE BAN COMPLIANCE TIPS FOR PROPERTY MANAGERS



The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) bans easy-to-recycle materials, such as cardboard, from the trash. This is an overview of waste ban requirements, avoiding fines or fees, and tips on tenant compliance.

More detailed information for Property Managers is available at:
recyclingworksma.com/how-to/business-sector-guidance/property-managers/

WHAT ARE WASTE BANS?

Many businesses and institutions are not aware that a number of materials are banned from disposal in Massachusetts. Your municipality might have additional bylaws/ordinances or regulations requiring businesses and institutions to recycle.

As a property manager, you, your tenants, your waste hauler, and solid waste facilities are all responsible for complying with waste ban requirements.

Even when a property manager offers recycling containers, multifamily, commercial, and mixed-use properties may receive MassDEP enforcement when recyclable materials are placed in the trash, as no person shall dispose, transfer for disposal, or contract for disposal or transport of the restricted materials. A number of common issues can result in recyclable materials being placed in the trash, including:

- Breakdown in staff and tenant participation
- Poor signage
- Miscommunication with haulers about what materials go in each collection container
- Collection containers not the right size
- Pickup schedule not properly set
- No backup plan for equipment failures

More information: mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans

Waste ban materials applicable to property managers, depending on whether your tenants are residential, commercial, or both, include:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Glass, Metal, and Plastic Containers
- Commercial Food Waste (> one ton per week)
- Leaf and Yard Waste
- Construction and Demolition Materials

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NEW WEB CONTENT

- Key Resources
- Equipment for collecting trash, recycling, and food waste
 - Outdoor dumpsters, carts, compactors, indoor collection containers
- Mattresses
- Textiles



WASTEWISE AND C&U FORUMS

- **Fall 2019 WasteWise Forum:** Reducing Contamination in the Recycling Streams (Umass Dartmouth)
- **Spring 2020 WasteWise:** Back to Basics (virtual, 130 attendees)
- **2020 College & University Forum** (virtual, 55 attendees)



recyclingworksma.com/wastewise/
recyclingworksma.com/college-and-university-forums/

JOIN US FOR THE WASTEWISE FORUM



- Focus on food waste prevention, food donation, source separation
- Speakers include:
 - Fruit Center Marketplace
 - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)

ONGOING & NEW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

- Back in the field for site visits & continuing virtual assistance
- Outreach and assistance related to waste ban amendments
- Restaurant take-out packaging resource
- Resource management contracting webpage
- Ready-to-go training tools for technical assistance recipients

THE GREEN TEAM

- K-12 schools in Massachusetts
- Lesson plans & curriculum resources
- Free recycling & composting equipment available
- Recognition & prizes



The GREEN TEAM is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and administered by CET.



2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR OVERVIEW

- 411 participating Green Teams
- 401 new teachers
- 113,921 participating students
- 38 schools received recycling equipment
- Informational webinar (69 attendees)



ADAPTING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Weekly themed emails for teachers
- Webinar: Resources for Remote Environmental Education
- Virtual edu-tainer performances for prize winners
- Video: Recycling at Home



THE GREEN TEAM PRESENTS: RECYCLING AT HOME

- Crowd-sourced video
- Teaches students and families about best practices for recycling at home
- Focus on Recycle Smart MA guidance



thegreenteam.org/recycling-at-home-video/

NEW FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

- Survey for teachers to help shape program content
- Webinar on a topic TBD based on survey results
- Video case study of a school recycling program



THANK YOU

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