



# Solid Waste Advisory Committee

*Virtual Meeting – June 24, 2021*

**Reduce & Reuse (R&R)  
Working Group Update**

Erin Victor, MassDEP

# Recap of R&R Workgroup Progress



KICKOFF MEETING - [MARCH 2020](#)



CREATING A CULTURE OF REUSE IN MA - [APRIL 2020](#); [MAY 2020](#); [JULY 2020](#)



REUSE ROUNDTABLE: *THE FUTURE & SAFETY OF REUSE* IN MA - [MAY 2020](#)



HOUSEHOLD DURABLE GOODS - [MAY 2020](#); [JUNE 2020](#)



REPAIR PANEL DISCUSSION - [AUGUST 2020](#)



SINGLE USE PACKAGING – [OCTOBER 2020](#)



PRIORITY MATERIALS DEEP DIVE – [DECEMBER 2020](#)



REVIEWING BARRIERS & STRATEGIES; DRAFTING ACTION PLAN – [JANUARY 2021](#), [MARCH 2021](#)

# Barriers and Strategies to Reduce & Reuse

*MassDEP held 10 meetings of the Reduce & Reuse (R&R) Working Group between March 2020 and January 2021. More than 320 individuals participated in these meetings and the collective input from these discussions were summarized:*

## **Summary of Barriers:**

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/summary-of-barriers-from-2020-working-group-meetings/download>

## **Summary of Strategies:**

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/summary-of-strategies-from-2020-working-group-meetings/download>

Criteria	Scale
<b>Impact</b> If this initiative is successfully implemented, how impactful will it be towards achieving our waste prevention and reuse goals?	High- Medium- Low
<b>Feasibility</b> What is the probability that the initiative will be successfully implemented and adopted given institutional and cultural barriers?	High- Medium- Low
<b>Stakeholder Support</b> What is the level of stakeholder support for this initiative?	High- Medium- Low



## Prioritization Matrix

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# MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

April 2021

## Background

In the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) established the Commonwealth's policy framework for reducing and managing the solid waste generated by Massachusetts residents and businesses over the next decade (2020-2030). Setting aggressive waste reduction goals (Figure 1) to guide Massachusetts towards a zero-waste future, MassDEP analyzed waste characterization data to help set priorities for reaching these waste reduction goals most effectively and efficiently.

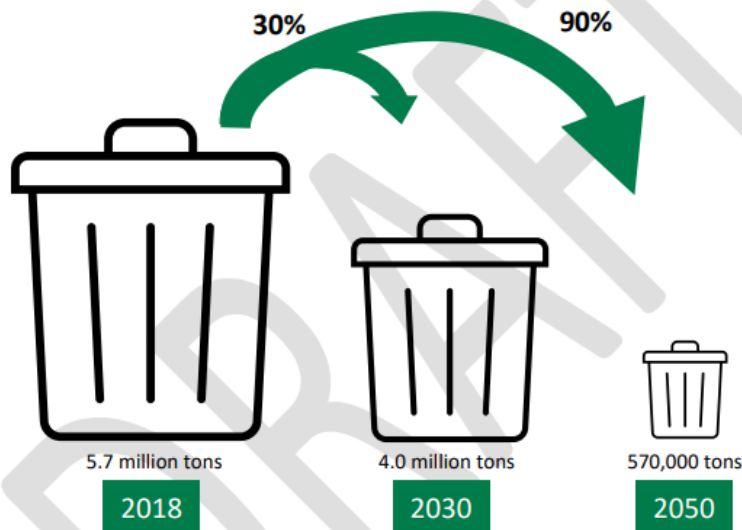


Figure 1. Massachusetts Waste Reduction Goals established in the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan

## Draft Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-reduce-reuse-action-plan-april-2021/download>

# R&R Action Plan Organization



**EDUCATION/BEHAVIOR CHANGE**



**TOOLS, RESOURCE, & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**



**GRANTS/FINANCIAL INCENTIVES:**



**JOB TRAINING/ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



**NETWORKING**










**LEGISLATION**



**PROCUREMENT**

# How to Read the R&R Action Plan







Timeframe	Definition	Icon
Short Term	1-2 years	
Medium Term	3-5 years	
Long Term	6-7 years	

Status	Icon
Completed	
Ongoing	
In Progress	
Not Started	

*Figure 3. Timeframe and Status icons used throughout the Reduce & Reuse Action Plan*

## Education/Behavior Change









A common theme discussed in the MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Working Group is the lack of knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors that would support a greater cultural adoption of waste prevention, reuse, repair and sharing practices in Massachusetts. The following actions are intended to address this barrier by bolstering awareness and knowledge throughout the state of the benefits of reuse and facilitating easier access to finding local reuse opportunities.









Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Develop a state-wide education campaign around best practices for reducing waste, increasing reuse and repair, and extending product lifespans			While focused primarily on recycling, the <a href="#">Recycle Smart MA</a> initiative occasionally addresses waste reduction, reuse, and repair topics through social media channels and the monthly newsletter. MassDEP will explore how to build off this pre-existing initiative to increase state-wide education around waste prevention and reuse.
Develop an online reuse directory to better connect residents with reuse/repair/share resources across the state			This directory will expand upon the pre-existing <a href="#">Beyond the Bin</a> search directory and Recycling Work's <a href="#">Find-A-Recycler</a> tool to include local retailers who provide repair, share, rental services.
Create or promote an online calculator to quantify the environmental, social, and economic benefits of reuse			In Winter 2021, MassDEP partnered with a graduate student project team at Tuft's University Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) program on an economic analysis of the reuse sector which will be used to inform development of the online calculator



## Tools, Resources & Technical Assistance









Reuse non-profit and for-profit organizations, K-12 schools, C have expressed the need for greater support for starting or su programs. Through the MassDEP [Green Team](#), [Recycling Work Coordinators](#) and other department resources, the following a resources, tools, and technical assistance that would support i

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Expand project planning and materials management guidelines for optimizing reuse in deconstruction and new construction/renovation of buildings including K-12 school construction, commercial construction, and residential/home construction projects			MassDEP has developed guidance around <a href="#">K-12 school furniture reuse</a> and as well as <a href="#">best management practices</a> for business and institutional furniture and equipment through the Recycling Works program.  Recycling Works further provides resources and technical assistance for <a href="#">commercial construction projects</a> separating materials for reuse.
Promote local repair and reuse events, library of things, tool lending libraries, and swap shops			MassDEP started incentivizing local repair and reuse events, library of things/tool lending libraries, and swap shops through SMRP <a href="#">Recycling Dividends Program Funds</a> in 2019 and provides resources for municipalities interested in starting these reuse programs on the MassDEP <a href="#">Municipal Reuse &amp; Repair Programs</a> webpage.
Provide guidance, technical assistance, and start-up funding to assist restaurants, colleges, and universities switching from single use to reusable food ware systems			In December 2020, Recycling Works MA developed a guide for <a href="#">Reducing Waste From Restaurant Takeout and Delivery Meals</a>  As of April 2021, MassDEP has also provided grant funding through the <a href="#">Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant</a> to support a business starting up a reusable cup program, elimination of individual plastic-wrapped baked goods in a K-12 school, and a local brewery switching to reusable stainless steel cups for use in their outdoor patio. MassDEP will share lessons learned from these projects with other businesses and institutions to encourage more widespread adoption of these practices.
Identify and share model ordinances and bylaws focused on waste prevention and reuse, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>food service ware ordinances that reduce the use of single use packaging</li> </ul>			MassDEP will gather information on ordinances from other parts of the country and share those that have the best fit for Massachusetts municipalities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historic preservation ordinances stipulating deconstruction and reuse mandates in building projects</li> <li>• model procurement policies focused on buying durable, repairable, and refurbished/remanufactured goods</li> </ul>			
Provide guidance for municipalities, non-profits, businesses, multifamily residences, and park and recreation facilities to address illegal dumping outside of donation bins and at donation centers			<p>Continue to support the MassDEP Strike Force Anti-Dumping Surveillance initiative.</p> <p>Guidance may include identifying and sharing model ordinances/bylaws to regulate placement and management of textile drop-off/donation bins to decrease the likelihood of illegal dumping.</p>
Identify and promote (or pilot) furniture, fixture and equipment leasing models to reduce ongoing purchase and disposal of durable items during temporary housing situations like at college and universities			MassDEP works closely with colleges and universities through a College and University Forum and newsletter through the RecyclingWorks program. MassDEP also partners with the Massachusetts Leading by Example program to deliver assistance to state colleges and universities.
Identify a partner(s) to help foster a refillable 1 lb propane gas cylinder program in MA			This program would address small disposable propane tanks used for camping, portable heaters, lanterns, lawn care equipment, etc. These 1lb propane cylinders pose a major fire hazard and safety concern for waste workers. The refillable program would be modeled after " <a href="#">ReFuel Your Fun</a> " program in California.
<p>Identify and share best practices for businesses adopting reusable transportation packaging systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance for businesses interested in adopting reusable models</li> </ul>			MassDEP will deliver assistance and guidance through the RecyclingWorks program.









## Grants & Financial Incentives

In addition to providing resources, tools, and technical assistance, many organizations expressed the need for financial support for starting up reduction/reuse initiatives. The following grants and financial incentives are intended to help meet this need.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes:
Provide local businesses, NGOs, and municipalities financial assistance for waste reduction and reuse projects			<p>Mass DEP supports NGOs and municipal waste reduction projects through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.</p> <p>MassDEP's <a href="#">Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant</a> provides funding for businesses, NGOs and eligible municipalities for short-term waste reduction and reuse projects.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Recycling Business Development Grant can target reuse activities for target materials for example</a> furniture reuse has been an eligible grant category.</p>
Incentivize reuse programs through municipal Recycling Dividends Program Funds, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adding model reuse ordinances and bylaws to RDP criteria</li> <li>• encouraging more frequent community donation/reuse opportunities to increase local accessibility of reuse</li> </ul>			<p>In 2019, MassDEP added four municipal reuse programs that were eligible for earning <a href="#">Recycling Dividends Program Funds</a> – Swap Shops, Repair Events, Reuse Events, and Libraries of Things/Tool Libraries.</p>
Continue to incentivize <a href="#">Pay As You Throw (PAYT) and Save-Money-And-Reduce-Trash (SMART) Programs</a>			<p>MassDEP offers municipalities grant funds for implementing PAYT/SMART programs through the <a href="#">Sustainable Materials Recovery Program</a> as well as financial incentives to adopt PAYT/SMART programs through <a href="#">Recycling Dividends Program Funds</a>.</p>
Promote residential deconstruction and reuse project(s) in home construction and remodeling to increase reuse and donation of building materials and encourage use of C&D material reuse stores			<p>This would build of the current Recycling Works MA resources and technical assistance for <a href="#">commercial construction projects</a>.</p>




## Job Training & Workforce Development

Throughout MassDEP Reduce & Reuse Working Group discussions, a lack of access to and retention of a skilled and semi-skilled workforce was one barrier that reuse organizations expressed limited their capacity to repair, refurbish, transport, and/or process more items for reuse.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Support the development or expansion of training programs for repair and refurbishment of durable goods to foster a culture of repair and support workforce development in the repair sector			MassDEP will seek to connect with K-12, Voc Tech Schools, Non-Profit, Social Enterprises and other organizations to support existing training programs or the development new programs focused on repair and refurbishment skill development
Coordinate with other state agencies to leverage existing or pilot new workforce development and training programs supporting repair, refurbishment, resale, and reuse job skill development and organizations in Massachusetts			MassDEP will reaching out to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development's workforce development program identify opportunities to develop training programs or leverage existing programs that support repair and reuse skills and organizations.
Identify and partner with an organization offering a job training program(s) for home deconstruction			MassDEP will seek to identify existing programs that could provide these training resources.
Partner with K-12 schools, colleges & universities to develop and offer courses on "design thinking" and "design challenges" focused on product durability, repairability, and reuse			In particular, MassDEP will work with state colleges and universities, including promoting existing offerings.

## Networking

Without a dedicated association for reuse and repair businesses and non-profits, there is a lack organization and coordination amongst reuse organizations in Massachusetts. One way that MassDEP can help address this is by continuing to facilitate and offer networking opportunities for organizations involved in reuse.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Facilitate information sharing and networking opportunities amongst reuse stakeholders			<p>Starting in March 2020, MassDEP launched <a href="#">a Reduce &amp; Reuse Working Group</a> to regularly bring together reuse stakeholders from across the state to help develop the MassDEP Strategic Reduce and Reuse Action Plan. MassDEP will continue to convene this working group moving forward to provide opportunities to network and share information amongst reuse stakeholders.</p> <p>Additionally, MassDEP has set up a <a href="#">Reduce &amp; Reuse Network Listserv</a> (Google Group) that provides a means for people to share waste prevention and reuse resources, ideas, best practices, fact sheets, and more.</p>
Foster partnerships between commercial contractors and architects to support greater adoption of building material and Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) reuse and recycling in construction projects			<p>This work would build off the existing <a href="#">Recycling Works MA</a> guidance and outreach around Construction &amp; Demolition reuse in <a href="#">commercial construction projects</a>.</p>





## Legislation

Local, state, and federal policies that inhibit reuse and repair as well as legislation that could bolster reuse and repair were brought up frequently by stakeholders in the Reduce & Reuse Working Group discussions.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
<b>Work with the Legislature to advance waste prevention and reuse legislation, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems for packaging and electronics</li><li>A state-wide ban on plastic bags and polystyrene take-out containers</li><li>Right to Repair Legislation</li><li>Incentivize the purchase of secondhand items through a sales tax exception for a set day or week each year</li></ul>			
<b>Consult with the Massachusetts <a href="#">Department of Public Health</a> to advocate for identifying and removing barriers in state public health codes and local Board of Health (BOH) codes that limit or prevent use of reusable service ware and take-out food containers at food establishments</b>			MassDEP has worked with DPH and local health officials to develop guidance on similar issues related to food waste collection and food donation. Through this approach, we would work to identify and remove these barriers while ensuring sound public health practices.

## Procurement:

Government procurement is a powerful tool for modeling and leading positive change. Through model procurement policies at both the state and local level, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can help drive greater demand for refurbished, durable, and repairable products, both minimizing the environmental impacts of state government and supporting these vital and often local businesses.

Action	Timeframe	Status	Notes
<b>Partner with Massachusetts Operational Services Division (OSD) <a href="#">Environmentally Preferable Products and Services (EPP)</a> program and the <a href="#">Leading by Example (LBE) program</a> to create procurement policies that drive demand for refurbished, durable, and repairable products at the state and local level</b>			Several vendors on the <a href="#">OFF28: Office, School and Library Furniture, Accessories &amp; Services</a> state contract offer remanufactured/reconditioned/refurbished furniture.

# Measuring Progress

## Performance Measures (Leading Measures)



Number of organizations and municipalities requesting and supported (grant awards and technical assistance)



Total grant money requested and awarded to reduce/reuse initiatives



Number of technical assistance requests for waste prevention or reuse support (indicator of demand)



Number of RecyclingWorks hotline calls related to waste prevention and reuse (indicator of demand)



Number of Recycling Loan Funds requested and total loan funding provided to reduce/reuse related activities



Develop measurements to determine the success of networking opportunities, training opportunities, and procurement policies developed as a result of this Reduce & Reuse Action Plan



# Outcome Measures

(Lagging Measures)

- Grant program results (project specific) from the Reduce, Reuse. Repair Micro-Grants and relevant RDBG and SMRP Grants
- Municipal program access to Library of Things/ Tool Lending Libraries, repair events, swap shops, and zero waste events
- Survey of resident's attitudes and behaviors related to reduce and reuse
- Economic "health" of the reuse sector (Number of reuse businesses, employees, and revenue)
- Reduction in overall waste disposed in alignment with the Solid Waste Master Plan goals and reduction of disposal of priority materials based on waste characterization studies

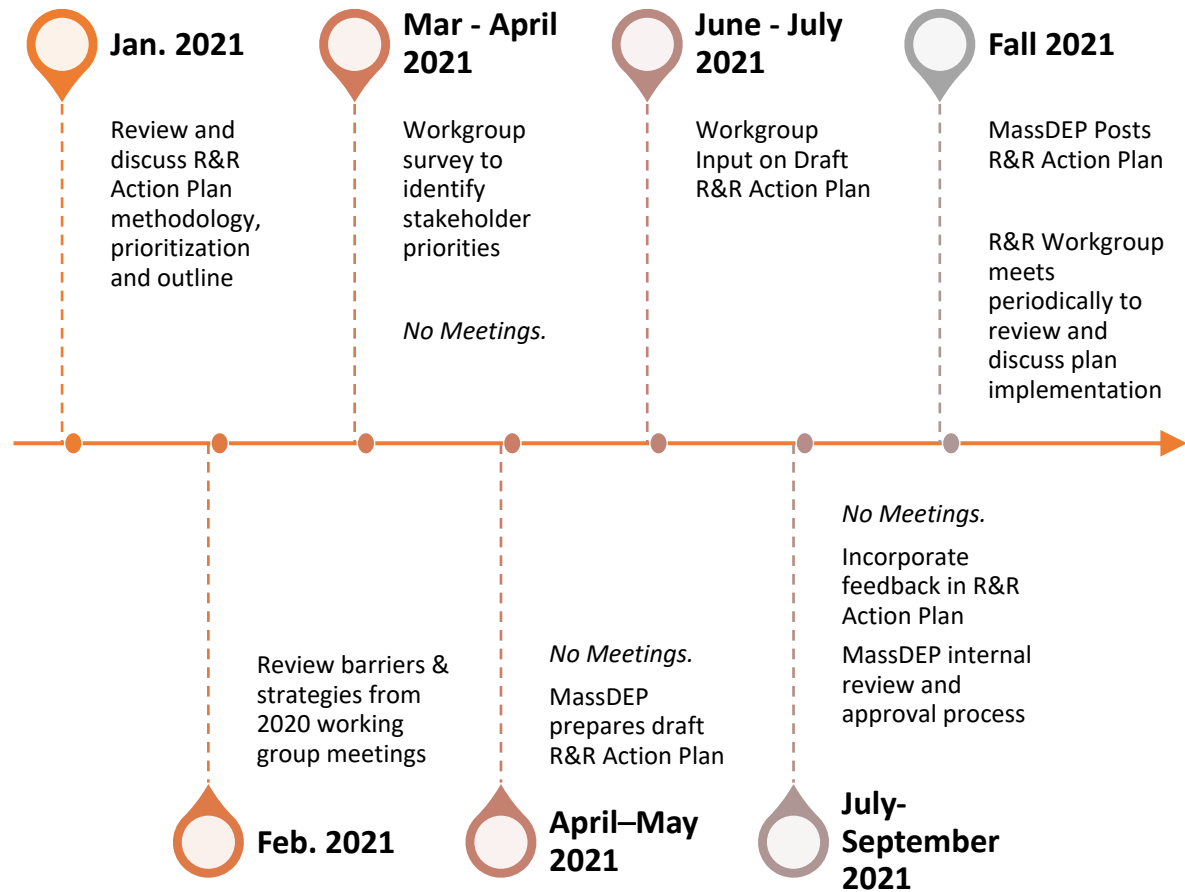
Strategy	Timeframe	Sector	Priority Material	Tool	Status	Notes
Support businesses switching to reusable transportation and distribution systems through the RBDG Grant.	Short Te...	Busine... NGO	Transpor... Single Us...	Grant Fu...	Comple...	In RDGB 2021 Application released April 2021, reusable transportation packaging was added one of the grant priorities. MassDEP received 4 grants related to this and awarded 2 of them for a total of \$500,000
Launch Reuse Smart MA educational campaign	Mid-ter...	Gener...	Househol... Electronics Single Us... Textiles	Best Pra...	In Progr...	MassDEP currently has a RFP out for a marketing vendor to help support the launch of a Reuse Smart educational

imilar to the  
smart program

# Reuse Action Plan : A Living Document

textiles						
Develop model ordinance for local municipalities	Long ter...	Munici...	Building ...	Legislation Best Pra...	Not Star...	MassDEP is currently looking at model ordinances in passed in other states

# Tentative 2021 R&R Working Group Schedule





# Next Steps:

- Draft Reduce & Reuse Action Plan

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-reduce-reuse-action-plan-april-2021/download>

- Link to Input Form:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Fh2GPrdIDkqYBowE2Bt7KIJz5CPph\\_hLsedRnx2TmaZURERYWFRBRESyTIUwRUpVNk1ZVUc5WEdWTC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Fh2GPrdIDkqYBowE2Bt7KIJz5CPph_hLsedRnx2TmaZURERYWFRBRESyTIUwRUpVNk1ZVUc5WEdWTC4u)

Accepting Input through **July 15, 2021**

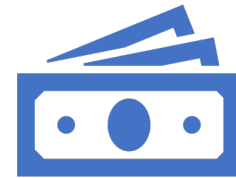
# Reduce & Reuse Micro-Grants

This grant program provides small amounts of funding (up to \$5,000) for eligible for-profit and non-profit organizations for innovative, short term waste reduction initiatives. Initiatives must focus on promoting source reduction, reuse, or repair in Massachusetts.

[Micro-Grant Online Application](#)  
[Grant Guidelines](#)

Still have questions?

Contact Erin Victor at [erin.victor@mass.gov](mailto:erin.victor@mass.gov) or  
Janice Paré at [janice.pare@mass.gov](mailto:janice.pare@mass.gov)





# NO WASTE TO SPARE:

## AN ECONOMIC AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF MASSACHUSETTS' REUSE ECONOMY

UEP FIELD PROJECTS 2021

### FIELD PROJECTS TEAM

Brianna Eassa, Carly Thibodeau, Joann Lai,  
Maxwell Dorman, Zhining Sun

### PROJECT PARTNER

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Erin Victor, Kathi Mirza

## 2021 Tufts UEP Field Project

- The reuse economy in Massachusetts generates about \$7.3 Billion each year or \$1,067 per capita per year.
- Based on 2020 data, there are 6,438 secondhand retail, repair, and rental businesses in MA.
- These businesses make up nearly 2 percent of all statewide businesses and about 1 percent of employment (32,828 jobs).
- See Full Report:  
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/no-waste-to-spare-an-economic-spatial-analysis-of-massachusetts-reuse-economy-may-2021/download>