
Recycling Market Development Workgroup



March 13, 2025

10 AM – 12PM

Agenda

- Welcome
 - Workgroup Recap
 - Solid Waste Master Plan – 2025 Program Review
 - RMD Action Plan Status Updates
 - Q&A
 - Waste Reduction Innovation Grant
 - Q&A
 - Next Steps & Concluding Remarks
-

Workgroup Recap

2030 Solid Waste Master Plan

Goal

- Foster in-state market development for reusable, recyclable and compostable materials.
- *Target materials:* Food material, furniture and other bulky materials, glass, textiles.
Also increase ability of recycling facilities and systems to sort materials to enable higher value market outlets.

Strategies

- Work with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive market development plan:
 - Plan should support activities across multiple levels of the waste management hierarchy, including reuse, recycling, composting, processing, and other diversion options.
 - Identify materials that are the best candidates for in-state market development.
-

Workgroup Recap

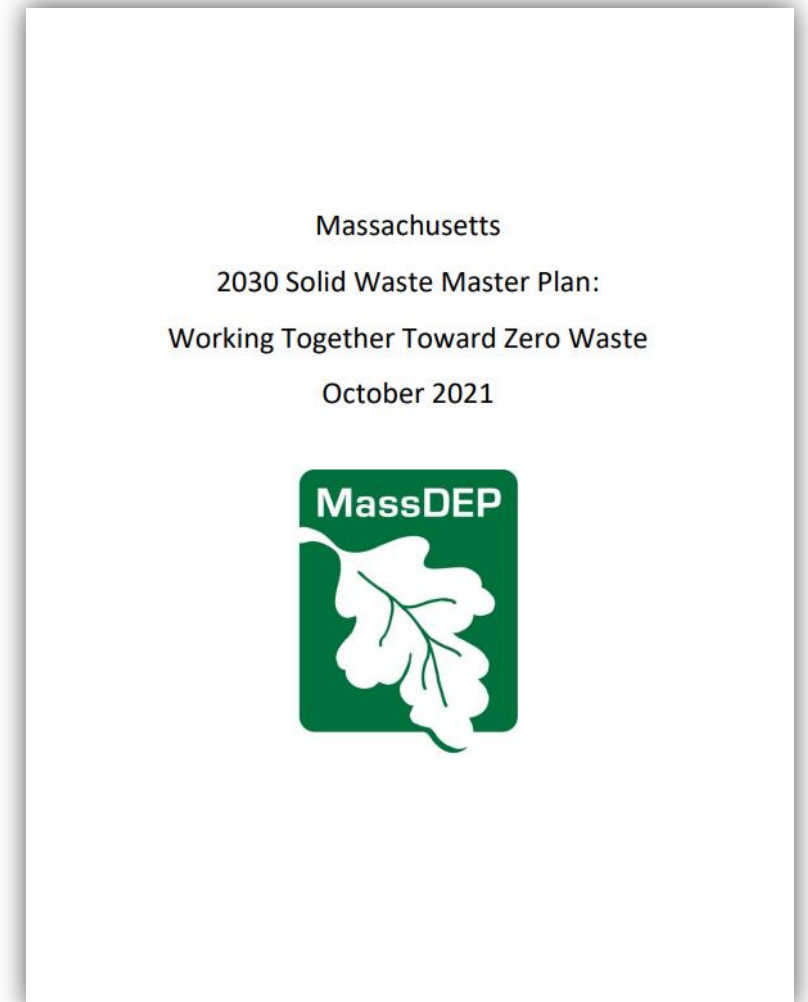
- Meetings 1 & 2 – January and February 2022
 - Existing MA market development programs, regional and national landscape
 - Meetings 3-6 – April through December 2022
 - Specific topics including:
 - Business support and economic development strategies / Demand-side strategies
 - Education, outreach, networking and information sharing / Research and development
 - Breakout groups: Packaging, organics, bulky materials and textiles, emerging markets
 - Meeting 7 – June 2023
 - Introduced draft Recycling Market Development Action Plan
 - Meeting 8 – September 2024
 - More resources for businesses
-

Solid Waste Master Plan 2025 Review



Solid Waste Master Plan

- Establishes MassDEP's overarching solid waste policy framework
- 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan
 - Finalized in 2021
 - Intended to run through 2030
 - Big picture framework
 - Supported by multiple Action Plans
 - Action Plans updated as needed



2025 Program Review

- MassDEP committed to “prepare a mid-course program & policy assessment by 2025”
 - Update action plans, including Recycling Market Development
 - Consider optimal use of MassDEP staffing and funding
 - Complete by end of calendar year 2025
-

Progress to Date - Overall

- Goal to reduce disposal by 30 percent (1.7 million tons) by 2030
 - From 5.7 to 4.0 million tons
 - However total disposal increased 9 percent (500K tons) through 2023
 - Driven by economic growth – 32% increase in State GDP in Mass.
 - Continued post-pandemic waste generation shifts
-

RMD Action Plan Status Update



Recycling Market Development

Recycling Market Development Action Plan



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Air and Waste

February 2024

- Published first Action Plan in February 2024
- Continued to grow RBDG grants
- Developed guidance for recycling businesses in MA
- Launching Waste Reduction Innovations Grant in Spring 2025

Business Support and Economic Development Strategies

Action Item	Status	Timeframe	Notes
Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grants and Recycling Loan Fund	Currently Implementing	Short Term	Ongoing - Limited to capital equipment
Innovation Grant	Launch April 2025	Medium Term	Provide funding for investments such as startups etc.
Connect Recycling Businesses to Webinars/Workshops	Initiated in Year 1	Short Term	Focused on resources offered by MA and regional agencies
Recycling Business Guidance Document	Completed in Year 1	Short Term	Includes grants, loans, and permit requirements. Plan to update periodically.
Connect recycling businesses with financial and TA offered through State and Regional Economic Development Orgs	Initiated in Year 1	Short Term	Funnel businesses to economic development centers etc.

Business Support and Economic Development Strategies (cont.)

Action Item	Status	Timeframe	Notes
Emphasize program outreach and marketing to minority-owned businesses and businesses near EJ populations etc.	Currently Implementing	Short Term	On-going - Partner with the Supplier Diversity Office and business orgs etc.
Connect recycling businesses to MassHire Career Centers etc.	Initiated in Year 1	Short Term	Current need for skilled equipment maintenance and drivers
Continue to deliver messages through RecycleSmart MA etc.	Currently Implementing	Short term	Ongoing - Expand growth of partner orgs for high contamination generator sectors
Connect with Reduce & Reuse Action Plan	Currently Implementing	Short term	Ongoing - Currently supported through RBDG reuse grants and Reuse Micro Grants
Continue to monitor recycling market development programs in other states	Currently Implementing	Long Term	Ongoing - Including conferences, webinars, and participation in regional forums like NERC

Build Demand for Recycled Products Strategies

Action Item	Status	Timeframe	Notes
Engage other state agencies on purchasing recycled products	Currently Implementing	Short Term	Ongoing
Use the RecycleSmart MA program as an outreach channel	Future Program Commitment	Medium Term	Increasing purchase of recycled content products will help support recycling businesses
Hold workshops to provide guidance to businesses on opportunities to purchase recycled content products	Future Program Commitment	Medium Term	Develop improved web page and resources for Business Buy Recycled initiatives
Initiate conversations with recycling processors and manufacturers about barriers	Currently Implementing	Medium Term	Ongoing examples: Industry associations, Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council
Provide funding for pilot projects utilizing recycled materials	Future Program Commitment	Medium Term	Focus on state agencies and municipalities, work with OSD and DCAMM

Build Demand for Recycled Products Strategies (cont.)

Action Item	Status	Timeframe	Notes
Engage the state legislature in potential strategies to build demand	Future Program Commitment	Long Term	Include Joint Committees
Connect with MassDEP's Deconstruction Workgroup to build demand for used building materials	Currently Implementing	Short Term	Ongoing - Support building reuse infrastructure
Continue meetings of the Recycling Market Development Workgroup	Currently Implementing	Short Term	Ongoing
Explore Regional Partnerships	Currently Implementing	Short Term	Ongoing

Research and Development Strategies

Action Item	Status	Timeframe	Notes
Discuss potential partnership with Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	Future Program Commitment	Medium Term	Began discussions - implement initiative in medium term
Utilize Massachusetts' college and university system to kickstart R&D	Initiated Year 1	Medium Term	Related to Innovation Grant etc. Focus: how to increase efficiency, economic viability
Work with OSD etc. to pilot and test performance of recycled content products	Future Program Commitment	Medium Term	Focus on products new to marketplace

Research and Development Strategies (cont.)

Action Item	Status	Timeframe	Notes
Testing new recycled content products/applications/ technologies	Starting Year 2	Short Term	Could also fund assistance through state higher education system or other contracted service providers
Support business incubator programs through Innovation Grants	Starting Year 2-3	Short/Medium Term	Leverage other funding and investment opportunities, such as foundation funding
Connect/target research and development projects with other MassDEP action plans	Initiated in Year 1	Short Term	Currently Assessing Plan Connections

Waste Reduction Innovation Grants



About This Program

- A completely new program
 - From our Recycling Market Development Action, we identified expanding recycling market infrastructure by investing in the innovation space
 - Some of our goals for this new grant program is to:
 - 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.
-

Eligible Entities

For profit and non-profit companies and corporations properly registered to do business in the Commonwealth at the time of contracting if awarded a grant, including being listed with the Secretary of State's Office and meeting all grant eligibility criteria specified in the Grant Guidelines.

- Any equipment funded by MassDEP must be used exclusively in Massachusetts and must remain in the state and be used for its funded purpose.
 - Compliance with federal and state environmental laws for the past three years.
 - Projects must be completed within the required timeline from contract signing
-

Split Into TWO Grant Categories

Category 1: Start-Up and Pilot Projects

Goal:
Support the commercialization of innovations that have demonstrated success outside of bench-scale laboratory environments.

Category 2: Innovative Capital Investment

Goal:
Support capital infrastructure, specifically new technology or equipment that is not prevalent in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Applicants may apply for only one grant category

Summary of Category 1: Start-Up and Pilot Projects

Key Information	Category 1: Start-Up and Pilot Projects
Award amount	\$50,000 to \$100,000
Required minimum match by applicant	25% of the requested amount
Eligible materials	Any material diverted from solid waste disposal
Eligible activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Processing, including use of internally generated materials already onsite;2. Manufacturing,3. Reuse4. Application or development of technology to support above activities
Eligible grant funded costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Equipment or other capital costsb) Staff or consultant time directly relevant to the proposed project;c) Feasibility study or design work; andd) Marketing cost
Ineligible activities and expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recovering energy from the combustion of a material or creating a fuel.• Academic tuition.• Administrative and overhead expenses.• Collection or hauling activities.• Brokering activities.
Maximum project duration	18 months maximum from contract signing

Summary of Category 2: Innovative Capital Investments

Key Information	Category 2: Innovative Capital Investment
Award amount	\$500,000 to \$2,000,000
Required minimum match by applicant	50% of the requested amount
Eligible materials	Materials diverted from solid waste disposal, limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Textiles;2. Container glass;3. C&D materials including wood, gypsum wallboard, and asphalt shingles (but not mixed C&D processing);4. Bulky items like furniture, carpet, and residential plastics;5. Lithium batteries from households
Eligible activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Processing,b) Manufacturing,c) Reuse
Eligible grant funded costs	Equipment or other capital costs
Ineligible activities and expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recovering energy from the combustion of a material or creating a fuel.• Academic tuition.• Administrative and overhead expenses.• Staff or consultant time.• Exclusive use of internally generated materials already onsite.• Feasibility studies or design work.• Marketing costs.• Collection or hauling activities.• Brokering activities.
Maximum project duration	36 months maximum from contract signing


How To Apply

MassDEP will be accepting applications online only.

- <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/waste-reduction-innovation-grant>
 - First, make sure you are eligible by reviewing the eligibility criteria stated in the Grant Guidelines
 - Then...Prepare the information you need to submit
 1. Complete an application form on the MassDEP website
 2. Submit your pro-forma to Joann.E.Lai@mass.gov as a **PDF file**
-

Waste Reduction Innovation Grant

This program provides grants to eligible businesses, start-ups, and non-profit organizations for new technology that expands recycling and reuse infrastructure in Massachusetts.

 *Application will be posted April 15, 2025.*

[2025 Waste Reduction
Innovation Grant Guidelines →](#)

THE DETAILS

[About this program](#)

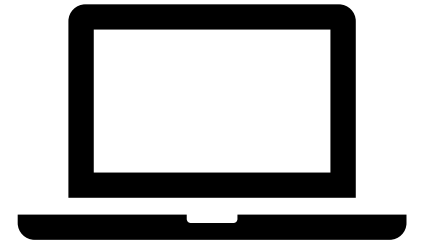
[How to apply](#)

[Next steps](#)

[Contact](#)

About this program

The Waste Reduction Innovation Grant (WRIG) consists of two grant categories: start-up/pilot projects and capital infrastructure investments. Through the start-up and pilot projects grant category, MassDEP is interested in supporting innovations that have demonstrated success outside of bench-scale laboratory environments and are ready to move from initial development to commercialization. MassDEP is also interested in supporting capital projects that will make significant infrastructure change to enable diversion of waste at scale.



[Waste Reduction Innovation Grant |
Mass.gov](#)

Pro-forma template

REVENUE	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
(add line-item description)			
(add additional line item as needed)			
Net Total (+)			
COSTS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
(add operating costs, cost of sales, etc.)			
(add additional line item as needed)			
Net Cost (-)			
Gross Profit or Net Income Before Taxes			
Taxes on Income			
Net Income After Taxes			
Net Income			

Template is available in the [Grant Guidelines](#)

Evaluation Criteria

Read the [Grant Guidelines](#) carefully

- MassDEP will evaluate applications based on these criteria
- Strong applications = all evaluation criteria are addressed

Project Description and Operation
Timeline
Potential Market Impact
Feasibility
Sourcing
Sustainability
Qualifications
EJ Community Investments

Estimated Grant Timeline

Application opens, and formal question period begins. All questions must be submitted in writing to Joann Lai at Joann.E.Lai@mass.gov .	April 15, 2025
Deadline for questions	June 2, 2025, 11:59 P.M. E.T.
Answers posted to website	June 16, 2025
Application deadline	July 15, 2025, 11:59 P.M. E.T.
MassDEP reviews applications received	August – November 2025
Award finalists announced (pending agreement on grant scope and contract)	December 2025
Grant Contracts finalized and signed	By March 2026
Awarded projects begin	By April 2026

If Awarded – Payment Schedule

Payments for Category 1 projects will be distributed in two stages:

1. Ninety (90) percent of the grant award will be paid on a reimbursement basis, based on submission of receipts for approved expenses, as agreed to in the Scope of Work.
2. The final payment shall be a ten (10) percent retainage payment, payable after all stated goals and deliverables have been met and the applicant submits, and MassDEP accepts, a final report. The report must be received and accepted by MassDEP prior to the end date of the contract.

Payments for Category 2 projects will be distributed in three stages:

1. An initial reimbursement payment(s) will be made based on submission of receipts for approved expenses as agreed to in the Scope of Work.
 2. Additional payments will be distributed on a quarterly basis based on performance, such as tonnage of material processed or recovered, over a minimum of one year.
 3. The final payment shall be a ten (10) percent retainage payment after all stated goals and deliverables have been met and the applicant submits, and MassDEP accepts, a final report. The report must be received and accepted by MassDEP prior to the end date of the contract.
-

If Awarded – Additional Required Documentation

If selected for an award, the applicant will be required to sign and submit the following forms to complete the agreement process.

Applicants are encouraged to review these forms prior to submitting an application.

1. Commonwealth Standard Contract Form (filled out and signed by the applicant). The Standard Contract Form is listed under Contracts on this website: <http://www.macomptroller.org/forms>
 2. Commonwealth Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions are incorporated by reference into the Standard Contract Form, and do not need to be executed separately. <http://www.macomptroller.org/forms>
 3. Commonwealth W-9 tax information form filled out and signed by the applicant with DUNS number and Federal Tax ID. <http://www.macomptroller.org/forms>
 4. Completed Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form. www.macomptroller.org/forms
 5. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form. <http://www.mass.gov/how-to/tips-for-completing-the-electronic-funds-transfer-eft-form>
 6. Scope of Work
-

Need To Know

- Application are planned to become available April 15
 - Announcements will be shared across our MassDEP workgroup email list
 - Read the Grant Guidelines carefully
 - Strong applications = all evaluation criteria are addressed
 - Questions? Email Joann.E.Lai@mass.gov
-

Next Steps & Concluding Remarks

- OSD Environmental Purchasing Annual Report
 - Innovation Grant launch
 - Continue to build connections
 - Explore potential for accelerator program
 - Fall working group meeting
 - Get in touch: Sean.Sylver@mass.gov
-