



Massachusetts Solid Waste Advisory Committee

February 13, 2025



Agenda

- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:05 MassDEP Grant Award Updates
 - Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant - Janice Paré
 - Sustainable Materials Recovery Program - Kathi Mirza
 - Recycling and Reuse Business Development Grant - Claudine Ellyin
- 10:40 Waste Reduction Innovation Grant - Joann Lai, MassDEP
- 11:00 Massachusetts EPR Commission - John Fischer, MassDEP
- 11:10 Solid Waste Master Plan Assessment - John Fischer, MassDEP
- 11:40 Open discussion

Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants

JANICE PARE

SWAC MEETING

FEBRUARY 13, 2025

2024 – A Banner Year

January 2024 – deadline implemented

Awards up to \$10,000

Budget increased to \$125,000

Guidelines updated

Publicized widely

Record number of applications received – 79!

23 grants awarded - ~\$140,000

Innovative Ideas

Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity

- Ramp donation and reuse program

Carey Company Inc.

- Showcase deconstruction on Nantucket

Reusable Foodware

Lawrence General Hospital

- Implementing reusable service ware in the LGH cafeteria

Berkshire Environmental Action Team

- Reusable food service ware at BEAT's Environmental Leadership and Education Center

Repair

Swanson's Fabrics

- Building a culture of clothing repair

Town of Westport

- Bike repair program

Furniture & Other Bulky Items

City of Cambridge

- Capturing move-out waste for reuse

Devens Eco-Efficiency Center

- Building engagement in the Great Exchange to expand reuse activities

Lessons Learned in 2024

- Deadlines work
- Minimum \$ ask
- Clear guidance regarding eligible projects and expenses
- Update priority projects
- Include evaluation criteria in guidelines
- Include a glossary of terms

Of Note for 2025



Awards from \$3,000 (min) to \$10,000 (max)

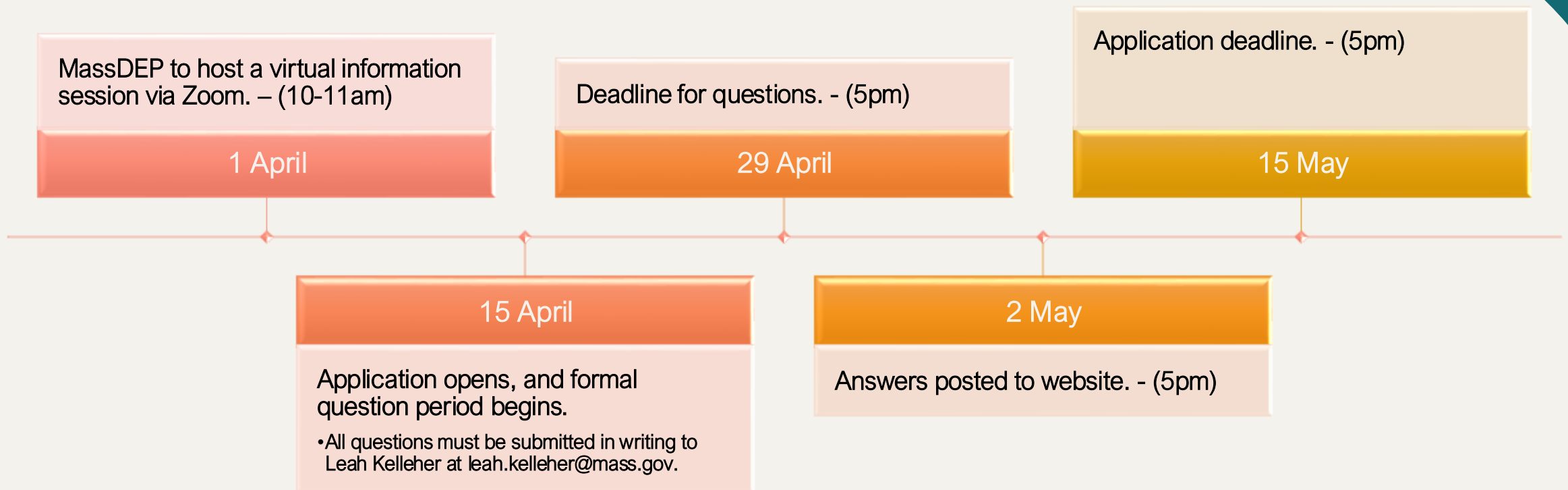


Updated and enhanced grant guidelines now available on Micro-Grant webpage.



Open to discussing ideas before the grant opens with those interested in applying in 2025.

Important Dates



Connect with us!



Leah Kelleher leah.kelleher@mass.gov

Janice Paré: janice.pare@mass.gov

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Grants

SWAC Meeting February 13, 2025
Spring 2025 Update



SMRP Background

- Created through the Green Communities Act and MassDEP regulations (310 CMR 19.300).
- SMRP is an annual grant program for municipalities and regional solid waste management districts in Massachusetts.
- Prioritized to promote best practices for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.
- Municipal Grant Program – Year 16.
- Growing our Team – RPIII job posting open now on [Mass Careers](#).

2024 Grant Awards

- In December 2024, MassDEP awarded **more than \$4M** in grants to **285** municipalities and regional groups. This included:
 - RDP: \$3.1M to 278 municipalities
 - Food Waste Collection Carts: \$130K
 - Reuse Swap Shops: \$96K
 - Universal Waste Sheds: \$65K
 - PAYT Funding: \$65K
 - Regional Small-Scale Initiatives: \$8K
 - Organics Capacity: \$195K (Winchester anaerobic digester)
 - Waste Reduction: \$250K (separate grants to Brookline, New Bedford, & Newton)
 - HHW Permanent Facility: \$250K (Lawrence/Methuen joint regional project)

Grant Offerings for Spring 2025

- Drop-off Equipment:
 - Universal Waste Sheds
 - Reuse Swap Shops
 - Cardboard Compactor
 - Source-separated Glass Container
 - Paint Shed
 - Food Waste Collection Equip
- Food Waste Collection Carts for Curbside Collection
- Pay-As-You-Throw Program Funds
- Regional Small-Scale Initiatives
- Recycling Dividends Program (RDP)
- Waste Reduction / Organics Capacity / Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility Project Proposals

Important Dates

- Reminder: Three Pre-requisites for Grants are Due February 15th
 - 2024 Recycling & Solid Waste Survey
 - 2024 RDP Spending Report
 - Annual Notification of Buy Recycled Policy – send to Rebecca.Ferguson@mass.gov

Important Dates

- Applications opened online on April 1st
- Grant Webinar on April 8th
- Applications Due by June 2, 2025, at 11:59 PM
- Awards expected in the Fall of 2025
- Contact: Rachel Smith, Rachel.Smith@mass.gov
- Visit: www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-sustainable-materials-recovery-program-smrp-municipal-grant

Recycling Business Development Grant (RBDG)

- ▶ RBDG is granted under M.G.L. ch.25A § 11F(d), 310 CMR 19.303(2)b and the Declaration of Trust. Article 2.1 of the Declaration of Trust allows for “Trust” funds to be used for grants to businesses and Non-Profits to enhance waste reduction and recycling programs. Materials are available at: [Apply for a Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grant | Mass.gov](#)
- ▶ Total awarded \$8.5 Million to 74 entities (since its inception in 2016). A full list of awardees is available here: [download](#)
- ▶ MassDEP has completed its Seventh-round under the Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grant (RBDG) program. This round has been devoted to enhancing processing and collection of target materials to advance recycling and reuse markets.

RBDG over the years

Rounds	# of awardees	Amount awarded (approx.)
Round 1 (2016)	8	\$1.07 M
Round 2 (2017)	5	\$.8 M
Round 3 (2018)	7	\$1.13 M
Round 4 (2019)	3	\$.7 M
Round 5 (2020)	5	\$.5 M
Round 6 (2022)	25	\$2.02 M (both processing & Collection)
Round 7 (2024)	21	\$1.87 M (both processing & Collection)
Total	74	\$8.5 M

RBDG 2024

- ▶ Announced on end of January 2024
- ▶ Application open until April 30, 2024
- ▶ RBDG Application Decision by August 2024
- ▶ SOW signed by November 2024
- ▶ Contract signed by January 2025

Next Round: Summer 2025

RBDG 2024 in Numbers

34 Application
for collection
grant requested
\$2.5 million

32 Application
for processing
grant requested
\$7.9million

Total 66
applicants
requested \$10.4
million

MassDEP
awarded total
\$1,868,000

\$565,000 to 10
collection
applicants

\$1,263,000 to 11
processing
applicants

RBDG Structure

Key Information	<i>processing of target materials</i>	<i>collection of target materials</i>
Award amount	\$50,000 to \$400,000 (max)	\$25,000 to \$100,000 (max)
Required minimum match by applicant	25% of the requested amount	50% of the requested amount
Eligible materials	(a) Container glass, (b) Reusable materials (Furniture, building materials, other bulky items, reusable food service ware) (c) Construction & Demolition Materials (wood, gypsum wallboard or asphalt shingles) (d) Textiles (clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, and fabric) (e) Food Materials, (f) Mattresses	(a) Surplus food for donation, (b) Food waste, (c) Mattresses, (d) Textiles (clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, and fabric)
Eligible grant funded costs	Equipment and other capital costs for: (1) Processing activities, which include those reclaiming activities that aggregate, dismantle, densify, shred, bale, culletize or otherwise process eligible materials. (2) Manufacturing activities, which include those activities that manufacture products with eligible materials. (3) Reuse activities that use an eligible material again, either in its original state or with refurbishment, for its original purpose or for a non-traditional purpose.	(1) Purchase of a truck, (2) Purchase of collection containers (carts, dumpsters, or roll-off containers) to expand collection routes and services, and (3) Purchase of equipment or software to increase route efficiency
Project duration	30 months maximum	12 months maximum

Waste Reduction Innovation Grants



Joann Lai, MassDEP

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.

About This Program

- Projects awarded as contracts, similar to RBDG grants
- MassDEP anticipates awarding up to \$6 million in awards, contingent on the applications received and funding availability.
- Spread the word to your network!

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
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
Maximum project duration	36 months maximum from contract signing

If You're Interested In Applying

- Application opens late Spring
- Announcements will be shared across our MassDEP workgroup email list
- Once it's available, read the Grant Guidelines carefully
 - Strong applications = all evaluation criteria are addressed
- More information will be available on our website (coming soon)
- Questions? Email Joann.E.Lai@mass.gov



Legislative EPR Commission

John Fischer
MassDEP

EPR Commission Overview

- ▶ Chapter 239 of Acts of 2024
- ▶ MassDEP directed to chair Extended Producer Responsibility Commission
- ▶ 21 defined members
- ▶ In process of establishing member representatives
- ▶ Expect to hold hybrid meetings open to public
- ▶ Will provide for comments & input outside of meetings
- ▶ Will establish Commission webpage

Planned Meetings

- ▶ Plan to hold one kickoff meeting (TBA in March)
- ▶ Planning one monthly meeting on each of five categories
 - ▶ Paint
 - ▶ Mattresses
 - ▶ Lithium-ion batteries
 - ▶ Electronics
 - ▶ Plastic and other packaging
- ▶ Goal to complete process & develop report by end of CY 2025
- ▶ Plan to also share interim reports

EPR Commission Report

- ▶ Report recommendations will include
 - ▶ recommendations on specific extended producer responsibility approaches
 - ▶ proposed structure for each product & packaging category including collection, processing, and financial responsibility
 - ▶ analysis of cost impacts
 - ▶ methods for incentivizing product & packaging production, including material reduction, reuse, and lifecycle extensions
 - ▶ impacts on waste generation and waste stream contamination reduction

Solid Waste Master Plan 2025 Review



John Fischer
MassDEP

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”
- ▶ Work through Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- ▶ Report on progress implementing programs and policies
- ▶ Update action plans, including C&D, Organics, Recycling Market Development, Reduce & Reuse
- ▶ Propose adjustments needed to Action Plans
- ▶ Consider optimal use of MassDEP staffing and funding
- ▶ Complete by end of calendar year 2025

Food Waste Disposal Ban

- ▶ Conduct stakeholder process to assess whether to ban all organic waste from disposal by 2030
- ▶ Will discuss in Organics Subcommittee
- ▶ Planning next meeting in March
- ▶ Expect to have multiple meetings to discuss

Municipal Waste Combustion Performance

- ▶ Make concerted effort to improve performance of existing combustion capacity
- ▶ Explore potential to establish declining cap on CO2 emissions from municipal waste combustors
- ▶ Would be similar to that of other electricity generation facilities
- ▶ Consistent with the objectives of Global Warming Solutions Act & 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan
- ▶ Will be discussed in upcoming SWAC meeting

Hazardous Household Products

- ▶ Not specifically called out in 2030 Plan
- ▶ But expect to prepare updated HHP Plan concurrent with Master Plan review process
- ▶ Will hold separate meetings focused on these issues

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

Progress to Date - Reduce & Reuse

- ▶ Reduce & Reuse Action Plan - December 2021
- ▶ Deconstruction Workgroup
 - ▶ Held 7 webinars
 - ▶ Planning workshop for Fall 2025
- ▶ Continued to grow Reuse Micro Grants
 - ▶ Largest grant round of \$140K awarded in August 2024
- ▶ Reusable takeout containers Best Management Practices
 - ▶ Published November 2024
- ▶ Increasing focus on bulky items

Progress to Date - Construction & Demolition

- ▶ Goal to reduce C&D disposal by 260K tons annually by 2030
- ▶ However, like overall disposal, has also grown
- ▶ Similar effects of growing economy
- ▶ Now requires 500K ton reduction to achieve goal
- ▶ Implemented Minimum Performance Standard to ensure level playing field
 - ▶ Planning to increase minimum threshold from 15% to 25% by 2030
- ▶ Also connecting with source separation & deconstruction

Recycling Market Development

- ▶ Published first Action Plan - February 2024
- ▶ Continued to grow RBDG grants
 - ▶ Expanded eligibility to reuse projects
 - ▶ Added collection grants for new waste ban materials
- ▶ Developed guidance for recycling businesses in MA
- ▶ Launching Waste Reduction Innovations Grant - Spring 2025
- ▶ Developing waste reduction business accelerator program
 - ▶ Potential launch in 2026
- ▶ Continuing to build network with connected organizations

Progress to Date - Food Waste

- ▶ Annual diversion has grown from 100,000 to 380,000 tons
- ▶ Number businesses diverting increased from 1,350 to 3,120
- ▶ Lowered waste ban threshold from 1 ton to ½ ton per week
- ▶ Continued to invest in infrastructure
- ▶ Beginning to shift emphasis to residential food waste reduction

Progress to Date - Waste Bans

- ▶ Early 2024 - hired two new waste ban inspectors
- ▶ Implemented new waste bans on mattresses and textiles
- ▶ Year 1 Results
 - ▶ Mattresses - increase from 170,000 to 400,000 recycled
 - ▶ Textiles 7% increase in recovery - about 3,000 ton increase
- ▶ Food waste request for information letters to verify compliance
 - ▶ Sent to more than 50 businesses representing more than 700 locations

For More Information

- ▶ John Fischer
- ▶ Deputy Division Director, Solid Waste
- ▶ John.fischer@mass.gov