

# Massachusetts Commercial Food Scraps Disposal Ban – One-Year Milestone



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# Waste Bans Background

## **Purpose:**

- Part of a comprehensive approach
- Ensure materials available for recycling & composting facilities
- Drive infrastructure investment and market development
- Limit need for disposal capacity

# Waste Ban Background

## Who do they apply to?

310 CMR 19.017(3)(a): “No person shall dispose, transfer for disposal, or contract for disposal of the restricted material...”

- **Solid Waste Facilities**
- **Haulers**
- **Generators**

# Banned Materials

- Recyclable Paper/Cardboard
- Glass, Metal, Plastic Containers
- Leaves and Yard Waste
- Asphalt Pavement, Brick, Concrete, Metal, Wood and Clean Gypsum Wallboard
- Lead Acid Vehicle Batteries and Tires
- Cathode Ray Tubes
- White Goods (large appliances)
- \* *Tires and Wood can be accepted at municipal waste combustors*
- **Overall, waste ban materials = about 40% of trash disposed**

# MassDEP Waste Ban Compliance Strategy

- Using facility and third party data
  - Outreach and targeting inspections
- Increased inspections and enforcement
  - Inspections at solid waste facilities
  - Looking for large amounts of banned materials
  - More than 350 enforcement actions since January 2013
- RecyclingWorks resources and assistance



# Cardboard





# Paper



# Leaves and Yard Waste





# Food Waste



# Organics Policy and Goals

- Solid Waste Master Plan
  - Overall goal – reduce disposal by 2 million tons (30 %) annually by 2020
  - Reduce disposal by 80% by 2050
- Primary Goal – Divert additional 350,000 tons per year of organic materials from disposal by 2020
- Clean Energy Results Program
  - Support the development of renewable energy in Mass.
  - Goal to have 50 MW of anaerobic digestion in place by 2020

# Why focus on food waste/organics?

- Food waste and other organics >25% of disposal in Mass. > 1 million tons per year
- In 2010 (fall & winter sampling)
  - Food waste estimated 15% of MSW disposal
  - Compostable paper 6 % of MSW disposal
- In 2013 (spring & summer sampling)
  - Food waste 19% of MSW
  - Compostable paper 8% of MSW

# Benefits

- Digest for energy and/or compost to produce soil amendments/fertilizers
- Management solutions for dairy manure & wastewater residuals
- Generate energy at farms, waste water plants, other locations
- Cost effective materials management for businesses/institutions
- Reduced reliance on disposal capacity



# Organics Action Plan Overview

- Comprehensive, integrated set of strategies
- Developed working with stakeholders
- Focused on 2020 goal – 350 K tons additional diversion annually
  - Data Analysis
  - Collection Infrastructure
  - Processing Capacity/Market Development
  - Regulatory Reform/Waste Ban

# Organics Subcommittee

- Very diverse set of stakeholders – reached out to broaden
- Email list of nearly 500 people, organizations
- Has met as needed for over a decade
- Primary forum for Organics Action Plan and organics waste ban framework in 2012-2013
- Successful in getting diverse engagement and support

# Other Outreach

- Mass Food Association partnership
- More than 60 meetings and webinars in 2012-2013
- Targeted sector and association outreach
- RecyclingWorks outreach and assistance
- Newspaper articles
- Built credibility through collaboration and on the ground work

# Commercial Organics Waste Ban

- Took effect October 1, 2014
- Food and vegetative material
- Does not apply to management in wastewater
- Commercial/institutional organics – dispose > 1 ton/week (*disposed, not generated*)
- Estimate – 1,700 businesses/institutions subject to the ban
- Focus now on outreach and compliance assistance



# RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts

- State-funded assistance
- Helps businesses and institutions maximize waste diversion opportunities
- Services include:
  - Online resources
  - RecyclingWorks hotline
  - Direct technical assistance

# Estimate using Industry Standards

- Average food waste disposal data compiled by sector
- Industry sectors include:
  - Colleges & Universities
  - Correctional Facilities
  - Elementary & Secondary Schools
  - Hospitals
  - Lodging & Hotels
  - Nursing Homes
  - Restaurants
  - Supermarkets
  - Venues & Events

# Food Waste Diversion Options

## Reduce

Reduce the total volume of food waste generated



## Donate

Donate unused food to people through food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters



## Process

On-Site Options

Off-Site Options

Anaerobic  
Digesters

Animal  
Feed

Compost

Industrial  
Uses

# Find A Recycler Directory

FIND A RECYCLER NEAR YOU

Choose your Material

Food Waste / Compostables

Choose a Hauler or Processor

Hauler

Zip Code

02108

Search...

SEARCH





# Best Management Practices – Food Donation

- Worked with state and local health officials, donation organizations, and large donors to develop recommended best practices
- Available through RecyclingWorks website
- Covers storage, handling, transportation, communication, and communication
- Intended to provide clear agreed upon general approach
  - may still be some specific variations

# Best Management Practices

## Food Waste Separation

### In the Kitchen

- Ensure containers are
  - Labeled
  - Leak proof
  - Covered when not in use
- Remove food waste from the kitchen at the same frequency as trash



# Best Management Practices

- Dumpsters, toters, or compactors should be
  - Cleanable
  - Leak-free
  - Capable of being locked
- Food waste should be collected for processing at least
  - 2 times per week in the summer
  - 1 time per week in the winter



For more information, see our [Food Waste Diversion Guide for Restaurants](#)

# Initial Draft Results

- Food waste reduction
  - One example: 13 institutions working with Lean Path achieved reduction of 286 tons annually
- More than 25,000 tons of food donated annually
- More than 1,600 businesses diverting
- >130,000 tons diverted annually to composting, animal feed or AD

# Next Steps

- Continued outreach & assistance
- Monitor compliance/enforcement
- Foster management options for packaged food materials
- Outreach/promotion of improved donation programs



# Contact Information

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/food-waste-ban.html>

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanenergy.htm>

[www.recyclingworksma.com](http://www.recyclingworksma.com)

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