

Massachusetts Food Waste Reduction Update



MassDEP



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Overview



- Massachusetts has worked on advancing food waste reduction for decades now
- Organics Action Plan – February 2012
- Commercial Organics Ban – October 2014
- Build infrastructure based on largest sources first

SWMP Food Waste Reduction Goal Status



- 2020 Plan goal - divert additional 350,000 tons/year of food material from disposal
 - off of estimated 100,000 baseline estimate, so 450,000 tons total
- As of 2017 – total reported diversion at 280,000 tons
 - Increase of 180,000 tons

Reducing Wasted Food – Progress to Date



- Overall 5% increase from 2016-2017
- 2017 – total reported diversion = 280,000 tons
 - Compost – 150,000 tons
 - AD – 88,000 tons
 - Donation – 26,000 tons
 - Other – 13,000 tons – processed into wastewater
 - Animal feed – 1,700 tons
- Does not include on-site systems
 - Estimated to be about 50,000 tons annually
- Believe underestimates amount going to animal feed

Organics Infrastructure - Donation



- 26,000 tons
- Most through food banks – fairly steady
- Growth in food rescue – fresh & perishable foods
 - Continues steady increase – up 14% from 2016

Organics Infrastructure - Collection



- Hauler collection customers – food materials
 - 2014 – 1,350
 - 2015 – 1,550
 - 2016 – 1,700
 - 2017 – 2,100
 - 2018 – 2,300
- Up 70% from 2014-2018 (950 customers)
- As with cardboard, collection service necessary but not sufficient for compliance

Organics Infrastructure – Compost & AD



- Currently 45 sites listed in Massachusetts
- Compost capacity about 150K TPY
- AD capacity for food materials (13 facilities total)
 - > 600,000 TPY total operational or under development
 - 400,000 TPY permitted capacity is operational
 - 120,000 TPY under construction
 - 120,000 TPY not yet permitted
- De-packaging operations
 - 7 currently accepting to some degree
 - 2 more under development

Economic Impact Analysis



- Conducted in 2016 for MassDEP by ICF International, Inc.
- Benefits included
 - Supported about 900 jobs (500 direct jobs)
 - ✦ 150% growth from 2010 to 2016
 - ✦ Estimated to grow to 1,370 jobs by end of 2017
 - \$77 million of value added to state GSP and \$175 million in economic activity
 - Nearly \$50 million in planned facility and capital investments

Organics Grants & Loans



- **Recycling Loan Fund**
 - 14 organics loans for \$2.3 million since 2000
 - 5 more AD loans for \$2.3 million since 2013
- **Recycling Business Development Grants**
 - 7 grants for \$1.2 million to manage packaged food material
- **Sustainable Materials Recovery Program**
 - 46 grants totaling \$2.4 million since 2012
 - Includes facility development, drop-off equipment, carts, and technical assistance
- **Mass Clean Energy Center**
 - \$4.4 million in construction grants for facilities using food material as feedstock since 2012

RecyclingWorks Assistance



- Provides assistance through phone hotline and email
- Provides direct, on-site technical assistance
- Handled 50 hotline calls on food waste
- Technical assistance and workshops for compost operators
- Web content: searchable service providers database, BMPs guidance, case studies

Waste Ban Compliance



- 39 NONs and 2 penalties issued so far for commercial organic materials
- Several more enforcement actions in process now
- Recently sent request for information letter to about 50 businesses to verify compliance
- Expect to do more targeted outreach & compliance assistance
- Continue to support through technical assistance

Lessons Learned about Bans



- Ban must be part of comprehensive strategy
- Best to build incrementally over time
- Works best when economics are favorable
- Need to maintain some degree of flexibility
- With right approach & context, can be powerful tool
- Has worked well to start lower on hierarchy and work up

Solid Waste Master Plan Development



- Draft Plan in 2019 and final in 2020
- Food material still the number one material in both residential and commercial trash
- Need to focus more on smaller sources
- Will be a continued focus in the 2030 Plan
- MassDEP Organics Action Plan – basis for current programs- available at <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/mx/orgplanf.pdf>

For More Information



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