

# Massachusetts Commercial Organics Waste Ban

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# 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

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

# Organics Subcommittee

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

# 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 with stakeholders through collaboration and on the ground work

# 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

# Current Status/Progress to Date

- Estimate baseline 100,000 tons of food waste diversion
- Composting – farms and small commercial sites – about 30 locations
- Pig farms/animal feed
- On-site systems
- Estimated 1,400 businesses/institutions now diverting food waste – includes 300 supermarkets
- Growth in organics hauling services



# Improved Data

- Food waste density mapping study – updated 2011
- Waste characterization study data
- Completed survey of food waste management at state facilities
- Will be reviewing facility reports to update diversion data

# Building Collection Infrastructure

- Guidance on food waste reduction/donation
- Best management practices guidance
  - By business sector
  - For local health departments/haulers
- Recycling Loan Fund – haulers eligible
- Residential/small business collection pilot programs
- Regionally focused projects
  - Pioneer Valley, Devens, Worcester
  - Build route density

# Technical Assistance to Generators

- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts
  - Website
  - Service provider database
  - Guidance/fact sheets/case studies
  - Site specific TA
  - WasteWise and other workshops
- Assistance to targeted sectors

# Growing Processing Capacity/Markets

- Solid waste regulations siting changes
  - Promulgated November 2012
  - Clarify requirements, reduce siting barriers
  - Facilities taking source separated materials do not require solid waste facility site assignment
- Financial assistance matrix available online
  - MassDEP Recycling Loan Fund
  - MassDEP Municipal Grants
  - Mass Clean Energy Center Organics to Energy program

# Waste Bans Background

## **Purpose:**

- Implement as part of a comprehensive approach
- Ensure materials available for recycling & composting facilities
- 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
- 
- MassDEP checks compliance @ solid waste facilities

# 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**

# Commercial Organics Waste Ban

- Will take effect October 1, 2014
- Food material 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 potentially subject
- 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/email address
  - Direct technical assistance

# RecyclingWorks Website Resources

- Searchable service provider database
- Food waste estimates by business sector
- Guidance on options for complying
- Food donation and food waste reduction resources
- Best management practices for collection
- Case studies and guidance on how to start

# Implementation Outreach Plan

- Direct mail letter
- Media outreach
- Trade associations, business groups
- Service providers – haulers, food service contractors, property managers
- RecyclingWorks outreach, marketing and assistance
- June 12, 2014 Vendor Fair
- Continued meetings and calls

# Contact Information

[www.mass.gov/dep/public/committee/swacorg.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/committee/swacorg.htm)

[www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/commorg.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/commorg.htm)

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

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