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

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**Reduce**

Reduce the total volume of food waste generated

**Donate**

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

**Process**

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<tr>
<th>On-Site Options</th>
<th>Off-Site Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anaerobic Digesters</td>
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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/dep/cleanenergy.htm
www.recyclingworksma.com

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