

Mass DEP Food Waste Updates



New Hampshire SWWG

April 28, 2023

Organics Waste Reduction Goals

- Food waste represents more than 1/5th of our trash
- 2020 goal – total food waste diversion 450,000 tons (increase of 350,000 tons)
- 2030 goal – increase annual diversion by 500,000 tons over 2018 baseline of 280,000 tons (780,000 tons total)

Food Waste Diversion Data

Processing Type	2016 Tons	2017 Tons	2018 Tons	2019 Tons	2020 Tons
Compost	79,586	52,991	42,321	40,569	33,038
Animal Feed	26,250	26,777	39,593	40,014	8,828
Anaerobic Digestion	48,234	87,856	159,563	187,947	211,215
Other	13,277	12,819	8,065	9,552	38,745
Food Donation	22,712	25,940	26,637	27,703	30,004
Total	190,059	206,382	276,180	305,785	321,829

Businesses Diverting Food Waste

Year	# Businesses Diverting
2014	1,350
2015	1,550
2016	1,700
2017	2,250
2018	2,600
2019	3,250
2020	3,200
2021	3,500

Preventing Food Waste

Date Reported	Total MA Commercial Customers	New Annual Food Waste Prevented	Total Annual Food Waste Prevented
2018	145 customers	1,025	1,025
2019	154 customers	448	1,473
2020	296 customers	169	1,642
Cumulative Total Food Waste Prevented			4,140 tons to date

Other Progress to Date

- Rescue of fresh and perishable foods up > 50%
- Total capacity for food waste exceeds current goals
- Food in trash down from 26% in 2016 to 22% in 2022

Why are waste bans important?

- Need to ensure adequate capacity to manage our waste
 - Preferred option is to reduce the amount of waste disposed
 - Disposal capacity limitations will affect disposal cost
- Solid Waste Master Plan Goals
 - Reduce disposal by 30% by 2030
 - Reduce disposal by 90% by 2050
- Other Benefits
 - Capture value of materials
 - Support local economic and job growth

Waste Ban History & Background

- First waste bans promulgated in early 1990s
- Done via regulation under statutory authority
- “No person shall dispose, transfer for disposal, or contract for disposal or transport of the restricted material...”

Waste Ban Approach

- Develop and implement new waste bans over period of several years
- Combine with technical assistance, education and outreach, and market development initiatives
- Primary focus on compliance by larger generators – businesses and institutions
- New bans – emphasize compliance assistance initially

Waste Ban Implementation

- Inspections, Compliance & Enforcement
 - Solid waste facilities required to maintain and implement waste ban compliance plans
 - MassDEP conducts inspections at solid waste facilities
 - Issue enforcement when observe loads with significant amounts of a banned material
 - Typically, only enforcement against business, institutional, or government generators or waste haulers
 - Not individual residents

Change to Food Waste Ban

- Initial commercial food waste ban in 2014
 - Businesses that dispose of >1 ton per week
 - About 2,000 businesses
- Expanded commercial food waste ban
 - Effective November 2022
 - Businesses that dispose of > ½ ton per week
 - Will roughly double number of businesses subject from about 2,000 to 4,000

Estimated New Businesses Subject by Sector

Sector	Estimated Number of New Businesses Subject
Full-Service Restaurants	809
Limited-Service Restaurants	511
Manufacturers and Processors	123
Supermarkets	115
Hotels	92
Hospitals	81
Distributors and Wholesalers	75
Nursing Homes and Residential Facilities	31
Primary and Secondary Schools	29
Schools, Colleges, and Universities	9
Correctional Facilities	3
Total	1878

Common Questions

- What if a chain with multiple locations?
- What if multiple businesses together (e.g., shopping mall food court?)
- What if a school system with multiple locations?
- Is packaged food subject?
- How does the ban apply to dormitories or retirement communities?
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-for-businesses-institutions-haulers-commercial-organic-materials-waste-ban/download>

How can my Business Comply?

- Compliance standard is to dispose of <math><1/2</math> ton per week of food waste
- Can comply through any combination of:
 - waste reduction/prevention
 - Food rescue and donation
 - On-site systems
 - Sending food waste to animal feed, compost, or anaerobic digestion
- If comply with the 1 ton per week ban, may need to take further reduction/diversion steps now

Supporting Programs & Policies

- Recycling Works in Massachusetts
 - Business assistance
 - Compost site assistance
- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
 - Municipal Grants
- Recycling Business Development Grants and Recycling Loan Fund
 - Funding infrastructure development
- Ongoing outreach and engagement

Lessons Learned

- Develop gradually over time together with infrastructure
- Implement supporting market development, assistance and outreach as part of comprehensive approach
- Worked well to focus on largest generators first
- Consider significant amount of packaged food waste

For More Information

- MassDEP Food Waste Page
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban>
- Organics Subcommittee
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-organics-subcommittee>
- Organics Action Plan
 - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-organics-action-plan-january-2022/download>
- RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts
 - www.recyclingworksma.com