

# Recycling Market Development



January 24, 2025

# Updates: RMD Action Plan

- Recap of Meetings 1-8 and Action Plan
- Recycling Business Guidance
- Recycling & Reuse Business Development Grant (RBDG)
- Recycling Loan Fund (RLF)
- Waste Reduction Innovation Grant

# Recap of Meetings 1-8

- Meeting 1 – Intro
  - MassDEP Market Development Programs
  - OSD Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
  - MassDevelopment
  - Mass Office of Business Development
- Meeting 2 – Regional and National Perspectives
  - NERC and Circular Matters
- Meeting 3 – Business Support & Economic Development Strategies
- Meeting 4 – Demand Side Strategies
- Meeting 5 – Education, Outreach, Networking, and Information Sharing
- Meeting 6 – Research and Development
- Meetings 7 and 8 – RMD Action Plan and External Presentations

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-recycling-market-development-workgroup>

# Action Plan

- RMD Action Plan available online: [embedded link here](#).
- Ongoing implementation of the plan
- Will update periodically as needed to reflect progress and needed shifts and adjustments

## Recycling Market Development Action Plan



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Air and Waste

*February 2024*

# Action Plan Structure

- The recommended action items in this Plan are divided into three sections:
  1. Business Support and Economic Development Strategies to Expand Recycling Market Infrastructure
  2. Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products
  3. Research and Development Strategies for Products, Equipment, and Technologies

# Action Plan Structure

- **Status:** typically described as either “ongoing” or “not yet started.” Will be marked as “complete” where appropriate.
- **Time Frame:** Action items in the Plan are assigned a time frame for when they will be implemented, as follows:
  - Short term: 1-2 years (if the action item is an ongoing program, it will continue beyond the 1-2 year time frame.)
  - Medium term: 3-4 years
  - Long term: 5 years or more

# Business Support and Economic Development

- **Focus:**

- Deliver funding via grants and loans to meet capital funding needs
- Connect businesses with guidance and assistance
- Ensure opportunities marketed to minority-owned businesses and businesses in Environmental Justice communities
- Partner with workforce development and job training programs to grow recycling workforce
- Reduce or better manage contaminants in incoming streams

# Business Support and Economic Development

- **Evaluation metrics:**
  - Recycling infrastructure and jobs created through grant and loan programs
  - Number of businesses supported through training programs and assistance
  - Grant applications from minority-owned and other certified businesses through the State's Supplier Diversity Office
  - Reductions in residual levels at materials recovery facilities accepting single-stream recycling



# Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products

- **Focus:**

- Increase recycled content of products and packaging
- Drive increased purchases of recycled content products
- Ensure consistent supply to support recycled content investments
- Discuss potential legislative approaches

# Strategies to Build Demand for Recycled Products

- **Evaluation metrics:**
  - Amount of recycled content products purchased through state contracts
  - Measures of engagement through outreach activities and workshops
  - Results of pilot purchasing projects

# Research and Development

- **Focus:**

- Improve sorting and processing technologies to separate higher quality feedstocks
- Develop ability to transition products from “lab scale” to commercial scale
- Test recycled content feedstocks to verify they meet applicable industry specifications
- Develop new and previously untested applications for recycled content feedstocks
- Encourage design of products/packaging for reuse or recyclability

# Research and Development

- **Evaluation metrics:**
  - Develop in-state network of research program capabilities and areas of expertise
  - Results of research projects, including:
    - new product applications
    - improved processes and technologies
    - verified product or process performance

# Next Steps

- RMD Action Plan available online: [embedded link here](#).
- Ongoing implementation of the plan
- Will update periodically as needed to reflect progress and needed shifts and adjustments

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# Recycling Business Guidance

- [Recycling Business Guidance Document for Massachusetts](#)
- General Business Guidance
- Support for Recycling and Waste Reduction Businesses
  - Applicable MassDEP Permit Requirements
  - Financial and Technical Assistance
  - Webinars and Workshops
  - Grants and Loans

# RBDG

<i>GRANT ACTIVITY</i>	<i># AWARDS</i>	<i>AWARD AMOUNTS</i>
Processing	47	6,873,343
Collection	29	1,632,137
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>8,505,500</b>

Total number of awards since 2016

# RBDG

MATERIAL	# AWARDS	AWARD AMOUNTS
Food Waste	22	2,189,060
Mattresses	14	1,726,615
Textiles	12	1,058,132
Glass	7	1,400,000
C&D	7	860,000
Plastic	4	345,000
Reuse	4	323,000
Food Donation	4	223,250
Comingled Recyclables	1	300,000
Furniture	1	80,443
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>8,505,500</b>



# RLF

<i># of LOANS Since 1996</i>	<i># BUSINESSES</i>	<i>LOAN TOTAL</i>
89	60	\$20.3 million

Since program inception (1996)

# RLF

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b># AWARDS</b>
Food/organic material	22
Recyclable paper	14
Plastics	11
Metal	10
C&D material	8
Electronics	7
Commingled recyclables	6
Textiles	2
Wood	2
Other material	4

Since program inception (1996)

# Innovation Grant

- Program Focus and Goals
- Support adoption of new technologies that either:
  - Significantly expand processing capacity – for example by increasing throughput
  - Provide a new end market for a problematic material/material with limited market outlets
  - Enable a higher value end market for a material
- Not focused on core existing technologies – such as balers
- Considering smaller number of larger grants than RBDG

# Innovation Grant

- Priority Materials
- Materials with limited outlets – such as glass and wood
- Materials with additional market development opportunities – such as recycling outlets for textiles not reusable or asphalt shingles
- Materials problematic in the waste stream – such as lithium batteries, bulky items such as plastics, furniture

# Next Steps

- Tentative Schedule
  - Innovations Grant (Spring 2025)
  - RBDG Grant (Summer 2025)

# Connect With MassDEP

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Learn more and find previous meeting presentations:

[MassDEP Recycling Market Development Workgroup](#)



# Discussion and Q&A

