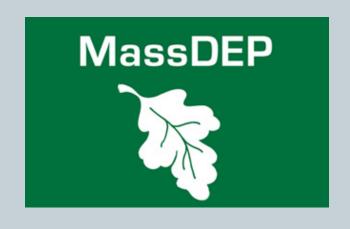
# Massachusetts Food Waste Reduction Update



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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
  - o 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
  - o Compost 150,000 tons
  - o AD − 88,000 tons
  - O Donation − 26,000 tons
  - Other 13,000 tons processed into wastewater
  - Animal feed − 1,700 tons
- Does not include on-site systems
  - o 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
  - o Continues steady increase up 14% from 2016

# Organics Infrastructure - Collection

- Hauler collection customers food materials
  - 2014 1,350
  - 2015 1,550
  - 0 2016 1,700
  - 2017 2,100
  - 02018 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
  - o 120,000 TPY not yet permitted
- De-packaging operations
  - o 7 currently accepting to some degree
  - o 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

- o 14 organics loans for \$2.3 million since 2000
- o 5 more AD loans for \$2.3 million since 2013

#### Recycling Business Development Grants

- o 7 grants for \$1.2 million to manage packaged food material
- Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
  - o 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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- <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban">https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban</a>