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Massachusetts Business Recycling Efforts Increase in 2013 Many Businesses and Institutions Already Comply with 2014 Food Waste Disposal Ban

December 12, 2013 - Boston, MA. Thanks to RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts, more businesses and institutions across Massachusetts are doing their part to reduce waste in the Commonwealth.

This past year, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks), a program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), has helped more than 350 businesses and institutions develop recycling, reuse and composting programs, which have diverted an estimated 8,800 tons of material from entering landfills and incinerators. In 2012, RecyclingWorks helped 200 organizations divert more than 200 tons of material from entering landfills and combustion facilities.

According to MassDEP Commissioner Kenneth Kimmell, businesses are seeing the value in finding ways to reduce their waste with the help of RecyclingWorks. "The RecyclingWorks program is increasing its assistance to Massachusetts businesses and institutions, helping them to comply with waste bans, save money on disposal costs, decrease environmental impacts, and respond to customer and employee interest in sustainable practices," said Commissioner Kimmell.

RecyclingWorks is gearing up to assist Massachusetts food waste generators such as restaurants, hotels and supermarkets in preparation for the proposed Massachusetts commercial organics waste disposal ban, which is expected to take effect in 2014. RecyclingWorks staff is actively reaching out to businesses that may be subject to the proposed waste ban, offering online tools, as well as direct assistance to help improve current food waste management strategies. RecyclingWorks has developed new food-waste specific tools and guidance for the website, including local case studies and an outline of the various options available to businesses. RecyclingWorks also updated the online recycler database to include new food waste haulers and organics processors in the area. In addition, RecyclingWorks recently collaborated with local health officials to develop best management practices for commercial food waste collection, which will serve as a resource for local health officials, haulers and businesses and institutions.

In September of 2012, Big E's Supermarket, an independent and locally owned supermarket in Easthampton, MA, partnered with RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts to evaluate and establish opportunities for waste diversion. After providing a cost analysis and getting quotes from area haulers for service, RecyclingWorks was able to help Big E's launch their composting program. By composting nearly 1.4 tons of food waste per week, Big E's has reduced its cost in managing this material by over 50 percent. Recently, Big E's was one of three finalists to receive a 2014 Outstanding Recycler of the Year Award from the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility.

Clark University piloted a food-scrap collection program in several of the freshmen residence halls in 2012. RecyclingWorks assisted student "Eco-Reps" with the pilot program, and continued to provide leadership and

assistance throughout the expansion brainstorming process in 2013. The student-led project is already proving itself with reduced solid waste disposal costs and hopes to expand to the remaining residence halls. Clark University was one of only nine national winners of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Challenge in 2013.

"RecyclingWorks is having a significant impact across the state," stated Lorenzo Macaluso from the Center for EcoTechnology (CET). "Our experts have worked with businesses of all sizes across many sectors. We understand the specific challenges to waste reduction for businesses in Massachusetts and this service helps businesses stay focused on doing business while improving environmental performance."

RecyclingWorks maintains a hotline and website, which serve as the entry point for businesses interested in receiving technical assistance from in-house experts and learning more about waste diversion practices. In fiscal year 2013, RecyclingWorks generated three times as many hotline calls and significantly increased website traffic by about 10,000 visitors compared to the previous year. New to the website this year, RecyclingWorks launched a "news-and-events" section, containing the latest recycling and food waste news, as well as information on upcoming waste-related events and webinars. In addition, RecyclingWorks developed and distributed a monthly newsletter, providing over 750 readers with information on local success stories, recycling and composting news, and area waste diversion events.

RecyclingWorks also helps businesses monitor their waste streams through EPA's WasteWise Program, a voluntary effort designed to help private and public organizations reduce solid waste. In 2013, RecyclingWorks guided eight businesses through the registration process for the WasteWise program and collaborated with MassDEP to organize two WasteWise events. The first event titled "Green Stadiums and Venues" was held in November 2012 at Fenway Park, and the second, "Re-Thinking Diversion: Food Waste Reduction, Diversion and a Resource Management Update," took place in June at Worcester State University. The events included approximately 60 participants each and featured informative presentations, open discussions, networking and guided tours of the hosting facility's unique recycling and composting operations.

About RecyclingWorks

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts is a recycling assistance program designed to help businesses and institutions maximize recycling, reuse, and food waste diversion opportunities throughout the state. RecyclingWorks is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and delivered under contract by the Center for EcoTechnology (CET). For more information on how RecyclingWorks can assist your business, please visit our website at: www.recyclingworksma.com. You can reach one of our in-house experts by calling the hotline at (888) 254-5525 or emailing info@recyclingworksma.com today. For more in-depth information on RecyclingWorks' accomplishments in 2013, see the [Fiscal Year 13 Year End Report](#).

Follow CET on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for up-to-date news, events and RecyclingWorks information.

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