

RecyclingWorks June Newsletter

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Our hotline: 888 - 254 - 5525
www.recyclingworksma.com
info@recyclingworksma.com

RecyclingWorks Newsletter, June 2019

RecyclingWorks 2019 Spring WasteWise Forum Recap

On May 1, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) hosted the 2019 Spring WasteWise Forum at [Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital](#) in Charlestown. Thank you to all presenters and attendees who participated in the conversations around procurement strategies that aim to reduce waste. Each of the presentations can be viewed by clicking on the speaker names below. These presentations and a webinar recording are also posted to the [RecyclingWorks WasteWise webpage](#).

- [Robert Guillemin](#)
US EPA
- [John Fischer](#)
MassDEP
- [Mary M. Strzempko and Irina Calante](#)
Raytheon Company
- [Kathy Driscoll](#)
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- [Sarah Cook](#)



Upcoming Events

June 14

MassDEP

[Compost Site Operations
Management Training for
Health Officials](#)

Lakeville

June 18

MassDEP

[MassDEP C&D Subcommittee
Meeting](#)

Boston

June 27

MassDEP

[MassDEP Solid Waste
Advisory Committee \(SWAC\)
Meeting](#)

Boston

Oxfam America

The presenters highlighted their efforts toward reducing waste through procurement and purchasing decisions. View the [RecyclingWorks blog](#) to learn more about the WasteWise Forum and strategic procurement strategies for your business.

- In order to make smart purchasing decisions, it is important to know where your materials will go after disposal. Businesses and institutions should consult the [Recycle Smart MA Recyclopeda](#) to learn what materials are commonly accepted for mixed recycling and what materials can be recycled if collected separately.
- It is recommended that businesses and institutions establish environmentally preferable procurement programs, which identify specific products and partnerships for staff. Sustainable programs are integrated into company culture. Organizations should identify a champion for the program, provide regular staff training, and discuss strategies in company meetings.
- Strategic supplier partnerships are a key element of waste-minded purchasing. Many suppliers highlight environmentally preferred products, including products manufactured with recycled material, products requiring minimal packaging, and compostable ware. Certain suppliers provide reusable shipping containers, drums and pallets, which eliminate the need for new packaging material altogether.
- Conducting accurate forecasting is an important component of food waste reduction, especially for special events and meals. Businesses are encouraged to order only as much food and materials as needed. Businesses who produce large amounts of food waste may track or conduct

October 4

MassDEP

[RBDG Application Deadline](#)

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food waste audits to identify commonly wasted food and adjust procurement decisions accordingly.

- As consumers embrace the idea of a circular-economy, more suppliers are offering take-back programs for consumers to return materials and containers for reuse or recycling. Businesses may “close the loop” with suppliers for a wide range of materials, from coffee capsules to latex gloves.
- Businesses can establish office reuse programs to encourage the use of reusable materials and reduce the need for procurement of new materials that will require disposal. Sustainable reuse programs typically encourage staff to take ownership of the program and incorporate discussions of reuse strategies in staff orientation.

RecyclingWorks Spotlight: Hampton Farms

[Hampton Farms](#) is a large nut producer and manufacturer operating a 130,000 square foot facility in Springfield. The company markets a variety of peanut products including raw in-shell peanuts and nut butters. Hampton Farms has maintained a cardboard recycling program and food waste diversion program through a partnership with a local zoo. RecyclingWorks met with Hampton Farms in January 2019 to discuss strategies for recycling plastic containers and to identify opportunities to improve diversion of other recyclable materials.

During the visit, RecyclingWorks provided recommendations and signage for Hampton Farms to expand the collection of single stream materials such as paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass. RecyclingWorks also facilitated conversations with their hauler that resulted in the collection

of #1 plastic containers with the other recyclable materials. Through the collaboration, Hampton Farms has begun diverting nine tons of single stream materials from disposal annually.

Click here to learn more about RecyclingWorks' no-cost [technical assistance](#). RecyclingWorks assists Massachusetts businesses or institutions that want to improve their recycling program or find outlets for challenging materials. Call our hotline, **(888) 254-5525**, or email us at info@recyclingworksma.com to get started!

MassDEP Accepting Recycling Business Development Grant Applications

The MassDEP [Recycling Business Development Grant \(RBDG\) program](#) is currently accepting applications for its 2019 grant cycle. The program provides grant awards between \$50,000 and \$400,000 for projects that encourage growth in recycling markets of harder to recycle materials.

Eligible projects must promote the recycling, processing, or reuse of one or more specific eligible materials. These materials include container glass, commingled recyclables handled by materials recycling facilities (MRFs), gypsum wallboard, mattresses, furniture, and bulky rigid and mixed plastics. Eligible applicants include Massachusetts companies or corporations who are operating locations within the state. Grant awardees must provide a minimum financial match of 25 percent.

The application deadline for the RBDG Grant program is

October 4, 2019. Visit the MassDEP [RBDG program webpage](#) for more information.

Featured Articles

- [WWLP](#) recently reported that Westfield State University has begun donating surplus edible food to Rachel's Table, a food rescue organization in the greater Springfield area. Through the collaboration, the university is providing 30 meals for families in need per week.
- [RecyclingWorks](#) recently published a blog post with strategies for preventing plastic bag contamination in the recycling stream. Businesses often use plastic bags to manage the transportation of materials, but it is important to follow certain protocols such as color-coding bags, leaving bags untied, and emptying out the materials to ensure the bags are not collected with other recyclable materials.



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RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts
320 Riverside Drive, 1-A
Northampton, MA 01062

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