

RecyclingWorks May Newsletter

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RecyclingWorks Newsletter, May 2019

Best Management Practices for Furniture and Office Equipment Reuse

This month, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) published the new [Business and Institutional Furniture and Office Equipment Reuse Guidance](#). The guidance document provides helpful information for businesses and institutions to help formulate reuse plans and identify appropriate outlets for their unwanted furniture.

As more organizations consider reuse over disposal for their unwanted furniture, RecyclingWorks and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) recognized the need for a tool to clarify the process and help connect them with outlets. The document, developed with stakeholder input, provides best practices for creating a reuse plan, taking inventory of surplus furniture, and



Upcoming Events

May 13
MassDEP
[MassDEP Organics Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Boston

May 22
MassDEP
[MassDEP Solid Waste Advisory \(SWAC\) Committee](#)
Boston

June 18
MassDEP
[MassDEP C&D Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Boston

identifying appropriate outlets for items. This includes specific information on each outlet type including average cost savings, storage and transportation needs, acceptable furniture quality and condition, and more. The guidance document also provides contact information for outlets across the state, as well as a template to take inventory of surplus furniture and get started!

Click here to view the full [Business and Institutional Furniture and Office Equipment Reuse Guidance](#).

RecyclingWorks Spotlight: The Best Bees Company

[The Best Bees Company](#) is a beekeeping operation started in Boston that installs and manages close to 1000 honeybee hives for residential and commercial clients across 10 cities in the U.S. Dedicated to improving local bee health, the company also monitors beehive conditions and analyzes local honey in order to gather information on plant diversity, environmental conditions, and pesticide exposure.

Through its operations, The Best Bees Company regularly produces excess beeswax that is too dark to melt and filter for reuse in beehives. They also collect the bodies of bees who did not survive the winter, an unfortunate but normal occurrence in today's bee colonies. RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) reached out to the business to discuss opportunities for diversion of the dead bees, bee wax, and food scraps from their office headquarters. RecyclingWorks connected the business with Black Earth Compost, who recently began collecting the materials for compost. Through its efforts and partnership with Black Earth, The Best Bees Company will divert 3 tons

June 27
MassDEP
[MassDEP Solid Waste
Advisory Committee
\(SWAC\) Meeting](#)
Boston

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of organic material to compost every year.

The Best Bees Company has also begun collecting wood that is no longer suitable for use in hives and diverting it to a C&D recycling facility in Boston.

Click here to learn more about RecyclingWorks [technical assistance](#). Call our hotline, **(888) 254-5525**, or email us at info@recyclingworksma.com to get started.

MassDEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant Program

The MassDEP is offering awards of up to \$5,000 for entities implementing short-term waste reduction projects in the state of Massachusetts. The program is intended to complement the larger [Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant](#) program.

Eligible projects will advance source reduction, reuse, or repair in Massachusetts. Eligible entities include municipalities, regional entities such as solid waste management districts, or organizations or businesses that are properly licensed to operate in the state.

Applications for the grants are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis. Visit the MassDEP [Micro-Grant page](#) for more information.

Featured Articles

- [Waste Today](#) recently reported that state and local food scrap bans have contributed to an increase in hauler infrastructure. The MassDEP reports that since the start of the Massachusetts ban in 2014, hauler collection has increased by 70 percent.
- [Green Biz](#) recently published recommendations for offices looking to reduce wasted food. The article provides strategies including how to create appropriately-sized catering orders, reminders for uneaten lunch items, and food scraps collection for composting.
- [Metro](#) recently showcased the strategies of several Boston restaurants to reduce and divert waste from disposal. These strategies include eliminating single use plastics, altering menu items to reduce the need for utensils, and donating surplus edible food to feed people in need.



You are receiving this e-mail because you are interested in recycling, are a processor or hauler, or are an official in Massachusetts.

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