

Improving Recycling Quality and Reducing Contamination

Recycling Works in Massachusetts
College & University Webinar
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Changes in Recycling Markets

- Focus on improved recycling quality driven by Chinese government
- But all recycling markets are demanding better quality recyclables
- Recyclables are moving, however they are more difficult to move and prices are down
- Recycling markets always go up and down, but need for improved quality is here to stay

College & University Recycling

- Colleges and universities face particular challenges with recycling quality
- Wide range of facilities and recycling streams
- Many public facing recycling collection programs
- Today's focus on curbside recycling mix
- But quality and proper separation important for all materials – recycling, organics, and trash

Universal recycling list

- Developed with Mass MRFs
- Will be rolled out by end of August – shared through Recycling Works
- More detailed page to address all materials
- Focus on the basic materials to accept and the definite nos!
 - Plastic bags
 - Food waste
 - “Tanglers”
 - Trash

Statewide Recycling Outreach

- Marketing Vendor
- First phase - \$350K
- Residential recycling focus, but will also leverage materials for businesses and institutions

Market Development

- Foster in-state markets where feasible
- MRF capacity investments
- Develop new local outlets for targeted materials
- Recycling Loan Fund
 - For any recyclables
 - Collection, processing, remanufacturing
 - Loans up to \$500K

Market Development

- Recycling Business Development Grants
 - Target materials
 - Commingled recyclables
 - Bulky rigid and film plastics
 - Glass
 - Mattresses
 - Clean wood
 - Grants from \$50-400K
 - Next application date – October 5, 2018

RecyclingWorks Assistance

- Available for any Massachusetts business
- Work with haulers & recycling outlets on communication & feedback
- Resolve problems quickly
- Keep recycling and food waste out of trash
- Keep trash out of recycling and food waste streams