

RecyclingWorks June Newsletter

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RecyclingWorks Newsletter, June 2018

Featured Event: WasteWise Spring Forum Recap

On May 10, the College of the Holy Cross hosted RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the [Spring 2018 WasteWise Forum](#). Thank you to the panelists who participated in a conversation about materials recycling facility (MRF) operations:

- Abbie Webb, Casella Waste Systems
- Chris Lucarelle, Waste Management
- Ben Harvey, E.L. Harvey & Sons

During this panel discussion, which was also broadcasted as a webinar, Forum attendees learned about how MRFs process materials and how recycling processors are adapting to challenges like falling commodity prices and more stringent international contamination standards such as those imposed by



Upcoming Events

June 14

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

June 14

MassDEP [Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
Boston

June 14

CURC Webinar, [Using Waste Audits to Improve Recycling & Recovery Programs](#)

June 14

Compost Collaborative Webinar, [Social Science of](#)

the Chinese National Sword Policy.

MRF operators are advocating for a renewed focus on educating consumers about the basics of recycling properly, including providing clear guidance about materials such as plastic bags and food waste that are common contaminants in the recycling stream. The panelists encouraged businesses and institutions to work closely with their recycling service providers to identify and resolve recycling contamination.

For even more highlights from the Spring 2018 WasteWise Forum, read our [recent blog](#). Visit the RecyclingWorks [WasteWise webpage](#) to access presentations from the Forum and the MRF panel discussion recording.



The panel discussion was recorded and [is available](#) on the [RecyclingWorks website](#).

[Organics Recycling: Designing Programs that Change Behavior](#)

June 26-27

Harvard Law School &
ReFED [U.S. Food Waste Summit](#)
Cambridge

June 29

MassDEP [Recycling Business Development Grants](#)
Round One
Application Deadline

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RecyclingWorks Update: Office Furniture & Equipment Reuse Best Management Practices

RecyclingWorks is developing best management practices for the reuse of commercial and institutional office furniture and

equipment. As part of this process, RecyclingWorks staff engaged key stakeholders during meetings in Eastern, Central, and Western Massachusetts to learn more about the topic. Thank you to everyone who participated in the stakeholder process to develop this guidance!

If you were unable to attend these meetings and would like to provide input, please email info@recyclingworksma.com or call our hotline: **888-254-5525**. RecyclingWorks will share a draft version of this document for additional feedback this summer.

RecyclingWorks Website Update: New Mercury Information

The improper disposal of mercury-containing items can be hazardous to human health and to the environment. We recently updated several RecyclingWorks resources to include information about the proper handling and disposal of mercury-containing items that are often present in businesses & institutions:

- The [Hospital Sector](#) webpage was updated to include information about recycling blood pressure cuffs, some of which contain mercury.
- The [Construction & Demolition materials webpage](#) was updated with information about mercury-containing devices such as fluorescent lighting and thermostats.
- The Hazardous Materials section of the [Construction & Demolition Guidance](#) webpage now links to additional mercury resources.

RecyclingWorks Spotlight: TERC

TERC is a non-profit research and development organization located in Cambridge, MA. TERC recently consolidated their staff onto one floor, and as a result, they were left with several pieces of surplus office furniture including desks, chairs, tables, filing cabinets, bookcases, and a sofa. TERC's Director of Human Resources, Carol Lumm, was eager to divert the reusable items from disposal.

RecyclingWorks connected Carol to the Green Reuse Recycle Organization (GRRO), a surplus redistribution program that helps charities both domestically and internationally. GRRO accepted the donated items from TERC and identified a school in Spanish Town, Jamaica that will benefit from receiving the furniture. As a result of this partnership, TERC & GRRO diverted approximately 1,000 pounds of usable furniture and equipment from disposal.

[RecyclingWorks](#) is a recycling and waste diversion assistance program that can help your business or institution maximize reuse opportunities for office furniture and equipment. Visit our Technical Assistance [webpage](#), call the RecyclingWorks hotline **(888) 254-5525**, or email us at info@recyclingworksma.com to learn more.

Featured Articles

- *The Berkshire Eagle* [reported on](#) Berkshire Community College finishing first in Massachusetts and third in the nation in the waste diversion category of RecycleMania, a waste reduction and recycling competition between colleges and universities.

- *CD Recycler* [shared the highlights](#) of the US Green Building Council's 2017 Greenbuild sustainability report, which describes the impacts of energy use and waste management at the Greenbuild Conference and the ArchitectureBoston Expo held in November 2017.
- The *Worcester Business Journal* [covered the expansion](#) of the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center's Great Exchange program with the help of a MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant.

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

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