Restaurants

You can use this fill-in threshold estimation guide to identify if your facility may be subject to the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban. If you have any questions, please contact RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts by email (info@recyclingworksma.com) or by calling 1-888-254-5525.

Note: RecyclingWorks now breaks out all forms of estimating food waste by the NAICS code definition for limited and full-service restaurants. Limited-Service Restaurants (NAICS 722211) are defined as "establishments primarily engaged in providing food services … where patrons generally order or select items and pay before eating." Full-Service Restaurants (NAICS 722511) are defined as "establishments primarily engaged in providing food services to patrons who order and are served while seated … and pay after eating. Actual food waste generation rates within each of these categories can vary widely. Factors such as whether your establishment prepares food from scratch, offers buffet-style dining, or has mostly patrons that eat-in can contribute to higher amounts of food waste. Take into account your restaurant's operations when considering which metric to use.

	Average	Measurement	Material
Meals Served [Full-Service]	1	lbs/meal	Food Waste
Meals Served [Limited- Service]	0.5	lbs/meal	Food Waste
Employees [Full-Service]	3,000	lbs/employee/year	Food Waste
Employees [Limited-Service]	2,200	lbs/employee/year	Food Waste
Disposed Waste [Full-Service]	66	% of disposed waste by weight	Food Waste
Disposed Waste [Limited-Service]	51	% of disposed waste by weight	Food Waste

	# of Meals Served Weekly	Average Food Waste Measurement	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Meals Served [Full-Service]		× 1 lbs/meal	
Meals Served [Limited-Service]		0.5 lbs/meal	

	# of Employees	Average Food Waste Measurement	Average Annual Food Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Divisor	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Employees [Full-Service]		× 3,000 lbs/employee/year		÷ 52	
Employees [Limited-Service]		x 2,200 lbs/employee/year		÷ 52	

	Amount of Disposed Waste Weekly (yd^3)	Average Weight of 1 yd^3 Disposed Waste (1 yd3 = ~ 450 lbs)	Average Amount of Disposed Waste Weekly (lbs)	% Food Waste Disposed Weekly	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Disposed Waste [Full-Service]		x 450 lbs		x 66% of disposed waste by weight	
Disposed Waste [Limited-Service]		x 450 lbs		x 51% of disposed waste by weight	

If the "TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly" in the final column is greater than 2,000 lbs, then your facility may be subject to the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban. If you do not have a food waste diversion program in place, contact RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts by email or by calling (888) 254-5525, or visit the RecyclingWorks website to learn how to begin a program today!

If you are a full-service restaurant serving **2,000 meals** in one week, then:

1 lbs/meal * 2,000 meals served/week = 2,000 lbs/week = 1 ton of food waste per week

If you are a limited-service restaurant serving **4,000 meals** in one week, then:

.5 lbs/meal * 4,000 meals served/week = 2,000 lbs/week = 1 ton of food waste per week

If you are a full-service restaurant with **35 employees**, then:

3,000 lbs/employee/year * 35 full-time employees = 105,000 lbs food waste generated/year

105,000 lbs/year / 52 weeks/year = 2,019 lbs/week = 1 ton of food waste per week

If you are a limited-service restaurant with **48 employees**, then:

2,200 lbs/employee/year * 48 full-time employees = 105,600 lbs food waste generated/year

105,600 lbs/year / 52 weeks/year = 2,031 lbs/week = 1 ton of food waste per week

If you are a full-service restaurant and fill **1 trash dumpster at 4 cubic yards 2 times per week**, then:

450 lbs * (1 trash dumpster * 4 yd3 * 2 pickups/week) = 3,600 lbs of total disposed waste/week

3,600 lbs * 66% of total waste = 2,376 lbs/week = 1.2 tons of food waste in one week

If you are a fast-food restaurant and fill **1 trash dumpster at 4 cubic yards 3 times per week**, then:

450 lbs * (1 trash dumpster * 4 yd3 * 3 pickups/week) = 5,400 lbs of total disposed waste/week

5,400 lbs * 51% of total waste = 2,754 lbs/week = 1.4 tons of food waste in one week

Note: *The equation based on weight of disposed waste (above) assumes a weight of 450 lbs/yd3 for mixed commercial waste materials. It was derived using the median value of EPA's standard conversion factor: 1yd3 of commercial-industrial waste = 300 to 600 lbs. You may choose to change this number to best represent your operations.*