



RecyclingWorks Newsletter, March 2019

RecyclingWorks Website Update: De-packaging Facilities

Packaged foods may be thrown away when they are out-of-date, mislabeled, damaged, or spoiled. De-packaging facilities across Massachusetts are making it easier for businesses and institutions to divert packaged foods from disposal. RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) recently published an updated list of the [organizations managing packaged food material](#) from Massachusetts. These nine companies are either currently accepting packaged food material for de-packaging or are actively developing de-packaging facilities.

This resource is particularly relevant for food manufacturers, distributors, and retailers that need an outlet for out-of-date, mislabeled, damaged, or spoiled packaged food items. Businesses interested in de-packaging services should contact these organizations to verify which materials each facility is



Upcoming Events

March 7
RecyclingWorks
[College & University \(C&U\) Forum](#)
Wellesley

March 14
MassDEP
[C&D Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Boston

March 19
MassDEP
[Organics Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Boston

March 25
MassRecycle
[R3 Summit](#)

accepting. [Click here](#) to view the updated list of organizations managing packaged food material.

Framingham

May 1
RecyclingWorks
[Spring 2019 WasteWise Forum](#)
Boston

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RecyclingWorks Spotlight: The Lenox Hotel Case Study

The Lenox Hotel is a historic luxury hotel in Boston with a long history of commitment to sustainability. The hotel has maintained a successful food waste diversion program for four years, eventually expanding its diversion strategies across the EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy. RecyclingWorks recently published [a new video case study](#) featuring the hotel's food waste diversion program to share their story with other businesses.

RecyclingWorks assisted the hotel in implementing a successful composting program in 2014. Since then, the hotel has identified opportunities to expand its food waste diversion and has begun donating excess food to local food rescue organizations to help people in need. Through its efforts, the hotel has started donating over 80 meals per month and diverting 312,000 pounds of food scraps for composting each year.



Upcoming Event: 2019 Spring WasteWise Forum

Registration is now live for the upcoming [2019 Spring WasteWise Forum](#) at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. The Forum will focus on procurement strategies and partnerships that aim to reduce waste. The event will showcase purchasing decisions from businesses and institutions that consider the end-life of materials, minimize packaging, and reduce the disposal of single-use materials. There will also be opportunities to network with professionals from a variety of different business sectors. The full agenda will be published shortly.

WasteWise is a voluntary program, sponsored nationally by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in Massachusetts by the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to reduce waste.

[Click here to register](#). Registration is limited, so please register early if you plan to attend.

Featured Articles

- [PBS NewsHour](#) recently reported on a food rescue initiative through which Boston-area colleges and universities donate excess food to other local schools for students in need. Led by the food rescue organization Food for Free, the program donates over 1,000 meals per week and serves as an excellent model for other institutions.
- [Green Lodging News](#) recently published a column from Dan Ruben, the co-founder of Boston Green Tourism, celebrating the progress that hotels have made in their environmental initiatives, including those focused on

waste diversion. According to the column, hotels have made terrific headway in the public collection of recyclables, the reduction of single use plastics, the donation of surplus goods, and the growth of food waste diversion initiatives.

- The [Paper Shipping Sack Manufacturers Association](#) recently announced to businesses and institutions that clean, unlined paper shipping sacks may be recycled with corrugated cardboard boxes. In order to divert this valuable material from disposal, the association recommends that businesses empty all contents from the sacks and then collect with other corrugated materials to be recycled. For more information, please view the announcement [here](#) and consult with your recycling service provider.