

RecyclingWorks April Newsletter

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## RecyclingWorks Newsletter, April 2019

### RecyclingWorks 2019 C&U Forum Recap

On March 7, Wellesley College hosted the 2019 RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) College & University Forum. This year's forum brought together campus facility managers, recycling coordinators, dining service operators, and sustainability professionals from across the state to discuss recycling in public spaces and dormitories. All of the presentations are now available on the RecyclingWorks [College & University Forum webpage](#). Thank you to each of our presenters, panelists, and attendees who participated in the interactive discussion. Click the links below to view the presentation slides.

- Dorothea Von Herder and Robert Lamma, [Wellesley College](#)
- Kathy Wicks and John Pepi, [UMass Amherst](#)
- Jenny Isler, [Clark University](#)



### Upcoming Events

**April 3**

Greater Quabbin Food Alliance  
[Business and Event  
Composting Workshop](#)  
Orange

**April 17**

MassDEP  
[Organics Subcommittee  
Meeting](#)  
Boston

**April 25**

MassDEP  
[MassDEP Solid Waste  
Advisory Committee \(SWAC\)  
Meeting](#)  
Webinar

- John Fischer, [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- Shomita Bhattacharya, [RecyclingWorks Introduction](#)
- Sam Long and Heather Billings, [RecyclingWorks Interactive Discussion](#)

The recently published [RecyclingWorks blog](#) provides a more comprehensive overview of takeaways from the presentations and interactive discussion. Here are a few highlights:

- **Recycling and Waste Bin Signage** - It is critical to update signage to reflect shifts in markets and include proper messaging. Work with your hauler to receive accurate and updated information on the materials they accept.
- **Educating the Campus Community** - Campuses are trying to focus on “recycling better” as opposed to simply “recycling more.” Colleges and universities are strongly encouraged to [become a Recycle Smart Partner](#) and leverage these resources to promote better recycling on campus.
- **Recycling and Sorting Equipment** - Many colleges & universities have an overwhelming number of trash and recycling bins spread across their campuses, which can decrease efficiency during collection. It’s important to re-evaluate often and consider how changes in equipment may impact the rate at which bins are filled.
- **Movement and Transportation of Materials** - It is crucial to empower and educate the custodial or facilities staff that are responsible for the movement of recyclables and trash. Using color-coded bin liners can be beneficial to distinguish each waste stream throughout the transportation process. To overcome language barriers,

**April 25**  
NERC and NEWMOA  
[Expanding Opportunities for Donating Food](#)  
Webinar

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

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

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

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employees should be provided training and signage in their native language.

Read the RecyclingWorks [blog post](#) for additional recommendations and view all of the presentations.

### **RecyclingWorks Spotlight: Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital**

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital is a renowned rehabilitation hospital along the Boston Harbor. The 250,000 square foot facility holds 132 beds. Spaulding contacted RecyclingWorks in 2017 to assist in implementing a food waste diversion program.

RecyclingWorks visited the facility and provided recommendations for setting up back-of-house food scraps collection. As a result, Spaulding connected with an organics hauler, Save That Stuff, and initiated regular pickup of food scraps. Through their collaboration, Spaulding has started diverting 55 tons of food waste annually and plans to expand food scraps collection to its cafeteria later this year. Spaulding also recently partnered with [Partners for World Health](#) to donate surplus medical supplies, including unused gauze, gently used mattress pads, and irrigation lines to healthcare organizations around the world.

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital is hosting the 2019 Spring WasteWise Forum on May 1. View the [event page](#) to learn more and register.

## MassDEP Recycling Loan Fund

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is continuing to offer [low-interest loans](#) to help businesses across the state obtain capital for recycling-related activities. The funding is intended to accelerate the growth of recycling infrastructure and markets throughout Massachusetts.

Eligible business activities include collecting or separating recyclable materials for resale, reuse, processing, composting, or converting of recyclable materials into marketable products, manufacturing products that use recycled materials, wholesaling or retailing of recycled feedstocks or products containing a significant percentage of recycled materials.

Loan amounts range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for recyclers, or up to \$1.5 million for anaerobic digestion projects. Preferred terms are available for businesses targeting food waste, mattresses, film or rigid plastics, glass, and C&D materials.

Read the RecyclingWorks [blog post](#) and visit the [Massachusetts Recycling Loan Fund page](#) for more information.

## Featured Articles

- The [Taunton Gazette](#) recently reported that the MassDEP awarded \$600,000 in grants to four companies to improve the infrastructure for

recycling construction and demolition (C&D), plastics, and mixed recyclables. The grant recipients include: The New England Recycling Company in Taunton, Recycling Solutions of Raynham in Raynham, Environmental Integrity Co. LLC in South Hadley, and Waste Management in Avon.

- The [Vineyard Gazette](#) reported that Island Grown Initiative, a composting facility on Martha's Vineyard, has installed a 13-ton in-vessel composter to boost its operations. Last year, the site processed 120 tons of food waste, but with the vessel, it hopes to compost three times as much food waste in 2019.

