

RecyclingWorks September Newsletter

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RecyclingWorks Newsletter, September 2019

RecyclingWorks Tips for Managing Plastic Materials

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) recently updated our [plastic materials webpage](#), describing which materials should be collected for single stream recycling and strategies for separately collecting materials such as plastic film and bulky rigid plastics. Here are a few key takeaways:

- Materials that display a plastic resin identification code are not necessarily recyclable at your local materials recycling facility (MRF). The material color, shape, and size are important considerations when determining if a plastic is recyclable. Most clean plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs can be recycled with plastic lids attached. Guidelines on whether



Upcoming Events

September 20
MassDEP
[Organics Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Boston

October 4
MassDEP
[RBDG Application Deadline](#)

specific materials can be accepted and processed by most single stream MRFs are available through the [Recycle Smart MA](#) search tool.

- Common contaminants that should not be collected with single stream recycling include plastic bags and other film plastics, bulky rigid plastics, black plastic, and items smaller than a smart phone.
- There are recycling outlets for both plastic bags and film plastics, as well as bulky rigid plastics such as icing buckets, milk crates, and seafood trays. The RecyclingWorks [Find-a-Recycler tool](#) allows you to search our database and connect with recyclers that accept these materials.



Visit the RecyclingWorks website to learn more about [recycling plastics](#), and contact us at (888) 254-5525 or info@recyclingworksma.com for help establishing or improving a recycling program at your organization.

October 16
MassRecycle
[Fall Social](#)
Boston

October 21
RecyclingWorks
[Compost Site Operators](#)
[Practical Skills Workshop](#)
Needham

October 24
MassDEP
[SWAC Meeting](#)
Boston

October 30
MassDEP
[C&D Subcommittee Meeting](#)
Boston

November 13
RecyclingWorks
[2019 Fall WasteWise Forum](#)
Dartmouth
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RecyclingWorks Spotlight: Lenox Hotel Written Case Study

[The Lenox Hotel](#) in Boston has expanded their composting program and initiated a new food donation program. The hotel began composting in 2014, targeting food scraps generated from meal preparation as well as post-consumer plate scraps. Through careful maintenance, the program is now diverting 156 tons of food scraps for composting annually. The Lenox Hotel expanded its food recovery efforts in 2018 through the implementation of a food donation program. The hotel established a relationship with Boston Rescue Mission to begin donating up to 80 meals per month to feed families in need.



[RecyclingWorks](#) assists businesses and institutions with reuse, [recycling](#), and [food waste diversion](#) through free [technical assistance](#). To speak to a recycling and food waste expert, call our hotline: **(888) 254-5525**, or email us at info@recyclingworksma.com.

RecyclingWorks Hauler Contract BMP Update

RecyclingWorks recently updated our [guidance for businesses and institutions contracting for trash, recycling, and food waste hauling services](#). This tip sheet is designed to make it easier for commercial customers to establish, manage, and adjust contracts with their waste hauler(s).

Additional recommendations include:

- Ask how to arrange hauling services for special events and how missed pickups will be communicated and recovered.
- Request a sample invoice to ensure that you understand the structure and layout.
- Many contracts automatically renew for the full term unless notice is given within the appropriate time frame, so remain aware of your contract renewal date. Additionally, check for cancellation provisions that protect your organization from unsatisfactory performance.
- Ensure that all parties have up-to-date contact information on record to help streamline communication and address any issues in a timely manner.
- Ask your hauler how and when you will receive reports about your waste streams, and what information and data will be included.

Featured Articles:

- [MassLive](#) recently reported on Lovin' Spoonfuls' expansion into Hampden County. The Boston-based food rescue organization has a new route that will collect around 10,000 pounds of edible food from local supermarkets, farms, and

restaurants each week. Lovin' Spoonfuls established relationships with 17 partner organizations in Western Massachusetts that serve food insecure populations, including food pantries, shelters, and after-school programs.

- [CBS Boston](#) recently reported on the waste diversion programs at Stop & Shop's distribution center in Freetown. The facility provides a centralized location to collect film plastics, pill bottles, cardboard, food waste, and other materials. Stop & Shop partners with both Trex to recycle film plastics and local food banks to donate and distribute surplus edible food. The remaining food waste goes to the facility's de-packager and then to their anaerobic digester, which processes 95 tons of food per day.



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

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