Needham Recycling and Transfer Station Practical Skills Compost Workshop October 21, 2019

STATE A

Needham Transfer Facility



LEAVES and GRASS ONLY

Located on 5.3 acre site
 Accepts residential, commercial and municipal leaves, grass and brush
 Accepts food waste from:

 CERO, Dorchester, MIA
 Natick's pilot residential curbside food waste recycling program- recycled approximately 6 tons food waste per month
 Hillside Elementary School (approximately 1 ton of food waste per month)

Needham Composting Site, 2014





Clearing Operations, 2019





Needham Organics Tonnages

Historical food waste and leaves/brush tonnages
FY14- 603 tons food + 5,713 tons leaves/brush = 6,316 total tons
FY15- 926 tons food + 4,314 tons leaves/brush = 5,240 total tons
FY16- 1,158 tons food + 6,008 tons leaves/brush = 7,166 total tons
FY17- 1,069 tons food + 6,266 tons leaves/brush = 7,335 total tons

Needham Composting Program Output/Revenues

Ompost and Food Waste Revenues
FY14- 3,981 cu. yds. = \$33,113 + 702 tons food = \$21,052- total = \$54,165
FY15- 8,821 cu. yds. = \$89,861 + 1,079 tons food = \$32,355- total = \$122,216
FY16- 7,838 cu. yds. = \$74,735 + 1,158 tons food = \$34,516- total = \$109,251
FY17- 4,391 cu. \$ds. = \$42,182 + 1,069 tons food = \$32,070- total = \$74,252





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Organics Recycling Program

Goal: To make Needham a more sustainable community

Objectives-

- Increase recycling, seeking to become a "Zero Waste" community- how do we accomplish this?
- Needham's recycling rate- approximately 54%- to increase recycling rate, need to divert more material from the waste stream
- Increase diversion and recycling of organic material
 - Collecting food at transfer station (residential drop-off program)
 - Collecting food waste from all 8 schools
- Working on program implementation beginning Nov 2019;
- Divert organics waste- vendor collects, bring material to AD facility
- Potential to divert 550-600 tons of food waste generated in Needham schools (550 tons x \$80.00 = \$44,000 in disposal cost savings)

Increasing Food Waste Recycling- Why?

- Good environmental policy
- <u>Environmental</u>: recycling food waste and turning it into compost is good for the local, national and international environment
 - Food waste in a landfill generates massive quantities of methane gas, a major greenhouse gas contributor;
 - Using food waste in anaerobic digester significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions
 - Food waste burned in an incinerator is a poor fuel source; and
 - Removing food waste from trash will reduce odors in trash dumpsters/minimize vermin around dumpsters

Increasing Food Waste Recycling- Why?

- Good economic policy
- <u>Economic</u>: diverting food waste from trash steam can save money
 - Less trash, reduces town's waste disposal budget
 - Hauling and burning trash costs are approximately \$80.00 per ton
 - FY17- approximately 9,200 tons MSW was generated at RTS
 - 25% of that amount was organic= 2,300 tons
 - 2,300 tons x \$80 per ton= \$184,000 in reduced trash costs