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RecyclingWorks Newsletter, December 2019

2019 Fall WasteWise Forum Recap

On November 13, RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) hosted the 2019 Fall WasteWise Forum at UMass Dartmouth. The presenters covered topics including how to reduce contamination in collection programs and using technology to reduce food waste. Thank you to all of the presenters for their updates and insights! The below presentations are also posted to the [RecyclingWorks WasteWise webpage](#).

- John Majercak, Center for EcoTechnology & Lauren Potter, [RecyclingWorks](#)
- Stephanie Cooper, MassDEP
- Dennis Deziel, EPA
- Matt Taylor, [Boloco](#)
- Lauren Betz, [Food for All](#)



Upcoming Events

December 4

Greater Quabbin Food Alliance Meeting
[Food Waste Solutions for Your Venue, Special Events, or Holiday Events](#)
Phillipston

December 18

Mass Farm to School Webinar [School-Wide Composting & Curricular Tie-Ins](#)

December 19

EPA Sustainable Materials

- Nancy Wiseman, [UMass Dartmouth Dining Services](#)
- Jamie Jacquart, [UMass Dartmouth Campus Sustainability and Residential Initiatives](#)



CET President John Majercak discusses RecyclingWorks resources.

The presenters discussed a variety of resources and tools to address the infrastructure of waste diversion programs, as well as strategies to improve engagement. Some of the key takeaways from the Forum include:

- One of the best ways to help the recycling market is to reduce contamination. Businesses and institutions can take the America Recycles Day Pledge, as well as sign up to be a [Recycle Smart MA partner](#), to show their dedication to proper recycling.
- It is important to have clear and persistent messaging to emphasize the importance of food waste diversion and to reduce recycling

Management Webinar
[Methods for Measuring
Excess Food](#)

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contamination. This can be done through proper waste bin signage.

- By utilizing technological platforms, businesses can reduce food waste and increase profits for meals that would otherwise be thrown away.
- Formal or informal waste audits can help businesses and institutions evaluate the effectiveness of waste diversion program messaging and training. This feedback can inform decisions to alter signage or target a specific area for presentations, especially if it is a large campus or building.

To learn more about the 2019 Fall WasteWise Forum, read the RecyclingWorks recap [blog](#).

RecyclingWorks Case Study: Center for EcoTechnology

The RecyclingWorks program is funded by the MassDEP and delivered under contract by The Center for EcoTechnology (CET). CET continuously evaluates its waste diversion program to identify opportunities to reduce waste and encourage reuse in its Northampton office. In 2019, CET updated signage and outdoor collection containers to help prevent contamination in their recyclable and compostable materials.



*CET bins and signage are co-located in common spaces.
Click the photo to access case study.*

CET's Northampton office reached a diversion rate of over 88% through its dual-stream recycling and food scraps collection programs. To learn more, read the updated RecyclingWorks [written case study](#).

RecyclingWorks Spotlight: Lawrence General Hospital

[Lawrence General Hospital](#) is a private hospital providing services to nearly 325,000 patients annually. The 500,000 square foot hospital engaged with RecyclingWorks in May 2019 to assess current operations and identify opportunities to improve all aspects of waste diversion. Since the assessment, Lawrence General has implemented a single stream recycling program, posted updated signage, revived their kitchen food scraps diversion program, and developed plans for a food donation program. Through their new and

updated programs, the hospital is projected to divert an estimated 130 tons of food and 18 tons of single stream materials from disposal annually.

RecyclingWorks recently updated its guidance for [health care facilities](#) to include additional information on single stream recycling and food waste diversion. To learn more about how RecyclingWorks' [no-cost technical assistance](#) can help your business or institution maximize waste diversion opportunities, call our hotline, **(888) 254-5525**, or email us at info@recyclingworksma.com.

Featured Articles:

- [Business West](#) recently reported on the strategies that local businesses are taking to reduce waste in their practices. These include collecting food scraps for composting at restaurants and cafes, educating customers on proper recycling for retail packaging, and using repurposed materials during construction and renovation.
- [GRIST](#) recently reported on one Massachusetts business's efforts to eliminate disposable single-use packaging from its retail operations. Cambridge-based Cleenland is a store focused on preventing waste at the source by only offering packageless products or items that can be sold in refillable containers. This reduces the disposal of packaging materials that are not readily reusable, recyclable, or compostable.



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