



Colleges and Universities

You can use this fill-in threshold estimation guide to identify if your facility may be subject to the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban. If you have any questions, please contact RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts by email (info@recyclingworksma.com) or by calling 1-888-254-5525.

	Average	Measurement	Material
Meals Served	0.35	lbs/meal	Food Waste
Students¹ [Residential]	141.75	lbs/student/year	Food Waste
Students² [Non-residential]	37.8	lbs/student/year	Food Waste

	# Meals Served Weekly	Average Food Waste Measurement	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Meals Served		× 0.35 lbs/meal	

	# of Students	Average Food Waste Measurement	Average Annual Food Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Divisor	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Students¹ [Residential]		× 141.75 lbs/student/year		÷ 30	
Students² [Non-residential]		× 37.8 lbs/student/year		÷ 30	

If the “TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly” in the final column is greater than 1,000 lbs, then your facility may be subject to the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban. If you do not have a food waste diversion program in place, contact RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts [by email](#) or by calling (888) 254-5525, or visit the [RecyclingWorks website](#) to learn how to begin a program today!

EXAMPLES:

If you have **212 students living on campus**, then:

$$141.75 \text{ lbs/student/year} * 212 \text{ residential students} = 30,051 \text{ lbs/year}$$

$$30,051 \text{ lbs/year} \div 30 \text{ weeks/year} = 1,002 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.5 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$$

If you have **800 students living off campus**, then:

$37.8 \text{ lbs/student/year} * 800 \text{ non-residential students} = 30,240 \text{ lbs/year}$

$30,240 \text{ lbs/year} \div 30 \text{ weeks/year} = 1,008 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.5 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$

Note: *The equations based on number of students (above) assume a steady level of food consumption over a 30-week academic year. If this is not the case at your institution, the number of weeks should be adjusted to reflect your operations.*

¹ This metric assumes 405 meals per residential student per year.

² This metric assumes 108 meals per non-residential student per year.