



A Broad Commitment to Sustainability: **Hyannis Yacht Club Business Spotlight**

Located in one of the nation's top places to sail, and surrounded by the beauty of Cape Cod, [Hyannis Yacht Club](#) (the Club) has a strong commitment to sustainability and to protecting local beaches from pollution. The Club engages a network of people who share a passion for boating, sailing, and the ocean lifestyle. Their commitments help preserve the health of the coastal environment that both guests and marine life depend on.

At A Glance

- Expanded recycling from just cardboard to single stream—diverting paper, plastics, bottles and more from the trash stream
- Implemented food scrap diversion with weekly collection, diverting 26 tons a year into nutrient-rich compost
- Utilizes durable and reusable tableware, significantly reducing single-use products
- Installed clearly labeled waste, recycling, and food scrap bin signage



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RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts is a recycling assistance program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and delivered under contract by CET that helps businesses and institutions reduce waste and maximize recycling, reuse, and food recovery opportunities.

Business Overview

Members and the public may reach the Club by boat from Nantucket Sound into Lewis Bay or by land near the island ferries on Ocean Drive. Once there, they can enjoy year-round fine dining at The Captain's Table on the upper level, and pub favorites at the Scudder Room and Patio on the lower level.

During the busy summer months, the Club is likely close to or at the threshold of the [Massachusetts's Department of Environmental Protection's \(MassDEP\) commercial food material disposal ban](#). The ban states that any business or event that generates ½ ton or more of food material per week must divert it out of the trash. Even the most careful kitchens invariably have some prep waste and plate scrapings. Kari Parcell, the MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator for Cape Cod, connected the Club with the MassDEP RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) program to help evaluate its waste management programs.

"A Club for those who love the sea, fostering our youth, friendship, and fine dining."

- Hyannis Yacht Club

RecyclingWorks Technical Assistance to Hyannis Yacht Club

[Technical Assistance from RecyclingWorks](#) began with a site visit to observe the existing trash and recycling programs and then continued with researching available service providers on Cape Cod. Senior Waste Reduction Consultant, Heather Billings, was able to estimate food scrap generation, locate potential service providers for food scrap collection, suggest expanded recycling specifications, identify ideal locations for material collection throughout the clubhouse and marina, and assist with signage development.

By starting the process in the slower months before peak season, the Club was able to successfully train their local and temporary international exchange staff to incorporate the following separation techniques into standard operations.



Hauler Communication

RecyclingWorks worked with the Club to expand their recycling program from “cardboard only” to “single stream”. When General Manager, Emily Mezzetti, contacted their hauler, [Cavossa](#), she learned that their recycling collection route was already single stream. Because of this clarification, the Club was able to immediately begin diverting paper, bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs from their various locations out of the trash and into the recycling.

The Club also contracted with [Black Earth Compost](#) for hauling their food scraps and was provided with three carts and weekly pickups, adjusting as needed for the off season. As part of the service, Black Earth Compost lines the carts with BPI Certified compostable bags held in place with recycled bicycle tire tubes.

Reducing Waste with Durables

Hyannis Yacht Club had already been using durable china plates and glassware for service in the restaurants, and unbreakable plasticware on the patio. Unlike single-use items; reusable plates, utensils, and cups reduce purchasing costs, minimize associated single-use waste, and conserve manufacturing resources.

Purchasing Decisions

The Club was also able to reduce waste through thoughtful purchases. For example, they use custom plastic cups on the beach and for events, so RecyclingWorks and the Club confirmed with the MassDEP [Recycle Smart MA Recyclopeda](#) database and the Club’s hauler that their specific cups are accepted in the recycling stream.

Black Earth Compost is both a hauler and processor and carefully ensures that any compostable items included are BPI Certified. The Club confirmed that the fiber soup bowls and single-use utensils could be included in its food scrap separation program and trained its staff to do so.

BPI Certified compostable products break down fully, returning nutrients to the earth and diverting waste from landfills. Similarly, certain materials like #1 (PET) and #5 (PP) plastics are highly recyclable. By choosing single-use products that are either compostable or recyclable, the Club strategically minimizes excess waste.

On Earth Day 2024, GM Emily and Chef Jeremy gifted management with bags of compost for home use, providing a hands-on experience in the importance of proper food scrap diversion.



Food Scrap Separation

Hyannis Yacht Club's ocean stewardship drives efforts to reduce waste and eliminate litter while making the process seamless for its staff, members, and guests. The Club embodied that stewardship by introducing a food scrap diversion system.

Executive Chef Jeremy Martin set up bright orange food scrap buckets in prep, plate scraping, and dishwashing areas (top right). Staff had already been sorting specific vegetative scraps to send home with a staff member who has backyard chickens, so Emily observed that the additional separation was "second nature." The food scrap buckets are then consolidated into lined carts with lids. Because the food scraps are kept out of the dumpster and are well sealed in lined carts, the new separation process makes the entire trash system cleaner.

Black Earth Compost then processes these materials into a nutrient-rich compost, which the Club uses in patio planters. Last Earth Day, just before the program was about to launch, Emily and Jeremy secured a dozen bags of Black Earth Compost and gave them to their managing staff for use in their home planters and gardens. This generous gift also served as a great training tool, helping managers experience high-quality compost and the importance of proper sorting. Knowing where the food scraps go encourages them to follow guidelines and reduce contamination. Emily and Jeremy trained and supported staff throughout the summer to ensure the system operated smoothly during the busy season.

Marina Recycling

Members and staff are now encouraged and trained to separate their waste into clearly marked bins designated for trash and recycling. To help, the Club also installed strategically placed recycling stations on the dock (bottom right), around the patio, and throughout the clubhouse and kitchen.



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Perfect Patio Scene

Three bins are located on the patio for staff to separate trash, recycling, and food scraps for compost from guest plates. To promote transparency, the Club displays the food waste bin openly, with servers scraping food scraps in sight of patrons. The Club takes pride in its separation program, demonstrating how food scraps and recyclables are properly managed. It also shows that sorting waste does not create any nuisance. Additionally, members and the public can see how their food scraps are transformed into soil in planters around the patio. The Club placed informational signs in the planters that say "We compost with Black Earth Compost and you can too!" with a QR code for more information.



Informational Signs

Clearly labeling waste containers and collection areas is key to reducing contamination and increasing waste diversion. The Club posted customized signage with images of commonly used materials. This easy-to-understand tool can boost confidence around recycling. RecyclingWorks develops [custom graphics and signage](#) for businesses receiving technical assistance for reducing waste.

Celebrating Success, Continuing Progress

Hyannis Yacht Club demonstrates that any food establishment, even yacht clubs and marinas, can operate sustainably. By seamlessly boosting recycling and food scrap diversion, the Club was able to skip their usual request for an extra dumpster in the busy season.

The program's success is thanks to Emily and Jeremy, whose leadership in effective operations and accurate management fosters a positive and collaborative environment with staff, Club members, and the public. **Hyannis Yacht Club aims to adopt zero waste principles and sets a strong example for the community, showing that sustainability and the boating lifestyle can go hand in hand.** ♻️



If your business is looking to evaluate waste streams,

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