

A circular botanical illustration border surrounds the central text. It features various plants including ferns, a red leaf, a green leaf, a yellow flower, a purple flower, and a branch with small pink flowers.

BY: Kari L. Parcell,
M.P.A.

“State of the Cape”

MassDEP Waste Bans



Why does Massachusetts have waste bans? Waste bans help to increase recycling and support the recycling economy, which provides thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity in Massachusetts. By reducing the disposal of banned materials, we also capture valuable resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and reduce our need for landfills and incinerators.

MassDEP Commercial Food Waste Ban

- Households, businesses, and institutions generate approximately **6 million tons** of solid waste per year
- Approximately 25% is food waste or wasted food
- Approximately 14% is leaf and yard waste
- That means- if we could divert all 36% of food and organic wastes from the trash, that would equate to **2,160,000 million tons** of compostable material from households, businesses and institutions each year
- Implemented in 2014 at 1/ton or more generated in a week
- New threshold implemented in 2022 at 1/2 ton or more in a week
- Best solution is to reduce waste generation and divert materials for composting or recycling (MassDEP 2020-2030 SWMP)

2020-2021 Feasibility Study

- Cost benefit analysis on out-of-state disposal of MSW
- Analysis of divertable, recyclable, and compostable materials
- Recommendations: focus on C&D and Organics
- Organics recommendation
 - 3 sub-regional commercial sites
 - Upper Cape (JBCC)
 - Mid-Cape (Yarmouth Digester)
 - Lower Cape (Wellfleet/Eastham)

2023 | Phase 1 JBCC



- Began conversations with JBCC
- Open to the idea of providing land space/use
- 4 upper Cape towns- Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich
- Pre-grant application submitted for project manager- other grants considered
- Partnership and coalition building
- Outreach and education

Use and Availability of MICRO Grants

- Promote waste reduction, reuse, and repair in MA
- Regional authorities, for-profit/non-profit entities, eligible municipalities for short term waste reduction projects
- Grants are up to \$5,000
- Currently not available- stay tuned for updates in 2024
 - New grant process
 - New criteria
 - New award amounts
 - New guidelines
 - New establishment for applications



Thank
you



Kari L. Parcell, M.P.A.

kari.parcell@capecod.gov

508-375-6974