

# Solid Waste Policies, Programs & Data



TURI Resource Conservation Training

May 18, 2026

# Topics to Cover

- Solid Waste Master Plan Assessment
- Waste Characterization Data
- Key Programs, Resources & Assistance

# 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan

- Goal to reduce disposal by 30 % by 2030
- Committed to 2025 assessment
- Evaluate progress and adjust implementation Action Plans
- Developed in consultation with advisory groups
  - Held 17 meetings to obtain input
- Consider use of grant funding, assistance, outreach, compliance & enforcement

# Solid Waste Disposal Trends

	2018 Tons	2024 Tons	% Change
<b>Municipal Solid Waste</b>	4,510,000	4,500,000	0%
<b>Non-Municipal Solid Waste</b>	1,140,000	1,710,000	50%
<b>Total Solid Waste Disposal</b>	5,600,000	6,220,000	10%

# Other Related Trends

- Gross Domestic Product by State – up 40%
- Population rose 3.4% - not significant factor

# 2025 Waste Characterization Data

# Points to Keep in Mind

- Municipal solid waste (MSW) waste
- Data from Mass municipal waste combustors
  - 66% of MSW disposal
- 2024 MSW disposal = 4.5 million tons
  - 2025 disposal not available yet
- Studies conducted every 3 years
- Alternate between spring/summer and winter/fall sampling periods

# Points to Keep in Mind

- Most data I will show are total MSW, but also have residential and ICI data
  - ICI = Industrial/Commercial/Institutional
  - Will highlight for a few materials
- 9 primary & 62 secondary material categories
- Total is always 100%
  - We cannot reduce all of the percentages
  - If one material goes down, another must go up

# Paper

	2010 Winter/ Fall	2013 Spring/ Summer	2016 Winter/ Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/ Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Total Paper	25.8%	24.7%	21.7%	21.0%	21.8%	23.6%
Cardboard/Kraft Paper	8.7%	7.3%	9.2%	5.4%	5.8%	4.2%
Compostable Paper	6.2%	7.8%	5.8%	8.7%	7.2%	9.6%

# Cardboard – Residential vs. ICI

- 2022 Total – 5.8%
  - Residential – 2.9%
  - ICI – 8.5%
- 2025 Total – 4.2%
  - Residential – 3.0%
  - ICI – 5.1%

# Compostable Paper – Residential vs. ICI

- 2022 Total – 7.2%
  - Residential – 7.8%
  - ICI – 6.7%
- 2025 Total – 9.6%
  - Residential – 10.2%
  - ICI – 9.3%

# Plastic

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Total Plastic	13.9%	14.4%	13.1%	15.9%	15.0%	18.2%
Plastic MA Deposit Beverage Containers	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%
Bulk Rigid Plastic Items	2.7%	2.2%	1.6%	0.9%	1.8%	2.7%
Other Film means plastic film	3.7%	4.4%	4.8%	6.5%	5.7%	7.5%

- **Other Film** includes garbage bags sandwich bags, re-closeable bags, produce bags, frozen vegetable bags, food wrappers such as candy-bar wrappers, and plastic food wrap

# C&D Materials (in MSW)

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Construction and Demolition (in the MSW stream)	13.9%	12.7%	15.0%	14.3%	12.1%	5.1%
Wood – Treated	4.2%	4.1%	5.7%	5.9%	3.4%	2.1%
Wood – Untreated	3.3%	2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	0.6%
Carpet and Carpet Padding	2.9%	2.6%	3.3%	2.5%	1.8%	0.3%
Asphalt Roofing	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Drywall/Gypsum Board	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%

# Food Waste

	2010 Winter/Fall	2013 Spring/Summer	2016 Winter/Fall	2019 Spring/ Summer	2022 Winter/Fall	2025 Spring/ Summer
Food Waste	15.1%	18.8%	26.0%	21.5%	21.6%	23.7%

# Organics – Residential vs. ICI

- Residential food waste = 26.5% (was 21.3% in 2022)
- Commercial food waste = 21.7% (was 21.4% in 2022)
- When exclude C&D materials category from analysis, food waste remained flat from 2022 to 2025

# Waste Disposal Bans

# Overview

- Waste ban regulations state no person shall dispose, contract for disposal or transfer for disposal banned materials
- MassDEP focus is waste ban compliance by waste haulers and generators
- Conduct inspections at solid waste facilities, identify source of banned materials, issue enforcement against waste generator or hauler

# Waste Ban Inspections and Enforcement

- Banned materials include
  - Cardboard, paper, bottles and cans
  - Certain construction materials
  - Bulky items – mattresses, “white goods”, CRTs, tires, textiles
  - Leaves and yard waste
  - Food waste (businesses with  $>1/2$  ton per week)

# Recycling Works in Massachusetts

- MassDEP funded program that provides free guidance and assistance to Massachusetts businesses
- Program web site – guidance, best management practices, case studies
- Workshops and webinars
- Assistance via email and phone
- On site assistance

# Reduction & Reuse

# Priority Materials

- Building materials
  - [Deconstruction workgroup](#)
  - [Best management practices](#)
- Bulky Materials
  - [Furniture, fixtures, and office equipment](#)
- Reusable Food Service ware
  - [Best management practices for takeout food service](#)

# Contact Information

- [Solid Waste Master Plan](#)
- [Summary Data](#)
- [Waste Bans](#)
- [RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts](#)
- John Fischer – [john.fischer@mass.gov](mailto:john.fischer@mass.gov)