Massachusetts Commercial Organics Waste Ban

Greg Cooper, MassDEP
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Organics Policy and Goals

- Solid Waste Master Plan
  - Overall goal – reduce disposal by 2 million tons (30%) annually by 2020
  - Food waste and other organics >25% of disposal in Mass. > 1 million tons per year

- Primary Goal – Divert additional 350,000 tons per year of organic materials from disposal by 2020

- Clean Energy Results Program
  - Support the development of renewable energy in Mass.
  - Goal to have 50 MW of anaerobic digestion in place by 2020
Benefits

• Opportunity to digest for energy and/or compost to produce soil amendments/fertilizers

• Enhance management solutions for dairy manure & wastewater residuals

• Opportunity to generate energy at farms, waste water plants, other locations

• Cost effective materials management for businesses/institutions

• Reduced reliance on disposal capacity
Organics Action Plan Overview

- Comprehensive, integrated set of strategies

- Developed working with stakeholders

- Focused on 2020 goal – 350 K tons additional diversion annually
  - Data Analysis
  - Collection Infrastructure
  - Processing Capacity/Market Development
  - Regulatory Reform/Waste Ban
Improved Data

- Food waste density mapping study – updated 2011
- Waste characterization study data
- Completed survey of food waste management at state facilities
- Will be reviewing facility reports to update diversion data
Building Collection Infrastructure

- Guidance on food waste reduction/donation
- Best management practices guidance
  - By business sector
  - For local health departments/haulers
- Recycling Loan Fund – haulers eligible
- Recyclingworks in Massachusetts
  - Website
  - Service provider database
  - Site specific TA
  - Guidance/case studies/food waste calculator
Growing Processing Capacity/Markets

- Solid waste regulations siting changes
  - Promulgated November 2012
  - Clarify requirements, reduce siting barriers
  - Facilities taking source separated materials do not require solid waste facility site assignment

- Financial assistance matrix available online
  - MassDEP Recycling Loan Fund
  - MassDEP Municipal Grants
  - Mass Clean Energy Center Organics to Energy program
Commercial Organics Waste Ban

- Took effect October 1, 2014
- Food waste and vegetative material
- Does not apply to management in wastewater
- Commercial/institutional organics – dispose > 1 ton/week
- Estimate – 1,700 businesses/institutions subject to the ban
- Focus now on outreach and compliance assistance