

# MassDEP Solid Waste and Recycling Update



MHOA Seminar  
March 3, 2021



# Topics

- Solid Waste Master Plan
- Waste Ban Regulations
- Overall Solid Waste Regulations Revisions
- COVID Issues for Waste & Recycling
- Municipal Resources & Assistance
- Recycling Works in Massachusetts assistance



# Solid Waste Master Plan

- Completed second round of public input in summer 2020
- Second round of input focused on environmental justice, climate change and COVID impacts
- Working to finalize and publish in 2021



# Solid Waste Master Plan

- Draft 2030 Plan Proposed Waste Reduction Goals
  - Reduce disposal from 5.7 to 4.0 million tons by 2030
  - Reduce disposal to 570,000 tons by 2050
- Key proposed new initiatives
  - Work with Legislature on EPR and recycling service requirement
  - Reduce & Reuse Action Plan
  - Market Development Action Plan
  - Expanded waste bans
  - C&D facility minimum performance standard



# Waste Disposal Bans

- MassDEP regulations ban disposal of certain recyclable or compostable materials in trash
- Core strategy to help achieve Solid Waste Master Plan waste reduction goals
- Waste bans began in 1990 – implemented as part of comprehensive strategy
- Goal to drive growth of diversion at same time as foster infrastructure development
- MassDEP monitors compliance through inspections at solid waste facilities



# Proposed Changes

- Addition of mattresses and textiles as banned materials
- Lower threshold for existing commercial food waste ban from 1 ton to  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton per week
- Additional changes to solid waste facility waste ban guidance
- Proposed effective date October 2021



# Waste Ban Guidance Changes

- Solid waste facility waste ban compliance plans
  - For facilities > 50 tons per day:
    - Require dedicated waste ban monitor (beyond loader operator)
  - Loads with C&D materials above action levels may not be accepted and disposed
    - Must either separate banned materials or transfer to processor
  - Connect waste ban guidance with C&D facility minimum performance standard
  - Specifically address how will separate cardboard for recycling



# Food Waste Reduction Progress

- Draft SWMP goal – reduce food waste by 500K tons/year (beyond 2018 baseline of 280 K tons/year)
- Increased from 100K tons to 310K tons in 2019
- # businesses diverting up from 1,350 to 2,900 in 2019
- > 50% growth in food rescue since 2014
- Growth in capacity – especially anaerobic digestion, de-packaging and food rescue

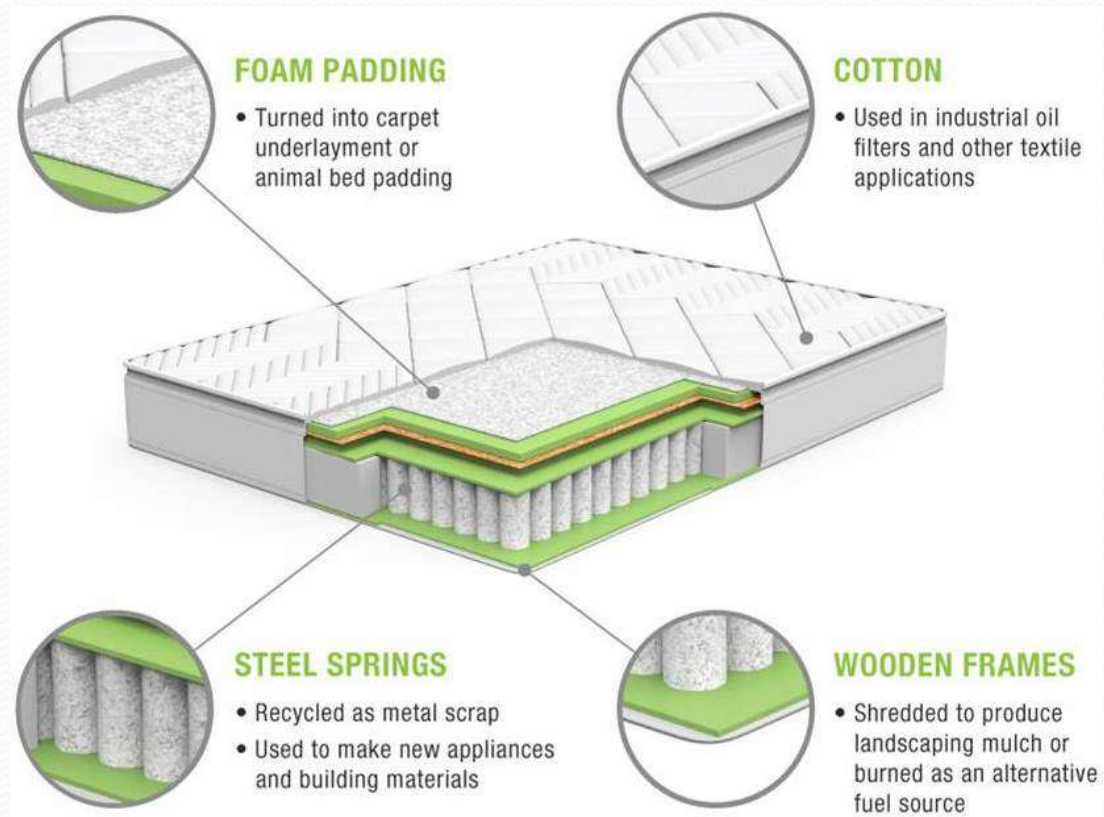




# Mattress Recycling Progress

- 600K mattresses/year total generated (about 200K residential)
- About 16K tons
- Current recycling > 50K units/year (not including commercial)
- About 90 cities & towns currently recycling via state contract

# Mattress Components



# Mattress Recycling Infrastructure

- MassDEP municipal recycling grants, state contract and recycling business grants
- 4 vendors on state contract
- Current and planned capacity about 470K pieces/year
- Recycling costs - \$10-16/piece
  - Haul costs - \$150-500/container
- Typical trash disposal surcharges \$20-100
  - Most around \$50/unit

# Textile Reuse and Recycling Infrastructure

- About 230K tons disposed/year
- Textiles have value - about 95% can be reused or recycled
- >25 reuse or recycling operations in Mass.
- Many more involved in resale
- >1/2 of munis. have collection programs – many through schools



# Major Points of Comment

- Effective date too soon – should postpone
  - Would allow for more outreach, assistance and market development and enable businesses to recover post-COVID
- Need to address wet or dirty mattresses and textiles
- Mattress ban should be tied to EPR approach
- Need to provide more flexibility on solid waste facility requirements

# Solid Waste Regulations Revisions

- MassDEP reviewing full solid waste regulations
  - 310 CMR 16.00 and 19.000
- Initial stakeholder discussions fall 2020
- Second round of stakeholder discussions spring 2021
- Draft regulations for public comment by end of 2021
- Final regulations

# COVID Issues for Waste & Recycling

- Solid waste and recycling continue to be considered as essential service
  - This has been viewed broadly
- Previous recycling related restrictions have been lifted
  - Ban on reusable bags and local bag ordinances
  - Temporary suspension of requirement to redeem bottle bill containers
- No MassDEP related restrictions at this time
- <https://www.mass.gov/lists/massdep-solid-waste-policies-guidance-fact-sheets#covid-19->

# Municipal Resources & Assistance

- [Municipal Assistance Coordinators](#)
- [Recycling Dividends Program](#) and [Equipment Grants](#)
- [Recycle Smart](#) and [Recycling IQ Kit](#)
- [Recycling Contracting Guidance](#)



# Recycling Works in Massachusetts

- Free for any Mass. Business or institution
- Technical assistance via phone, email, remote, and in person
- [www.recyclingworksma.com](http://www.recyclingworksma.com) or 888-254-5525
- Key resources re: food waste
  - [Food donation guidance](#)
  - [Food waste collection guidance](#)
  - [Compost site technical assistance](#)



# For more information

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