

# RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts

2024 Massachusetts  
Food Systems Forum

December 17, 2024



# Technical Assistance for Businesses & Institutions



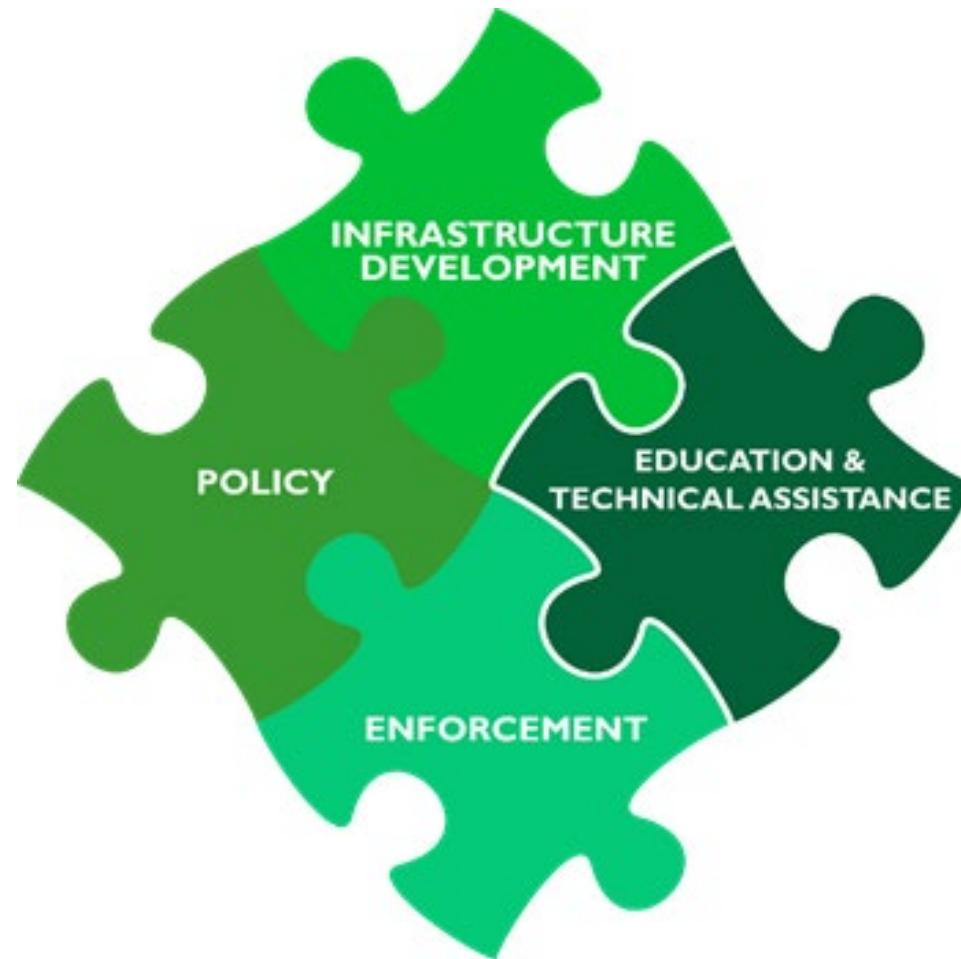
RecyclingWorks in MA is funded by MassDEP, delivered under contract by CET



[recyclingworksma.com](http://recyclingworksma.com)



# Components of a Successful Food Disposal Ban



# Effective Strategies Observed Since 2014

## RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts Program:

- I. Website Resources – Food Waste Estimation Tool, Service Provider Database, case studies, guidance documents, etc.
  - II. Technical Assistance – Ranging from hotline service (phone/email) to Comprehensive Site Visits, along with implementation support
  - III. Presentations – webinars & conferences
  - IV. Engaging business/industry groups & associations
  - V. Assisting service providers (food rescue organizations, organics haulers, compost sites) with resources & training
- MassDEP Requests for Information & Enforcement



# Massachusetts Waste Disposal Bans

## Commercial Food Waste

Applies to businesses & institutions generating one-half (0.5) tons or more food waste per week

## Textiles and Mattresses/Box Springs

## Cardboard and Paper

## Metal, Glass, and Plastic Containers

## Certain Construction Demolition Materials

## Yard Waste

## White Goods

[recyclingworksma.com/waste-bans-and-compliance/](https://recyclingworksma.com/waste-bans-and-compliance/)



One-half ton of food waste fills approximately four of these 64-gallon carts.

## Restaurants

### Average Measurement

Meals Served [Full-Service]	1	lbs/meal
Meals Served [Limited-Service]	0.5	lbs/meal
Employees [Full-Service]	3,000	lbs/employee/year
Employees [Limited-Service]	2,200	lbs/employee/year
Disposed Waste <sup>1</sup> [Full-Service]	66	% of disposed waste by weight
Disposed Waste <sup>1</sup> [Limited-Service]	51	% of disposed waste by weight

# Estimating Food Waste Generation by Sector

[Link to tool](#)



# What Is Technical Assistance?

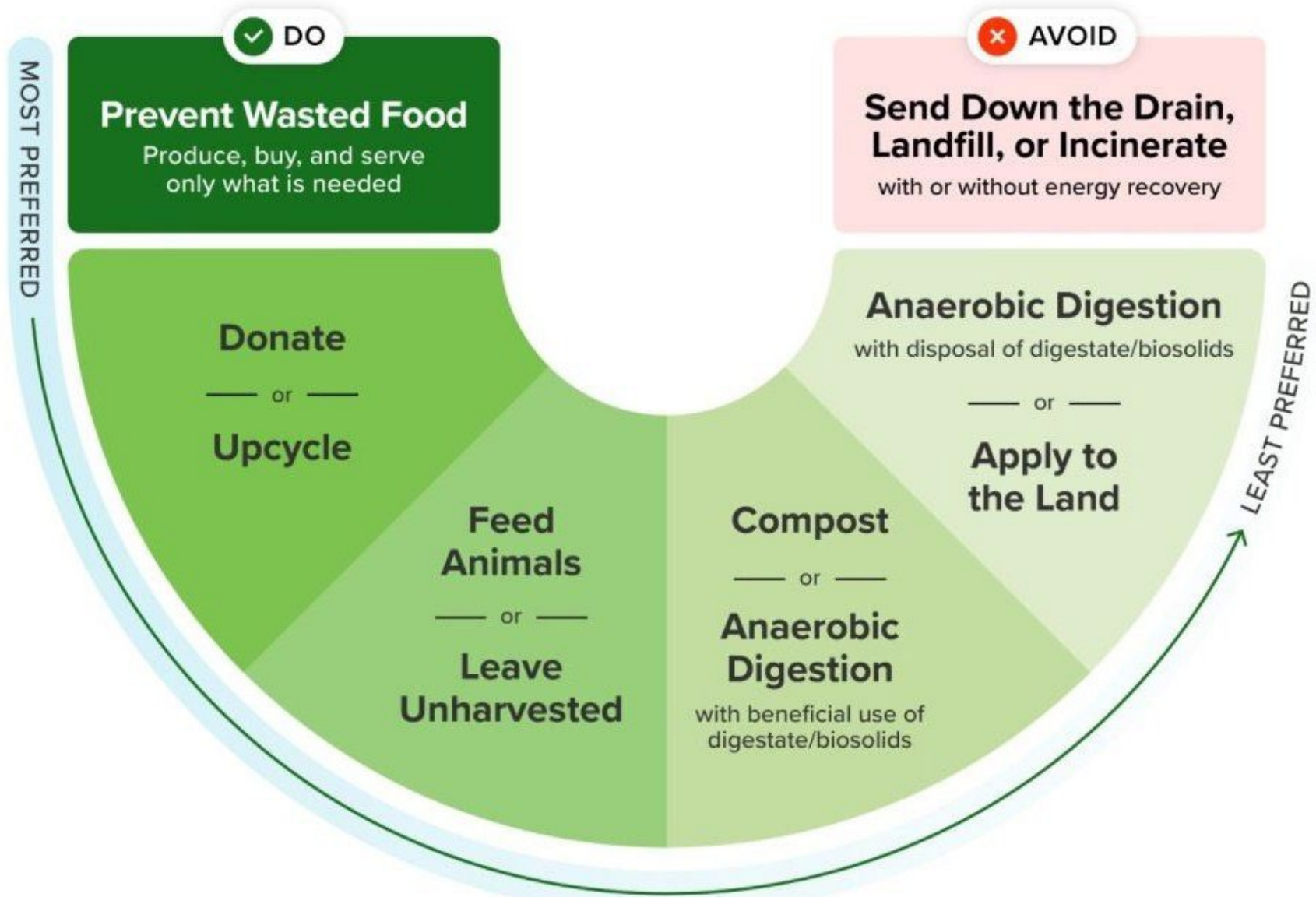
- **Evaluate** existing waste streams
- **Identify** opportunities to prevent, recover, and divert waste
- **Connect** with service providers
- **Create** customized waste bin signage
- **Conduct** cost analysis
- **Implementation** assistance, including education and training support





# Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food





# Best Management Practice Guidance Developed by RecyclingWorks

Source Reduction  
Guidance



<https://recyclingworksma.com/source-reduction-guidance/>

Food Donation Guidance



<https://recyclingworksma.com/donate/>

Source Separation  
Guidance



<https://recyclingworksma.com/local-health-department-guidance-for-commercial-food-waste-separation/>

Guidance for Businesses  
Contracting for Trash,  
Recycling, and Food Waste  
Services



<https://recyclingworksma.com/hauler-contracting-bmp/>

# Food Donation Guidance

Why should my business donate?

What foods can be donated?

Building a donation program

Finding partner food rescue organizations

Food transportation

[recyclingworksma.com/donate/](http://recyclingworksma.com/donate/)

## Food Donation



Is there extra food that can be donated today?

### DONATE

- Whole fruits & vegetables
- Fresh dairy; milk and cheeses
- Grains; rice, bread, pasta
- Non-perishables in original packaging
- Perishable foods in original packaging
- Prepared Foods



### NO

Moldy, rotten, spoiled food  
Food not held at proper temperatures

Call \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ today  
with questions or to schedule pickup!

Store food in fridge located \_\_\_\_\_

Label and keep temperature log every \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

If you can't donate it - compost it!  
Compost bins are located: \_\_\_\_\_

For urgent or internal requests, contact: \_\_\_\_\_



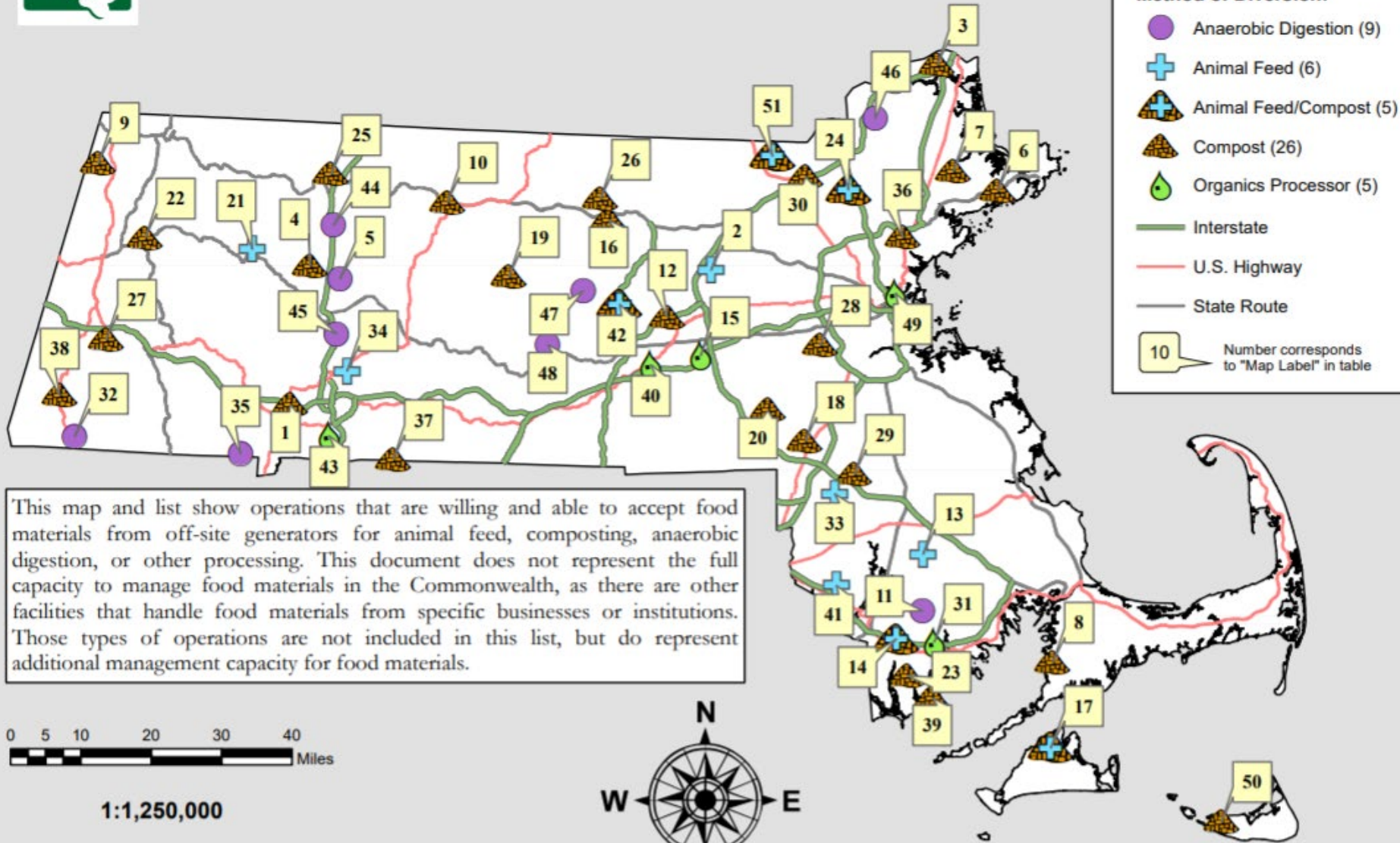
# Consensus-Based Best Management Practices for Reusable Food and Beverage Containers in Food Establishments







# Sites Accepting Diverted Food Material



[Link to Map](#)

DATA SOURCES:  
 - Major Roads: MassDOT OTP, MassGIS, June 2014  
 - Food Material Diverters: MassDEP BAW, August 2020

Map Updated August 2020  
 MassDEP, BAW. J Cook



# Compost Site Technical Assistance

## RecyclingWorks in MA can:

- Assist commercial-scale sites with composting food scraps
- Design the site and help determine layout
- Provide operational best management practices
- Offer pest and odor management

## Compost Site Operator Workshops

Events that offer opportunity for composters to tour a compost site and learn about best practices for composting food scraps

[recyclingworksma.com/learn-more/compost-site-technical-assistance](https://recyclingworksma.com/learn-more/compost-site-technical-assistance)



# Fiscal Year 2024 Overview

## Waste Diversion as a Result of FY24 Hotline, Mini TA, and TA Activities

Type of Diversion	Annual Tonnage Diverted	Percentage of Total Diversion
Recycled	1,202 tons	68%
Reused	74 tons	4%
Reduced	1 ton	0.1%
Food Donated	3.5 tons	0.2%
Organics Diverted**	500 tons	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,781 tons</b>	<b>100%</b>

1,781 tons diverted in FY24, contributing to 325,800 tons since 2013

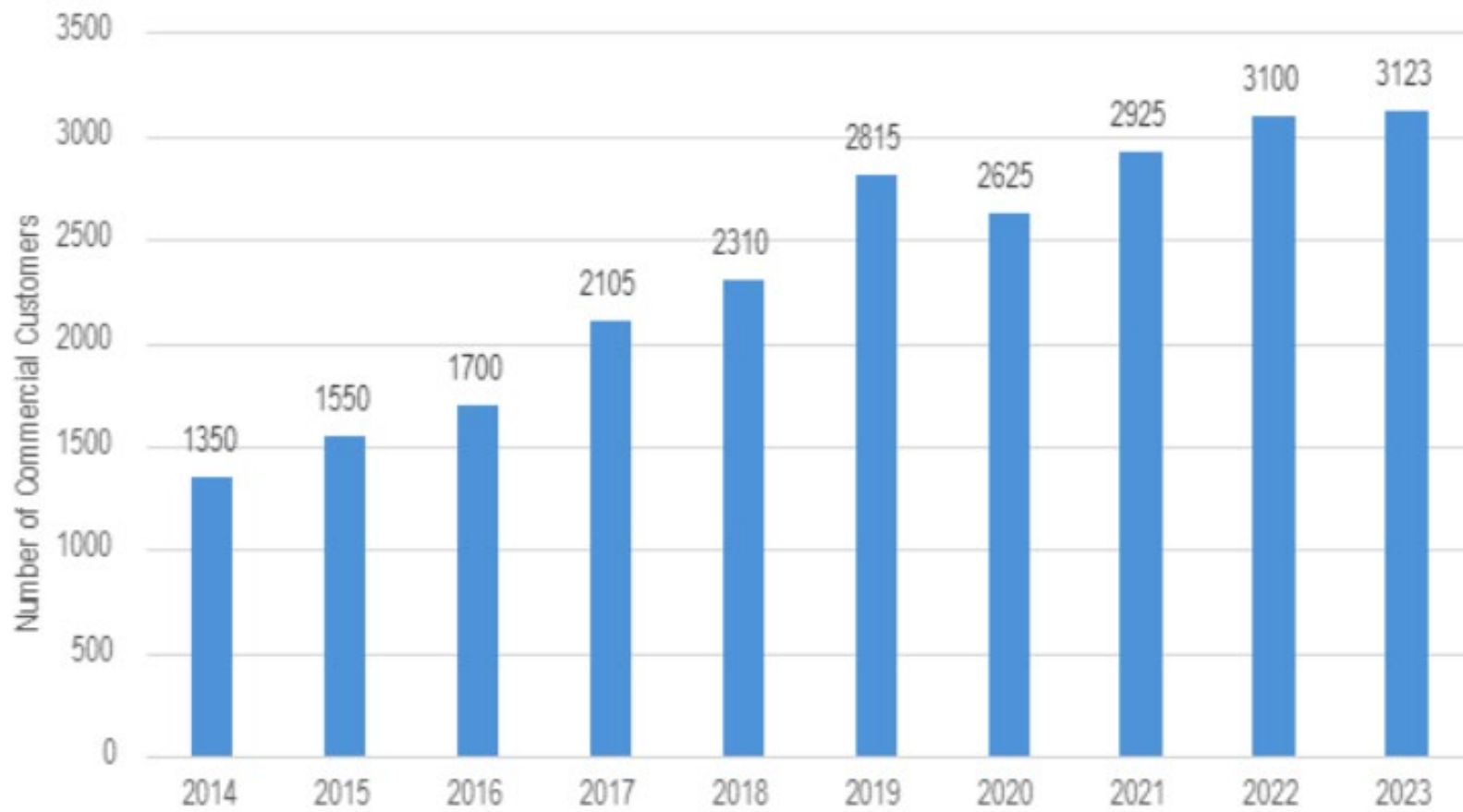
199 businesses received technical assistance

Roughly 1,900 phone & email hotline inquiries

[Link to Report](#)

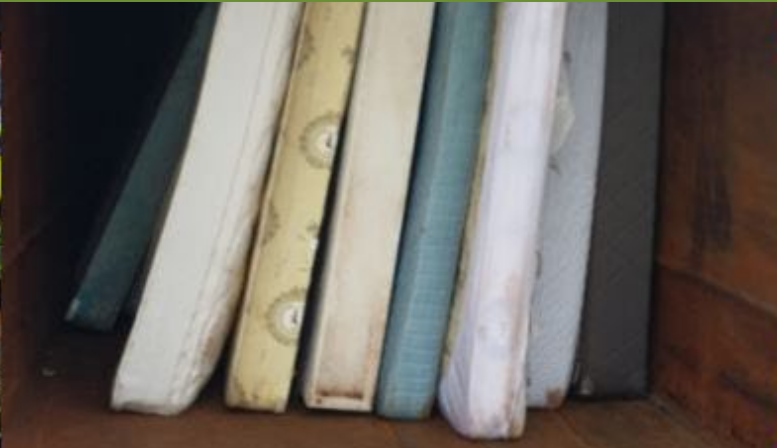


## MA Businesses and Institutions Contracting for Organics Hauling





# Continual Improvement



[MassDEP Organics Action Plan](#)

[City of Boston Food Recovery Assessment](#)



THANK YOU!

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# Resources

- [Massachusetts Waste Bans](#)
- [RW Annual Report](#)
- [Food waste estimator tool](#),
- [Sites accepting diverted food material](#)
- Wasted food tracking document
- Food donation signage
- USDA Posters
- Compost Site Technical Assistance [graphic](#) and [webpage](#)
- [Mass Farm Energy Program](#)
- MassSave
- CCF
- CCBA

