

# Recycling in Massachusetts

Sustainable Buildings Initiative  
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# Recycling Coordinator for Republic Services

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- President of MassRecycle

Primary goal: help customers divert waste from landfills

- Educator
- Organic waste specialist
- President of MassRecycle.org
- Solid Waste leadership committee of the Environmental Business Council
- LEED Green Associate
- Zero Waste TRUE advisor
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# Services

Our extensive array of environmental services includes:

- Non-hazardous solid waste
- Recycling and diversion
- Industrial and manufacturing
- Temporary projects and events
- Emergency and disaster recovery
- Universal waste
- Electronic waste
- Organics and green waste



# Recycle Smart



**Metal**



**Food and Beverage Cans**  
empty and rinse



**Plastic**



**Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs**  
empty and replace cap



**Glass**



**Bottles and Jars**  
empty and rinse



**Paper & Cardboard**



**Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes**  
empty and flatten

## NO!



**Do Not Bag Recyclables**  
**No Garbage**



**No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap**  
(return to retail)



**No Food or Liquid**  
(empty all containers)



**No Clothing or Linens**  
(use donation programs)



**No Tangles**  
(no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)



AN INITIATIVE OF  
THE MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

## RecycleSmartMA.org



@RecycleSmartMA



RecycleSmartMA



Recycle-Smart-MA

# Key changes

- Pizza boxes - YES
- Gable top cartons - NO
- Cold and hot cups - NO
- Bags: single use and custodial - NO

# Items that will get you failed at the MRF

- Black plastic bags
- Food
- Plastic bags/ plastic wrap
- Large pieces of styrofoam

# Why no bags?



# China National Sword side effects

- Demand for cleaner material
- Huge increase in failed loads of recyclables
- Waivers/trashing recycling
- “Medical waste”
- New business opportunities
- RecycleSmartMA for everyone
- DEP & haulers: Recycling IQ kit for municipalities
- Higher awareness of topic due to media



# The Financial Model for Recycling

- Before China National Sword
  - Free recycling
  - rebates
- Now
  - Upfront costs/processing fee
  - Failure to recycle smart = much higher costs

# Achieving LEED Goals & Heading to Zero Waste

- Waste audit measured by new RecycleSmart standards
- Food diversion is key: rescue, and compost
- That number is your limit, unless you think creatively

# Actually effecting change

- True success and 90% + requires:
  - Managerial buy in
  - Staff training
  - Tenant buy in
  - Environmentally preferred providers
  - Vendor push back/EPR
  - Durable goods instead of disposables

# Dept. of Environmental Protection Waste Bans

Recycling – 1990



Organics- 2014



# Questions & Answers