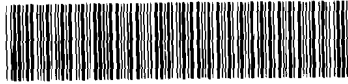


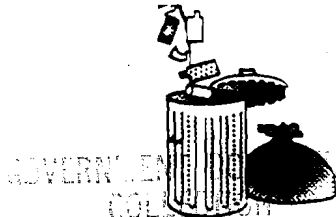
Recycling Questions & Answers

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Department of Environmental Protection

UMASS/AMHERST



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The Department of Environmental Protection promotes recycling throughout the state. Below, we have summarized a few of the most common questions posed to us by citizens of the Commonwealth. A directory of other DEP publications on recycling is provided on the back.

■ What materials can be recycled?

Newspaper, office paper, cardboard, glass bottles, metal cans, scrap metal, and recyclable plastics account for about 50% of the solid waste stream. They are the most common materials targeted for recycling because there are many processors recycling those materials in the state. About 45% of Massachusetts-produced glass is made of recycled bottles, most of our tissue paper is made of recycled writing paper, and virtually all of the state's paperboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc.) is made of recycled newspapers.

■ Where can I recycle?

Ninety-five percent of Massachusetts municipalities offer residents some opportunity to recycle, and many businesses offer recycling in the workplace. To find out whether your community is collecting recyclables at the curb or at a drop-off center, call your local public works department or board of health official. Most recyclers listed in the yellow pages (under "recycling", "waste paper", or "scrap") service the workplace. The DEP's Recycling Services Directory is a good information resource for businesses and municipalities with large quantities of scrap materials.

■ Why are there special rules for preparing recyclables?

Every manufacturer's goal is to make a quality item, and recycled materials must compete with virgin feedstocks for purity. Contaminants can damage processing machinery and cause imperfections in the new product. A single ceramic cup can ruin all of the glass collected from your entire neighborhood! Recycling is not only a technical term, it is an economic one as well. There are many disposable materials marked "recyclable" which we have no regional markets for.

■ How does recycling make a difference?

Recycling paper, glass, steel, aluminum and plastic saves our planet's energy and resources and reduces the amount of waste and pollution generated when the item is produced. It also saves us millions of dollars by extending the lives of our remaining landfills and offering a cost competitive alternative for disposal of large portions of the solid waste stream. Recycling industries support over ten thousand jobs in the state, and recyclable materials are the largest export from the port of Boston.

■ When will recycling be available to all Massachusetts citizens?

Communities must establish their own recycling programs. If your community does not recycle materials for which there is a market, it is a service you should insist on. The DEP assists communities whose leaders demonstrate a commitment to recycling. Leaves, yard waste, auto batteries, glass bottles, metal cans, paper, and plastics have been designated by DEP for recycling (and banned from disposal) in the time frame of 1991 to 1994, accelerating services for these materials.

■ What is the state's role in recycling?

The state does not manufacture new bottles, newspapers, or metal containers. Recycling depends on private industry, and on your demand for recycled products. The Commonwealth helps ensure these industries a clean, affordable supply of recyclables. The state mandates recycling of deposit containers through a bottle bill, helps finance processing facilities, and purchases recycled products. DEP regulates solid waste disposal facilities, grants recycling equipment to municipalities, purchases recycled products, and works to bring recycling industries to the region. Finally, DEP acts as an information resource for municipalities and industry.

■ Whose responsibility is it to recycle?

All of us, at home and at work. Please participate in your local recycling program and buy products in containers that you can recycle. Be a smart shopper and buy in bulk or limit excess packaging. In the office, form a committee to initiate recycling and encourage your purchasing manager to buy recycled materials.

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■ **What other sources offer information on recycling?** Your local Department of Public Works or Board of Health official can usually give you specifics on your community's program. The yellow pages are another obvious resource. The DEP also suggests the following publications and organizations for recycling information beyond your local area.

■ **Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection**, Division of Solid Waste Management, One Winter St., 4th Fl., Boston, MA 02108. Please enclose check made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for any of the following documents.*

- Apartment Building Recycling Municipal Guidance Manual**, '88. [\$7.35].
- Apartment Building Recycling: A Manual for Apartment Owners & Managers**, '90. [\$1.70].
- Backyard Composting**, '90. No Charge.
- Commercial Recycling Basics**, '92. No Charge.
- Grass Clippings: Let Them Work for You**. No Charge.
- Guide to Community Recycling**, '92. [\$7.00].
- Home Composting Bin Design Sheets**. [\$2.00].
- Home Composting Handbook: How to Promote Home Composting in Your Community**. [\$3.30].
- Recycling Services Directory**, '92. [\$5.50].
- Recycled Products Guide**, '90. [\$10.50].
- Recycling in Massachusetts: A Status Report**, Dec. 1991. No Charge
- Recycling Programs in Massachusetts, Cities and Towns, Curbside and Dropoff**, '92. [\$6.00].
- Solid Waste Management Resource Guide for Massachusetts Schools**, '90. K-12 Curriculum.
Available from the State House Bookstore, 617-727-2834.
- Toward a System of Integrated Solid Waste Management: The Commonwealth Master Plan**, '90.
Available from the State House Bookstore, 617-727-2834.
- Vermicomposting: Information and Bin Design Sheets**. [\$1.50].

■ **Environmental and Educational Non-Profit Organizations:**

Center for Ecological Technology, Pittsfield, MA. 413-445-4556.
 Earthworm, Inc. GBR Somerville, MA. 617-628-1844.
 Environmental Defense Fund, N.Y., N.Y. 212-505-2100.
 Fundamental Action to Conserve Energy, Fitchburg, MA. 508-345-5385.
 Keep America Beautiful, Inc., Stamford, CT. 203-323-8987.
 Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA. 617-259-9500.
 Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, Boston, MA. 617-292-4800
 MassRecycle, Worcester, MA. 508-345-6918.
 Worldwatch Institute, Washington, D.C., 202-452-1999.

■ **U.S. Environ. Protection Agency**, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Solid Waste Hotline, 1-800-424-9346. Call for publications.

■ **Industry Organizations:**

American Paper Institute, Inc., New York, N.Y. 212-340-0600.
 Glass Packaging Institute, Washington, D.C. 202-887-4850.
 Institute of Scrap Metal Industries, Washington, D.C. 202-466-4050.
 National Polystyrene Recycling Co., Lincolnshire, IL. 708-945-2139.
 National Solid Waste Management Assoc., Wash., D.C. 202-659-4613.
 Steel Can Recycling Institute, Pittsburg, PA. 800-876-SCRI.
 The Aluminum Association, Washington, D.C. 202-862-5100.
 The Partnership for Plastics Progress, Washington, D.C. 202-371-5319.

■ **Regional Recycling Organizations:**

For contacts, ask for DEP's Regional Recycling Contacts List.

Anawan Region Solid Waste Committee
 Cape Cod Planning Commission
 Central Ma. Regional Recycling Coalition
 Coalition of N. Central Waste Mgt.
 Eastern Mass. Recycling Association
 G.Gardner Regional Refuse Disposal Group
 Metro-West Regional Recycling Committee
 Millis Consortium
 N.E. Mass. Regional Recycling Committee
 South Shore Coalition
 S. Central Recycling Association of Mass.

■ **Recycling Periodicals:**

- Biocycle**
- Garbage Magazine**
- Fiber Market News**
- Recycling Times**
- Recycling Today**
- Resource Recycling**
- Waste Age**
- Waste Dynamics of New England**

*Charges reflect photocopying and mailing costs. Materials are provided to municipalities and non-profit organizations at no charge.