



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Composting Support for Small & Agricultural Business through RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection &
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

July 2026

The Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriations Act (Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) directed the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to develop and administer a grant program for small Commonwealth-located businesses to support implementation of composting programs and infrastructure:

2200-0107...provided further not less than \$150,000 shall be expended to the department of environmental protection to develop and administer a grant program for small businesses located in the commonwealth to implement composting; provided further, that grants may be used by grantees to obtain compost collection containers, procure educational or technical assistance, establish regular collection of food waste and other compostable matter or other similar composting efforts or activities; provided further, that agricultural businesses and food service establishments shall be prioritized in the grant application review process; and provided further, that not later than April 1, 2026, the department of environmental protection, in coordination with the department of agricultural resources, shall submit a report to the senate and house committees on ways and means and the joint committee on environment and natural resources on the implementation of the grant program,

including, but not limited to, the names and locations of the grantees, the number of pounds of food waste and other compostable matter collected and information about where the waste was diverted.

Scope of Work

MassDEP funded several projects for small businesses to implement composting including leveraging the existing RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) program to assist small business in diverting food waste and supporting a selection of small grants related to food diversion and composting.

FY26 Composting-Related Activities through April 1, 2026

This section reflects composting-related activities conducted through the RecyclingWorks program and other DEP grants between July 2025 and April 2026. Program activity is ongoing, with additional impact anticipated through the end of FY26.

RecyclingWorks Compost Site Technical Assistance (TA) and Organics TA	\$44,000	Free assistance to businesses and institutions to help them start or expand organics diversion programs. Free compost site technical assistance to farmers and small composters	Report due July 2026 for FY26
Tommy's Compost Cheshire, MA	\$25,000	Grant funds for purchasing a food waste collection vehicle	3,200 tons per year Composting
Smart feed/Bright Feed Oxford, MA	\$7,500	Grant funds for purchasing Peristaltic pump and front-end loader to process food waste	18,200 tons per year Animal Feed
Second Chance Composting Savoy, MA	\$14,500	Grant funds for purchasing a Loader and Screener to process food waste into compost	250 tons per year Composting

Boston Gleaners Acton, MA	\$59,000	Grant funds for purchasing a vehicle for collecting surplus food for donation	300 tons per year Food Pantries
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Note: Some of the line-item funds were combined with other resources as a portion of a larger project.