

FOOD

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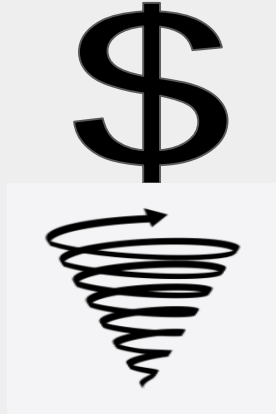
WASTE

Infrastructure and Energy Committee

Three reasons to separate **FOOD WASTE** from trash



Reduce methane emissions from landfills



Increasing costs of solid waste disposal



Generate compost to promote plant growth, and remove carbon dioxide from air

Methane

- Municipal landfills are the third largest source of methane emissions in the U.S. (14.5%)*
- Annual methane emissions from landfills are the greenhouse gas equivalent of the exhaust from 20 million cars driven for one year.*
- Slowing flow of food waste into landfills is an easy and low-cost way to reduce climate change.

Solid Waste Management

- Cape Cod Commission study notes that solid waste disposal capacity is declining throughout Massachusetts and prices are increasing rapidly
- Food waste represents 25% of waste stream and is biggest opportunity for reduction

Environmental Benefits of Compost

- Reduces need for chemical fertilizer and irrigation
- Promotes habitat revitalization by improving compacted and marginal soil
- Makes plants grow faster and removes more carbon dioxide from the air

Three Action Items

to support separating **FOOD WASTE** from trash



Collect food waste generated by commercial and institutional establishments

Barnstable Transfer Station & Recycling Center

Food Waste Composting Operation



Acceptable Items

All Vegetable and Fruit Waste * Paper Towels and Napkins * Baked Goods *
Pasta * Meat and Bone Scraps * Coffee Grounds * Pumpkin & Sunflower Seeds *
Corn Cobs & Husks * Tea Bags * Dairy Products * Tofu & Soy Milk * Egg Shells
Fish * Grains (rice, oats, barley, etc.) * Grease Drippings *
Nut Shells (peanuts & pistachios, NO WALNUT)

Support ongoing collection of food waste at transfer station



Work with Cape Cod Commission to develop composting facility in Barnstable County

Support Ongoing Collection of Food Waste at Transfer Station

- With strong support from transfer station staff Barnstable residents are already collecting 600 lbs. per week
- MassDEP recycling grant funds are being used to provide free counter-top bins and liners
- Potential for enhancement if town communications department promotes this on town social media sites
- Monitor progress towards goal of getting all food waste out of trash by 2030 consistent with MassDEP target

Collect Food Waste Generated by Commercial and Institutional Establishments

- Make local businesses and institutions aware of MassDEP rule prohibiting disposal of half ton or more of food waste per week in general trash
- Support commercial and institutional establishments to develop plans to achieve compliance with MassDEP rules within reasonable time

Work with Cape Cod Commission to Develop Composting Facility in Barnstable County

- Explore possible location of composting facility at Joint Base Cape Cod
- Commission is currently working with the Town of Yarmouth on building an anaerobic digester