

## Organics Management Guide Submission

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**Select the Primary Entity Type Please identify the category that best represents your project:** Brands and Manufacturers

### Questions:

- 1. Background: Provide context for the program, project, or policy — why it was developed, when it began, and the problem or opportunity it addresses.**

Eco-Products and Dana Farber Cancer Institute set out to reach higher diversion rates specifically focusing on post consumer food scrap diversion. Black Earth Compost is a critical partner in this mission.

- 2. Summary: Briefly describe the initiative, including its goals, location, and primary outcomes.**

Introduce certified compostable packaging in the cafe. Develop signage that clearly identifies items that go in each respective bin, compost, recycle and landfill. Ensure that the post consumer material is delivered to a composting facility that can process the material and return nutrients to local soils.

- 3. Percent of Overall Diverted Material: If available, include data or estimates on the portion of the community or organization's total diverted material no longer associated with the waste stream that this program or policy addresses.**

Data being collected, results forthcoming.

- 4. Key Program Elements or Policy Provisions: Describe the structure and main components of your program or policy. Explain the investments origins (who, how much). Please include as many of the following elements as applicable: What types of materials are being managed? (e.g., surplus recoverable foods, food scraps, wasted food. How are these materials managed? Who is responsible for managing them? (Organizations, agencies, businesses, or other entities) What products are generated, and how are they utilized or managed? (e.g., compost, animal feed, energy products) Who funds the management of these materials? (Funding sources, grants, partnerships) Who generates these materials? (Identify the origin: households, institutions, businesses, etc.)**

Post Consumer food scraps and certified compostable packaging. Managed with 3 bin system in cafe with clear signage Dana Farber Facilities and Sodexo food service management staff Compost is product generated Dana Farber Environmental Services and Eco-Products Institution generates the material

- 5. Regulatory Impact: Describe how laws, policies, regulations, and/or code have affected your program or project. This may include positive, negative, or neutral impacts. Consider noting which regulations apply, how they influenced implementation or operations, any challenges or barriers encountered, and how compliance requirements shaped program decisions.**

MA Commercial Food Material Disposal Ban. The law brought awareness to the challenge MA faces with diminishing landfill capacity and methane emissions concerns in the state. Post-Consumer collection is an important portion of the total organics stream and will be critical if the state is to achieve their diversion goals.

- 6. Measurable Increase in Supply: Include data or qualitative outcomes showing growth in collection, diversion, or reuse volumes if available.**

Data will be available for 2026

- 7. Behavior Change: Describe whether the initiative resulted in measurable behavior change and explain how you determined this. If behavior change**

**occurred, outline the strategies that proved most effective. Please include any available data or evidence that supports your findings.**

Behavior change is a very important part of post consumer diversion programs. By converting service ware to certified compostable products wherever possible choice becomes easier for the diners. Clear signage with physical representation of the different materials going in each bin along with awareness events, staff training and waste audits all help to change behavior within in the institution and that of guests who may only visit once.

**8. Benefits and Impacts (Economic, Environmental, and Social): Describe the economic, environmental, and social sustainability impacts of the program, policy, or initiative. This may include both positive and negative outcomes. You may address impacts such as costs or savings, job creation, waste reduction, emissions, resource conservation, community engagement, equity, or public health. Please include data or qualitative observations where available and note any trade-offs or challenges.**

Social impacts are high with these programs. The waste station can be an incredibly strong communication tool. Patrons know that the Dana Farber team is committed to reducing their environmental impact through this post consumer food scrap diversion program. Post Consumer Food Scrap collection is a critical component of waste reduction goals as set out by the MA DEP. Keeping more organic waste out of landfills reduces methane emissions and limits the distance this material travels before being processed. The material is converted into a high quality compost used to enrich soils in the community. Low barrier to participation. Cost can be a concern, careful monitoring of fees associated with various waste and recycling streams can help mitigate cost concerns.

**9. How Stakeholder Buy-In Was Achieved: Explain how the program gained support from key stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, businesses, residents, nonprofits).**

Prior case studies outlined the potential for success utilizing certified compostable products to increase diversion rates. EHS & Sustainability team at Dana Farber consistently raise the bar when it comes to novel initiative to make impact. Eco-Products long standing partnership with Sodexo has built trust over many years, delivering on their sustainability commitment to their clients.

**10. Stakeholders' Perspectives and Dynamics at Play: Highlight collaboration dynamics, challenges, or differing stakeholder interests and how they were addressed.**

Environmental Health and Safety & Sustainability is constantly working to address safety sustainability and community health efforts at Dana Farber while controlling costs wherever possible. Sodexo as the food service management entity needs to provide a high quality dining experience for their client at a competitive price point. Eco-Products provides certified compostable food service ware satisfying the client's expectation for presentation and performance. Black Earth Compost service the region and is best in class handling difficult organics streams such as post consumer food scraps. All stakeholders need to be aligned and the result is significantly increased diversion rates.

**11. Lessons Learned: Share what worked well, what didn't, and recommendations for others seeking to replicate your approach.**

Cost is always a factor in these situations. Collaboration across departments is critical to program success. Hauling and processing partners are invaluable.