

## Organics Management Guide Submission

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**Select the Primary Entity Type Please identify the category that best represents your project:** Retailers

### **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.**

Hyannis Yacht Club operates year-round food service and marina activities on Cape Cod and has an organizational commitment to sustainability and protecting local beaches from pollution. During busy summer months, the Club was likely near or at the threshold of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)'s Commercial Food Material Disposal Ban (½ ton or more per week), creating a compliance opportunity and operational need to strengthen recycling and organics diversion. MassDEP's Cape Cod Municipal Assistance Coordinator connected the Club with RecyclingWorks MA to evaluate and improve waste management systems, ideally before peak season.

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

Hyannis Yacht Club (Cape Cod, Massachusetts) expanded recycling from cardboard-only to single stream and implemented a food scrap diversion program with weekly collection through Black Earth Compost. RecyclingWorks provided on-site technical assistance (site visit, service provider research, waste estimates, collection system design, and custom signage). Documented outcomes include diversion of ~26 tons/year of food scraps to composting, expanded capture of recyclables, and strengthened staff sorting practices across dining, kitchen, patio, and marina areas.

- 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.**

NA (No total waste stream or diversion rate baseline is provided.)

- 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.)**

#### Materials Managed

- Food scraps / wasted food from prep, plate scraping, dishwashing, events, and staff meals
- Recyclables expanded from cardboard-only to single stream (paper, bottles/jars/jugs/tubs, and other accepted items)
- Limited/pre-existing vegetative scraps occasionally went to backyard chickens via a staff member (supplemental, not primary system)

#### How Materials Are Managed

- Source separation using clearly labeled bins for trash, recycling, and food scraps
- Food scraps collected in buckets, consolidated into lidded carts lined with BPI-certified compostable bags; hauled weekly (seasonally adjusted)
- Recyclables collected via single-stream service through the existing hauler route
- Educational signage and strategically placed stations (dock, patio, clubhouse, kitchen) support correct sorting

#### Who Is Responsible

- Hyannis Yacht Club staff and leadership: daily sorting, training, and operational oversight

- RecyclingWorks MA (CET under MassDEP contract): technical assistance, provider research, estimated generation, collection system design, and signage support
- Haulers/processors: Cavossa (recycling clarification and service), Black Earth Compost (hauling and processing)

#### Products Generated and Use

- Food scraps processed into nutrient-rich compost by Black Earth Compost
- Compost is used by the Club in patio planters; additional compost was shared with managers as a training/engagement tool

#### Funding / Investment Origins (Who, How Much)

- RecyclingWorks technical assistance is funded by MassDEP and delivered under contract by CET (no-cost assistance to the business)
- The Club contracts for hauling services (recycling and compost) through providers; dollar amounts not provided (NA)

#### Who Generates the Materials

- The Club's commercial food service operations (restaurants, events/banquets, staff meals) and marina/guest-facing areas (patio, dock stations)

- 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.**

MassDEP's Commercial Food Material Disposal Ban influenced urgency and decision-making, particularly because the Club was likely near the ½-ton/week threshold during peak summer operations. The policy context created a clear compliance incentive to divert food material from trash and strengthened the rationale for implementing organics diversion and improved recycling. No specific regulatory barriers or enforcement challenges are described.

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

Implemented food scrap diversion with weekly collection, diverting approximately 26 tons per year into composting Expanded recycling from cardboard-only to single stream, increasing capture of paper and container recyclables (no tonnage provided)

**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.**

Staff incorporated food scrap separation into prep, plate scraping, and dishwashing workflows

Staff and members were trained and encouraged to use clearly marked marina and patio stations

Managers were engaged through compost distribution and ongoing training, supporting correct sorting and contamination prevention NA for quantified behavior change metrics (no audit rates, contamination rates, or pre/post participation data provided).

**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.**

Economic

Improved operational efficiency through expanded recycling and food scrap diversion; the Club was able to avoid requesting an extra dumpster during the busy season. No cost savings are quantified (NA).

Environmental

Diversion of ~26 tons/year of food scraps to composting; expanded single-stream recycling increases diversion of recyclable materials. Compost is used on-site in planters, supporting nutrient cycling.

Social

Staff training, visible sorting practices (servers scraping in view of patrons), and informational planter signage (with QR code) increased transparency and reinforced a shared stewardship culture among staff, members, and guests.

Trade-offs / Challenges

Requires staff training and ongoing attention to proper sorting to prevent contamination; relies on coordination with haulers and seasonal staffing (including temporary international exchange staff).

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

Connection and credibility through MassDEP's Cape Cod Municipal Assistance Coordinator referral

Early action during slower months enabled training before peak season

Clear, practical system design (right bins, right locations, clear signage) reduced friction for staff and patrons

Leadership engagement from the General Manager and Executive Chef reinforced expectations and supported follow-through

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

Hauler communication was pivotal: clarifying that the existing recycling route was already single stream enabled quick program expansion with minimal operational disruption

Staffing dynamics: training local and temporary/seasonal staff was necessary to maintain consistency during peak months

Member/guest interface: visible sorting and educational signage helped normalize the practice and reduce concern about "nuisance" or aesthetics NA for conflicting stakeholder interests (none described explicitly)

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

Start in the off-season to pilot logistics and train staff before peak operations

Confirm actual hauler service capabilities—a simple clarification can unlock immediate diversion gains

Pair bin placement + signage + training to reduce contamination and make sorting routine

Use small, tangible engagement tactics (e.g., sharing compost with managers) to build understanding of “where it goes” and reinforce correct sorting

Make diversion visible and convenient in guest-facing areas to increase participation without increasing hassle