City of Medford
Waste Collection Public Meeting

December 15, 2025

Department of Public Works
Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability

Thank you for being here

Agenda

- → Zoom Poll – 2 minutes
- → Opening Remarks – 5 minutes
- → Brief Presentation – ~10 minutes
- → Public Comment – until 9:30 p.m.

waste@medford-ma.gov

Tonight's Speakers

Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Mayor

Tim McGivern, DPW Commissioner

Alicia Hunt, Director of Planning, Development, and Sustainability

Tyler Frank, President & Founder, Garbage to Garden

Jeremy Drake, Principal, Strategy Zero Waste Solutions

Site-specific questions? Email: waste@medford-ma.gov

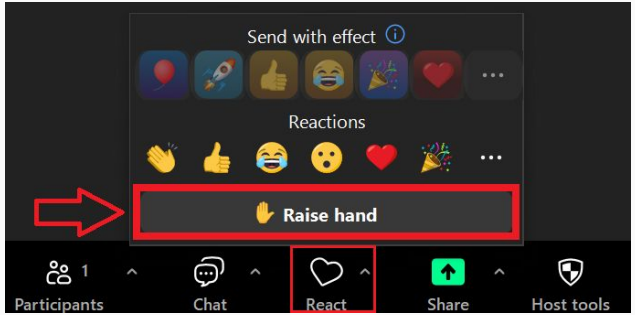
Housekeeping

General Chat is disabled

Direct message “Troubleshooting Staff” in the Chat if you need technical help!

Public Comment

Use ✋ **Raise hand** function in the React menu to be placed in the queue.



2 minutes per speaker

The meeting host will ask you to unmute when it is your turn to speak. An on-screen countdown timer will show you how much time you have left to speak.

Prioritize unique comments

Use the **Reactions** (👍,❤️) to indicate support for another speaker’s comment.

waste@medford-ma.gov

Housekeeping

Listening Session

Tonight is for us to listen. We will gather questions and update the FAQ on our website.

Recording

A recording of this meeting will be available for playback on the City of Medford's website, YouTube Channel, and on Medford Community Media's website.

Run out of time?

If you are unable to stay until your turn to speak, or if you have more you want to say to the City, please complete the feedback form:

Feedback Form

Scan the QR code above to fill out the feedback form

Site-specific questions? Email: waste@medford-ma.gov

Zoom Poll: Have you completed the feedback form?

results are anonymous

Yes **No**

waste@medford-ma.gov

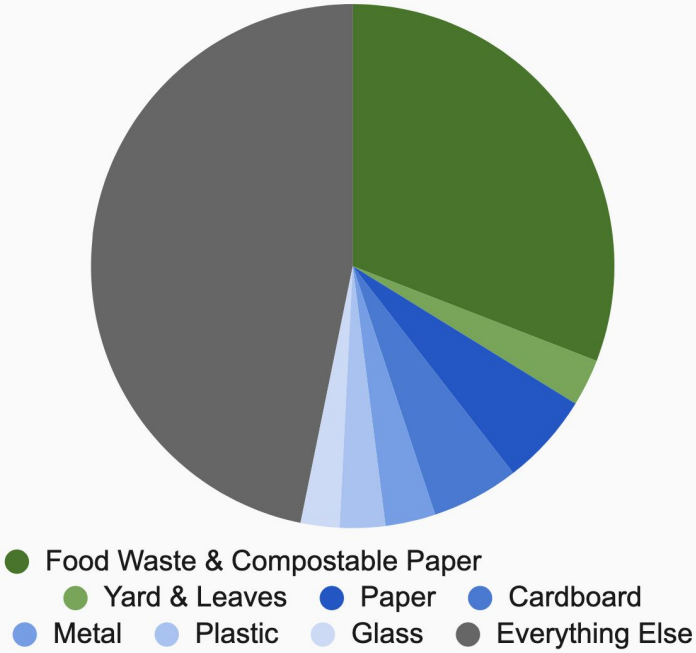
Context

- Rising disposal costs over next 20+ years
- 40% of MA trash shipped out of state
- Proposed statewide 2030 residential food waste ban

"The average reported solid waste disposal...fee...has increased from $87 per ton in 2021 to $103 per ton in 2024. This cost is expected to continue to rise in the future."

John Fischer, MassDEP
Deputy Division Director

Saugus Facility Waste Composition



53% of 2022 trash stream was curbside recyclable & compostable

Source: MassDEP Waste Combustor Studies, 2022

Program Achievements

01

Curbside Municipal Composting

8,100 households voluntarily enrolled (43% of eligible households)

02

More Frequent Yard & Leaf Collection

Expanded service from 16 to 20 weeks

03

Received Two MassDEP Grants

Paid for the kickoff of curbside composting

04

Received Two Distinguished Industry Leadership Awards

"Outstanding Community" at the Northeast Recycling Council's 2025 Enviro Leadership; Mayoral award at the National Recycling Coalition

05

Business District Improvements

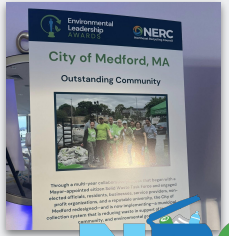
No more trash bags on sidewalks

All businesses are now recycling

06

City Trash Tonnage has Decreased since July 2024

We are moving in the right direction



NRC
NATIONAL RECYCLING COALITION

waste@medford-ma.gov

Medford's Smarter Collection System

Trash

Collected by **volume**, but paid by **weight**

Compost

Reduces weight: gets out what's **heavy & wet**

Recycle

Reduces volume: gets out what's **big & dry**

Yard & Leaf

Reduces volume and weight: gets out what's **heavy & big**

Current recycling challenge:
13.9% contamination rate

waste@medford-ma.gov

New Collection Schedule – *effective July 1, 2027*

Standard Service

Food Waste

WEEKLY

12-gallon cart • Collected every week • Free service

Trash

EVERY OTHER WEEK

64-gallon cart • Same day as recycling • Free service

Recycling

EVERY OTHER WEEK

96-gallon cart • Same day as trash • Free service

Yard & Leaf

20 WEEKS PER YEAR

Paper bags, 32-gallon barrels, and bundles • Seasonal • Free service

waste@medford-ma.gov

City Savings

$1M+

Annual Collection Savings

Every year

$4.6M

Total Disposal Savings

Through composting & waste reduction

$13M

Total Savings

Over 8 Years

waste@medford-ma.gov

Flexible Options for Every Household

When new collection schedule starts *July 1, 2027*

Food Waste

WEEKLY

Additional 12-gal cart
$9/mo.

Trash

EVERY OTHER WEEK

Additional 64-gal cart
$12/mo.

Overflow bags
$2/bag

Recycling

EVERY OTHER WEEK

Additional 96-gal cart
$6/mo.*

Yard & Leaf

20 WEEKS PER YEAR

No set-out limit, only weight limit per barrel
Free

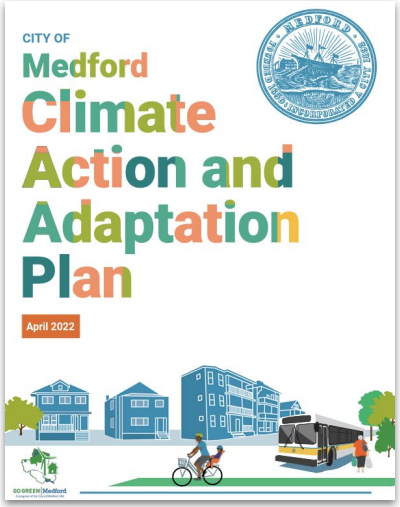
**New rate when every-other-week trash collection starts. Rate is currently $12/mo*

Benefits

Saves Taxpayer Dollars
Savings protects the City budget, as disposal costs continue to rise

Prepares for Potential State Ban
Gets ahead of the proposed 2030 statewide residential food waste disposal ban

Cleaner Recycling Streams
Removing food waste keeps recyclables cleaner, ensuring more materials can be recycled



The Climate Action & Adaptation Plan available on City website

Improved Air Quality
33% reduction in collection truck trips through residential areas

Protects Neighborhood Streets
Less heavy truck traffic means less wear and tear on residential streets

Advances Climate Goals
Moves Medford towards Zero Waste as outlined in City's 2022 Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

waste@medford-ma.gov

Composting

Benefits

- Locking bins keep odors in and pests out
- Reduces greenhouse gases and methane emissions
- Finished compost enriches local soils, supporting gardens and green spaces
- Pickup WEEKLY on trash day

YES

- Bread, pasta, rice, grains
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Compostable serviceware
- Dairy products
- Eggshells, seafood shells
- Fats, oils, greases
- Fruit & veggie scraps
- Meat, bones, fish scraps
- Paper napkins
- Wooden stirrers
- Tea bags

NO

- Plastic
- Baby wipes
- Hand wipes
- Cat litter
- Diapers
- Glass & metals
- Medicines
- Pet waste
- Styrofoam
- Rubber bands
- Yard waste

Medford's Partner:

Garbage to Garden

Visit medfordcomposts.com to learn more

Contact:

info@garbagetogarden.org

(617) 977-4547

Recycling

Benefits

- Saves space in trash cart
- Conserves natural resources
- Reduces environmental impacts

Update!

Paper and plastic cups now accepted

Visit recyclesmartma.org to learn more

Medford's Partner:

Contact:

wm.com | (800) 972-4545

waste@medford-ma.gov

Moving Forward

The City is listening to public concerns and open to suggestions for how to improve

The City is working to help residents **prepare**

Next Community Meeting

January 28, 2026 at 6pm
Medford City Hall, Alden Chambers

Educational Workshops

Dates will be posted to the City's Event Calendar

Medford Public Library and other venues TBD

School Composting

Medford Schools working with Garbage to Garden to implement school composting

waste@medford-ma.gov

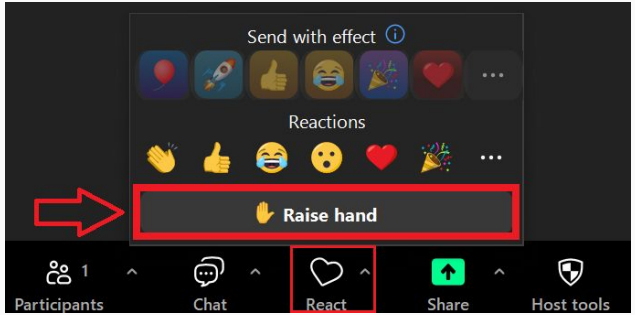
Housekeeping

General Chat is disabled

Direct message “Troubleshooting Staff” in the Chat if you need technical help!

Public Comment

Use ✋ **Raise hand** function in the React menu to be placed in the queue.



2 minutes per speaker

The meeting host will ask you to unmute when it is your turn to speak. An on-screen countdown timer will show you how much time you have left to speak.

Prioritize unique comments

Use the **Reactions** (👍,❤️) to indicate support for another speaker’s comment.

waste@medford-ma.gov

Housekeeping

Listening Session

Tonight is for us to listen. We will gather questions and update the FAQ on our website.

Recording

A recording of this meeting will be available for playback on the City of Medford's website, YouTube Channel, and on Medford Community Media's website.

Run out of time?

If you are unable to stay until your turn to speak, or if you have more you want to say to the City, please complete the feedback form:

Feedback Form

Scan the QR code above to fill out the feedback form

Site-specific questions? Email: waste@medford-ma.gov

Please fill out the feedback form:

Thank you for your participation!

Email: waste@medford-ma.gov
Webpage: medfordma.org/for-residents/recycling/waste-system