

City of Medford

Waste Collection Public Meeting

January 28, 2026

Department of Public Works

Office of Planning, Development, and Sustainability

Thank you for being here



Agenda

- **Brief Presentation – <15 minutes**
- **Public Comment – open until 9:30 p.m.**
- **Next Steps & Closing**



Tonight's Speakers

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



Info & Listening

Tonight is for us to listen and start to address questions we have received so far. 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 email the City at: **waste@medford-ma.gov**





Housekeeping

Public Comment

Two minutes per speaker.

3 speakers in the room alternating with 3 on Zoom.

In-person speakers must sign in: names will be called in the order of sign-ins. Please line up in the center aisle of Council Chambers when your name is called.

Zoom speakers must raise hand: you will be put in the queue in the order of hands raised.

One person at a time, please.

Two minutes per person, please



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If time allows, we will take secondary comments from those.



Housekeeping for online participants

General Chat is disabled

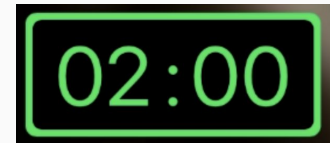
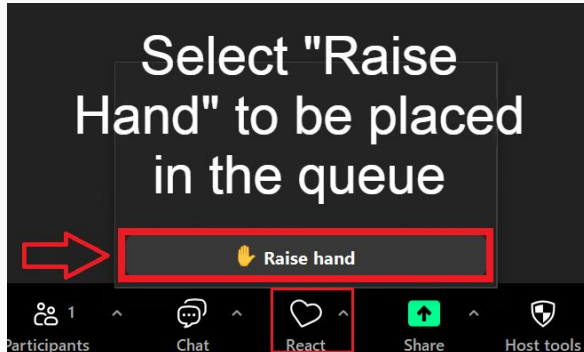
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What We've Heard So Far

Waste Reduction is Important

reducing waste is worthwhile

Cost Savings Matter

recognition of the City's effort to control costs

Yes to Recycling and Composting

these are valued programs

More Education & Awareness

about diversion opportunities and resources to support residents' understanding and participation

Consider Every Other Week (EOW) Trash Options

like seasonal service or optional services for large families, diapers, medical and pet waste

Add Complementary Infrastructure

to increase recycling drop-off capacity and options for trash drop-off

Rodent Management is Critical

to prevent exacerbation of existing rodent issues through EOW trash

Health and Sanitation is a Concern

fears that EOW trash will result in litter, illegal dumping, and quality of life impacts





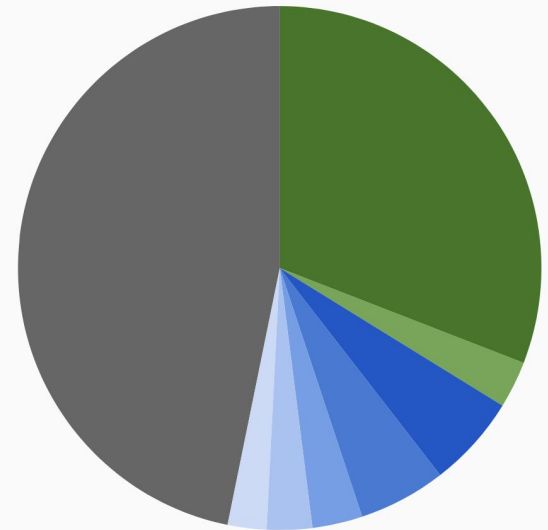
Context

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

“Pay As You Throw...is a proven strategy to reduce trash disposal and the associated costs for cities and towns.”

*John Fischer, MassDEP
Deputy Division Director*

Saugus Facility Waste Composition



- Food Waste & Compostable Paper
- Yard & Leaves
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Metal
- Plastic
- Glass
- Everything Else

53% of 2022 trash stream was curbside recyclable & compostable





Goals of Medford's Smarter Waste System

Control Costs

for solid waste and recycling collection services

Create Fairness and Transparency

regarding service recipients

Expand Recycling and Composting

services to eligible recipients

Provide Comparable Services

to neighboring communities

Streamline Transition for New Programs

ensuring continuity of service without interruptions

Move Medford Toward Zero Waste

with a holistic approach

Reduce Road Wear, Reduce Emissions, and Increase Overall Collection System Efficiency

by decreasing large collection truck traffic and optimizing routing





Program Achievements

01

Curbside Municipal Composting

8,212 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

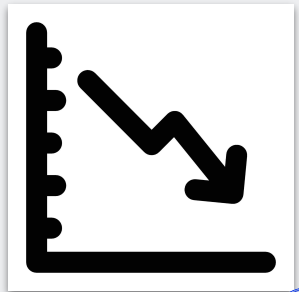
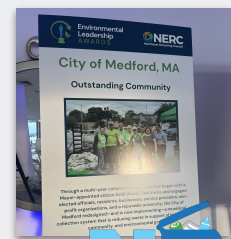
No more trash bags on sidewalks

All businesses are now recycling

06

City Trash Tonnage has Decreased since July 2024

We are moving in the right direction





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



Proposed Collection Schedule

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



Flexible Options for Every Household

When new PAYT collection schedule starts

 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*



City Savings

\$1M+

**Annual Collection
Savings**

Every year

\$4.6M

Total Disposal Savings

Through composting & waste
reduction

\$13M

Total Savings

Over 8 Years





Benefits of Medford's Smarter Waste System

Saves Taxpayer Dollars

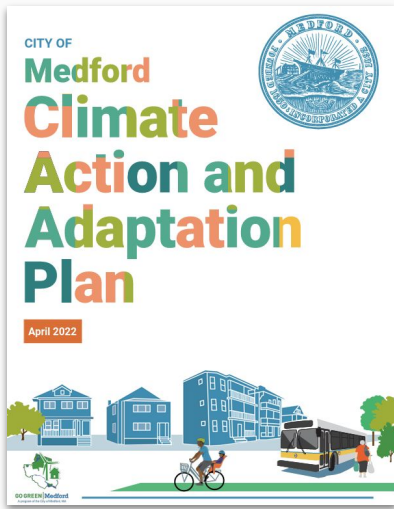
Savings protects the City budget, as disposal costs continue to rise

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





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

Medford's Partner:



Smart Recycling Guide

Your go-to reference for recycling in Massachusetts



Food and Beverage Cans
empty and rinse



Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs
empty and replace cap



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes
empty and flatten

NO!



No Plastic Bags
Do Not Bag Recyclables



No Clothing or Linens
use donation programs



No Hazardous Items
no propane tanks, batteries, sharps, or chemicals



No Tanglers
no hoses, wires, chains or electronics



No Food or Liquid
empty all containers

Visit recyclesmartma.org to learn more

Contact:

wm.com | (800) 972-4545





What We're Doing Now

Compiling and evaluating all comments

from waste survey, emails, and public meetings

Mapping rodent reports

tracking over time and watching for trends related to compost collection

Exploring trash collection program improvements

requesting cost estimates from WM

Exploring expanded drop-off capacity

by pricing out additional recycling compactors and evaluating options for trash

Talking with other EOW trash communities

to glean lessons learned and best practices

Planning for more community engagement & education

through our program improvement evaluation process and forthcoming educational opportunities





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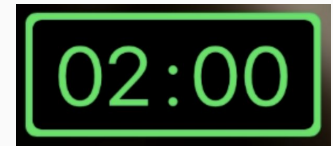
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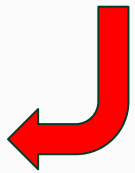
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Thank you for your participation!

Email: waste@medford-ma.gov

Webpage: medfordma.org/waste-system

Enroll in weekly composting: medfordcomposts.com

