

July 9, 2013

## Commercial Organic Material Ban Proposed

On July 9, 2013, the MassDEP issued for public comment draft amendments to the solid waste regulations that will ban, effective July 1, 2014, disposal of commercial organic material. This will include food material and vegetative material from entities (excluding residences) that dispose of one ton or more of that material per week. The comment period will run until 5:00 PM on August 23.

These proposed regulations follow the passage by the MassDEP of final regulations clarifying the permitting process for facilities that handle source separated organics and will round out the effort to develop an infrastructure to divert these organic materials from disposal.

While the existing waste ban regulations apply to persons who transfer or contract for disposal, the proposal would extend enforcement to persons who “transport” restricted materials. This change makes it clear that waste haulers will be subject to enforcement for violation of waste bans.

The MassDEP intends to issue a proposed revised waste ban guidance document for solid waste facilities that addresses the proposed addition of commercial organic material as a restricted material.

*For more information contact Thomas A. Mackie.*