

Dear Municipal Recycling Officials:

After a thorough review of the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) grant and the companion Small Scale Initiatives grant, we are excited to share the news of our newly structured RDP program. The most significant change – elimination of the Small Scale Initiatives grant combined with lowering the minimum number of points to qualify for RDP - will enable all municipalities to participate in the RDP.

The core criteria in RDP remain the same but we have also made some modifications, including combining criteria, adding and deleting options for some criteria, and revising point values. There is a new criterion that focuses on recycling outreach and access to underserved communities. Many revisions were based upon evaluation of criteria met by each municipality and the impact on waste reduction. Please see the details below and attached:

- Small Scale Initiative grants will no longer be available to municipalities but will be offered to qualifying regional groups.
- The minimum number of points necessary to earn an RDP payment has been changed to one point.
- The current point value (hereinafter referred to as the “full point value”) will remain in place for municipalities that earn 10 or more points.
- Municipalities that earn less than 10 points will earn points that are worth 70% of the full point value.
- A subset of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, identified in our Grant Guidelines, will be eligible to earn full point value regardless of the number of points earned.
- Municipalities will be **required** to file their annual Recycling & Solid Waste Survey, RDP Annual Report, and Notification of Buy Recycled Policy on or before February 15, 2022. One RDP point will be deducted from a municipality’s earned points for failing to file by the deadline.

We are in the process of updating the SMRP Grant Guidelines to incorporate these changes and will notify you once they are available on our website. We also plan to present the RDP modifications at the December 2021 statewide Municipal Recycling Coordinators’ meeting, register [here](#) for this meeting. Meanwhile, [Municipal Assistance Coordinators](#) are available to assist you with steps needed to meet the newly structured RDP program.

Janine

Janine Bishop  
Grant Manager  
MassDEP  
One Winter Street – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-348-4004 office  
781-690-0799 cell



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