

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

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Charles D. Baker  
Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

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Commissioner

December 23, 2016

Dear Municipal Officials:

MassDEP wants to work with Cities and Towns as you get ready for the winter season. We are offering the following information related to snow disposal in case we encounter a winter with significant snowfall. As we did last year, MassDEP is providing our Snow Disposal Guidance in order to assist municipalities with snow management. A copy of the Guidance can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/regulations/snow-disposal-guidance.html>.

MassDEP is encouraging our municipal partners to make sure that collected snow is disposed of in a manner that will minimize environmental impacts. In addition, the Guidance outlines specific steps a municipal official should follow in extreme circumstances in order to receive approval for disposal in a waterbody.

Advanced identification and mapping of appropriate snow disposal sites can help facilitate each municipality's routine snow management efforts. MassDEP has a web-based point-and-click mapping application to assist municipalities in selecting snow disposal or "snow farm" sites. The mapping tool highlights sensitive environmental resources to be avoided and helps isolate preferable upland locations for snow farming. To use the MassDEP mapping application, navigate to the following website and follow the online instructions:

<https://maps.env.state.ma.us/dep/arcgis/js/templates/PSF/>. Identifying proposed snow disposal locations can facilitate approval you may need from your Conservation Commission or MassDEP if the disposal locations are in or near wetland resource areas. It can also help you to avoid locations that may negatively impact public water supplies.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

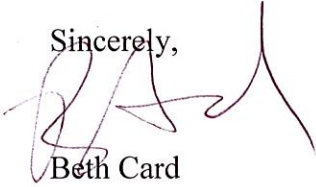
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

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Thank you for all of the work that you do and for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Nicholas Child, MassDEP's Chief Emergency Planning & Preparedness Officer at [Nick.Child@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Nick.Child@massmail.state.ma.us) or (617) 574-6847, for further assistance as you manage snow this winter.

Sincerely,



Beth Card

Deputy Commissioner, Policy & Planning

Cc:

- Local DPW Superintendent
- Local Emergency Management Director
- Local Conservation Commission
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
- Baystate Roads
- Massachusetts Municipal Association
- Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists