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The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is to protect and enhance the quality of the Commonwealth's natural resources -- its air, water and land -- in order to provide for the health, safety, welfare of its citizens.

The Department's Bureau of Waste Prevention furthers this mission by administering air, water and land protection programs as prescribed by federal and state laws. The Bureau uses environmental monitoring, planning, education, tracking, permitting, compliance and enforcement to ensure protection of the environment through application of the following Waste Prevention Principles:

- Encourage practices which eliminate or reduce waste at its source
- Maximize opportunities for safe recycling of wastes/emissions which can not be eliminated at the source
- Direct the use of the most advanced treatment technology of wastes/emissions which can not be eliminated at the source or recycled, reducing wastes/emissions to a level which will enable the Commonwealth to protect the public health and environment
- Ensure the appropriate parties take full responsibility for safe management of wastes from the point of generation until ultimate disposition
- Ensure environmentally sound disposal capacity exists for the liquid, solid and hazardous wastes which can not be feasibly eliminated at the source, recycled or treated
- Coordinate programs to achieve a coherent, effective, consistent and beneficial impact on affected facilities and persons

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[[Waste Prevention Home](#)] [[Waste Prevention Divisions and Programs](#)] [[MA DEP Home](#)] [Contact: [Thomas.Higgins@state.ma.us](mailto:Thomas.Higgins@state.ma.us)]

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